

Growing up in all things

Teaching Session Notes taken from January 2020
SHILOH Apostolic Training School
REVIVAL MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA

This Manual has been compiled with shorthand notes from each publicly taught session of the SHILOH International Training School, January 2020.

These notes can help as an aid with the CDs or DVDs or USB for each session or they can be used as a guide to study the topics and verses mentioned.

This manual is also invaluable as a teaching aid for you to teach directly from the Scriptures, with the help of these notes.

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Our mandate:

- Making disciples, Matt. 28:18-20,
- Training & equipping workers for the harvest, Matt.9:37–10:40, Lu.10:1-20
- Bringing the church to maturity by fathering sons, Gal.4:10 & 1Cor.4:14-17

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CONSIDER JESUS

The Spirit of the fear of YAHWEH

Isaiah 11:2

- The "seven spirits" of God are listed
- We need the Spirit of the fear of YHWH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

- We are to pray for our nations and for the leaders
- We are to pray that we have a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence/respect
- We are to have reverence, fear, respect in our nations

Micah 6:8

- We are to love justice – treat people fairly
- We are to love mercy
- We are to be humble

WE ARE TO STOP AND CONSIDER JESUS

1) LORD - Acts 2:36 – God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ

- Consider Jesus, **the Lord**

The Lord – what does it mean to call Jesus the Lord?

- In Old Testament, over 6500 times there is "LORD" all in capital letters
- "LORD" is not correct, in Hebrew it is the name "YHWH" – the name of God
- We are not talking about this LORD today

Hebrew:

The Hebrew word "**Adon**" = Lord, Boss, Master

Word Wealth [SFLB] at **Micah 4:13** "**Lord**" = *Adon*

- Owner, Master, Lord, Sir – primarily meaning master
- Can refer to a human master or divine Lord.
- Citizens addressed kings or nobles as "Lord" – *Adon*

"Adonai" - Then there is another Hebrew word "**Adonai**" – the intensive form of *Adon*.

- Only ever used in relationship to the Almighty God. He is the intensive Lord.
- All lordship and authorities come from God, the highest authority.
- It is a kind of plural form only used concerning the glorious Lord.

Greek: 'Kurios'

Word Wealth [SFLB] for Greek word for "**Lord**" - **John 6:68** –

- "*Kurios*" – used to translate YHWH from Old Testament references,
- used to refer to Jesus; used for human masters, sir, mister etc.

- The Owner, Master, Controller, one in authority.
- 'Kurios' [the Lord] in the Old Testament, was YHWH.
- In the New Testament the title is transferred to Jesus. Jesus is the Lord

Genesis 4:26 – after Seth was born, a godly seed, then men began to call on the name of YHWH

- We need to start calling God by His name, not religiously calling Him "Lord"

2) CHRIST – consider Him as the Messiah, Christ

Christ = Anointed One, Messiah

Greek "*Christos*" translates Hebrew "*Maschiyach*" = Messiah

Word Wealth [SFLB] for "*Christ*" - **2 Timothy 4:22**

- Jesus Christ actually means, Jesus the Messiah, or Jesus the Anointed One, emphasising the fact that the man Jesus was God's Anointed One, the promised Messiah.

John 1:41

- 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated, the Christ)
- Messiah is the Christ

John 4:25 – also John tells us Christ translates the word Messiah.

- 'Messiah – who is called Christ'

In the Old Testament

Daniel 9:25 – Word Wealth [SFLB] for "*Messiah*"

- 39 times in Old Testament
- From the verb "to anoint"
- To consecrate by applying the holy anointing oil to an individual
- '*Maschiyach*' can refer to the high priest and anointed kings
- In Psalm 2 it refers to the Anointed One coming from David who will rule all nations
- Jesus Christ = Jesus the Messiah
- Jesus is the Son of David, the Messiah

3) CONSIDER JESUS THE APOSTLE – Hebrews 3:1

- this is addressed to holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling
- we are to consider Jesus as the Apostle

Apostle = *One sent*; Jesus is the Sent One

John 17:18, John 20:21

- As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world
- "Sent" – set apart, to send out on a mission
- "apostle" – a sent one, a delegate, a commissioner, especially with miraculous powers
- Jesus was sent by the Father

John 5:17-23 - The Son represents the Father

John 10:30 - Jesus and the Father are One

John 14:8-9 - If you have seen Jesus, you have seen the Father

- Jesus represented the Father and made Him known as the Apostle
- The other aspect of the apostolic role is to build the house of God

Matthew 16:18 - I will build My church

1 Timothy 3:15 - The house of God is the church of the living God

Hebrews 3:3-6

- Builder of the house has more honour than the house
- Moses served in the house, but Jesus is the builder of the house
- Christ/Messiah is a Son over His own house, whose house we are
- The church is the house that Jesus is building

4) CONSIDER JESUS AS THE HIGH PRIEST

Hebrews 3:1 – consider the High Priest

Hebrews 5:6

- Jesus is high priest, a priest forever of the order of Melchizedek
- He is the fulfilment of **Psalms 110:4**
- He is an eternal priest
- He is not of Aaron, which was temporary, every generation a new one
- In Jesus, there is the crossover from a priesthood built on fleshly ordinances, strict rules and regulations, limitations on what priests do and what kings do
- This priesthood was sworn by God with an oath "I have sworn and will not relent"

→ We need to **understand a little bit about Melchizedek** – a king and a priest

Hebrews 7:26 - This high priest is fitting for us

- Holy, harmless, separate from sinners, higher than the heavens

The Priesthood is the link to get us into Kingship

- The essence of priesthood is sacrifice, sacrifice for sin
- He had to be a priest forever,
- Through His priesthood, He took His blood into heavenly places and then sat down to rule and reign as King

Hebrews 8:1 - This is the main point

- We have such a high priest who is seated at the right hand
- He is a priest who is sitting as a King at the right hand of God

Hebrews 5:9-10

- Having been perfected, He became the Author of Eternal Salvation
- **"Author"** Sc#159 – a causer, one who causes an event to happen, Christ has become the personal mediating cause of eternal salvation
- Called by God as high priest

5) JESUS IS THE SHEPHERD – Consider Him as the Shepherd

Shepherd - Gk. "*Poimen*" = Pastor

John 10:11 – Jesus said 'I AM the Good Shepherd'

- The Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep

John 10:14 – the shepherd knows His sheep and is known by His own

John 10:16 – one flock and one shepherd

Matthew 9:35-38

- The people were like sheep without a shepherd
- The harvest is plentiful, and the workers are few
- Jesus has pastoral concern for the sheep

1 Peter 2:25

- We have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls
- We were like sheep going astray
- In our soul life we can relate to the Shepherd
- He looks after us, He leads us into green pastures
- He sets a Table for us to be anointed afresh

1 Peter 5:4

- Jesus is the Chief Shepherd
- When He appears as the Chief Shepherd, there is a crown of glory waiting for those who shepherd well

Hebrews 13:20 -The Great Shepherd of the Sheep

Ezekiel 34 – awesome Shepherd chapter

6) JESUS AS THE TEACHER – Consider Him as Teacher

John 13:13-14

- Jesus is our Lord and Teacher
- Greek '*didaskolos*' (Sc#1320) – instructor
- Rabbi a respectful address to Jewish Teachers
- "Rabbi" = master, and is a title of respectful address to those who teach the word

Matthew 23:8 - Do not be called "Rabbi" for One is your Teacher, the Christ

John 3:2

- "Rabbi", we know you are a Teacher come from God because no one can do the signs you do unless God was with you
- Teachers do signs and wonders because they are handling the word of God

John 11:28 - The Teacher has come

7) JESUS IS THE AUTHOR – Consider Jesus as the Author

Heb.5:9 – 'He became the author of eternal salvation'

Heb.12:2 – 'looking unto Jesus, the author ...'

Archegos (Gk. Sc#747) – Chief Leader, the first in anything, the Originator, the Source of, the Captain, the Prince, the Chief

As we walk with Jesus, we are to come to know Him in all these aspects of who He is

Acts 5:31

- **Prince and Saviour**
- **"Prince"** – author, Chief, Originator, Source, Leader, provides the first occasion of forgiveness/salvation
- God has exalted Him to the right hand as Prince and Saviour

8) JESUS THE SAVIOUR – Consider Him as Saviour

Luke 2:11 – receive Jesus as the Saviour from the Scripture

- The One born in the City of David was a "Saviour, who is Messiah, the Lord"
- The Saviour was born
- We are to remember the birth of Jesus; He was born in the flesh (**1 Jn.4:1-2**)

Matthew 1:21

- You shall call His name "JESUS" for He will save His people from their sins
- Jesus means "He will save" His people
- "Saviour" is a synonym for the name "JESUS"

2 Peter 1:1b

- We have obtained like precious faith
- It is faith in our God and Saviour Jesus Christ
- Jesus Christ is our God and Saviour

Titus 2:13 - Great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ

- ➔ Both Paul and Peter are very clear about who Jesus is
- ➔ Saviour means *deliverer, preserver, saviour, benefactor and rescuer*

9) JESUS IS THE PERFECTER

Colossians 3:14

- Speaks of the bond of perfection
- He accomplishes the end that was in view
- Jesus comes to complete all things in Himself
- The end is when the righteous shine like the sun in the kingdom of the Father (**Matthew 13:43**)
- Jesus will bring us into this Perfection, the end of all things
- Jesus originated our faith but wants to perfect it, accomplish the end in view (**Heb.12:1-2**)

10) JESUS IS THE PROPHET – consider Him as Prophet

Some Scriptures about Jesus being the prophet:

- **John 6:14** – 'this is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world'

- **Luke 24:19** – 'the things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, He was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people'
- **John 4:19** – 'Sir, I perceive you are a prophet'
- **Mark 6:15** – 'it is the prophet!'
- **Luke 7:16** – a great prophet
- **Luke 13:33** – Jesus as a prophet had to die in Jerusalem

11) JESUS IS THE KING – Consider Him as the King

Matthew 2:2

- The Magi [wise men]
- They were foreigners, from the East
- They came seeking for where the King of the Jews would be born
- Jesus is the King

Matthew 2:6

- He will be born in Bethlehem
- **Micah 5:2** – He is the great ruler; His goings forth are from the days of eternity (everlasting)
- **Philippians 2:5-8**
- Before Jesus came in the flesh, He was in the form of God, in eternity

John 18:36

- My Kingdom is not of this world; He must be a King if He has a kingdom

v.37 – I am a King

- Jesus said He was born to be a King, and He revealed His kingdom

1 Timothy 6:15 – King of kings and Lord of lords

Revelation 19:16 - King of kings

Luke 1:32-33 - His kingdom will never end

Let us Consider Jesus!

THE I AM IN YOU

Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament Scriptures

Matt.5:17 Jesus did not come to destroy but to fulfill what had been written

- There is a fulfillment of the Old Testament Scriptures
- Jesus is the fulfillment of everything written
- The word became flesh and dwelt among us **Jn.1:14**

Jn.5:39 the Scriptures testify of Jesus

- We need the revelation of the Scriptures
- The Scriptures speak of Jesus and reveal Him

Luke 24:27 Jesus expounded how the Scriptures spoke of Him

- From Moses, through all the prophets everything concerning Jesus

Ex.3:1-2 The Angel of YAHWEH appeared to Moses from the midst of the bush

- The manifestation of a person in the bush
- "YAHWEH saw" – the Angel of YAHWEH and YAHWEH are one

Ex.3:14 - the name of God is I AM who I AM

Ex.6:3 – God said He appeared to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as God Almighty, but by My name YAHWEH I was not known to them.

Hosea 12:4-5 – the Angel = YAHWEH God of hosts

Consider the I AM!

Heb.11:6 - he who comes to God must believe that He is (I AM)

- God is unchangeable; He is who He is!

Prophecies were made concerning YAHWEH manifesting in the flesh

Jer.23:5-6 – He name will be called 'The LORD our righteousness' – YAHWEH TSIDKENU (**Micah 5:2**)

JESUS REVEALED HIMSELF AS THE I AM

- **Jn.8:58** "Jesus said 'before Abraham was, I AM'"
- **v.59** – the people wanted to stone Him because Jesus claimed to be YAHWEH
- **Colossians 1:27** – the riches of the glory of this mystery is 'Christ in you, the hope of glory'.
- Not just knowing who Jesus is, but knowing that same one who we have received revelation of is in us
- **2Pet.1:3-4** – we have become partakers of the Divine nature

1. BREAD FROM HEAVEN

- **Ex.16:4 & 15** – this is the bread that YAHWEH has given you to eat – this is the type
- **Jn.6:31-35** – Jesus said My Father gives the true bread from heaven. The bread of God is He – the bread is a person!
- **V.48** I AM the Bread of life

Lev.21:6 – speaks of the bread of their God

- **v.22** – the bread of God – the priests were able to eat of this bread
- Jesus is the Bread of life that we partake of – we do this by believing; believe in Jesus and we are to eat of Him, we feed on Him
- Are you eating of the bread of life?
- Is Christ in you?
- The Bread of life is in you – we are to give this bread, this food out to the world

Isa.50:4 – having the word in season to give

- Disciples distribute the bread, there will always be enough to give; it will multiply
- Disciples are to feed the bread to the hungry

2. YAHWEH IS MY LIGHT - Psalm 27:1

Isa.60:19 – YAHWEH will be your everlasting light

Ex.27:20-21 – in the Tabernacle there was a lamp giving light continually

Jn.8:12 – Jesus said 'I AM the light of the world'

- Jesus is the light – supernatural light, bringing revelation, bringing understanding

Jn.9:4-5 – the works reveal the light

- What Jesus did was revealing God, so we would no longer be in the dark

- **Matt.5:14-16** – 'You are the light of the world'

- Let your light so shine before men
- What we do manifests light – others will be drawn to this light
- Let the world see your good works – you are the light of the world and it will bring glory to your Father

3. THE DOOR/GATE OF HEAVEN

- Noah had to set the door in the ark - **Gen.6:16**

Gen.28:17 – Jacob said 'the house of God is the gate of heaven'

Jn.1:51 – Jesus was saying to Nathanael 'you will see angels ascending and descending on the Son of Man'

Jn.10:7 – Jesus said 'I AM the door'

v.9 – I AM the door – Jesus is the door, gate into the kingdom of God, into salvation, into the realm of God

- we can go in and to receive and then go out to give to others
- the gate/door is in us! We are the house of God – **Heb.3:6** this is the gate of heaven.

4. YAHWEH IS MY SHEPHERD - Psalm 23:1

Jn.10:11 – Jesus said 'I AM the Shepherd

- The I AM who is the Shepherd is in you

Rev.2:27 – those who overcome will 'shepherd' [rule] the nations

- This is by discipling the nations
- We are to lay down our lives for the brethren

5. YAHWEH IS THE ONE WHO GIVES RESURRECTION LIFE

Ps.16:10-11 – speaking of the Christ, quoted by Peter on the day of Pentecost in **Acts 2:25-28**

John 11:25 – the Messiah would be the one who would bring resurrection life

- The Messiah is the resurrection and the life, and He is in us
- God wants a people who are walking in the revelation of the I AM

Jn.5:24-25 – people will pass from death to life

- the same spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is in us.

6. HE WILL TEACH US HIS WAYS - Isa.2:3

Ps.25:4-5 – show me your ways, teach me your paths, lead me in your truth, and disciple me

Jn.14:6 – Jesus is the way, the truth and the life

Acts 9:2 – we are people of the way, because the Way is in us.

- The way is a person, Jesus is the way, and He is in us

Acts 2:42 this is the way, it is a way of life

- **2 Jn.2&4** we are to walk in the truth - truth is reality, truth is a person
- There is no argument against truth
- As a body we manifest truth to the world
- The way we live speaks – we are to manifest the way and the truth to people in the world

7. GOD HAS A VINEYARD - Isa.5:1

- 'horn' speaks of kings; 'fatness' speaks of oil
- A vineyard in the son of the anointing

Jn.15:1&5 - **Jesus is the vine**

- We are the branches
- The branches are connected to the vine; We are extensions of the vine

Isa.4:2 – there is fruit to come forth from the vine

- The fruit is excellent and appealing

The I AM is in you - YAHWEH in the flesh

THE FEASTS OF YHWH

The Feasts are an Eternal Pattern

- of how to bring a people to maturity and to reveal who He is to the world!

