REVIVAL NEWS

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Declaring the whole counsel of God Bulletin – Article 10 – August 31, 2024

THE VISION – PART 2

This is a continuation of the previous Bulletin – Article 9 – The Vision – Part 1. The teaching was shared in the January 2024 Training School at SHILOH and is adapted from the notes. It focuses on sharing aspects of the apostolic vision we need to be able to run with the gospel. The apostle Paul provides a most magnificent and victorious view of God's purpose in Christ through the church in the letter to the Ephesians. The plan is laid out. Let the apostolic vision grip your heart and be captured by the splendour of the riches of the glory of this mystery being revealed by the Spirit to us. We were created for this very purpose!

Aspects of the Vision from Ephesians

4. Ephesians 2:5-6 – the vision is to be a people who are raised up and seated with Jesus the Christ in the heavenly places

The church is called to sit with Christ at the right hand of God in the heavenly places. Jesus said to the church in Laodicea, "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne" Revelation 3:21. We are learning to rule and reign with Him, knowing our placement as sons seated with Christ in heavenly places. "If we endure, we shall also reign with Him" 2 Timothy 2:12a.

The apostolic vision is for there to be a people who know what the Cross, Resurrection and Ascension of Christ mean for us, His church. This is vital in spiritual warfare. As we learn to occupy the position that Jesus has won for us, we learn to "subdue the earth and have dominion" fulfilling the original mission that God gave to mankind in Genesis 1:28.

The church, in Greek "Ekklesia", is the vehicle through which Christ governs the earth, "the gates of hell shall not prevail against her" Matthew 16:18b. As the church we are taught to pray "Your kingdom come, Your will be done on the earth as it is in heaven" Matthew 6:10. This becomes more powerful when we realise we have been given authority over principalities and powers

because we have been "made alive together with Christ...and raised up together and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ" Ephesians 2:5-6. This is the position "far above all principality and power and might and dominion and every name that is named" Ephesians 1:21. We are to know this by revelation and walk it out together in the earth!

The apostolic vision is a church which knows where it is are positioned with Christ and is learning to rule and reign with Him over powers and principalities in the heavenlies!

5. Ephesians 2:10 – the vision is to realise that we are His workmanship and there are good works for us to fulfill!

We are to realise that we "are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them" Ephesians 2:10. To be God's workmanship means to be: God's poem—His work of art. The word signifies that which is manufactured, a product, a design produced by an artisan...bringing us balance, symmetry and order [Greek 'poiema' SC#4161 from Word Wealth—Ephesians 2:10 in New Spirit Filled Life Bible]. We are God's poetry. In Christ, God is writing a poem through our life. We are "an epistle of Christ...written not with ink but by the Spirit of the Living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, of the heart" 2 Corinthians 3:3.

We have been *created in Christ Jesus!* This is a new creation. We are not the same! He has good works for us to do. There is a work for us to do as new creations in the earth. Each one of us has particular good works that God has planned for us to do. As "each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" 1 Peter 4:10. Love the gifts and good works that Jesus has given you to do. These things God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

The apostolic vision is for all God's new creation people to walk in their predestined calling, manifesting the gifts and the works that God had preordained for them to do.

6. Ephesians 2:14-16 – the vision is one new man from the Jew and Gentile!

It is written that Christ Himself has become our peace and has "broken down the middle wall of separation...so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace" Ephesians 2:14-15. There is no longer any divide between Jew and Gentile in Christ Jesus. There is also now no divide between tribes, tongues, peoples and races in Christ Jesus.

Jesus Christ has *created in Himself one new man!* There is a new creation! We are all reconciled to God "in one Body through the cross" Ephesians 2:16. The new creation is the Body of Christ! We

are now in Him. We are no longer in Adam, no longer in the flesh! We are in Christ, the last Adam, and He is "a life-giving Spirit" 1 Corinthians 15:45. This is to be a great witness to the world! A new people! Made alive in Christ, created in Him, no longer living according to the flesh, but a whole new creation.

This is a place of maturity! A people who are able to lay down their own desires and opinions, being reconciled to God in one body. The enmity was put to death on the cross. Jesus has now made the way for us to live in peace, in One Body, under His covering and leadership, in Him.

The apostolic vision is a new society, a new community of people who follow the Head, Messiah Jesus, together. Not separate ethnic "churches", but One New Creation Man created in Christ Jesus and reconciled in One Body!

7. Ephesians 2:13, 18 – the vision is a people who access the Father by the blood and by the Spirit.

There are a people on earth who have access to the Father! We have been "brought near by the blood of Christ" and are partakers of the "commonwealth of Israel" and the "covenants of promise" having now a "hope" and being with "God in the world" (Eph.2:11,13). We are a people near to God, knowing we have "access by One Spirit to the Father", right into to the Holy of Holies!

The vision is a people who are filled with the Spirit of God, having direct access to the Father all the time! A people in the Spirit, caught up to the Father and the throne. Powers and principalities cannot block our fellowship and relationship with the Father. There is direct access to heaven while on the earth – by the blood of Christ and by the Spirit! This is living in a different realm. This is experiencing God in the Spirit, the kingdom of God and the realm of the glory. This is entering beyond the veil as a lifestyle, accessing the Father, walking with the Father, talking with the Father and doing what He shows us to do.

So many believers have not really entered this realm even though it is completely available. We have access! We have "boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh" Hebrews 10:19-20. The Body of Christ is called to live accessing the Father for everything that pertains to life and godliness!

The apostolic vision is for a people on earth to be living in the realm of the glory and kingdom of God, beyond the veil, accessing the Father while living on the earth!

The Lord Jesus is opening the eyes of His people to see what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in us. So many have settled for something far

below the high calling He has for us. There is much more for us to discover and know in Christ Jesus! There is an eternal purpose to unfold and manifest in the earth!

Ask the Father to reveal the mysteries of Christ, His kingdom and His church to you. Pray for the wisdom to communicate this to all around you. It is the message that will bring the church to maturity, not only splashing around in the shallows but walking deeper into the River of God's Word and Spirit! The Spirit of the Lord is advancing His work in the nations. He will reveal things to come. We must have a heart that is set on pilgrimage, not camping and settling, but ready to move and follow the cloud of glory and revelation. He is leading us into the land of His inheritance and quickening faith as sons to walk in the inheritance — Christ in us, the hope of glory!