



First Light Herald

Who Do You Say That I Am?

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Jesus asked all His disciples this question one day and it was Peter that received revelation from God the Father as to what the answer was; “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!” Peter of all people heard God by the Spirit. In the midst of all his proud self-righteous ways he could hear God. Jesus called him blessed because he had heard from God what all people need to hear, that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God and on that rock He said He would build His body of called out ones. On what rock? The **revelation** that He is the Christ! He is the only way, the only truth, and the only life for mankind. When any person on earth receives and confesses that he has had that revelation, God Himself makes that person the righteousness of God in Christ and clothes him with the robe of righteousness. That righteousness is not of works by a person but a gift from the Most High God.



Upon this rock.

Formulas and laws will not keep the devil out and away from the body of Christ, only faith in the promise that you have been made just as righteous as Jesus is will. Jesus completed a finished work for all mankind to be reconciled to God, no one need add to the work He accomplished for righteousness. When anyone believes he has sinned a sin greater than the blood Jesus shed he is deceived by the father of all lies. Jesus blood cleansed any and all sin forever the only work for anyone to do now is to believe on Him (Jesus) who God sent. The apostle John asked, “Who is a liar?” Then he answered his own question, “He that denies that Jesus is the Christ.” The devil is the father of all who deny that Jesus is the Christ; again he is the father of all lies. At the end of this world, the bible says in Revelation, that all liars have their place in the lake of fire. That is who John refers to and called liars-all who deny that Jesus is the Christ. Those are the only people that will find themselves in that lake that burns forever, only those who have rejected Jesus as the Christ. Because Jesus became sin and the punishment for all sin, no one will be sent to the lake of fire for murder or adultery or for bearing false witness against their neighbor; only those who deny that Jesus is the Christ. It is on the rock (the revealed will and knowledge of God’s Christ) that Jesus is building His body that the devil cannot prevail against.

I know there are many churches that refuse to teach that plain simple truth but it is still truth. And because of religious teaching of man’s ways the body of Christ has not been taught to discern the Lord’s body and all His finished work. And for that cause there are many that are sick and even dying before their time. All are saved by hearing the gospel which is the power of God and in that gospel the righteousness of God is revealed. Before a person gets born-again Jesus says the Holy Spirit convinces them of their need to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. When that person receives the truth then Jesus says it is the Holy Spirit’s job to then convince them of their righteousness, their right standing before a Holy God. The Holy Spirit convinces the individual that he/she is justified because of his/her faith in Jesus as the Christ. He does not condemn and demand work of him/her to eventually become righteous. Jesus did the work and we do the believing. There are multiple millions in this world that believe in a god and go about trying to please or appease that god. But the ones that confess that Jesus is the Christ, they are the children of the one true God that lives and gives life. The devil loves to deceive people into believing they can do certain things to be in a better person and those ways are too many to number. The devil has folks so busy working to be better he keeps them in bondage because of it. The devil is anti-Christ not anti-god or anti-world he is not even anti-people, he is anti-Christ because he knows if people begin to

Special points of interest:

- Righteousness is how we receive everything from God. The more we focus on the righteousness that Yeshua/Jesus has already provided the easier it is to receive the benefits of God’s blessings! Matthew 6:33 is truth to supply your every need.

Who Do You Say That I Am?

believe they are righteous because God made them that way, and not by works of their own his ways will not work on them. The devil is ok with folks believing there are many ways to get to heaven or to God, but there is only one way. The world hates the body of Christ because we are sure there is only one way, because we have found it and desire the rest of humanity to find it too. But the world says there are many ways to many gods and it is not fair to single out just one way. It is said of believers, "Who do you think you are?" We are children of God because we chose to believe the report we heard, the gospel that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God.



There are days ahead for us in the body of Christ in America that we have never had to live in before. At present in America, people of Christ are tolerated. Soon everything will be tolerated **except** people that are in Christ. Those days are closer than any of us want to admit. For the devil to get the world to be unified everything must be "ok" with the exception of Christ's people. We will be seen as the trouble makers, we will be seen as the problem, we will be seen as those people that are close-minded to all other ways of religion. And because of that the church is already watering down the truth so as to be more acceptable, more palatable to those against our Christ. A consciousness of righteousness is so paramount at present that nothing should be out in front of it. Not the building of bigger buildings and larger congregations to appear to have something going right. The church at large looks so much like the world in this country it's sad, but Jesus is still calling out those that hear His voice so they can be raised up with a revelation of righteousness and walk with Him and for Him. Yes the world is getting darker and we are the light in this world, but if we don't believe who God has made us we just keep striving to get out of the dark. We are out of the dark and have been translated into His marvelous kingdom of light.