FEASTS = '*moed*' - they are the feasts of YHWH not Jewish feasts

- Means: an appointed time, appointments to be kept
- There are certain times when the people of God were to meet with God, a time for the nation to come and meet with God
- God is bringing a body to maturity in the earth
- The feasts help us know how He is bringing us to maturity
- God has set in motion the growth from beginning to end; Alpha to Omega, from seedtime to harvest
- God loves to fill, to multiply
- Everything has a purpose in God, and He loves seeing everything come to completion

The Feasts were to be kept

Exodus 23:14-17

- 'You shall keep a feast to Me through the year' x 3 times
- Feast of Unleavened Bread/Passover – 3 parts
- Feast of Harvest/Pentecost – 1 part
- Feast of Ingathering/Tabernacles – 3 parts
- Three times every year all the males were to appear before YAHWEH to keep the feast – all had to be represented at the feast

Leviticus 23 is the chapter giving explanation about the 3 Feasts, broken up into 7 parts

JESUS CAME TO FULFILL THE FEASTS

Colossians 2:16-17

- Do not let anyone judge you regarding the feasts
- These are a shadow of things to come, but the substance/the body, is of Christ
- The feasts are not the reality themselves; they are the shadow that are meant to point to the reality which is in Christ

Heb.12:22:23 – by coming to Mt Zion you have come to the place where we celebrate the feasts

- ➔ How do we celebrate these feasts in Christ?
- ➔ The Shadow with teach us about the Reality

THE FEAST OF PASSOVER

Lev.23:4-14 – the 3 parts of the feast of Passover

- This is the beginning of the journey
- Day of Passover

- 7 days of Unleavened bread
- Day of first fruits
- **v.11** – the day after the Sabbath was the day that the first sheaf had to be waved before Yahweh

Ex.12:2 - the beginning of months

- **v.3** a lamb for a household - a lamb without blemish
- **v.7** the lamb was to be slain, and the blood placed over the house to deliver from the angel of death
- those in the house were redeemed by the blood of the lamb
- **v.11** there were to eat the sacrifice and be ready to get out of Egypt
- **v.12** all the gods of Egypt were judged at the Passover
- **v.14** an everlasting ordinance
- **v.15b** – get rid of all the leaven
- this is all the shadow, what is the reality?

Jesus and the Passover

John 2:13-22 the Passover of the Jews was at hand

- Jesus saw the commerce that was going on in the temple
- **v.15** Jesus made a whip of cords, and He drove them out of the temple
- Jesus was getting the leaven out of His Father's house
- **v.16** 'Do not make My Father's house a den of merchandise'
- **v.19** Jesus said 'destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.'
- **v.21** – Jesus was speaking of the temple of His body
- Jesus was speaking of His death and resurrection

John 6:4 – the Passover of the Jews was near

- Speaking of the Bread of Life – Jesus said to 'Eat My flesh'
- Jesus is the unleavened bread that we need.

How do we meet Jesus at the Passover?

We believe in Jesus – it is by faith

- We get delivered from judgement into life
- We come out of Egypt – leave the bondage of the world
- Passover is about believing in Jesus, leaving the world through repentance and then being baptised into Christ (**1Cor.10:1-2** – baptised into Moses)
- Through baptism we enter into the death, burial and resurrection of Christ
- The gods of the world were judged (**Col.2:15**)

THE FEAST OF PENTECOST/WEEKS

Lev.23:15-22 deals with the feast of Pentecost

- **v.17** – they were to bake their bread with leaven
- there is still not complete purity in this feast

Ex.19:1 – in the third month – in the wilderness at Mt Sinai.

- **v.16** – thundering, lightning, trumpet, cloud – awesome powerful manifestations
- at Sinai the covenant was made – the law given on tablets of stone

Ex.32:2-5 at the bottom of the Mountain Aaron made an idol

- a golden calf and called it 'yahweh' and proclaimed a feast to Yahweh.
- they fashioned something that they called 'Yahweh' **and** worshiped that

v.25-28 – 3000 men fell on that day – those who had been worshipping the idol

The Reality/fulfillment

Acts 2:1 – the day of Pentecost had fully come

- Jesus came to fulfill
- There was a manifestation of power
- They were all filled with the Holy Spirit
- The law is now written in our hearts
- We now have the power to live by the Spirit in fulfillment of the law
- (**Eze.36:26-27; Jer.31:33**)

Acts 2:41 – 3000 lived, were saved, added to the church

- The feast of Pentecost is a testing place, in the wilderness
- Will you live in the flesh or in the spirit?
- Pentecost was not the destination, it is a foundational experience in Christ, but we are not meant to dwell there
- The Holy Spirit teaches us to live in the land

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

Don't stay at Pentecost – we are to move on to Tabernacles

- God is moving on; He wants to take us on to something more
- Don't follow the signs, let the signs follow you

Lev.23:23-44

- Blowing of Trumpets in the 7th month – they would blow the trumpet
- It was time to go up to the feast
- It was a proclamation – to warn; to gather the army for war; to gather the people of God to hear the word; to move on; blown over the sacrifice

2 Chron.5:2-3

- Solomon dedicated the temple at the feast of Tabernacles
- **v.12-14** - 120 priests sounding trumpets
- They were as one to make one sound (**v.13**)
- The house of God filled with a cloud; the glory of Yahweh filled the house (**v.14**)
- In the unity of the spirit, the unity of the faith
- Making one sound being heard
- The priests could not continue to minister or stand

The Reality/fulfillment

Eph.4:11-13 the ministers are to do the work of the ministry **until** ... we all come to the unity of the faith

- Then the glory will be filling the house
- Christ in you the hope of glory (**Col.1:27**)

John.7:2 - the Feast of Tabernacles was at hand

- **v.8** - Jesus said 'My time has not yet fully come'
- **v.14** In the midst of the feast Jesus taught
- **v.15** the doctrine is the doctrine of God
- The doctrine brings us through the Day of Atonement
- So that we can come into the glory

Speaking the pure word – [**Nehemiah 8:8** – reading from the Book, giving the sense and understanding of it].

John 7:37-39

- The Spirit empowered word of God flowing from the belly of all believers giving drink to the thirsty
- There is a bride arising that will say to the world 'Come' (**Rev.22:17**)
- We need to be established in the doctrine – the pure word of God, no mixture
- The word proceeding from the throne, the river of life

On that last day of the feast Jesus cried out:

"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink"

And He said of those who believe in Him [Jesus] **"out of his heart will flow rivers of living water"!**

WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP

Ephesians 2:10

- We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has prepared beforehand that we should walk in them
- It is not by our doing that we are in Christ Jesus
- We are HIS workmanship

"workmanship" – Greek *'poiema'* **SC#4161** -To make, to be manufactured, to produce a design of an artisan...has the sense of poetry

- It is the creating of something by a designer
- The designer makes it for themselves
- In Christ we have been created
- "We are" – corporate, us, the called-out congregation, the church, the Body of Messiah
- **WE are God's poem or work of art**

The Context of Ephesians 2:10

- "For we are" – The statement before this tells us how we are His workmanship

Ephesians chapter 2

v.1 - He made us alive when we were dead in trespasses and sins

v.2-3 - we used to be ruled by the Prince of the power of the air,

- conducting ourselves in the lusts of the flesh
- This is who we were before we knew Jesus
- Every one of us walked in this way, totally by the flesh, governed by the spirit of Satan, being a son of disobedience
- **Eph.4:22-24** – we are told to put off this old man and be renewed in the spirit of our mind and put on the new man
- **1 John 3:10** – children of the devil do not practice righteousness, do not live by faith in Jesus
- we were children of wrath but now have another nature

v.4-6 - But God who is rich in mercy

- It is God's delight to show mercy
- **1 Peter 2:10** – We once were a people without mercy but now we have obtained mercy
- **Hebrews 4:14-16** – Jesus can sympathise with our weaknesses, can show us mercy
- the blood is on the MERCY seat
- God loved us – **Romans 5:8** – even when we were yet sinners Christ died for us, demonstrating His love

- **Eph.3:18-19** – this love surpasses knowledge and understanding
- even when dead in sins, He raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in heavenly places

v.7 - He did this to reveal His awesome kindness and grace toward us in Christ Jesus
this salvation is not a ticket to heaven

- we have been predestined to the adoption as sons (**Eph.1:5, Heb.2:10**)
- we are His workmanship, saved to become the sons of God and restore that kingdom authority in the earth
- we are called to repent from dead works, believe in the gospel, be baptised and filled with Holy Spirit so we can be created in Christ Jesus for good works
- We are on the earth but seated in heavenly places with that authority – **Eph.2:5-6**
- We are to be ruling and reigning with Messiah Jesus as sons, walking in our inheritance
- **Gal.4:1-2** – as children we do not yet inherit, we need to grow up to become sons (**Gal.4:4-7**)
- We are growing to be mature sons to be ruling and reigning with Messiah
- In the ages to come we will be displayed as a work of grace, a testimony to God's grace

We have been saved according to His mercy

Titus 3:3-7

v.3 – speaks of who we were and what we were doing

v.4 – the love and kindness of God being our Saviour

v.5 – not by our own works and righteousness

- but according to His mercy He saved us
- He saved us by washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit
- “washing” – washings (in water)

v.7 – justified by grace, heirs of hope of eternal life

- “heir” = someone who inherits
- Jesus died on the Cross and released the inheritance when He rose again

Four steps in Salvation:

Hebrews 6:1-2 – first four steps in salvation =

1. Repent,
2. Believe,
3. Baptism,
4. “renewing of Holy Spirit” = receiving Holy Spirit, we are born again by the Spirit, baptised by the Spirit and we receive the Spirit of Sonship

We are to be born again – repent and believe in the gospel (**Mark1:15**)

1 Peter 1:22-23

- Having been born again through the incorruptible seed of the Word of God

John 1:11-13

- Born of God by receiving and believing the Word

Understanding this new creation - Ezekiel 36:25-28

- Takes out heart of stone, doing their own thing, living in ways of world
- Puts in a heart of flesh = new creation, born again, tender to God
- We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus
- God puts His Spirit in us
- Then God causes us to walk in His statutes and keep His judgements = sonship, walking with God in maturity, being led by the Spirit
- We are growing up – **1 Peter 2:2**
- We are growing up from little children (sins forgiven), to young men (strong, word of God abides in them, well disciplined – **2 Tim.2:15**, they are rightly dividing and feeding on the Word, overcoming the wicked one) and to fathers (**1 Jn. 2:12-14**)
- We are to come out of every false covering so we can grow under the open heaven, growing into our full potential, what we were created for, the good works we were prepared for
- We will stand before Jesus and give account for our life

Be a faithful and wise steward

Luke 12:35-43

- Blessed is the servant who is giving food to the household in the right portion and season
- Blessed is that servant when Jesus comes for accounting

v.44 – the servant doing this will be made ruler over all the Master has

v.45 – This servant cooled off, let an offense come and he began to beat the male and female servants

- we are to love one another as He loved us, self-sacrificial love
- this one is no longer gathering with the saints but hanging with the drunkards, not associating or functioning with the church, the ecclesia

v.46 – the Master's coming will be unexpected to him, will be judged

v.47 – this one was not prepared, beaten with many stripes, not a true follower of Jesus

v.48 – if much is given, much is required

- Do not listen to your flesh
- Deny yourself, take up your cross daily and follow Jesus
- We are to do the works of Jesus
- We are to preach the kingdom of God, make disciples, teach foundations, work of the ministry
- **Romans 1:5 – this is the work of God**

The work is to 'believe in Him'

John 6:28-29

- What shall we do to do the works of God?
- This is the work = believe in Him whom God sent
- Believe is to trust in, rely on and having a conviction of the truth of God in Jesus
- Believing demands action – **James 2:19**

- Believe and be baptised – **Mark 16:16**
- **Matthew 28:19** – is a command to make disciples of all nations

Give heed to what you have heard

Hebrews 2:1-4

- Give more earnest heed to things you have heard
- Do not drift away
- Do not neglect so great a salvation
- Be careful to maintain good works, stay on target and stay the course

THAT I MIGHT KNOW HIM

Philippians 3:10 - *"That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death v.11 – if by any means I may attain to the resurrection of the dead"*

WE ARE TO KNOW HIM

1 John 2:12-14

- **Little children** = new converts, needing milk, knowing Father in an immature way
- **Young men** = those who have overcome the wicked one, they are strong, the Word abides in them (the Word does the work – we are messengers to speak, teach, preach the Word, opening up the Scriptures)
- **Fathers** – Fathers know **Him who is the from the beginning**,

We are to keep on growing to become fathers, mature ones

Fathers train up and bring up young men in the gospel, training them to minister

He is from Eternity - Micah 5:2

- One will come from Judah, born in Bethlehem, a Ruler
- He will be from "everlasting" (literally "the days of eternity")
- Jesus the Messiah is "Him who is from the beginning", the Eternal One
- He existed in the form of God before becoming a man (**Phil.2:5-6**)

The Word was God - John 1:1

- In the beginning was the Word
- The Word was with God
- The Word was God – literally in Greek "God was the Word"
- We are to know Him who is from the beginning
- The Creator of Adam and Eve, the heavens and the earth

Coming to the knowledge of Christ Jesus - Philippians 3:8

- I count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord
- The Christian life is very simple
- Paul lays it out, there is only one way
- There is nothing I want to hold in my life that will stop me from knowing Christ Jesus,
- the excellence of the knowledge of Him
- The cost at the door is that it will cost you everything
- It will cost you everything to know Jesus and to keep on knowing Jesus

Being found in Him - Philippians 3:9

- Knowing Him is also to be "found in Him"
- We have righteousness through faith in Christ, not of ourselves

- Faith is not just "I believe"
- Faith is based on the word "conviction"
- Faith is the conviction, it is active
- The righteousness which is from God by faith

Paul asked, 'Who are You, Lord?'

This same Paul back in **Acts 9:3-5** first said when He met Jesus, "Who are You, Lord?"

- "I AM Jesus"
- We are to know Him
- This is where Paul's journey began to know Jesus
- Remember where you came from, when you first met Jesus

Those who did not know Him - Matthew 25:1-13

v.10 – the door was shut, five were not ready, not enough oil

v.11-12 – Jesus said, "I do not know you"

- they could do things for God, but they did not know Jesus

Matthew 7:21-23

- They did many miracles in Jesus' name
- They saw Holy Spirit move, they saw amazing things
- They were ministers, but Jesus said, "I never knew you"

- **We are to know Him!**

Let us pursue the knowledge of YHWH - Hosea 6:3

- He will come to us like the rain
- Latter rain and former rain
- **Deuteronomy 32:2**, the teaching drops like the rain, the teaching is like rain drops on the tender herb
- Proclaiming the name of YHWH
- The rain is the doctrine, the teaching
- We are to teach no other doctrine (**1 Tim.1:3**)
- True doctrine brings the revelation of God in Jesus the Messiah
- Latter rain – Tabernacles; Former rain – Pentecost
- If we pursue knowing Him, He will come to us in the fulfilment of Pentecost and Tabernacles

Hosea 6:1

- We do not need to live in an unhealed state
- By knowing Him we will be healed, bound up

James 5:7-8

- Be patient until the coming of the Lord
- Wait patiently for the early and latter rain
- The coming of the Lord is at hand

The restoration and fulfilment of the feasts as the end comes nigh upon us

THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION

Power = Greek '*dunamis*' – force, miracle, miraculous power

John 11:23 – Jesus speaking to Martha said - your brother will rise again

v.24 – will rise at the resurrection

v.25 – I AM the Resurrection and the Life

v.27 – Martha believed Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God

- Martha got the revelation of who Jesus is!

Acts 4:33

- With great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of Jesus
- Great grace was upon them

1 Corinthians 15:12-19

- If the resurrection of Christ is not real, then there is no reason to believe in Him
- The basic doctrine is that Jesus rose from the dead, this is the linchpin of Christian faith
- If Christ is not risen, our faith is empty and there is no forgiveness
- The defining article of faith is that Jesus rose from the dead
- If Jesus rose from the dead, then we too will rise from the dead

Acts 1:21-22

- The replacement of Judas for the 12th apostle had to be a person who especially had witnessed the resurrection of Jesus
- No resurrection, no faith

Saving faith is in the resurrection: Matthias was chosen to bear witness to the resurrection

A necessary foundation - Hebrews 6:1-2

- Resurrection is the 5th foundation mentioned in the 6 necessary foundations that must be laid in our lives
- These are vital, we cannot go on to perfection without these foundations being laid

Three foundational experiences of resurrection power

- 1. Being born again** – only possible because of the Cross and resurrection
John 3:5-6 – natural birth and we need a spiritual birth – without the second birth we look for supernatural things in wrong places
- 2. Baptism** – is into the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ
(Rom.6:3-5)
Baptism is real, there is resurrection power involved to bring us into the new life
- 3. Being filled with Holy Spirit** – you get released in the power of the resurrection **(Rom.8:9-11)**
Acts 1:8 – power comes through receiving the Holy Spirit

THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERINGS

- You will experience Christ in the worst moments of your life

Continue with Jesus - Luke 22:28

- You are those who have continued with Me in My trials
- They were in the fellowship of His sufferings
- **John 6:60-66** – many turned back from following Jesus
- They did not continue because of His hard sayings
- His twelve disciples did not turn back (**v.67-68**)

The affliction is but for a moment - 2 Corinthians 4:16-17

- Even though the outward condition is perishing we are being renewed inwardly day by day
- Our momentary light affliction, is but for a moment, is working for us an exceeding and eternal weight of glory

The suffering is very real and can seem to last a long time

Fellowship is being in the company of and believing together in the same thing

A corporate suffering - Colossians 1:24

- Paul says he “rejoiced in my sufferings for you”
- Filling up in his flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ
- The challenge of bringing the reality of what Jesus accomplished to the saints in the church
- We become an example of the afflictions to the saints
- Through the ministry of the Word we receive the comfort and wisdom we need to go through sufferings
- The suffering even becomes corporate – **1 Cor.12:26**

Expect persecution - John 15:20

- You are not of the world; the world hates you (**v.18-19**)
- If they persecuted Jesus, they will persecute you
- **2 Timothy 3:10-12** - All who desire to live godly in Christ will suffer persecution
- We need correction – we need to make a decision to love correction
- The Word corrects us, and God uses people to speak the Word to us

Trials will come, but rejoice

1 Peter 1:6-7

- Various trials that come upon us
- Proving the genuineness of our faith

1 Peter 4:12-14

- Do not consider it strange when fiery trials come upon you
- Rejoice to the extent that we partake in Christ's sufferings
- We will be glad in the glory with exceeding joy

2 Thessalonians 1:4-5

- This church is going through persecution and tribulation
- We are to go through suffering to be counted worthy of the kingdom of God
- We welcome suffering because it is the righteous judgement of God
- If we suffer for the kingdom, it is worthy and makes us worthy to receive His kingdom

v.6 – the result is that finally God will repay those with tribulation who trouble us

v.7 – the fellowship of His sufferings finally leads to rest and the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire

Suffering is necessary to come to the “Omega”, the Finish, the Completion

We have a necessary and wonderful beginning in Christ

But we must pass through some testing to come to the full revelation of Jesus at His coming

BEING CONFORMED TO HIS DEATH

Philippians 3:7 - Considered all things loss

2 Corinthians 4:8-10

- Carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our body

v.11 – we are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake

- this is to bring forth His life in our mortal flesh

v.12 – death works in us and brings forth life in others

v.13-14 – there will be a day when we are all raised up together

- carrying the death of the Lord Jesus in our body is not easy

What is the result of living this way?

