

THINGS

NEW

AND

OLD

Teaching Session Notes taken from January 2021

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 2021.

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. All the sessions from the school are available on You Tube and Spreaker, and can be accessed from RMA website.

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Revival Ministries Australia
An apostolic ministry to the nations**

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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Revival Ministries Australia, PO Box. 2718, TOOWOOMBA Q.4350,
Ph. +61 46130633

Location address: SHILOH Centre, 19 Russell St. Toowoomba, AUSTRALIA

Email: rma@revivalministries.org.au
Website: www.revivalministries.org.au

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A MEASURE OF REVIVAL

Jesus is with us till the end of the age as we go about the work of making disciples –
Matthew 28:19-20

The theme of this School is **“Things new and old” – Matthew 13:52**

This will fully equip us, joining together things that are old with the things that are new

We are in a time that is charged with God’s purpose – a ‘kairos’ time, an appointed time

Many in the church world today do not even know who Jesus is

We are in a new season – God has granted us a measure of revival!

Ezra 9:8-9

- We have been granted grace from Yahweh (translated “LORD” in NKJV, which is a bad translation as Yahweh does not mean “Lord” – YHWH refers to the “Eternal One”)
- Ezra was in personal communication with the Eternal God
- God was showing mercy to His people in the sight of the Persian Kings
- “to revive us, to repair the house of God, to rebuild its ruins and to give us a wall...”

“Revival” – some history

- a local revival in Toowoomba started in 1995
- Started with a small group coming to wait on God
- This revival led Paul and others to step out and begin “Revival Ministries Australia” in 1998
- God used that revival to open us up to receive the apostolic restoration that is happening now
- In early 20th Century, a revival broke out in Wales, many powerful manifestations of the Holy Spirit – it affected the whole of Wales, crime went way down
- That revival came and went quickly but had a powerful impact
- The Azusa Street Revival in 1906 – the “Pentecostal Revival” – AOG, Four Square and many Pentecostal churches came out of this revival

What was God restoring in the revival and why do we want one today?

We want a time of refreshing/revival – **Acts 3:19**

- Send us a time of refreshing – a measure of revival in our day
- Let the revival God brings us, usher us into the purpose of God in our time and in our generation

“Grace has been shown” – Ezra 9:8

a) Grace

- **Ephesians 2:8** – by grace we are saved through faith...it is the gift of God
- The key to salvation is in experiencing the grace of God – grace leads us to faith
- God will give us grace if we ask Him for help
- The result of grace is that it leads us to faith – faith also leads us to grace
- **Ephesians 1:5-6** – to the praise of the glory of His grace by which He made us accepted in the Beloved
- Being “adopted” (placed into sonship) as sons is a work that brings glory to His grace, a huge amount of grace is released to bring us into sonship, acknowledging we are sons of God
- We had a revival of “sonship” in the early 2000s

“to leave us a remnant”

b) Remnant

- the people of God at the time were still in bondage and Ezra was praying that God would save a remnant
- **Romans 9:27** – the remnant (the leftover group, the minority) will be saved
- **Romans 11:1** – Paul the apostle was part of the “remnant”
- The remnant are those Jews and Gentiles who believe in Jesus Christ
- **Romans 11:4** – in times of Elijah running away from Jezebel when he believed he was the only one left but God said, “I have reserved...7000”
- **V.5** – the remnant are the chosen ones – those who follow Jesus, receiving and believing in Him and obeying what they hear Him say
- **Revival is you believing and receiving Jesus Christ, being baptised, and filled with Holy Spirit so you can walk with God wherever you go**
- The Remnant is a leftover group, not a majority, but a people who have made up their minds, committed and walking by faith
- If you walk in that way you will find others on the same path
- Confirm in your heart that you are in the remnant – be like the woman who clung to Jesus’ garment – **Matt.9:20-21**
- **Jeremiah 31:7b** – YHWH save Your people, the remnant of Israel

“give us a peg in the holy place”

c) a Peg

Zechariah 10:4

- From Him (YHWH) comes the Cornerstone
- From Him (YHWH) the Tent Peg

The Tent Peg and the Cornerstone are linked together

Isaiah 22:23

- In the context of Shebna and Eliakim – Eliakim was raised up by God and appointed by God, an apostolic type, a type of Jesus the Messiah