I write unto you little children because your sins have been forgiven for His names sake. I write unto you young men because you have overcome the wicked one, you have believed that Jesus is the Christ and have overcome the world, I write unto you fathers because you have known Him who was from the beginning. The word of God teaches us that there are "Thousands upon ten thousands of teachers but not many fathers". It's time for the body of Christ to grow up. The blood of Jesus the Christ has the power to do away with a consciousness of sin and reveal a consciousness of righteousness.

To The Diligent

I remember the day when I was in such dire straits that I knew I'd either hear God's answer to my dilemma or I'd die trying. I had been given advice, or at least the offer of "sanctuary" away from my problem, but I had NOT heard God's take on my situation. It was a hard day, a day wrought with soul devastating news. I was in the greatest storm I'd known up to that point. My only answer would be to hear from God and I was not going to give up until I got His answer.



It's an awesome thing to have God to speak to you in such a way. When doubt comes today to try and make me doubt God's love for me, I stir up the memory of this day. There are other days and other deliverances that I call to memory, but none had the affect this day had on my life.

I understand why Jacob wrestled with an angel and would not let him go until he got his answer. I can also understand why Moses told God he wanted to see His glory, and the importance of him seeing the "safe" side of God. When I consider how Hannah bugged God until He gave her a child, I understand her heart.

We are told to "boldly" come before the throne of God to obtain "grace and mercy to help in time of need." This is what I did that day over 21 years ago. I got bold and told God I HAD to have His answer. I told Him I was NEVER going to lean to the arm of the flesh or the natural answers offered by my friends and family. I told Him that whatever He told me to do, I would do. Oh, and I did it too and His answer wasn't an easy answer.

The bible is full of stories of people who were diligent in their search for God and God's will, but we've grown dull to the stories in the bible. They have become like so many familiar tales that we let go in

Diligent.....continued

one ear and out the other with very little thought. We have almost come to the place where we read the works of men in preference to the bible. We want something “new” and have an “I already know that” attitude when the man of God presents the bible to us. This is a shame.

There is a difference between the word of God and a book penned by the hand of man. The word of God is alive, a living thing. The books penned by men, even the most anointed men, have only bits and pieces of living manna. The bible is full of so many mysteries and hidden truths, that no human can ever finish plumbing the depths of it. God has given us just a little glimpse of eternity in the pages of the bible, but the ONLY way to find an answer from God is to draw a line in the “proverbial” sand and not give up until you get YOUR answer.



Hebrews 11:6 *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

The more mature I get in the Lord and in the word, the more diligent I must be in seeking God. It isn't because God is holding things back, but because the enemy is there ready to match my every effort with some sort of attack or obstacle.

Luke 12:48b *For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.*

There are days when I'd like to be a preschooler in the kingdom, but I know I can't be. I must walk the word I know. I can't pretend ignorance of the word for convenience sake. I must apply the word I know and act upon it.

James 1: 22 *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*

Diligence requires us to stand in the midst of horrific storms. Diligence requires us to press into trusting God in the midst of the choking unbelief of others. Diligence requires us to face our fears and choose faith in God no matter what. Diligence requires us to walk in love towards the most unlovely of people. Diligence requires us to climb up on the cross and voluntarily choose the death of our dreams in place of any sort of selfish motivation.

We're in the middle of a really scary time in this nation. These days are the perfect time and the perfect environment to tap into divine grace and mercy. Sin is abounding at an unbelievable rate. What do I say to folks who call in fear of the times we're in? Hey, abundant grace is always available when sin abounds!

Grace is God's willingness to get involved in our lives. He gave us the grace of eternity in His Son. Now it's time to tap into that grace. God has not been taken by surprise about the times we live in. He didn't wake up this morning and say, “Gee I didn't see that coming!” He is NEVER taken by surprise. He has however, warned us repeatedly in the bible about these times. He told us to prepare ourselves. He sent His Son, who did his part and then set up a spiritual school on earth to prepare for the time when he would rule on earth. Somewhere along the way folks got so prosperous that they forgot God, or at very least took Him for granted. Now we're in what looks like a fix and we act as if we've been left in the dark. No, we've still got the same God who promised to be with us in trouble. If He promised He'd be with us in trouble, it stands to reason that trouble is coming.