2 Cor.4:15 – all sufferings have intermissions of victory

- When we come to victory it causes thanksgivings to abound to the glory of God
- **John 15:7-8** – if we abide, pray and obey His quickened word then Father will be glorified

Colossians 3:3-4

- We have died and our lives are hidden with Christ in God
- When Christ our life appears then we will appear with Him in glory

What sort of a death did Jesus die?

- He died as a martyr
- He died for what He believed, the truth, the faith
- **Acts 2:23** - Jesus died a death ordained, planned and prophesied by God

What happened to Jesus in Gethsemane?

- Jesus died in the flesh (to His own will)
- Not My will, but Yours be done
- It was a voluntary death
- He agreed with God that He should die

- He went through the suffering and agony of His soul
- He died to any sense of human preservation
- Let's have a godly view of death and dying

The result of this death

- There was a revelation of the mighty power of God manifesting through Him that very hour when all the soldiers fell at His words "I AM" – **John 18:3-6**
- You will see the glory when you are conformed to Jesus' death

→ IT IS POSSIBLE TO KNOW HIM AND THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION!

→ IT IS POSSIBLE TO KNOW HIM AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERINGS!

→ IT IS POSSIBLE TO KNOW HIM, BEING CONFORMED TO HIS DEATH!

→ THE GOAL IS TO ARRIVE AT THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD! Eph.3:11

THE FIVE MINISTRY GIFTS OF

EPHESIANS 4:11

Read Ephesians 4:11

- Jesus gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists and some pastors and teachers – the gifts given by Jesus after His ascension
- Five gifts given to the church

The context

Ephesians 4:7-16

v.7 – it is a gift of grace

v.8 – after Jesus ascended to heaven then He gave these gifts to men (male and female)

- these gifts come from Christ and they have a purpose
- All the five gifts are necessary in the body; grace is released through each gift
- The apostle can relate to each one

Ephesians 4:12 - the purpose of the gifts

a) For the equipping of the saints

"equipping" – has the meaning of setting a broken bone in surgery so that it can function properly, the five gifts set the body in order to function properly

b) To do the work of the ministry – each ministry has to be given to be doing the work of their particularly ministry

c) For the edifying/building up of the Body of Christ, to come to maturity, a perfect temple and dwelling place of God

Ephesians 4:13 – till we come

- The gifts are given "till" we come to maturity
- Till we come to unity of faith [**v.13-16** – signposts of maturity]

As the ministry gifts are functioning and doing their work, the church will grow up and become mature

THE FIVE GIFTS

1. APOSTLE

- Jesus called and trained apostles particularly, **Luke 6:13**
 - From Jesus' disciples He chose twelve whom He named as apostles (**Matt.10:1-4, Mark 3:10-13**)
 - Jesus had many disciples, But then He chose twelve to train as apostles
 - Apostles are called and named by Jesus
- **God has set apostles in the church - 1 Corinthians 12:28**
 - God set in the church first apostles

- **the apostolic ministry is a ministry of the Word - Acts 6:1-4**
 - Apostles give themselves to prayer and ministry of the Word
 - Apostles are first by giving the revelation of the Word to the church
- **Apostles along with prophets are foundation ministries - Ephesians 2:20**
 - Household of God is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets
 - Jesus is the foundation (**1 Cor.3:11**)
 - But we need apostles and prophets to lay the foundation of Jesus by bringing the revelation of who Jesus is
- **Apostles make know the mysteries of Christ - Ephesians 3:2-5**
 - Mystery was received by Paul by revelation
 - This mystery is revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets
 - God gives revelation of mysteries to apostles, the deeper understanding of the Word of God
 - This is apostolic grace
- **The ministry of apostles is to set the Church in order - Titus 1:5**
 - Paul giving a young apostle instructions for the church in Crete
 - Paul instructed Titus to appoint elders in every city
 - Apostles appoint elders in the church of the city
 - This is setting the Body in order to function
 - **Acts 14:23** Paul and Barnabas as apostles (**Acts 14:14**) appointed elders in every church
 - This is an apostolic work to set the church on a right foundation

2. PROPHET

- **Prophets also lay foundations along with apostles – Eph.2:20**
 - prophets also bring the revelational knowledge of who Jesus is
 - not coming and teaching strange revelations and teachings
 - they bring a revelation of Jesus Christ
- **Prophets along with apostles bring revelation of the mystery – Eph.3:5**
 - By the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets
 - Prophets are anointed by the Holy Spirit and are to reveal mysteries of the Word
 - They are to be “holy” – set apart
- **God appoints prophets in the church - 1 Corinthians 12:28**
 - God appoints first apostles and second prophets
 - Prophets bring understanding of the Word
- **Prophets exhort and strengthen - Acts 15:32**
 - ministry of the Word is to exhort and strengthen the brethren
 - They are extortive, building up, bringing direction
- **Agabus as an example of a prophet - Acts 11:28**
 - Prophets can foretell the future

- With Agabus it came to pass, a true prophet will be tested to see if their word is true
- **Prophets are sent - Acts 11:27**
- Prophets should be linked into a base and sent from that place
- Agabus and a team of prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch – they were sent to minister

3. EVANGELIST

Philip is an example - Acts 21:8

- Philip named as an evangelist
- The church met in his house
- He was one of the seven (**Acts 6:1-7**), a deacon

Philip in Acts 8 functioning as an evangelist

- **Evangelists are to preach – v.5** – Philip preached Christ
- **v.12** – he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ
- **People believe and are baptised – v.12**
- the result was that people believed and were baptised
- **Ministry of evangelist can be accompanied by signs and wonders – v.7-8**
- hearing and seeing the miracles he did, casting out demons and healing
- **Evangelists obey the voice of God – v.26**
- the angel of the Lord spoke to Philip and told him to go and speak to one man
- they are to go where God sends
- the Spirit told him what to do – **v.29**
- **Evangelists can preach Jesus from the Scriptures – v.35**
- They can preach Jesus from Old T Scriptures with conviction
- Baptism followed

4. PASTOR

- **Pastors are to shepherd the flock - Acts 20:28**
- Paul speaking to elders at Ephesus
- Elders are to be “overseers”, they are to “shepherd the flock”
- **1 Peter 5:2** - Shepherd the flock of God among you
- Serve as overseers
- The ministry of the pastor is to shepherd the flock
- **Pastors are to nurture and feed - John 21:15-17**
- Pastoral commission: feed Lambs – babes in Christ,
- need milk of the Word (**1 Pet.2:2, Heb.6:1-2**), getting them on right foundations
- **Nurture (by milk) and disciple (begin to grow) new believers**
- Then tend sheep and feed sheep

- **Psalm 23** – gives a picture of the ministry of the Shepherd
 - Shepherd is to tend, care for, lead and guide the sheep
 - Bring healing and restoration

5. TEACHER

- **God appoints teachers in the church - 1 Corinthians 12:28**
 - Teachers are appointed third in the church
 - They are a ministry of the Word
 - They bring the knowledge of the word that has come through the apostles and prophets
- **Teachers teach the faith & the truth - 1 Timothy 2:7**
 - Paul was appointed a teacher of Gentiles in faith and truth
 - Faith – what we believe; Truth – the word
- **Acts 11:26** - Paul and Barnabas (before they were called apostles) spent time in Antioch teaching the Word
- **Teachers teach the Word line upon line - Isaiah 28:10, 13**
 - Line upon line, precept upon precept
 - Going through the Word in a very thorough way to bring people to a good understanding of what the Word is actually saying
- **Nehemiah 8:8** - reading the Book, giving the sense and helping the people understand the reading

**When all the five gifts are restored and released to function,
the church will come to maturity
The body needs to receive the grace given by each of these five gifts**

A PICTURE OF APOSTOLIC MINISTRY

Acts 14:21-27 gives a good picture of apostolic ministry in action

The context - Acts 13:1

- The church at Antioch had prophets and teachers functioning as elders/leaders
- Amongst them were Barnabas and Saul
- Through prayer and fasting two men were singled out by the Holy Spirit for a particular ministry and mission
- Barnabas was most likely a prophet and Saul a teacher
- Now they were sent out by the Holy Spirit on apostolic mission

Acts 14:14a - Paul and Barnabas now called "apostles"

- In Acts 13 they were "prophets and teachers"
- Their ministry now was apostolic

APOSTOLIC MINISTRY

1) Preached the gospel – Acts 14:21

- Paul and Barnabas were preaching the gospel as apostles
- **Matthew 24:14** – preach in all world then the end will come
- **Mark 16:15** – preach gospel to every creature
- the gospel that is to be preached is the gospel of the kingdom of God, and it is to go to all the world

2) They made many disciples – Acts 14:21

- **Matthew 28:19-20** – Jesus had commissioned the apostles
- To make disciples of all the nations
- Teach them to observe all things Jesus commanded
- Not only win converts, but make disciples of those who believed and were baptised
- **John 8:31** - Disciples are being taught and continue in the Word
- We become disciples by reading and being taught the Word
- Those who believe the gospel preached need to be baptised and discipled/taught

3) They had an itinerant ministry - Acts 14:21

- The apostles travelled from place to place and returned to places that they had been and followed them up
- They returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch to see how the brethren were going
- **Romans 1:5** – we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith **among all nations**
- apostles revisit places where gospel has been preached to make sure the saints are established on the right foundations

4) They strengthened the souls of the disciples – Acts 14:22

- 'Strengthen' = *confirm, to make to lean upon and thus to strengthen through support*
- **Acts 15:32** – Judas and Silas exhorted and strengthened the brethren
- The word strengthens the disciples
- They bring support, encouragement

5) They exhort the saints to continue in the faith – Acts 14:22

- 'Exhort' = *to call near, to invite or invoke, used for every kind of calling for a person that is meant to produce an effect*
- The effect of exhortation from apostles is the saints not giving up but continuing in the faith, to stay strong in the doctrine that has been imparted into them
- Faith comes by hearing by the word (**Rom.10:17**)
- Jude exhorted the saints to contend earnestly for the faith once and for all delivered to the saints (**Jude3**)
- Apostles exhort the saints, calling the disciples to continue in the word and not go after various and strange doctrines (**Heb.13:9**)

6) Apostles warn the saints they will need to endure in tribulation – Acts 14:22

- It is through many tribulations that we enter the kingdom of God
- Tribulation is the doorway to entering the kingdom
- **John 16:33** – in the world we will have tribulation, but be happy because Jesus has overcome
- Paul spoke to the Thessalonians boasting about their patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure (**2 Thess.1:4**)
- We are not to be side-tracked and fearful but learning how to stand in the evil day (**Eph.6:12-19**)
- He who endures to the end will be saved (**Mark 13:13**)

7) Apostles appoint elders – Acts 14:23

- Apostles appoint elders to look after the local work
- **Titus 1:5** – Paul instructs Titus to appoint elders
- Paul instructs the elders in Ephesus – **Acts 20:28**
- Elders in the context of **Acts** have a pastoral function to nurture, feed and oversee the local churches

8) Praying and fasting – Acts 14:23

- Apostles are people of prayer and fasting
- **Acts 13:3** – having prayed and fasted apostles were set in place and sent
- God gives guidance and direction through prayer and fasting
- The appointing of elders was in the context of prayer and fasting

9) Apostles were sent out and commended to the grace – Acts 14:26

- Apostolic ministry is a work of grace
- **Eph.4:7** – apostles are a gift of grace

- All ministry is a work of grace and grace is received when the ministers are received
- When we receive apostles, we will be secure and know we are being built into the body, finding our place
- Each ministry releases a particular grace of Christ that we need

10) They returned to home base and reported back – Acts 14:27

- Apostles are accountable to the sending body
- They are sent out and they report back
- Sending gives authority and confidence
- Reporting back is sharing successes and failures

Please note: these two teaching are available in brochure format
[along with many others],
and are a good tool to share basic doctrines with others.

IT IS TIME TO BUILD THE HOUSE

Based on the book of Haggai

- Context of the book:
- Haggai lived about 520 BC
- It was the time of being allowed to go back into the land, and had been commanded to rebuild the house of God, after being in captivity
- **Zechariah & Ezra**, were contemporaries of **Haggai (Ezra 5:1)**

The Building of the House in Ezra

Ezra 3:8-13 - They began to work

- They arose as one – apostolic oversight over the building of the house of God
- **v.10** – they laid the foundation of the house; the trumpet was blown over the foundation
- Jesus Christ is the only foundation - **1 Cor.3:11 (Col.2:9-10)**
- They praised and gave thanks to God that the foundation had been laid, and shouted with a great shout (**v.11**)
- **Acts 5:42** – the early apostles did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ – He is the foundation of the House of God
- God is restoring His house so that His house will be built on the only true foundation
- It is important to get the foundation right

Ezra 3:12 – there was weeping as well as joy among the people

- some were weeping for what they had known in the past
- Let us rejoice that the foundation has been laid
- Let us not look back to what has been, but to get in line with what God is doing today

Ezra 4:1

- Some people want to join in but not for the right reason – have their own agenda
- There is a need to be discerning, we are not to compromise
- There will be those who want to discourage [call you a cult!]
- There is a lot of opposition to the building of the true house of God
- **v.6** – accusations will be made
- **v.23-24** – the work ceased because of the opposition – there can be discouragement because of opposition

Ezra 5:1-2

- In spite of the opposition they rose up to build the house of God in response to the word of the prophets Haggai and Zechariah

The building of the House in Zechariah

Zechariah 4:6 – the word of the LORD to **Zerubbabel**

Who is Zerubbabel?

- **Luke 3:27** - He is in the lineage of Jesus
- He represented kingly authority

Zechariah 4:6

- He was in charge of the rebuilding of the house of God
- It is built by the Spirit of YAHWEH, do not lean on the arm of the flesh
- **v.7** the opposition will become a plain
- **v.9** the one who has laid the foundation of the house, will bring it to completion
- Zerubbabel is a house builder – a type of the apostle
- He is a type of Jesus the Apostle (**Heb.3:1 & 3:3,6**)
- Jesus is building His house – whose house we are
- A building made of living stones, being rebuilt in the earth today

Who is Joshua?