- "I will fasten as a peg in a secure place, and He will become a glorious throne"
- **V.24** – all the glory belongs to this "peg" (**Is.54:2**)
- The Peg is in the holy place – not the outer court
- **1 Peter 2:9** – a chosen generation...**a peculiar/special people**, His jewels

"Enlighten our eyes"

d) Enlighten

Ephesians 1:17-18 – That God would "enlighten the eyes of our understanding"

- We are to pray this so we can know by revelation and understanding the glorious riches of His inheritance in us the saints
- **Eph.1:19-23** – we are to know this mystery, by revelation, by having the eyes of our understanding being enlightened
- Our prayers are like incense filling up bowls that finally get poured out when the bowl is full
- **Jeremiah 1:11-13** – God was training this young prophet to "see" in the Spirit
- Jeremiah could see
- God will be directing us more and more through dreams and visions
- If you do not understand the dream or vision, bring it to the saints so it can be interpreted in the counsel of the Body, and seek God
- **Job 42:5** – I heard about You God, but now my eyes see You!

"to give us a measure of revival in our bondage"

e) A measure of Revival

Acts 3:19

- repent and be converted...times of refreshing come from the presence of the Lord
- those "times of refreshing" are measures of revival
- they come from the Presence of the Lord
- In KJV it is "a little reviving"
- A little revival from God is so immense
- God is not like man – Man was made in the "similitude" (likeness) of God, not the other way around
- God is God – His "little" is immense to us
- **Ephesians 2:10** – We are His workmanship, there are good works prepared for us to walk in
- "**measure**" – little, a small portion
- "**reviving**" – reviving, revival, preservation, sustenance, the quick (**Heb.4:12**)
- **Romans 8:11** – the Spirit of God will quicken your mortal body

"God extended mercy"

f) Mercy

- **Hebrews 4:16**
- We come to the throne of Grace and obtain Mercy to help in time of need
- We need grace and mercy

- Mercy – covers sins of the past
- Grace – helps us walk into the future in God’s purpose
- We are no longer slaves, we are free men

The result of a little reviving – Ezra 9:9

"to revive us, to repair (enabling us to destroy, throw down, overthrow and build and plant – Jer.1:10) the house of God, to rebuild its ruins and to give us a wall..."

[A recommendation – **Matt.6:6** – go into your room, shut your door (turn off your mobile phone), and pray to your Father who is in the secret place (God is in the secret place waiting for you to meet Him), will reward you openly]

1) To revive us!

2) To repair the house of God

- The church of Jesus Christ needs serious repairing
- There needs to be a rooting out, destruction, throwing down before we can “build and plant” – **Jer.1:10**
- Dead religious service puts a stop on things like “hospitality” and honouring others and showing respect
- The church needs to be delivered from doctrines, dogmas and traditions that are all manmade
- The church is to be making known who Jesus is and laying foundations (**Heb.6:1-3**)
- The name of Jesus is so important – do the preachers you listen to talk about Jesus
- There needs to be the recognition and receiving of the five ministry gifts of **Ephesians 4:8-13** in order to grow to maturity
- They must be free to do the work of the ministry till the church is walking in perfection and maturity – no longer children (**Eph.4:14**)

3) Rebuild its ruins

- It does not assume that the foundations have been destroyed; but the foundations need to be attended to
- Jesus raised up 12 apostles
- Look for the ministries Jesus has given
- **Matt.16:16** – Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God – this Rock (the revelation of who Jesus is) is what the church is built on
- **Ephesians 2:20** – the foundation of God’s house is the ministries of New Testament apostles and prophets who are laying the foundation of Jesus Christ (**1 Cor. 3:11**)
- **Hebrews 5:11-6:3** – Paul wanted to share deep things about Melchizedek but said he could not because they were dull of hearing and immature
- we need to grow up from milk to more solid food, built on the right foundations

4) To give us a wall

"Wall" – a 'circumvallation', an enclosure, being surrounded by a wall, a safe place, a wall of protection

- The wall protects us from the enemy and gives a safe place to live in

Nehemiah was commissioned to build the wall around the city of Jerusalem

Ezekiel 22:30 - God sought for a man to make a wall

- God could not find a man

God, grant to us a measure of revival!