Now is the time to get back in your bibles. Not just to say, “Hey I did my daily devotional.” Daily devotion is daily DOING the word, not just reading a cute little quippy book, one verse of scripture and then going about your own thing. Daily devotion is hearing HIS voice and doing whatever He says. We

Diligent.....continued

are not our own. We were bought with a price. We have no right to wake up and do our own thing EVER! When you sin, by not acting on faith, you forget He is doing it with you. You carry the Holy Spirit with you wherever you go. Can we disobey on a daily basis and then expect to have God give us whatever we want? I won't even answer that because I know you already know the answer.

The Lord told us that if we live in his word and his words live in us we could THEN ask what we would and he would give it to us. He didn't say, "If you do a little daily devotional and do your own thing I will give you what you desire." We must delight in the Lord and then we'll be given the desires of our hearts.

Grace is available to us. God getting in our business only happens when we get in His by simply believing what He has already said in His word. When you get in the word and find out just what you've been missing, when you pray according to that word, when you act upon the word that you've studied the word manifests. What you sow you reap. So my advice is to get out your bible, a tablet, a pen and read. Study. Get a Strong's Concordance and look up those words you think you know. (Mark 4:24) Pray in the spirit. In days like today you should be praying in the spirit ALL the time. Then slowly begin to act on what you're hearing in your spirit. Start in Matthew and work towards Revelation. Don't start at the end, begin at the beginning. Meditate or chew on the words. Get a red letter bible and really make the red letters yours. They are the words of our Lord. Lordship isn't a pretty term for Yeshua/Jesus, it is what he is. A Lord isn't a president, he will NEVER be replaced. His term isn't up at the end of four years or even eight. God put him in charge of everything and if we're going to call him savior we must call him Lord as well.

Yeshua/Jesus was diligent in his walk. He faced the same temptations we faced. The bible says so. We keep thinking he used his divine powers to look into the future. No, he listened to God's voice and God told him what was coming. He had to walk like we walk so that meant by faith. He fasted. He prayed ALL the time. He meditated on the word.

To the diligent go the spoils as the old saying goes, and it is just as true today as it was the day it was penned. I leave you with that. Hear and DO!

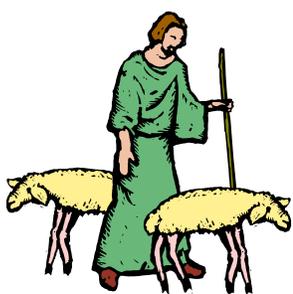
Selah

Restore My Soul

I've been watching a thing in my life for some time now and it's the need of my soul for renewal and restoration. John warned us that our health and prosperity are tied up with our soul's condition (See 3 John 2). If our soul isn't prospering, we aren't prospering. I had read that before, but until I really paid close attention to the times I was physically ill and considered some event that had touched my soul in a negative way I missed it. I have since seen a pattern emerging. Whenever I found myself in the midst of unresolved stress and pressure, I would eventually find myself physically ill or injured. The longer I held onto the soulish ill, the more serious the physical illness. If I allowed myself to worry a physical manifestation of illness would follow. Even "modern" medicine tells us that stress is the biggest killer of all.

In times like today one could stay in a perpetual cycle of soul sickness and physical sickness. Now that doesn't sound like good news to me so I won't leave you hopeless. We have a very old prayer that speaks to soul sickness.

A Psalm of David.



Restorer.....continued

{23:1-6} *The LORD [is] my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. **He restoreth my soul:** he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou [art] with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.*



I looked up the word “restoreth” in my Strong’s Concordance. It means to take something to its starting point. (7725) There were times when I ignorantly asked the Lord to take me back to my early days of faith. I had no idea it was a function of our Good Shepherd to restore our souls to their starting points! Restoration is a good thing. When I think of Job and all he lost to the adversary and then how God restored double all the enemy had stolen, I get excited. Job is reportedly the oldest book in the bible. If God restored in the beginning, He restores today because He NEVER changes. Halleluyah.

This prayer of David is full of good grits. I suggest you meditate upon it like you did when you were first born into the kingdom. Feed your soul on its soothing words and see your Good Shepherd restoring the things the adversary has stolen from you. Begin with your joy because joy is strength.

Oh and by the way, there are ways of preventing soul sickness as well. Perhaps you’ve heard of the “full armor of God?” I suggest you meditate on Ephesians 6:10-24 and keep the enemy from stealing from you in the first place! Keep your mind free of care, worry, anger, frustration, discouragement, dismay, fear and anxiety by DOING the things the word prescribes for such “ills”.