- The high priest who is working with Zerubbabel to build the house
- The apostle and high priest (**Heb.3:1**)
- The Kingly and the Priestly ministries are needed to build the house

HAGGAI

Chapter 1:1 – the prophesy came to Zerubbabel and Joshua

- **v.2** – the people were saying it is not the time to build the house, let us wait for a favourable time
- the people needed correction
- **v.3** – the word of the prophet came through Haggai
- **v.4** – is it time for you to be building your own houses while the house of God is in ruins?
- **v.5** – '*Consider your ways*' – (**2Tim.2:4**), don't be entangled with other things
- **v.6** – a lot of what you have been doing has not been fruitful, it is not working
- **v.7** – '*Consider your ways!*'
- **v.8** – God says it is time to build the house, so that He will be glorified. Get up into the place where you can get the revelation, the material, so that we can build according to the pattern
- **v.9-11** – God called for a drought on the land, because God's house is in ruins, and no one is building it, in the hope that God's people would look for what He is doing
- **v.12** – the remnant obeyed the word of God,
- the people began to respect the presence of YAHWEH again
- (**Acts 2:42-43** – fear came upon every soul)
- Part of building the house of God is coming back to what the early church did – the first works of **Acts 2:42**

- **v.13-14** – when they obeyed the voice of God, **God said 'I am with you'** (**Matt.28:19-20**). God has promised to be with us – as we go about obeying His command. Our work is to be about doing the work He commanded us to do – making disciples.
- **v.14** – YAHWEH 'stirred up' the spirit of the remnant
- this is the revival that we are in today
- there needs to be workers to be working on the house, working in the harvest, ones who have been disciplined and trained (**Matt.9:35-38**)

Chapter 2

- **v.1** – this is in the Feast of Tabernacles
- **v.2** – there is a remnant – the ones that God is stirring up, this message is to the remnant
- **v.3** – we can look at what is happening and ask *'is this is how it is meant to be?'* Do we really believe that this is what God is doing?
- **v.4** – Be Strong! Be encouraged! And work! Just get busy in the work! The LORD of hosts says 'I am with you'
- **v.5** – do not fear – God reminds them of the covenant
- **v.6-7** - Once more, I will shake all nations
- they will come to the Desire of all nations
- but God promises that the temple/house will be filled with His glory (**Col.1:27**)
- the writer to the Hebrews quotes this verse (**Heb.12:26** – the demonic heavens will be shaken)
- **Eph.3:8-10** – this is how it will happen, church making known the unsearchable riches of Christ
- **v.8-9** – The glory of this latter house shall be greater than the former

**What we saw in Acts 2 is the fulfillment of Pentecost
this is the time of the fulfillment of Tabernacles
there is a greater glory to be revealed in the earth**

MATURE HARVEST

There are glorious things to understand about the Gospel

- Sometimes we can have a low view of the Cross and not understand the glorious things concerning the gospel

The third feast is the Feast of Tabernacles

Haggai 2:1

- 7th month and on 21st of the month
- 7th month is the month of the Feast of Tabernacles
- This was the last day of the Feast
- It was on the last day of this feast that Jesus also said something very relevant – **John 7:37-39**
- The building of the house is the same as the growing of the Harvest

v.6-9 – God promises that He will fill His house with glory

- We are headed for glory
- We are going from the Cross to the Glory
- We are living stones being built up, to be fully glorified, a house filled with glory

The Bible speaks about three harvests

- Jesus spoke of a harvest – this harvest is ongoing (**Matt.9:37, John 4:35**)
- There are two harvests in **Matthew 13**
 - Evil [tares] growing to a harvest
 - The wheat [good seed] growing also to a harvest

Jesus gave the Parable of the wheat and the tares

Matthew 13:24-30

- Good seed sown in field
- Enemy sowed tares among wheat
- Let both grow together until the harvest
- At time of harvest first gather tares then wheat
- Harvest of wickedness
- Harvest of Glory, righteousness
- They are growing together

Jesus explained the Parable of the wheat and the tares

Matthew 13:36-43 – interpretation of Parable

- Sower = Son of Man
- Good seeds = sons of kingdom
- Tares = sons of wicked one
- Enemy = devil
- Harvest = end of the age

Jesus is growing us up into a mature, ripe, complete harvest here on the earth

- It is here, on earth, that we are justified, sanctified and glorified (**Rom.8:29-30**)
- We go through the stages of the Tabernacle [Tent of Witness], meeting Jesus as the Sacrifice, being baptised, then being filled with the Spirit and entering holy place, and then into Most Holy Place
- The Cross, the gospel is about a total change, a transformation to restore us back into His image and likeness and fill the earth with His glory

We are to live godly

2 Timothy 3:12

- All those who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus, will suffer persecution – some do not desire to live godly
- **v.13** – evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived – look at our society today, legislating that it is good for two men to “marry”
- we are living in these days, but we do not need to be deceived

2 Tim.3:16 – All Scripture is given by inspiration of God

- We can live a righteous life
- do not believe those who deny that we can be righteous
- we are to be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work
- we do not have to do bad works
- because of the power of the Cross and Resurrection we never have to go back to the old life again

Two harvests are growing to maturity - Revelation 14:15

One like the Son of Man with a sharp sickle

- Time to reap
- Time for You to reap – the Harvest of the earth is ripe

v.17 – another harvest, angel with sharp sickle

- Vine of the earth was ripe
- great winepress of Almighty God – judgement
- Two cups – cup of righteousness and cup of iniquity

A simple parable demonstrating the process of harvest - Mark 4:26

- The kingdom of God is like a man scattering seed on ground
- The earth yields crops by itself
- Blade, Head, Full Grain in the Head (like Outer Court, Holy Place and Most Holy Place)
- Harvest has come

Chosen to be holy and without blame

Ephesians 1:3-4 - We are blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ

- We are chosen before the foundation of the world for us to be holy and without blame
- We are created to be holy and without blame

From glory to glory

2 Corinthians 3:18

- We are growing from glory to glory!!
- This is happening all the time
- This glory is housed in earthen vessels
- Our bodies are earthen but the life we have inside is incorruptible, perfect
- The glory is in us!

Be perfect

Matthew 5:48 - Jesus is teaching

- You shall be perfect just as your Father in heaven is perfect
- Jesus meant what He said
- "Perfect" Word Wealth in **James 3:2** Gk. *'teleios'* – refers to that which has reached an end, (like a crop reaches a harvest time), that is finished, complete, perfect
- The crop is growing on the earth
- When we are perfect, Jesus will come and give us a perfect body
- When applied to persons "perfect" means – consummate soundness and includes the idea of being whole. When applied to believers it denotes maturity.

Be separate from what is unclean

2 Corinthians 6:11-7:1

- We can be separate from among the Lord
- We do not need to touch what is unclean
- Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit
- We are to be perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord
- Through the power of the Holy Spirit I can choose not to sin again
- We are sons and daughters, He is inside of us
- God wants a perfect people that He can fill with His glory

Word Wealth **1 Thess. 3:13 "Holiness"** – Gk. *Hagiosune* – process, quality and condition of a holy disposition and the quality of holiness in personal conduct. It is the principle that separates the believer from the world. *Hagiosune* consecrates us to God's service...

- In the provision of the Cross and the power of the gospel is the power to live a holy life, we died and have risen again into a new life.

Blameless in holiness

1 Thess. 3:12-13

- Our hearts are to be established blameless in holiness
- We can walk without blame
- Jesus said the devil had nothing in me that he can hold on to
- We can walk like this

Being conformed to His image

Colossians 1:27-28

- Our hope is to be conformed fully to the image of Christ, Christ in us, the hope of glory
- The purpose of ministry is to present every man perfect in Christ Jesus

Living a resurrected life

Philippians 3:10-16

- A resurrected life is a quality of life that we can begin to walk in now
- There is no sin in resurrection life
- We are talking about a walk in resurrection life
- **2 Cor.5:17** – we are a new creation, old things, including sin, have passed away, behold all things have become new
- **The perfect life is our trajectory, our aim, and we are heading for it as we grow**
- Paul had not attained that perfect walk yet, but he was pressing on
- Paul was reaching forward, pressing towards the goal
- The **trajectory is ever upwards, sin is left behind**
- Let's be filled with love which is the bond of perfection (**Col.3:14**)
- As many of us as are **mature** have this mind
- To the degree we have already attained, to the level of maturity we have reached, let us walk by the same rule
- Paul's heart is to be perfected
- Paul was not living in the time of the harvest, but we are living in the days of the harvest
- Do not look at "Christendom" as representative of the Church which Jesus is building
- **Matt.7:21-23** – many will talk about the wonderful things they did in Jesus' name, but He will say He never knew them
- **The Church that Jesus is building is preparing itself for the harvest, becoming a holy temple, a dwelling place for God in the Spirit**

Word Wealth **1 John 2:5** "*perfected*" – Gk. *Teleioo* – To complete, accomplish, carry through to the end, bring to a successful conclusion, reach a goal, fulfill...bringing to maturity, a perfecting.

- The upward call of God is to be perfect, to be holy
- Without holiness no one will see God

Christ is to be formed in us - Galatians 4:18-19

- This is the goal
- Is there any sin in Christ? Christ is being formed in us. We do not need to sin.

THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

Romans 1:16

- The gospel of Christ is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes
- Many understand salvation only has sins forgiven so we can go to heaven
- "Salvation" – Word Wealth Acts 28:28 – Gk. *Soterion* – Rescue, deliverance, safety, liberation, release, preservation. Is an all-inclusive word signifying forgiveness, healing, prosperity, deliverance, safety, rescue, liberation and restoration. Christ's salvation is total in scope for the total man: spirit, soul and body.
- We are a new creation
- The gospel is the power to save us completely

Hebrews 7:18-19

- The Old Covenant was not profitable and weak
- The law made nothing perfect
- There is a better hope, a better covenant
- This New Covenant makes us perfect
- **Hebrews 4:16** – now we can come boldly into the Most Holy Place

v.22 – Jesus is surety of this better Covenant

Hebrews 7:25

- Jesus is able to save to the **uttermost** (to the finished end, fully accomplished) those who come to God through Him
- We live under and in a Covenant that makes us perfect

Scriptures that people bring up to justify their sin

Romans 6:1-14

- **v.1** We shall not continue in sin
- We died to sin so how can we live any longer in it
- **v.3-4** - we are to walk in newness of life, resurrection life
- **v.6** - body of sin might be done away with
- we no longer have to be slaves of sin (**Rom8:2** – freedom from sin, Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus)
- **v.7** - Have you died? Have you got the revelation that you are dead? If you died, you are free from sin.
- eternal life is not quantity of life but primarily quality of life
- eternal life is a sinless life of love, mercy and compassion
- **v.11** - do you do this? Reckon yourself dead to sin and alive to God in Christ
- **v.12** - this is possible. We are not to let sin reign in our mortal body
- **v.13** - we are to present the members of our body to God
- **v.14** - Sin does not have dominion over us. We are to grow into the place where sin does not have dominion over us. It is called perfection.

1 John 1:8-9

- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves
- If we confess sins, we will be forgiven

v.10 - if we say we have not sinned we make God a liar

- we have all sinned in our life

The apostle John says 'I write this to you that you may not sin' – 1 John 2:1-2

- The heart of John the apostle was help us to live free from sin but comforting us so that if we do sin we know we have an Advocate, Jesus Christ the Righteous
- It is "if" we sin not "when" you sin

1 Jn.2:5

- If we keep His Word, then the love of God is perfected in us
- Can we keep His Word?
- Yes, we can – the love of God can be perfected in us
- Can we live in perfect love? Yes – **1 John 4:17-18**

- We can have perfect peace? Yes – **Isaiah 26:3**

1 John 3:3 - All who have this hope, purifies himself just as He is pure

v.5 – Jesus manifested to take away sins – in Him there is no sin

v.6 – if we abide, stay, remain and live in Him does not sin

v.9 – whoever has been born of God does not sin, because His (Jesus) Seed remains in him

- we have a new incorruptible nature
- Jesus wants to kill the old man and replace it with Christ

This is the harvest.

When the harvest is mature Jesus will come back

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

{Part One}

CONTEXT

- The Book of Hebrews is written to Jewish Christians, believers in Jesus
- They are people who were disciples of Judaism and know the Old Testament Scriptures

HEBREWS CHAPTER ONE

The revelation of the Son of God

v.2 – a) God speaks through the Son, He speaks no other way,
He is the revelation of the invisible God

- **b)** God appointed the Son as heir of all things, all things belong to the Son
- **c)** Through the Son, God made all things – all things were created through Jesus Christ (**Ephesians 3:9, John 1:1-3**)

v.3 - d) The Son is the Brightness of God's Glory

- **e)** He is the express image of God's person
- **f)** He upholds all things by the word of His power
- **g)** He purged our sins
- **h)** He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on High
all power and all authority

v.4 - i) The Son has a much better name than the angels,
the Son is greater than the angels

v.5 - j) The Son is the fulfilment of **Psalms 2:7 and 2 Samuel 7:14a**
proving that the Son is greater than the angels

v.6 - k) all the angels of God are to worship the Son, Jesus the Christ
Only God is worthy to be worshiped; The Son is worshiped, He is God

v.8 - l) The Son has a Throne and is addressed as God
The Son is God and rules on a Throne
He is Anointed, the Messiah (**v.9**)

v.10 - m) To the Son, God says, "You LORD (YHWH), in the beginning laid the foundation of the world"
the Son is YHWH, Yahweh
The Son laid the foundation of the earth, created the heavens
The Son remains the same and His years will not fail

v.13 - n) God spoke to the Son that HE would sit at God's right hand

HEBREWS CHAPTER TWO

- v.1** - we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard
- **Eph.4:13** – the knowledge of the Son of God is a signpost of the church coming to maturity, we must give the more earnest heed to the knowledge of the Son of God
- v.2** - we are not to neglect so great a salvation
- v.5** - world to come is not in subjection to angels, but is subject to the Son of Man
- v.6-8** - singularly speaking of Jesus, the Son of Man, and corporately to us as sons of men
- God puts His creation under the authority of the Sons
- v.10** - God is bringing forth many sons to glory through Jesus Christ
- God's plan is sons, who will rule over the creation
 - many sons to glory
- v.11-13** - He is not ashamed to call us brethren
- we are of the same nature now
- v.14-15** - stop giving the devil credence that he does not have
- the devil has been destroyed by Jesus
 - through death of the Cross He destroyed him who had the power of death, the devil
 - we are released now from the fear of death which has been a bondage
 - Jesus shared in flesh and blood
- v.16** - Jesus gives aid to the Seed of Abraham
- v.17** - Jesus is a merciful and faithful High Priest
- v.18** - because Jesus became a Man, suffered and was tempted, now He can aid us who are being tempted

HEBREWS CHAPTER THREE

- v.1** - consider the Apostle and High Priest, Jesus Christ
- v.2-6** - Jesus is the Builder of the House
- we are the House
 - there is a comparison with Moses
 - Moses was a servant and Christ is a Son
- v.7** - the high price of disobedience
- Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden our hearts as in the rebellion
 - they heard but they rebelled (**v.16**)
 - because they rebelled, they sinned and were judged (**v.17**)
 - sinning led to disobedience (**v.18**)
 - this was under the covering of unbelief (**v.19**)

- "If you will" – it is a decision to hear God's voice and be obedient
- there is an open door in 2020 to grow up, prove the will of God – but as for me I would seek God and to God I would commit my cause (**Job 5:8**)

HEBREWS CHAPTER FOUR

Continues with theme of disobedience and not entering the rest

v.4 - on seventh day God rested from all His works

- all other six days of creation had a morning and an evening
- the seventh day never mentions a morning and evening
- it is an eternal day of rest, to eat from the tree of life, drink from the river and cease from works

v.8 - there is still a day of rest for us to enter into

- Joshua did not lead the people into the rest of God

v.9-10 - if we enter the rest, we cease from works just like God did from His

How do we come to the truth and enter the rest?

v.12 - it is through the Word of God we enter the rest

- the Word is powerful, able to pierce and divide the soul from the spirit
- it is the only thing which can do this, stripping away the soulish things so we can enter the eternal spiritual realm of God's glory

- Summary **Chapter 3-4** – Jesus the Apostle, the problem of disobedience, entering the rest

From verse 14 we come back to the High Priest

v.14 - we have to have a confession of the Son of God

- He is High Priest and has passed through the heavens

v.15 - High Priest Jesus is able to sympathise with our weaknesses

- He was tempted in all points as we are but without sin

v.16 - we have access to the Most Holy

- this is because He is merciful
- we can receive mercy and grace
- mercy covers the past, grace enables us to go on into the future

HEBREWS CHAPTER FIVE

The offering of sacrifices and gifts

v.5 - The Son is the High Priest

- He did not glorify Himself to be the High Priest but it was God who said to Him, "You are My Son"

v.6 - Also God says in **Psalms 110:4** – that He is a Priest forever in the order of Melchizedek

v.7 - God delivered up the Son from death many times before His death on the Cross

- **why did God hear Him?**
- vehement cries, tears – He was heard because of His godly fear
- we can have a meaningful and persuasive prayer life with God
- there are different seasons of prayer and types of prayer
- there are seasons where there are types of prayers that He will lead you in

v.6 - is first mention of this order of Melchizedek

v.8-9 - in the days of His flesh He learned obedience and when perfected He inherited that order of priesthood

v.11 - the writer to the Hebrews wanted to say much more about Melchizedek but they had become dull of hearing

v.12 - you should be teachers, even teaching about Melchizedek

- you need milk rather than solid food
- we need the “first principles of the oracles of God”

v.13-14 - we are to come to maturity, to discern the good from the evil

HEBREWS CHAPTER SIX

v.1-2 - The six elements of Christ mentioned

- Repentance, faith, baptism, laying on of hands (filled with Holy Spirit), resurrection life and eternal judgement

v.3 - if these foundations are operating in our lives we will be given the permit to “go on to perfection”

v.4-8 - Five beautiful things about the Christian

- a)** Enlightened
- b)** Tasted the heavenly gift
- c)** Partakers of the Holy Spirit
- d)** Tasted the good word of God
- e)** Tasted the powers of the age to come

So do not fall away!