THE APOSTOLIC VISION

We are in days of glory, refreshing and revival.

Jesus lived in days of oppression – but He was free

Sons of God are coming forth in the nations to walk as Jesus walked

Habakkuk 2:1-3 - Habakkuk had questions but he waited for God to answer him

God said:

1. Write the vision – God is working His eternal purpose
2. Make it plain on tablets – that he may run who reads it. God wants you to run. The apostolic vision releases energy in you to fulfil His purpose.
3. Though it tarries, wait for it, because it will surely come, it will not tarry. [Day of Pentecost – they tarried, and suddenly the Holy Spirit came].

This vision is the hope and purpose of the gospel.

1) The Apostolic Vision is to fill the earth with the knowledge of the glory

Hab.2:14 – the earth WILL be filled with the knowledge of the glory of YAHWEH.

- A promise for the EARTH to be filled ...
- *'filled'* means: to be filled, to fill up, to be full, to fulfill, - filling something to the brim, thoroughly saturated!
- (**Num.14:21** – the earth will be filled with the God's glory)

Gen.1:28 – God's eternal plan "be fruitful and multiply; **fill the earth** and subdue it; have dominion over it".

- The earth filled with sons, people in the image and likeness of God. (**Gal.4:4-5**)

2) Christ is to fill all things through His church.

Eph.1:22-23 – the One who is Head over all things, has been given to us, the church.

- The church is His body, the body of Christ. The place where Christ dwells in a body. The body is the fullness of Him, who fills all in all.
- The presence of Christ is to fill all things [every place] through His body the Church
- We are the presence of Him in the earth – the body of Him filling the all in all.
- We are the extension of Him on the earth

Eph.3:8-11 – preach the unsearchable riches of Christ ... to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers

- This is accordance with God's eternal purpose
- The church enforcing the victory that Christ has already accomplished.

- This is the apostolic vision!
- Your presence makes a difference wherever you are.

Church is not the building! We are the body of Him carrying His presence wherever we go.

3) **It is a people filled with all the fullness of God**

Eph.3:18-19 – able to comprehend ... to know the love of God ... that you may be filled with all the fullness of God

- *fullness* means: full number, full complement, full measure, copiousness, plenitude, that which has been completed.

Col.2:9-10 – “in Christ dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily”

- We are complete in Him
- We are filled with all the fullness of God by having Christ dwelling in us

4) **The Doctrine is to fill everywhere and prevail**

Acts 5:28 – “you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine”

- What we believe must be according to the Scripture
- Let the Bible speak and let revelation come
- This is what we are to do, fill every place with the doctrine

Acts 2:42 – the Apostles’ Doctrine – one of the four first works of the early church

- Doctrine shapes what we believe and how we behave
- What we teach; what we believe is extremely important
- The doctrine of the apostles ‘turned the world upside down’

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

Matt.28:19-20 – this is the apostles’ doctrine

- teaching everything that Jesus commanded them

Acts 19:20 – “So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed”

- **v.10** everyone had heard the word of the Lord Jesus.
- ‘mightily’ – is the Greek word *'kratos'*
- This word was the dominant doctrine in that area, it was governing Asia;
- because it captures the heart;
- it is good doctrine;
- this is the true doctrine we are to live by.

5) **Nations become obedient to the faith through grace and apostleship**

Rom.1:5 “we have received grace and apostleship for obedience of the faith among all nations”

- God’s plan through the gospel is to bring nations to obedience of the faith
- The earth needs obedient disciples

- Teach people to obey heaven while they are on the earth
- It is through grace – the empowerment of God
- Apostleship is the commission, the right to go forth in the authority of Christ.
- **Matt.28:18-20** - Jesus had all authority, he sends His apostles in that same authority
- We need to know our authority in Christ to GO!