The world is full of things “which do offend”. In the parable of the sower sowing seed we learn that offense steals the word sown in our hearts. We want to keep the word in our hearts. If we’ve been sowing seed for healing and we allow ourselves to get offended, that word will wither and die. There are many things that affect our souls. Spend some time studying the sower parables (Matthew 13, Mark 4 and Luke 8) and you’ll learn what they are. These things either cause the word to wither and never produce fruit or the seed is choked out of our hearts. There is a way for our hearts to produce the fruits of righteousness and that is to have a prosperous soul. We all need our souls restored on a daily basis. We need to ask our good shepherd for this benefit. We also need to be aware of the things that cause troubles for our souls and keep clear of. Your diligent search for God’s will in soul prosperity will definitely reap a great harvest! We are the righteousness of God in Christ. The greatest restoration of our souls is remembering this!

Reaching Out to Nigeria

Once again we’ve been asked for help from Africa and once again God enabled us to do so. We are so excited to be able to sow bibles into Nigeria. Actually we’re excited to be able to sow bibles anywhere in the world, but Nigeria is open for the gospel and therefore there is a great need for bibles. A pastor sent us an email from Benin city in Nigeria asking for giant print bibles (for the elderly) as well as study bibles and teaching materials. We rejoice in that they received them. There are forces that would love to have intercepted the bibles, but they were unable to!

We were also able to send technical books into Nigeria so that another brother in the Lord would be able to make stronger water pumping systems. We rejoice that where there was once no easy access to water, the people have



The latest congregation in Nigeria to receive help from the Body here in Texas and New Mexico.

Nigeria

13 wells! Now the pumping systems will be made more stable and the 13 villages that have water will be able to have more secure systems!



There are so many needs in Africa and we delight that the Lord has spoken to his people and they have agreed to help us help our brothers and sisters in Christ. Your generosity is being rewarded in so many ways. The body of Christ in the US is reaching out to the other members as far away as the continent of Africa.

There are more needs we have been made aware of, but we are seeking God's will as to what He would have us do. We covet your prayers that we will have wisdom in these areas.

Didja Know?

In His presence is fullness of joy (Psalms 16:11)

The joy of (from) the Lord is our strength (Nehemiah 8:10)

When we are weak we can be strong in the Lord (2 Cor. 12:10)

Yeshua/Jesus grew weary (John 4:6)

Yeshua/Jesus hungered (Matthew 21:18)

Yeshua/Jesus cried (Luke 19:41)

Yeshua/Jesus is easily touched by the feelings of our infirmities (Heb. 4:15)

The Lord was tempted just like us (Hebrews 4:15)

Meditation for March



Why apostles? The church has been taught that apostles are no longer needed. I guess Paul didn't know this. The body of Christ needs the apostle today. We exhort each and every person in the body to meditate on these verses. The apostle teaches the first principals of the oracles of Christ. If you haven't sat under the teaching of an apostle you really don't know what you are missing.

*Ephesians {4:11-13} And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: **Till we all come in the unity of the faith,** and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.*

Meditation.....continued

The body is not yet come to the unity of the faith or to the full knowledge of the Son of God. The body has not yet come to a perfect or mature “man” or the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. It stands to reason therefore that we still need apostles.

Ephesians{2:19-22} Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [stone;] In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.



Love Letter From God

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

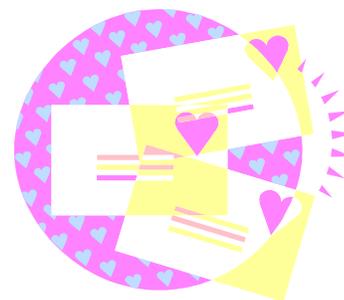
⁴Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily.

⁵It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong].

⁶It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail.

⁷Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening].

⁸Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end].



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Jeff's March 2009 Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sabbath
1	2 Lovington 2227 E. Waters 7-9PM	3	4 Gardendale 14630 N. Holly- hock #35 7-9PM	5	6 Hobbs 207 W. Alston 7-9PM 575-441-1095	7 Roswell 2401 N. Grand 2-4PM
8	9	10	11 Gardendale 14630 N. Holly- hock #35 7-9PM	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Gardendale 14630 N. Holly- hock #35 7-9PM	19 Hobbs 207 W. Alston 7- 9PM 575-441-	20	21
22	23	24	25 Gardendale 14630 N. Holly- hock #35 7-9PM	26	27	28
29	30	31		For more info call Jeff at 432- 770-4775		