- It is impossible to come back once have fallen away once you have experienced these things, since they crucify again themselves the Son of God
- Examine yourself if you are in the faith (**2 Cor.13:5**)

v.7-8 - a natural warning of what will happen due to falling away

v.9-12 - are all about “faith, hope and love”

v.10 - labour of love

- labour is a work; it is a choice out of love
- ministering to the saints is how you show your love

- v.11** - because of hope, we continue to serve and work out of love
 - full assurance of hope
- v.12** - faith and patience inherit the promises
 - The labour of love and the full assurance of hope enable you to inherit the promises by faith and patience
- v.13-15** - Abraham is the example of this faith and patience
 - Abraham's faith was based on a promise
 - He heard the Word
 - because he had the Word he could patiently endure and obtain the promise
- v.16** - God swears by Himself
 - there is no one greater
- v.17** - immutability = unchanging, unshifting
 - out of His immutability and His counsel, He confirmed it by an oath
 - we must keep the hope and live out the hope because God is unchanging
- v.18** - we are to lay hold of the hope
 - if you lay hold of this it will separate you from all others
- v.19** - this hope is an anchor for the soul
 - our soul gets anchored in the glory by hope
 - our hope has entered behind the veil
 - we are I AM people
 - God is in us; He makes us to be an I AM
- v.20** – we have hope behind the veil because Jesus the forerunner has gone into heaven as High Priest in the order of Melchizedek. We are no longer under an Aaronic priesthood

HEBREWS CHAPTER SEVEN

Abraham, Melchizedek and Tithing

- There are many who deny tithing is for today
- All things are fulfilled in Christ - **Matt.5:17**
- v.1-2** - When Abraham met Melchizedek he had a revelation and gave Him a tithe of all
 - Tithing is a revelation
 - Tithing must be important because so much here is written about it
 - Tithing is a response of faith to a revelation of Jesus Christ
- v.2** - King of righteousness; King of Peace
 - Melchizedek is a King
 - Abraham, a believer, gave Him a tithe
- v.3** - He has no father, mother, genealogy, no beginning of days, no end of life, made like the Son of God, He remains a priest continually - He is eternal

v.4-10 - worthy of your study

- these verses will convince you that tithing is an eternal ordinance of God
- tithing came before the law, it is a principle of God

v.11 - if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood

- why do we need another priest?

v.14 - Jesus came from Judah, lineage of kings

- He is a priest and a King, not of Aaron
- a change of priesthood - a Priest and a King

v.15-17 - He is a Priest forever

- He has the power of an endless life

v.18-19 - former commandment of Priesthood of Aaron was weak and unprofitable

- law made nothing perfect
- the law cannot save you but following Jesus can

v.20 - the greatness of the new priest

v.21 - Jesus made Priest by an oath of God

v.22-25 - Jesus is surety of a better covenant

- The Son is appointed as a Priest, not by law, but by oath
- He continues – it is an unchangeable priesthood
- because of this eternal and unchangeable priesthood, He can save us completely

**Psalm 110 is very key Psalm in understanding Jesus as the Messiah,
the Priest/King**

A JEALOUS GOD

YAHWEH, WHOSE NAME IS JEALOUS

Exodus 34:14

- You shall worship no other god
- YHWH, whose name is JEALOUS, is a jealous God
- Jealous is His name

We are to know Him. The purpose of our walk with God is to come to know Him.

We can be familiar with the love, mercy, compassion etc.

- But are we familiar with the severity of God?
- Do we know His indignation? We are to know Him totally.

Growing through affliction

Exodus 1 - The Israelites were being afflicted by the Egyptians

- But even while being afflicted they were growing, increasing and multiplying (**v.12**)

v.11 - they had taskmasters

v.12 - they were afflicted but they grew – the Egyptians were in dread of them

v.13-14 - the Egyptians were treating the Israelites harshly, with “rigour”

God comes to deliver, because He is a Jealous God

Exodus 3:7

- God speaking out of the burning bush to Moses
- God says He has heard the cry of the Israelites

v.8 - God saw the oppression and He has come to deliver His people

- Why does He do this? Because He is a Jealous God, jealous for His people
- In Egypt there were over 2000 gods
- The Israelites were in Egypt; but they were not to be of Egypt

- **We are to be in the world but not of the world**

- We are not to humble ourselves to any false gods
- We are to look to Jesus

- God wanted the Egyptians, and His people, to see who was the Supreme God

- The Ten plagues were directed at the main ten of the gods of Egypt

- **God was showing Himself mighty over all Egypt's gods**

- The Israelites were in the midst of the judgements and saw all those gods defeated

- All Israel and Egypt would know that YHWH was God

- He is Jealous for His name

The Ten Commandments - Exodus 20:1

v.2-3 - YHWH was the One who delivered them out of Egypt

- YHWH delivered them from bondage
- there shall be no other gods before YHWH

v.4-5 - no carved images, idols

- He is a Jealous God, YHWH is a Jealous God
- They were to behold Him alone as God, there is no other

Word meaning:

"Jealous" – Hebrew SC#7067 '*qanna*' – jealous, refers to the attributes of God's justice and holiness, as He is the sole object of human worship and does not tolerate human sin. To be zealous, filled with zeal, full of emotion, to be passionate, to be jealous or envious, to be highly possessive of something.

- God is highly possessive of His people.
- **Exodus 34:14** - His name is Jealous
- When God says to us that this is His name, it is a manifestation of His Person, His nature, His character

'Jealous' – Hebrew SC#7065 '*qana*' – to be filled with righteous zeal or jealousy. To seek or desire earnestly. Only used of God and nothing else.

- **Ezekiel 39:25** - I will be jealous for My holy name
- God is jealous for His name
- We are carriers and bearers of the name of God
- Jealousy is a measure of His devotion.
- Because of God's jealousy for you, He will destroy all your enemies

A JEALOUS GOD

Deuteronomy 4:24 - YHWH is a consuming fire

- A Jealous God
- Kingdom Dynamics: His jealousy is not controlling – it is releasing. It is His passionate commitment to us. It is an absolute intolerance of anything that would divide our affection.

Exodus 32:4 - Aaron has the idea to make a golden calf

- They call the golden calf YHWH
- God is not happy with this; He is Jealous
- We are to have no other gods before Him
- God desires us more than we desire Him
- He wants to see Christ formed and manifested in you
- There are to be no idols in our life
- We are to exalt Jesus only
- He is committed to rooting out all the idols in our life

YAHWEH desires we seek Him in the wilderness

Hosea 2:14-15

- God brings us into the wilderness
- He allures us – fascinate, entice, captivate, persuade, draw
- It is His leading into the wilderness
- Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness
- In the wilderness He speaks comfort, speaks to our heart
- If we want to know Him, He will bring us into this place so He can speak to our heart
- He draws us into the wilderness for a place of intimacy, where there are no distractions, no idols, nothing to depend on except Jesus
- In the wilderness He wants to comfort us

His desire is to draw us to Himself

Jeremiah 31:3

- YHWH has drawn us with lovingkindness
- Have you come to a place where you feel you have stopped, and you know there is more of Him to come to know?

John 12:32

- Jesus said 'If I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all to Myself'
- We are to see Him alone
- To be in the wilderness is to be alone with God. A place of privacy, with no distractions. A place to gain the victory over the devil (**Matt.4:1**).

There are blessings in the wilderness

The word of the Lord comes - Luke 3:2

- The word came to John in the wilderness
- It is a place where you can hear the voice of God
- In the wilderness be expecting to hear the voice
- In the place where it feels dried up, seek God in the wilderness

A time of being set apart - Luke 1:80

- Commissioning comes from the wilderness

Fruitfulness will come - Hosea 2:15

- I will give her vineyards from the wilderness
- Fruitfulness will come out of the wilderness experience
- The Valley of Achor/Trouble is a Door of Hope
- She shall sing there as in the days of her youth, as in the day when we were born again

A new song will come - Exodus 15

- Miriam is singing the song of victory when they came out of Egypt
- I will give you joy, and you will know My Presence in a deeper and more mature way

- We sing because we are alive, born again, excited, no longer in bondage
- She sings because YHWH has delivered her from her bondage

God will hedge us in - Hosea 2:6

- I will hedge up her way with thorns
- God cuts us off at every path, He hedges us in
- Where do we get our comfort from? TV, other people, eating – these are idols
- God is faithful and will hem us in
- He is committed to perfecting us and is Jealous for us

Nothing else will satisfy – Hosea 2:7

- she will chase her lovers, looking for satisfaction
- none of the things you sought before will satisfy you
- I will go and return to my first husband
- **v.13** God says 'I will punish her' - He hems us in because He does not want us to be destroyed, so He allures us into the wilderness
- other things no longer satisfy
- He draws us into the wilderness so that He can deal with the idols and cleanse our hearts

He betroths us to Himself – Hosea 2:16

- in that day that you sing again you will call me, "My Husband" and no longer "my Master" **v.19**
- He betroths us to Him forever
- God is not after ownership but relationship, intimacy
- He is Jealous for a people, a peculiar people
- He wants a people that love Him alone and have no idols
- He wants union with us. He wants a place where He can rest in you. He wants a clean vessel and a place where He can be at home in you.
- He wants to be One with us.

We are to be joined to the Lord

2 Corinthians 11:2 - Paul was jealous for God's people with godly jealousy

- We are to have one husband, Christ Jesus
- This is spiritual marriage
- We are to be a chaste virgin to Christ

1 Corinthians 6:17 - We are joined to the Lord to be one spirit with Him

- This is a people who are holy and set apart

1 Corinthians 6:15 - Our bodies are members of Christ

- **v.16** - our bodies are the Temple of the Holy Spirit
- we are not our own, we belong to Him
- We cannot be joined to the Lord and other things at the same time

Union is being a partaker of His nature.

- It is becoming like Him and it is a process.
- We are to experience a merging of our will, our desires and interests into His.
- Our God is a consuming fire – He wants to burn up all our enemies with the fierceness of His wrath
- He will pursue them relentlessly to get idols out of our life
- He is fully committed to changing us from glory to glory into His image

Members of His body - Ephesians 5:30

- We are members of His body
- Of His flesh and of His bones

v.31-32 - the two become one flesh, speaking of Christ and the Church

- there is to be a people who fully manifest the glory of God in the earth
- **Hosea 2:19-23** - Abundance comes from being in union with God,
 - Grain; new wine, oil
 - 'Jezreel' God will sow – in the earth
 - *"Then I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people'! And they shall say 'You are my God!'"*

God is a Jealous God

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

{Part Two}

HEBREWS CHAPTER EIGHT

v.1 - the main point of all these things is that we have such a High Priest, who is in the order of Melchizedek, the King of Righteousness, King of Peace and Priest of God Most High

- He is seated at the right hand

v.2-5 - Jesus pre-existed His manifestation in the flesh

- He is a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true Tabernacle which the Lord erected
- He is from eternity
- Who would like to be in a copy when you can be in the real thing?
- Why would you want to worship God in a temporary sanctuary when you can have access to the true?

v.6 - He is a Mediator of a better covenant; better promises

v.7-13 - the Old Covenant is obsolete, growing old, vanishing away

- there are not to be hang overs from the Old Covenant Law in the church today
- God has given us a New Covenant
- Not many people today talk about covenant nor understand covenant
- Jesus said, *"This is the cup of the New Covenant in My blood"*
- This is the everlasting covenant that is for all nations
- why does it say the covenant is to "house of Judah and Israel"? Not a definite answer except **Galatians 6:16** – The Israel of God is the people of God – applying to all who are the people of God

- **4 Key promises of the New Covenant - v.10-12**

God will:

- a) Put His law in our minds and write it on our hearts
- b) Be our God and we shall be His people – we are His people, our God is the true God
- c) Cause all of us to know Him from the least to the greatest of us – all in a personal relationship with God, born again
- d) Not remember our sins or lawless deeds anymore, forgiven, mercy

HEBREWS CHAPTER NINE

v.1-5 - the earthly sanctuary, the Tabernacle

- golden censer was behind the veil – a bit of controversy

v.7 - the second part = Holy of Holies

- once a year the High Priest would go in with the blood
- we have access everyday of the year now!

v.8 - the way into the Holiest was not yet manifest

v.9 - nobody was made perfect by the offerings under the Old Covenant

- cannot make conscience clean nor perfect
- conscience is very important
- modern society has lost the understanding of the importance of the will
- we need to strengthen our will
- it is a choice to receive the Word and obey it
- **Job 5:8** – I would seek God and to Him I would commit my cause – hone your will
- our soul is made up of mind, will and emotions – many live and we have even been trained to live in our mind and emotions
- **v.10** - Old Covenant laws and regulations and ordinances were imposed until the time of reformation
- there needed reforming of these practices
- there is a time of reformation

v.11 - Christ came bringing the reformation

- Christ came with the perfect and greater Tabernacle
- no longer going through ceremonial things but entering reality
- The reformation of the 16th century brought some reformation, but we need more
- the Tabernacle He came with is not of this creation

v.12 - Christ's own blood has obtained eternal redemption

v.13-14 - the blood of Christ is the operative agent of God which cleanses our conscience and purges us from even the memory of sin

- through the Eternal Spirit Christ offered Himself without spot to God
- now we can serve the living God – **Romans 1:9** – we can serve in our spirit in the gospel of His Son
- we are to learn how to live and operate in the Spirit
- we have a spirit
- the key to walking and living in the Spirit is to speak in tongues

v.15 - He is the Mediator of New Covenant – **1 Timothy 2:5** – He reveals the One God to us and in us

- those called may receive the promise of the Eternal Inheritance
- we have an eternal inheritance – something we received by right
- It is in God's will for us

- v.16-22** - the need for the Testator to die so that the will can come into play
- because Jesus died, He can release His will and testament to us, the eternal inheritance, the eternal redemption takes effect
 - must be shedding of blood to bring remission
 - Testament is only valid when there is a death

v.23-28 - sacrifices under law were necessary for Tabernacle erected by human hands
Christ did not enter holy places made with hands (these are copies), but He entered into heaven itself

- now He appears in the Presence of God for us
- now Once at end of the ages He appeared to put away sin – then He entered into heaven
- now, no-one, angel or man, can approach God without believing in the blood – the heavens have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus
- men are appointed once to die, but after this the judgement (there is no more opportunity to repent after death)
- He will appear a Second Time, apart from sin for salvation
- How many times did the High Priest enter the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement? [**see Lev.16:11-19**]
- He actually went in twice
- First time was for himself and his household
- Second time was going in on behalf of all the people
- We are now waiting for His second appearance!
- When He comes the second time He comes for salvation, glory

HEBREWS CHAPTER TEN

- v.1-4** - the law was a shadow of the good things to come
- the law is not the very image of the things
 - worshipers once purified would have no more consciousness of sins
 - now that Christ came, we are not to have any more consciousness of sins
 - it is time to be perfect
 - that is the goal – to be perfect
 - all things under the new covenant are designed to bring us into perfection (**Eph.4:11-13**)

v.5 - a body was prepared for Jesus

- v.6-7** - Jesus came to do the will of God
- the first was taken away so that the New Covenant could be established
 - Jesus in the garden fully aligned Himself with the will of God

- v.8-10** - through that will we have been sanctified
- through His will, His choice to die on the cross we are now sanctified

v.11-12 - Now Jesus the Man has sat down at the right hand of God

v.13 - Now He is waiting for His enemies to be made His footstool

- v.14** - the goal of sanctification is to be glorified and perfect
- on what basis can you be sanctified? If you are justified
 - those who are being sanctified have been perfected forever by that offering of Christ
- v.15** - The Holy Spirit witnesses these things
- v.16-18** - there is no more offering for sin
- remission is complete
- v.19-20** - we are to have boldness to enter the holiest by the blood of Jesus
- this is a new and living way
 - it is through the veil into the holiest
 - what is the veil? It is His flesh
 - When Jesus said, "This is My Body, broken for you..." The Veil was rent, and the way into the Holiest was revealed through the broken Body of Jesus
 - "Remember Me" – where is Jesus? In the Holy of Holies – we come and meet Him there
- v.21** - we have a High Priest over the house of God
- We are to know Him as the High Priest
 - Jesus the High Priest hangs out behind the veil in the Holy of Holies
- v.22** - we are to draw near with a true heart
- with full assurance of faith
 - our conscience (co-perception, moral consciousness, faculty by which we apprehend the will of God, that which is designed to govern our lives) sprinkled with the blood, no longer evil
 - our bodies washed with water of the word (**Eph.5:26**)
- v.23** - hold fast the confession of hope without wavering
- v.24-25** - stir each other up
- make sure you are meeting with other saints
 - do not rob others of your fellowship
- v.26-39** - do not sin wilfully after receiving these things
- stay believing unto the saving of your souls

HEBREWS CHAPTER ELEVEN

- v.1** - Faith is the substance, the realization
- faith works
 - it is the substance of what we hope for
 - faith is conviction based on revelation
 - faith comes by hearing the quickened word (**Romans 10:17**)
 - Faith is the believing and the action of believing
 - faith is living and active, it is operative, it is real

Substance = Greek '*hupostasis*' – the title deed, that what you are believing for is actually yours

- faith is not like instant coffee, it is like planting a coffee seed, growing and nurturing it and then harvesting the beans and getting them ready to put in a drink
- faith is the seed – the reward is the fruitfulness
- faith causes you to be able to wait for the manifestation
- faith is the evidence or the assurance that rests on God's promise

v.2 - the basis of having a testimony is the operation of faith in your life

v.3 - it is by faith we believe that God created the world

v.4 - Abel's sacrifice was better than Cain's because it was done by faith
- Abel offered a lamb

v.6 - we please God by **i)** believing that God is
ii) seeking Him diligently
- He promises to reward us; it is the believing and the action
- We believe He is and then we seek

v.7 - Noah was a man of faith
- he was divinely warned – he heard the Word and obeyed the Word
- he got to work

v.8 - Abraham obeyed by faith
- he heard the Word and obeyed it
- cannot have faith if you have not heard the Word

v.10 - Abraham waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God; the city we hope in is the heavenly Jerusalem

v.13 - they died in faith not having seen the promises
- they were assured of the promises; they believed

v.14 - they were seeking a homeland

v.16 - they sought a homeland, a country
- this is what we believe, we are to believe that God is bringing us into a city

v.39-40 - they obtained a good testimony through faith
- full adoption could not happen until Jesus came
- Old Testament saints needed to wait for that to happen

HEBREWS CHAPTER TWELVE

v.1 - a great cloud of witnesses, let us run the race with endurance

v.2 - we are to look unto Jesus
- Jesus by faith endured the Cross

- Jesus believed in the Garden the will of God, then He acted on that and went through with the Cross
- Faith was working in Jesus
- He is the Author and Finisher of faith
- Hearing the Word and then, through endurance carrying out the Word

v.3-11 - consider the testimony and example of Jesus

- as sons we need chastening
- we are to be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live
- we are born of God and He is the Father of spirits, not the Father of souls
- we are partakers of His holiness
- the peaceable fruit of righteousness will come forth

v.12-13 - bring all your brethren along with you; bring healing, lead them on

v.14-16 - pursue peace with all people

- who wants to see the Lord? It is in holiness, do not get into bitterness and selling out too quickly, trying to go too far too quickly

v.18-24 **Sinai**

fire, blackness
tempest
terrifying words
fear and trembling

Zion – city of Living God

Heavenly Jerusalem
company of messengers
General Assembly
Church of the Firstborn

v.25-29 - there will be a shaking

- the purpose of the shaking is to remove things that are shakeable so we can receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken

HEBREWS CHAPTER THIRTEEN

v.1 - let brotherly love continue in the midst of shaking

- do not let the love of many grow cold

v.2 - be willing to entertain strangers, it can be a risk but we are told to do it

- be hospitable

v.3 - do not forget the prisoners

v.4 - the sanctity of marriage

- God will judge fornicators and adulterers

v.5-6 - do not be covetous but trust in YHWH, He is your Helper

v.7 - remember those who lead you

- follow their faith looking at the outcome of their conduct
- people should see how the Word outworks in leaders' lives

v.8 - Jesus the Messiah is the same yesterday, today and forever – He is eternal

v.9 - warned against various and strange doctrines

- so many food doctrines these days
- food diets are respected but we are not to preach diets
- they mislead people, people put their faith in the diets rather than in Jesus
- eat food and be thankful for it; do not develop a food doctrine

v.11-13 - Jesus went outside the camp

- do not be a normal Christian, get outside and bear Jesus' reproach
- we have to go forth to Him
- do not stay in the dead church where you are and bear the reproach

v.14-15 - we have no continuing city here

- it is coming down from heaven
- sacrifice of praise

v.16 - do good and share

- do a good work but make sure you do it in the name of Jesus, share Jesus with it

v.17 - come under the oversight of the overseers that God has placed over you

- do it with joy, in a submissive heart

v.18 - we have a good conscience

- desire to live honourably

v.20-21 – a wonderful benediction

v.22-25 - bear with this word of exhortation

remember Timothy is free

- greet the saints
- Grace be with you all

"Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever, AMEN"

A GOSPEL FOR ALL NATIONS

GOD HAS A PLAN FOR ALL NATIONS

Psalm 33:10-11 - The plans of the peoples are of no effect

- The counsel of YHWH stands forever
- God has a plan for all the nations
- What God has purposed will be accomplished
- **This gospel for all nations is all through Jesus**

Promised in the Holy Scriptures

Romans 1:1-6

- This gospel of God, which Paul dedicated and separated his life to, was promised beforehand in the Holy Scriptures, through the prophets
- It is all concerning Jesus
- He is seed of David but declared the Son of God
- Through Him we are empowered to go forth in this gospel

John 5:39 - The Scriptures testify of Jesus

- The Bible is all one testimony of Jesus
- Everything comes together, makes sense and finds its fulfilment in Jesus

Matthew 1:1 – Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham

- Particularly mentioned David and Abraham
- There is an inheritance Jesus had in Abraham and David
- "Son" has to do with inheritance

THE BEGINNING OF THIS GOSPEL

Genesis 17:4-5 - **God makes covenant with Abraham**

- Abram will become a "father of many/multitude of nations"
- Abram became Abraham
- God always had a gospel for nations

Galatians 3:8 - The Scripture ... **preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand,**

- saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed"
- Gentiles better translated "nations"
- The gospel was made known to Abraham
- This gospel is concerning the Gentiles/nations being justified by faith

Galatians 3:16 - **to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made**

- When you read "descendants" in Old Testament is the Hebrew word for "seed" – always singular

- Promise not made to "seeds" as of many
- **Promise is to the Seed, which is Christ**

Galatians 3:17-18

- the law cannot annul the covenant made with Abraham
- the inheritance, the gospel, came by promise, came 430 years before the law

v.19 - the purpose of the law = to keep us until Jesus came, until the Seed came

- the law was to point us to Christ, it was added because of transgressions

v.24-25 - the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ

- so we can be justified by faith
- the law was to point people to Jesus the Messiah

v.26-29 - we are **all sons of God through faith in Christ**

- we are all one in Christ
- distinctions are gone, racial distinctions etc
- if we are Christ's we are Abraham's Seed, heirs of the promise
- this gospel is for all nations

The Promised Seed is God manifest in the flesh!

John 8:56-58

- Abraham rejoiced to see Jesus' day
- How did he see the day of Christ? By faith, he heard of it
- Before Abraham was, "I AM"
- The Promised Seed is God Himself manifest in the flesh, as Jesus

THE PROMISES

- we are heirs of the promise

The promises to Abraham

Genesis 12:1-3 - In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed

- The Promise first given to Abraham – it is concerning Christ

Genesis 13:14-16 - All the land I give to you and to your Seed forever

- The Seed will be as the dust of the earth
- All directions Abraham is to look – all the land he saw is given to him and his Seed
- We are in that Seed, heirs of the promise
- The Promised Seed would multiply – He is the Firstborn among many brethren (**Rom.8:29**), many sons

[also confirmed in Genesis chap. 15 & 17]

Genesis 22:15-18 - I will bless and multiply your Seed as the stars of heaven

- Your Seed shall possess the gates of their enemies
- **Matthew 16:18** – Jesus will build His church and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it
- Eternal promise of victory over the devil!
- All nations of the earth will be blessed in this Seed

The promises to Isaac

Genesis 26:3-4 - Speaking to Isaac

- To you and your Seed, God will give these lands
- Seed will multiply
- Now the gospel is being preached to Isaac
- In your Seed all nations will be blessed
- Multiplication is part of the covenant promise
- Also the promise of all the lands given

The promises to Jacob

Genesis 28:13-14 - This is God speaking to Jacob

- The land on which you lie I give to you and to your Seed
- Seed shall multiply, spread abroad to all directions, four directions
- The whole earth is to be filled with knowledge of the glory of YHWH
- Many sons of God spreading and filling the earth
- In you all the nations of the earth will be blessed

v.16-17 - this **promise given in the context of the house of God**

- the covenant promise is for the house of God, for nations, filling the earth
- the house of God which is to spread through the sons of God is to bring an open heaven over all the earth

God's house is for all nations

Mark 11:17 - Jesus said, "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations"

- God's house is to spread over every nation, a place of prayer for all nations

Romans 9:23-26 - No distinction now between Jew and Gentile

- Now those who were not God's people are called "sons of the living God"
- This gospel is to produce sons of God from every nation
- Vessels of mercy prepared from the beginning
- The hope of the gospel is not about going to heaven, it is to be called and revealed as sons of the living God
- **The Promised Seed is to multiply into many sons**

Born again to become sons

John 1:12-13 - As many as received Him

- When we receive and believe in Him, we are given the right and authority to be sons of God
- Sons of God are to fill the earth

God's plan is for all nations

Acts 15:14-17 - The rest of mankind are to seek YHWH, even the nations who are called by His name

- Quoting from **Amos 9** – at the time the Tabernacle (the dynasty, the lineage of the kingdom) of David was rebuilt, all nations would be able to seek God

- When the Messiah came, it was the rebuilding of David's royal dynasty and through Him all peoples can be born again
- This was God's plan from eternity

We are heirs of the promise

Romans 4:13 - The promise was that Abraham and his seed would be "heir of the world"

- Inheritance is everything
- It was of faith, not through the law

Ephesians 3:3-6 - Gentiles/nations should be fellow heirs, of the same Body, and partakers of the promise in Christ through the gospel

- **v.8-10** - this is part of the manifold wisdom of God being made known to all nations

The Substance is of Christ

- We introduce people to Jesus, not to a doctrine
- Everything else was a shadow of things to come but its fulfilment is in Jesus

Aspects of the Promise

- a) Eternal** – an eternal promise of land. The earth is our inheritance
- b) Multiplication** – sand on the sea and the stars of the heaven, the Seed will multiply to be many sons being brought to glory
- c) Nations blessed** – when nations receive the gospel, receive Jesus, they are blessed
- d) Victory** – the Promised Seed would possess the gate of their enemies

The Commission

Matthew 28:18-20

- All authority has been given to Jesus
- Understand this commission in light of the gospel which was promised from the beginning: The Seed will multiply
- Disciples will be made, this is the seed multiplying
- Now all nations can come in, the Tabernacle of David has been rebuilt, the King has come and now all nations are to be reached
- God swore in **Habakkuk 2:14** that He will fill the earth with the knowledge of the glory – through this glorious gospel

The earth is our inheritance - Revelation 5:9-10

The earth is given as the inheritance, reigning in the earth

Every nation redeemed by the blood

All nations being made kings and priests, ruling and reigning in the earth

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- The gospel is referred to as the gospel of the kingdom of God.
- We need to understand how to conduct ourselves in the kingdom of God.

Jesus preached the gospel of the kingdom

Mark 1:14-15

- Jesus was preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God
- The time is fulfilled
- The kingdom of God is at hand
- Repent and believe in the gospel
- The time is fulfilled. The time is now. The kingdom of God is here.

John the Baptist preached the kingdom

Matt 3:1-2

- John the Baptist was preaching the kingdom
- He was preparing the way for the Messiah (King) to be revealed
- Kingdom = Government
- The government of heaven is at hand.

WE ARE LIVING IN DAYS OF FULFILLMENT

- In the days of the prophets the people were living in expectation of what would happen. We are living in the days of fulfillment of what was promised. We need to understand what this means for us.

Shadows in the Old Testament

2 Sam 8:15 – *"So David reigned over all Israel, and David administered judgment and justice to all his people"*

- David had the authority to rule over all Israel

Reigned – *malach* – to reign, to be king, to be established as king

- The Ark of the Covenant (the presence of God) was in Zion and David was the King.
- God has always ordained it in the earth that His kingdom is ruled through the man that He has chosen. We see a picture of this in David's kingdom.

Judgment – *mishpat* - means a verdict pronounced, esp. a sentence or formal decree, justice, rights and privileges

Justice – *tsadaqah* - the word means righteousness, rightness, making things right, justice, morally it means virtue (an intrinsic quality), seeing things for what they are and able to make the right decisions

- It is a relational and legal word

The kingdom of God is a place of judgment and justice.

- God makes right decisions and judgments. He is making things right in the earth. This happens through His people who have grown up into His authority.

The Government will be upon the shoulder of the Son

Isaiah 9:6-7 - a Son is given

- the government will be upon His shoulder
- Entering the kingdom of God is all about coming under a new government.
- Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end
- Order and established with Judgment and justice
- Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom
- We are to pray for the kingdom of God to come here on earth (**Matt.6:10**)

The King shall execute Judgement & Justice

Jeremiah 23:5 - A king shall reign and prosper

- Execute judgment and justice (righteousness) in the earth
- Are you part of this Man who came from the lineage of David, declared to be the Son of God?
- We find His decrees in the Word of God. (Psalm 149)

Solomon exercised this authority in wisdom

1 Kings 3:23-28 - We see a picture of Solomon here

- He had the wisdom of God
- All Israel heard of the judgment which the king had rendered
- The wisdom of God was in him to administer justice

The fulfillment is in Jesus

- We are in a real kingdom, a real government
- Jesus is King! He is administering judgement and justice here in the earth. Wickedness is being driven out.
- We need to understand the place we have in Christ, the place we have in the kingdom.
- The struggle is us believing that we have the authority that God has given us. Principalities and powers have already been disarmed through Jesus' death and resurrection.

John 8:1-11 - Here we see Jesus administering judgment and justice in the earth

- He judged the wicked hearts of the men
- He did not condemn the woman – He told her to go and sin no more (He knew He was going to die for her)

Romans 3:26 – Jesus is just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus
Jesus eternally dealt with every issue on the cross

A Kingdom of righteousness - Matt 13:36-43

- Righteousness is what will remain in this kingdom
- The field is the world

- The good seeds are the sons of the kingdom
- The good seed is being sown in the world
- Tares are the sons of the wicked one
- The reapers are the messengers (angels)
- The Son of Man will send (*apostello*) out His messengers
- Righteousness will remain (**2 Peter 3:13**)

The Kingdom is a place of inheritance

1 Kings 4:25 - Judah and Israel dwelt safely

- The kingdom of God is a place of safety and peace (the enemy has been defeated)
- Jesus has defeated all of our enemies
- The kingdom is a place of inheritance and fruitfulness

Micah 4:1-4 - The mountain is a prophetic reference to the kingdom

- (**Daniel 2** – the mountain that filled the whole earth)
- He will teach us His ways
- Judgment will happen from there
- Peace – because of His righteous judgment
- Nations will come
- The kingdom of God is for all nations
- Walking in His paths (discipleship)
- The Word of God will go forth; No one shall make them afraid

The Kingdom of God spreads through discipleship (Matt 28:18-20).

2 Chronicles 17:3-11 - YHWH was with Jehoshaphat because he walked in the ways of his father David

- Evil things were rooted out
- He sent out teachers – they had the book of the Law and taught the people
- The fear of God came upon all the kingdoms that were around them

Acts 6:7 - The word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied

- Even the religious priests became obedient to the faith (coming under the government of Jesus the Messiah)

Acts 19:9-10 - Paul withdrew the disciples

- He reasoned with them daily for 2 years
- Many teachers started going out
- **v.20** The result was that the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed
- The word of the Lord began to govern Ephesus
- The manifold wisdom of God was being made known to principalities and powers (**Ephesians 3**)

It is a Spiritual Kingdom

1 Samuel 16:13 - David was anointed and the Spirit of YHWH came upon him from that time forward

- This kingdom is a spiritual kingdom
- We need the anointing to govern in this kingdom.

Isaiah 10:27 - In the context the kingdom of Assyria was oppressing and coming against the people of God

- But there is a promise: the yoke will be destroyed because of the anointing oil (Messiah – the Anointed One)

Isaiah 11:1-9

- The Spirit of YHWH will rest upon Him – the Messiah
- He will not judge by the sight of His eyes or by the hearing of His ears
- He will execute righteousness
- **V.6** – the result is coming into a place of peace
- The earth shall be full of the knowledge of YHWH as the waters cover the sea

Isaiah 32:1

- A King will reign in righteousness
- Princes will rule with justice
- **V.15** – Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field...
- **V.15-20** The establishment of the kingdom of God on the earth brings peace (even in the midst of great shaking)

Isaiah 61:1-3

- The Anointing that was on the Messiah
- This is the anointing that is in the kingdom
- It brings healing, sets the captives free

We must be born again to see and enter this kingdom (John 3:3)

Acts 10:38 - Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power

- He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil

Ephesians 2:1-6 - We were once being governed by the prince of the power of the air

- But we have been made alive together with Christ – raised up and seated together
- Now governed by Jesus the Messiah
- Governed by the Spirit of God in our lives – walking in the Spirit (manifesting His kingdom)

The kingdom of God is in the Spirit.

As we walk in the Spirit, we walk in the reality of the kingdom.

THE HOLY CITY

There is another city God wants us to live in

- How do we enter this city through our walk with Jesus?
- There is a city that has been built for us, the redeemed of the Lord
- It is our inheritance – Abraham saw it afar off [**Heb.11:10**]

Genesis 12:1-3 - God called Abraham, there was a land he was to receive as his inheritance

Hebrews 11:8-10 – he dwelt with Isaac and Jacob in the land of promise

- But Abraham looked for the city whose builder and maker is God

Hebrews 11:15 – we are heirs of the same promise

- There is to be a desire in us to live in this city, it has been prepared for us

John saw a new heaven and a new earth - Revelation 21:1

- **v.2** - John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God
- **v.3** - the tabernacle of God is with men
- God dwells with them, they are His people
- **v.4** - in this city God wipes away every tear and takes away pain
- **v.5** - there is a throne there, and here all things are made new
- **v.27** - anything that defiles cannot enter in
- those who are in the Book of Life will dwell there

The City has Gates – entry points

Revelation 21:12

- She, the city, had a great and high wall
- There were twelve gates, entry points...
- They were made of twelve pearls (**v.21**)

Matthew 13:45-46

- Christ is the merchant man who sold everything to buy the pearl of great price, His church
- Jesus gave up His life for His people
- I am part of the pearl of great price

The gates are named after the twelve tribes of Israel

- All the names have meanings

In **Genesis 29** we read of the sons born to Jacob by Leah and Rachel, and his concubines

THE GATES OF THE CITY according to Ezekiel 48:30-34

- A vision of the position of these sons and tribes

v.30-34

- the gates of the city and its name
- the gates are named after the tribes of Israel

- Northern gates – Reuben, Judah and Levi
- Eastern gates – Joseph, Benjamin and Dan
- Southern Gates – Simeon, Issachar and Zebulun
- Western Gates – Gad, Asher and Naphtali

v.35 - the **name of this city is YHWH Shammah**, The Eternal One is there

Northern Gates

1) Reuben – Gen.29:32 – born to Leah, Reuben means: ***See, a son*** or ***Behold, a son***

- Leah had said she called him Reuben as YHWH had looked on her affliction – He saw her
- **John 3:16** – we need to behold Jesus, the Son, believe in Him, born of God
- we begin by seeing the Son of God and believing in Him

2) Judah – Gen.29:35 – Judah means ***praise***

- we are to continually be offering the sacrifice of praise, the fruit of our lips (**Heb.13:14-15**)
- Praising and giving thanks to Jesus for what He has done

3) Levi – Gen.29:34 – Levi means ***attached***

- We are to be attached to Jesus by being baptised into Christ
- **1 Cor.12:13** – we are baptised in Christ, into One Body and are joined to Jesus
- Levites were those who served and sacrificed their lives for God's people

Southern Gates

4) Simeon – means ***heard*** – as God heard that Leah was unloved

- this is the gate of hearing from God
- we hear from the Holy Spirit – **John 16:13**
- this is the gate of hearing from God and obeying

5) Issachar – Gen. 30:17-18 – means ***wages*** or ***reward***

- Our wages are our reward
- Our reward is God's presence
- **Genesis 15:1** – God is our shield, our exceedingly great reward
- God is working in us to produce Christ in us

6) Zebulun – Gen.30:20 – means ***dwelling***

- God wants to tabernacle or dwell with us
- **Rev.21:3** – His Tabernacle is with men; He is our God and we are His people
- **John 15:1-8** – we are to abide in the Vine, we dwell in Him and He dwells in us

Western Gates

7) Gad – Gen.30:11 – means ***a troop*** or ***fortune comes***

- we are to attack
- Abram attacked and brought back his nephew Lot
- He then gave a tithe of the bounty (**Gen.14:18-20**)

8) Asher – Gen.30:13 – means *happy*

- Sarah laughed when she heard YHWH say she would have a son
- We are to be happy and contented and joy is part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit

9) Naphtali – Gen.30:8 – means *Wrestling*

- Jacob also wrestled with God and was changed, transformed from His flesh nature into a new man
- We have a new man to put on
- The inward man is being renewed day by day
- We are to be transformed by the renewing of our mind (**Rom.12:2**)

Eastern Gates

10) Joseph (1st son of Rachel) – Gen.30:24 – means *He will add*

- God took away Rachel's reproach
- Rachel looked unfruitful
- Joseph brings the thought of "fruitfulness"
- It was the will of God for Joseph to suffer as he did, but he was fruitful
- He became the head of the storehouse of Egypt
- **John 15:5** – God prunes and disciplines us so that we can bear much fruit

11) Benjamin – Gen.35:18 – means *son of the right hand*

- Jesus, the Son, is now at the right hand of God waiting till all His enemies are under His feet
- In holy city there is a throne – **Rev.21:5**
- The One who is the Alpha and Omega is sitting there
- We are seated with Christ in Him and on His throne – **Eph.2:6**

12) Dan – Gen.30:6 – means *Judge or rule*

- To rule, govern, legislate, strive and plead the cause of someone, the place of judgment or justice
- **Rev.5:10** – we are kings and priests to our God
- We rule through prayer, we are the government of God in the earth
- The example of how to pray is in **Matthew 6 and Luke 11**

**The City has a name – YHWH Shammah – the Eternal One is there
Ezek.48:35**

Jesus chose twelve of His disciples to be His apostles – **Luke 6:12-13**

The twelve apostles became the foundation of the city – **Revelation 21:14** [Matthias chosen as twelfth (**Acts 1:25-26**)]

**God has prepared this city for us
We who overcome have the right to enter and
walk through the gates of this city
This is our inheritance
Glorious things are spoken of you O City of God**

SEE I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW

"Then the angel said to them, '... I bring you good tidings of great joy'" Luke 2:10

A message of good tidings

Luke 2:8-18 - Angels came and brought a message to the Shepherds

- Heaven came into earth
- Good tidings of great joy to all people
- Born a Saviour, Christ, the Lord
- God became flesh – **1 Timothy 3:16**
- They put Him in a feed trough

Matthew 2:1-11 - Wise men came from the East and brought gifts

- They worshiped Him
- Only God alone is to be worshiped
- Jesus, God in the flesh, was worshiped
- Then Jesus went to Egypt
- Jesus then came out of Egypt
- He was brought up by Joseph and Mary
- He was without sin

John the Baptist preaches – Luke 3:3

- John was in the desert
- God meets us in the desert
- Jesus was baptised by John at the Jordan and then He went into the wilderness (**Luke 4:1**)
- John recognized Jesus, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" – **John 1:29**

Jesus identified as the 'Beloved Son'

Matthew 3:17

- After Jesus was baptised the voice said, "This is My Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased"
- Our Father is pleased with us

Jesus overcame all the temptations of the devil in the wilderness

Matthew 4:1-11

- First temptation was to make stones into bread – but "Man shall not live by bread alone but by every Word that proceeds from the mouth of God"
- Second temptation to throw Himself off the pinnacle of the temple – "You shall not tempt the LORD (YHWH) your God"

- Third Temptation was to worship Satan in return for all the kingdoms of the world –
“You shall worship the LORD (YHWH) your God and Him only you shall serve”
 - There was a great turnaround from this time onwards
- This was the first time a man had overcome Satan in the earth

The Good News

- **The sick are healed - Matthew 4:24**
- The sick came to Jesus and He healed them all
- **Demons cast out - Luke 9:11**
- Demons fled; people's lives transformed
- Mary Magdalene was delivered from 7 demons
- **The Leper was cleansed**
- **Bartimaeus received his sight**

Arend Tibben was forgiven and his back which had severe pain for seven years was healed, he began to speak in tongues, delivered from 3 demons

- When people met with Jesus their lives are transformed

→ Jesus said He overcame the world - John 16:33

*We have a godly Prime Minister in Australia named Scott Morrison
This is only the beginning. We must also now support him in prayer, he needs
the daily power and touch of Jesus.
We must continue in prayers and not neglect this when we go back to our
communities*

→ Principalities and powers disarmed - Colossians 2:11-15

- Jesus has disarmed principalities and powers and all things coming against us and made a public spectacle

Romans 8:18 - Sufferings of this present time is not worthy to be compared to the glory that is to be revealed in us; Jesus came and has turned all things around

- **v.19** – creation is waiting for the sons of God to manifest

John 5:19 - The Son does what He sees His Father do

- Give us hearing ears; give us eyes to see You Jesus
- So we can know Him and the power of His resurrection (**Phil.3:10**)
- Let us be completely led by the Spirit of God (**Rom.8:14**)

Good tidings – Good news

Revelation 21:5 - “I make all things new”

Let us not be tongue-tied and let us talk of this good news!

7 STEPS TO FRUITFUL MINISTRY

- 1. Prayer**
- 2. Evangelism – reaching out**
- 3. Nurture**
- 4. Discipleship**
- 5. Training and Equipping**
- 6. Planting the Church**
- 7. New Ministries arising or emerging**

Matthew 28:18-20

- We are to make disciples of all nations
- We are to baptise them
- We are to teach them to observe all things Jesus commanded

1) PRAYER

Without prayer the church just becomes another club, has no power and does not achieve what God sent it to do

Matthew 18:18-20 - Gives us a picture of what the church is

- Not a building with a cross on the top – it is the people of God
- Two or three in agreement in the name of Jesus, and Jesus is there
- If two agree on earth concerning anything, they ask it will be done for them by My Father in heaven
- Harmonizing in prayer
- We pray His will into the earth – not our own fleshly desires, we pray according to the will of God

John 15:7-8 - Abide in Christ and His words (utterances, what He has been speaking) abide in you, you will ask what you desire

- Your desires become His desires
- He answers your prayers

1 John 5:14-15 - We have confidence that whatever we ask according to His will, we have what we ask of Him

➔ There is more authority in two or three gathered in Jesus name than in Canberra or Parliament

- Jesus have given us a commission – we are to pray into this commission
- **Matt.28:18-20, Mark 16:15-20, Luke 24:46-49**
- When we are not praying carnal things but seeking first the kingdom and His will, then our prayers will be effective, and fruitful

John 15:16 – Jesus chose us and appointed us to bear fruit

- We pray in faith – **Heb.11:6** – this is the way to please God, God will reward us, answer our prayers
- We know that He hears us, and we know we have the petitions we asked of Him

John 15:7-8 - Answered prayer gives glory to the Father

- We will be revealed as His disciples

Matthew 9:37-38

- This is what we should be praying for – labourers for the harvest because the harvest is great

Praying the will of God is praying for souls to be saved

2 Peter 3:9 - Not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance

- It is God's will for them to be saved

We pray for the lost by name

John 6:44 – can only come to Jesus if the Father draws them

- Out of this prayer comes action which will produce the fruit of salvation of souls as well as encouragement of believers to be doing the work
- Out of our prayers, God will speak to us and guide us, showing us what we should do, giving strategies

2) EVANGELISM – reaching out

- Out of heartfelt prayer, action comes
- Faith without works is dead
- Very often, you will be the answer to your prayers

Evangelism means "to go out with a message"

- **Mark 16:15** – preach the gospel to every creature
- We are to have a Holy Spirit boldness to speak the gospel

God's will is for every person to be evangelised – **1 Timothy 2:4** – saved by the knowledge of the truth

- Are you praying for your neighbours?
- Are you planning and seeking God how to reach them?
- Every disciple of Jesus is a witness having received the power of the Holy Spirit – **Acts 1:8**
- We are called to mission
- If you are going out you need to be part of a Body, being sent out, being committed, submitted, accountable and sent
- It is not just about "me and my walk with Jesus", we are a Body and we take the message out together

The church has been planted because 2 or 3 are praying together and now receiving strategy on how to reach out

What do we preach?

- **Acts 8:12** – we preach the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ
- **Mark 1:1, 14-15** – the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God – the kingdom of God
- **2 Corinthians 5:17-21** – we have the word and ministry of reconciliation

Our of prayer we are to be sharing this gospel

- **Acts 2:38** – in our evangelism we need to preach repentance and remission of sins in His name, with baptism – **Luke 24:47**
 - When we are just “playing church”, there is no power
- ➔ Now when those who get saved by repenting, believing, baptism and laying of hands to receive the Holy Spirit they need to be nurtured

3) NURTURE - looking after new believers

The believers now need to be grounded in **Hebrews 6:1-2**

We need to be grounded in:

- a) Repentance from dead works
- b) Faith toward God
- c) Doctrine of baptisms
- d) Laying on of hands
- e) Resurrection of the dead
- f) Eternal judgement

These are living foundations.

How do we nurture? By feeding them

John 21:15-17

- i) Feed My Lambs
- ii) Tend My Sheep
- iii) Feed My Sheep

- Nurturing comes about by feeding the newborn babe in Christ, the milk of the Word (**1 Pet.2:2**)
- We are to look after the newborn babes, washing them with the water of the Word, keeping them clean, caring for them
- They need the milk of the Word to grow thereby
- This includes foundations, must know the need to repent of sinful ways of life, by teaching the Word
- Nurture includes encouragement in simple truths of salvation
- **1 John 2:12-14** – little children (new believers) need to be encouraged in the forgiveness of sins

Hebrews 5:12-14

- The nurturing is in the context that we want to go on to maturity/perfection

We need to teach the Word concerning: salvation, healing, restoration

- As new believers they are taught to continue in the Body as in **Acts 2:42**
- They are born again into the family of God

2 Timothy 3:16

- In this nurturing the Scriptures are starting to take effect in their lives

4) DISCIPLING

Matt.28:18-20 – Jesus commanded the apostles to make disciples by teaching them to observe what Jesus commanded

- After new believers have been nurtured, they then need to begin a life of discipleship

The goal of discipleship is:

- a) To have every new Christian discipled to the Word of God, not to a person. A true discipler will not be pointing people to themselves but to Jesus
 - b) Teach the principles of the Word of God – we are to grow up in the Word (**1 Jn.2:12-14** – young men are strong because the Word of God abides in them and they overcome the wicked one) – our heart gets changed, we are growing up into the head – **Eph.4:15**
 - c) To establish the believers in an understanding of the Lord's Table – not just a ritual but a meal with the King, a kingdom reality, feeding on Christ
 - d) To teach the disciples how to do basic Bible studies, so the disciple can understand who they are in Messiah, a son not a church goer
 - e) To teach the disciples the "rhema" word of God, the quickened word that comes out of relationship with Him – to hear from God we need to know our sins are forgiven, not be under condemnation
 - f) To set the disciple basic assignments, Bible reading, study and prayer – **Heb.5:13-14** – starting to feed on solid food
- Solid food is and leads to the knowledge of the mysteries, the deeper understanding of the Word
 - **Col.3:16** – let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly

5) TRAINING AND EQUIPPING

- This does not happen too much in the "church" today
- This is different to the old "Bible School" was of being trained, going out, making a banner and hiring a hall and "starting a church"

The church is 2 or 3 gathered in the name of Jesus

- Training and equipping includes going on ministry teams with others and learning and observing and being a part of the ministry work

In this training and equipping there is:

- Commitment
- Submission
- Accountability
- So that you can be Sent

➔ Once nurtured, adequately, discipled and taught there is a time of training and equipping to bring to maturity

We have gone from the milk of the Word to the meat of the Word, the solid food
Then comes the understanding of the deeper wisdom which is for the mature – **1 Corinthians 2:6-8**

A. Training

- Each saint being able to teach the first principles of the oracles of God – **Heb.6:1-2**
- Each saint is to be able to teach the milk of the Word to others
- A faithful man will be teaching what they have been taught – **2 Timothy 2:2**
- Those in training come to understand the manifold wisdom of God – **eph.3:8-11**
- Training is being taught so that you can teach others

B. Equipping

- Has to do with training in ministry, moving in the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit – **2 Cor.3:3-6, 1 Cor.12:8-10**
- Includes understanding the grace gifts of **Romans 12:4-8**
- Being equipped to contribute in meetings – **1 Corinthians 14:26** – everyone having something to contribute to the upbuilding of the whole
- Every member is to function and share
- Teaching and understanding on the five ministry gifts of **Eph.4:11-16**, that are given to bringing the church to full maturity
- Learning to function as the Body, with gifts, graces and ministries

6) PLANTING THE CHURCH

As those who have been trained and equipped are now sent out they will establish the church with others – beginning with prayer

- They have been trained in the pattern of **Acts 2:42** and also seeing **Acts 2:41-47** as the pattern of the church being planted where they are sent
- They met in the house
- Publicly and house to house (**Acts 20:20**)– public was more evangelistic, but the disciples were made in the house

7) EMERGING OF NEW MINISTRIES

- As the church functions, then new ministries begin to emerge
- As ones sent out begin to function in the ministry, then the five ministries of **Ephesians 4:11**, and other ministries (**1Cor.12:28**) will begin to emerge and be raised through those ones
- A key aspect of apostolic ministry is to recognize the emergence of new ministries, raise them up, working with the local eldership to set these ones in place in the Body.

SIX STEPS IN MAKING DISCIPLES

- ➔ Discipleship is a lifestyle of living with Jesus every day.
- ➔ We follow Jesus individually but in the context of a body.
- ➔ We have to be a disciple before we can make disciples. We need to follow the example of the apostles.
- ➔ Jesus modelled for them how to do this.

1) PREACH THE GOSPEL

Mark 16:15 – go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature

- The gospel is for every person.

Gospel – *means good news*

- It was used when there was a new emperor on the throne. The good news that there was a new king would go forth.
- This word 'gospel' was also used when there was a great victory over the enemy.
- Jesus is the new King who has ascended the throne and He has won a great victory.

1 Tim 2:4-6 - God desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth

- There is one God and one Mediator

Acts 5:42 - Daily in the temple and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus, the Christ

Acts 9:20-22 - Immediately Paul preached the Christ...that He is the Son of God

- The preaching of the gospel is proclaiming Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God

Acts 8:12 - Philip preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ

- When the people believed they were baptised (**Acts 28:31, Matt 16:16-18, Eph 3:8**)

2) BAPTISE THOSE WHO BELIEVE

Mark 16:15-16 - He who believes and is baptised will be saved

- The response to the gospel that we see throughout the book of Acts is baptism.
- Baptism is an essential part of salvation.
- Faith has action. The first action after believing is to be baptised.

Matthew 28:19

- Jesus' command to baptise
- In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
- There is one name
- Biblically the name meant the actual person

- Who is that person? JESUS
- We get baptised into Jesus. He is the image of the invisible God. (**Col 1:15**)

Col 2:9 – In Christ dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily

Acts 4:12 - There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved

- People are healed and demons are cast out in the name of Jesus
[**Acts 2:38; 8:16; 19:5** – **baptism in the name of Jesus**]

In Baptism

- a) The old man dies, is buried and raised with Christ (**Rom 6:3-4**)
- b) No longer a slave of sin (**Rom 6:6-7**)
- c) Baptism identifies us with Christ and clothes us with Christ (**Gal 3:27-28**)
- d) Baptism is into the body of Christ (**1 Cor 12:13**)
- Baptism is an important foundation.

3) TEACHING THEM ALL THINGS THAT JESUS TAUGHT

Matt 28:20 - Teaching follows baptism

- Jesus commissioned the apostles to teach everything that He had taught them

John 17:18 - As you sent Me into the world, I have also sent them (**John 20:21**)

What do we teach?

- a) **The apostles' doctrine** – a doctrine that brings life and a revelation of Jesus
 - i. **Acts 2:42** – they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine...
 - ii. **Jude 3** – contend earnestly for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints
 - iii. There is one faith and one doctrine.

b) Jesus is the Christ (Acts 5:42, 2 John 7-9)

- The doctrine of Christ – who He is

c) The things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 28:31)

d) Sound Doctrine – Titus 2:1-10

- How we are to behave – in all areas of life

e) How to grow to maturity - Colossians 1:28

- Present every man perfect in Christ Jesus

f) Pass on the doctrine that we have received – 2 Tim 2:2

g) The Foundations - Hebrews 6:1-2

- **Every ministry is called to teach** out of the grace that they have.
- The **elders are to teach (1 Tim 3:2)**.
- **All believers are to be able to teach (Heb 5:12)**.

4) DEMONSTRATE REAL FELLOWSHIP

Acts 2:42

- The continued steadfastly ... in fellowship
Fellowship – *koinonia* - means sharing, unity, close association, partnership, participation, a society, a communion, contributory help

Acts 2:42-45

- All the believers were together
- They had all things in common
- The needs of the brethren were all met
- We need to demonstrate real fellowship to the new believers.

Fellowship includes financial contribution.

- We need to teach new believers about tithing and giving - **Acts 4:34-35; (Phil 4:16-19, Matt 23:23** – tithing in New Testament)

5) TEACH DISCIPLES ABOUT THE BREAKING OF BREAD

Acts 2:42 – they continued steadfastly in ... the breaking of bread

- **v.46** – breaking bread from house to house – daily (an example for us)
- This is something that happens in the homes – a lifestyle of feeding on Jesus
- It is time for the church to see the Lord's Table restored.

1 Cor 11:23-26 – a remembrance meal

- **v.25** – the New Covenant in His blood
- The Lord's Table is not a time to be remembering our sin. We are to remember Jesus and what He has done for us.
- **v.28** – let a man examine himself (**2 Cor 13:5** – is Jesus Christ in you?)
- **v.26** – a proclamation of the Lord's death until He comes
- **v.29** – we need to discern (to do with 'not doubting') the Lord's body
- We need to come to the Lord's Table in faith.

6) PRAYERS

Acts 2:42 – they continued steadfastly in ... prayer

- We are to have a lifestyle of prayer (individual and corporate).

Matt 6:9-13 (Luke 11:1-4) – Jesus taught His disciples how to pray (a pattern of how to relate with God)

- We come to God as our Father (a corporate reality).
- We worship Him – honour His name
- Pray for His kingdom to come and for His will to be done.
- We then pray for our needs and deal with unforgiveness.
- Pray for deliverance from evil – a walk of victory over temptation.
- Finish by glorifying Him.

1 Tim 2:1-7 - Pray for all men and for those in authority

- The church has a responsibility to be praying for leaders and for the nation
- Teach the disciples to pray for all the saints (**Eph 6:18**)

- Pray for those who have the responsibility to preach and teach so that the mystery of the gospel can be made known

-

Acts 12:5 – constant prayer was offered to God for Peter by the church

- He was miraculously delivered and set free as a result of their prayers.

**If we follow these six steps diligently,
understanding that discipleship is fully necessary
then we will be able to make disciples as Jesus commanded us to do
(Matthew 28:18-20)**

THE AFFLICTION OF YAHWEH

We are to consider the end intended by the Lord

James 5:10-11

- Job suffered much but God was with him
- Consider and see the end intended by the Lord
- There is a place that God is bringing us into
- We need perseverance
- The Lord is very compassionate and merciful

Philippians 1:3-6

- Being confident of this – He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ
- In the fellowship of the gospel there is a dying to our own will

Psalms 34:19

- Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but YHWH delivers him out of them all
- There is a maturity that God is bringing us into.
God puts us through things for a purpose, but He delivers us out of them all

Word Meanings:

Affliction - *ra* – unpleasant, giving pain, unhappiness, displeasing, distress, adversity

Chastening – *yasar* - means to chasten, to correct, to instruct, refers to the discipline and correction necessary to moral training [**Jeremiah 10:24** - correct]

- **Micah 4:6-7** - YHWH will gather those He has afflicted
- He is the one who afflicted
- **Hosea 6:1-3** - YHWH has torn, but He will heal us
- He has stricken, but He will bind us upon
- He is the one who revives and raises up
- **1 Peter 1:6-7** - Various trials and testing if need be
- That the genuineness of your faith may found to praise, honour and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ
- **Heb 12:5-6** - Do not despise the chastening of YHWH
- He chastens those He loves and receives as sons
- YHWH is our Father and He loves us

Affliction **2 Cor 4:17** – tribulation – SC Gk#2347 *thlipsis* – pressure, oppression, stress, anguish, tribulation, adversity, affliction, crushing, squashing, squeezing, distress

WHY DOES YAHWEH AFFLICT US?

1) That we would seek His face – Hosea 5:15 - earnestly seek Him

2) To humble us

- **2 Chronicles 33:12** – when he was in affliction, he humbled himself before God
- We find grace when we humble ourselves before God.
- **Deut 8:2** – remember that YHWH led you in the wilderness to humble you and to test you, to know what was in your heart

3) God tests us to know what is in our heart

- Will we keep His commands or not? Will we obey Him?
- **1 Peter 1:6**

4) He afflicts us because He is bringing us into a good land

- **Deut 8:5-7** – God is our Father and He chastens us
- We are to walk in His ways, and we are to fear Him.
- He is bringing us into a good land – The end intended by the Lord is good. We come through affliction.
- **Psalms 66:10-12** – God has tested us.
- He has brought us out to rich fulfillment.
- We come to know Him by coming through the affliction of YHWH.

5) To bring us into a revelation of Jesus Christ – that He is our Father

- **1 Peter 1:6-8** - Jesus came to reveal the Father.
- We are to know Him who is from the beginning – this comes through the affliction of YHWH

6) It is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory

- **2 Cor 4:17**
- **Col 1:27** – this glory is Christ in us (our hope)

7) So that we do not go astray

- **Psalms 119:67** – before I was afflicted, I went astray, but now I keep Your word

8) That I might learn His statutes (Word) - Psalms 119:71

9) That we may partake of His holiness - Hebrews 12:10-11

- it will be painful at times, but it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness
- **Exodus 15:11** – YHWH is glorious in holiness
- If we want to partake of His holiness, we need to receive His chastening
- **Isaiah 35:8** – there is a highway of holiness that we are to walk on

Do not despise the chastening of the Lord

Job 5:17-19 - Happy is the man whom God corrects

- Do not despise the chastening of the Almighty

- He bruises and wounds; He binds up and makes whole
- He shall deliver you

Galatians 5:24 - Those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires

Philippians 3:10-12 - That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection

- Conformed to His death
- Pressing on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me

Acts 20:22-24 - But none of these things move me, nor do I count my life dear to myself

- That I may finish my race with joy

Testifying to the gospel of the grace of God

THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY

The knowledge of the Eternal God will cover the earth

Habakkuk 2:14

- The Knowledge of the glory of the Eternal One will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea
- This is a process
- Even in Noah's flood it took quite some time for the waters to cover the earth

Genesis 1:28 - God blessed the man and the woman to be '*fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, subdue it and have dominion*'

- "Man" in **Genesis 1:26-27** in Hebrew does not refer to "male" but to Mankind – male and female

Matthew 28:18-20 – the commission

- The world as it now is will not always remain, it will come to an end
- All those who do not believe in God and do not obey the Lord Jesus will be destroyed with an everlasting destruction – **2 Thess.1:7-10**
- Make sure you are in the ark of salvation
- The wicked were destroyed and taken away in the days of the flood – **Matt.24:39**
- It will be the same in the coming of the Son of Man – the ones taken will be the wicked and the righteous will be left – **Matt.24:40**

WHAT IS THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY?

The work is:

To do the work of the ministry = 7 steps to fruitful ministry

- i. prayer
- ii. evangelism/outreach, reaching out to those you are praying for
- iii. nurture, look after, help them,
- iv. discipleship, opening up the Word, principles, doctrine,
- v. training and equipping – includes some affliction for our good
- vi. planting the church, gathering with 2 or 3
- vii. emergence of ministries

Also, six steps of making disciples

1. Preaching the gospel, **Acts 8:5&12**
2. Baptising those who believe, **Acts 8:12, Acts 2:38**
3. Teaching the new believers, **Acts 11:26**
4. Bringing them into a functioning fellowship, **Acts 2:42-47**
5. Bringing them to an understanding and regular practice of the Lord's Table, **Acts 2:46, 1Cor.11:23-26**
6. Teaching the disciples how to pray, **Matt.6:9:13, Luke 11:1-4, 1Tim.2:1**

Jesus gave five ministry gifts - Ephesians 4:11

- ➔ apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers
- **apostles** govern and are foundational
- **prophets** point the way, guide
- **evangelists** reach out, gather
- **pastors** guard and look after the family
- **teachers** ground us in the Word and get the Word in our ears

These gifts were given for a purpose – Eph.4:12

- i) for the equipping/perfecting of the saints
- ii) for the work of the ministry
 - obedience to do the work of the ministry causes something to be built
 - apostolic pattern is short term training schools and send them out
 - learnt and trained through experience
- iii) for the building up of the Body of Christ

Most churches today are not really doing the work of the ministry

Each of the five ministries must do the work of the ministry

The work is:

- **the equipping/perfecting of the saints**
- "*equipping*" – refers to a physician setting a broken bone in surgery, it is bringing the church into functional healing and order
- The church today is dysfunctional, divided, scared of each other
- We need the five ministries to bring healing and functional order
- Each saint functioning as a participant and contributors in the Body of Christ

The work is:

- **To build up the body of Christ**
- **Acts 14:22** – strengthening the souls of the disciples (this is building up)
- The apostles were exhorting the disciples to continue in the faith
- It is the Word with power – by the Spirit

The ministries are to function "till" - Ephesians 4:13

➔ 'till' we all come to:

- 1. Unity of the faith** – to come to agreement in the faith, what we believe
- We especially need apostles and prophets to bring the revelation of the mystery (**Eph.3:5**)
- Apostles and prophets are needed to be foundational to the building the House of God (**Eph.2:20**)
- The faith is "that which we believe" (**Jude 3** – the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints)
- Warfare goes on as we come to the unity of the faith together
- So many people develop their own doctrine, get it from the internet

- The faith is the Doctrine of Jesus – **John 7:16-18** – My doctrine is not Mine but His who sent Me – is actually the doctrine of God
- Like baptism – immersion – into the name

2. To the knowledge of the Son of God - all believing that Jesus is the Son of God

- But what does it mean for all of us to come to the knowledge of the Son of God?
- **1 Timothy 3:16** – the knowledge of the Son of God is that *"God was manifested in the flesh"*
- **Who is Jesus?** There has been a huge attack for centuries to take away the Divinity, the Godhood of Jesus
- **Jesus Christ is the Son of God** = God in the flesh
- The Son is the same as the Father – **John 14:8-9, 5:17-19**
- Are you willing to lay down your life for this doctrine?
- **Habakkuk 2:14** – the **knowledge** of the glory of YHWH is revealed as we come to the knowledge of the Son of God

3. To a Perfect Man

- To a mature corporate Body, fitted and joined together in Christ
- Properly founded, disciplined, taught

How do we bring this church to be a corporate Perfect Man?

- **Eph.4:14** – by the children growing up in the truth, no longer being children tossed by every wind of doctrine
- Cunning craftiness and deceitful scheming happen by "men of God" - but children who have grown up are no longer tricked
- **Heb.13:9** – not being led away by various and strange doctrines (including food doctrines)

Ephesians 4:15 - we are to bring the saints to speak the truth in love

- it can be easy to speak the truth in a bit of agitation
- we need to speak it in love
- the goal is to grow up in all things into Him who is the Head – Christ

v.16 - then the body gets released to function in "agape" love

- no longer full of ambition, wanting our turn

From children to young men to fathers

1 John 2:12-14 – growing up in Christ, becoming mature

- from little children to young men to fathers
- fathers can father children and bring them up
- we are in the ministry to grow and help others grow
- fathers can beget sons – **Philemon 10** – Onesimus *"my son whom I have begotten in my chains"*
- fathers consider sons to be as their own heart
- **Philemon 17** – sons are to be received as their father
- From milk to solid food – **Heb.5:13-14**

→ **Phil.2:5-11** – is an awesome presentation of YHWH becoming a man

The Work of the ministry

Colossians 1:24-29

- 1)** willing to be afflicted for the sake of the church – **v.24**
- 2)** ministry is a stewardship from God – **v.25**
 - There is a dispensation of grace – **Eph.3:2-3**
 - A steward is someone who is taking personal responsibility for his master's property
 - **1 Cor.4:1** – we are servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries – we are servants and stewards
- 3)** the ministry is to fulfill the Word of God - **v.25**
 - it is a ministry of the Word - **v.26**
- 4)** the ministry is to make known the mystery, bringing the saints to the revelation of the mystery – **v.26**
 - there is a point where things clicked, and you started to receive the revelation
 - when the mysteries start to open for you, you being to walk in high places and get into His glory
 - **1 Cor.2:7** – the mysteries, the hidden wisdom was given to us for His glory
- 5)** the revelation of the mystery is “Christ in you; the hope of glory” - **v.27**
- 6)** the work of the ministry - **v.28**
 - a) Preach Christ
 - b) Warn every man
 - c) Teach every man
 - d) Using wisdom
 - e) To present every man perfect in Christ Jesus
- 7)** labouring and striving according to the power, energy and working of God - **v.29**
 - It is God's operative power working in us to do the work of the ministry

Prayer and ministry of the word

Acts 6:4 - Apostles would not leave the ministry to do the practical business

- They were committed to prayer and to the ministry of the Word
- The primary ministry is the ministry of the Word which is backed up by prayer

Pass on what you have received - 2 Timothy 2:2

- That which you have received from me among many witnesses, impart to faithful men and women who can teach others also
- “man” in Grk = “Anthropos” = man and woman

The work of the ministry is the work of the Discipleship

- It is house to house
- Not putting faces on, but being with each other as real authentic people

Plan to do the work of the ministry

- Do not worry what ministry gift or calling you are
- Just do the work
- The reality is that there are people you need to speak to about Jesus

Remember the first works – Acts 2:42 – do them and you will be in love with Jesus and all who come in your home they will pick it up

- This is to become your normal lifestyle, not a religious practice
- First works: **"apostles' doctrine, fellowship, breaking bread, prayers"** as reality
- Do not change what you do for visitors

Invite visitors into what you are doing

- We read Scriptures
- We study Scriptures
- We exhort people
- We pray for people
- We share meals with people
- We discuss strategy with people for how to reach others

***"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of
YAHWEH, as the waters cover the sea"***

Habakkuk 2:14!