6) **The kingdom of God is to fill the earth**

Daniel Chapter 2 - Nebuchadnezzar's vision

v.35 "the stone that struck the image become a great mountain and filled the whole earth"

Daniel says: **v.44** – ***"the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever"***

- This is God's eternal purpose, the apostolic vision!
- (**Rev.11:15** – the kingdoms of this world belong to God)
- The kingdom of God is not in decline – it is increasing

1Corinthians 15:25 – "He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet"

- This is the work of the church, His body
- **v.28** – He has done this work.

Let us be about the work of fulfilling the apostolic vision!

GOD'S INTENTION

The intention of God begins with knowing who God is.

Foundational to our knowledge of God is the revelation that:

- God is our Father – God is the Father of us;
- Jesus is our Lord – Jesus is the Lord of us

DISCOVERING GOD'S INTENTION

- God's intention is summarily presented to us in the amazing passage of **Ephesians 3:8-12** but to understand God's intention, let us look at the whole of Chapter 3

Introduction

v.8 - Paul had a good estimation of himself – “less than the least of all the saints”; he was truly humble

- Grace was given to him to preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Messiah/Christ

v.9 – God wants us to see the “fellowship of the mystery”

- we are to dig into the “mysteries”:
 - the mystery of the gospel (**Eph.6:19**),
 - the mystery of His will (**Eph.1:9**),
 - the mysteries are concerning the hidden wisdom of God (**1 Cor. 2:6-7**)

v.10 – Through the church, God has intended to reveal His manifold wisdom to principalities and powers in the heavenly places. What an amazing insight into God's intention

There is an invisible realm

We must have a supernatural experience, that is, to be born again, to experience the supernatural kingdom of God (**Jn.3:3-6**)

The rulers in the unseen realm will be displaced by the church that knows the mysteries, the manifold wisdom of God

- Those powers will become submissive to the church that is making known Messiah [translated Christ]

FINDING GOD'S INTENTION IN EPHESIANS 3:1-21

A prisoner of the Lord

v.1 - Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus for you nations/Gentiles

- Paul was literally a prisoner when he wrote this letter, but it is good for each of us to become a prisoner of Christ
- We are to be prisoners to His will in our life, His calling in our life, and our role in His church, His Body

A dispensation of Grace

Eph.3:2 – Paul is a gift to us - the nations (**Gal.2:8**)

- it is according to the dispensation of the grace of God
- "dispensation" = a pre-ordained amount of God's grace that enables Paul to bring the knowledge of the mystery to the Gentiles/nations
- **Colossians 1:25** – Paul became a minister according to the **stewardship** (similar to "dispensation" – an amount of grace given to make known the mysteries to the church) from God given to him for us,
- to fulfill the Word of God, the mystery...

The Mystery of Christ

v.3-4 - Paul is writing concerning the mystery of Christ

- this mystery comes by **revelation (Eph.1:17-18)**
- God will quicken revelation to your understanding and you will suddenly know;
- it will change your life

- **Matthew 16:15-18** – Peter had a revelation from the Father in heaven that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the Living God – and on that Rock (the revelation) Jesus could build His church!
- we are to read and ask God to give understanding

- **Colossians 1:27** – this mystery of Christ is concerning the "riches of His glory" and it is expressed as "Christ in you; the hope of glory"
- (**John 3:5** – the born-again experience is the entry into the kingdom of God, this happens by believing in Jesus and receiving Him – **John 1:12**)
- Christ comes into our life through being born again, He comes to live on the inside – this is the beginning of experiencing the mystery of Christ in our life

Apostles and Prophets

Eph.3:5 – this mystery was not made known to the sons of men in previous generations

- it has now been revealed by the Spirit
- to God's holy apostles and prophets [clearly this is referring to New Testament prophets who have come to know the mystery of Christ]

- **Ephesians 2:20** – there is a specific New Testament role for apostles and prophets to lay the foundation of Jesus Christ for the New Testament Church, the house of God
- Old Testament prophets prophesied concerning the Christ but did not have the mystery revealed
- we need New Testament apostles and prophets to make known the mysteries
- **1 Timothy 2:5-7** – the truth is that there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, Christ Jesus – God raises up preachers, apostles and teachers to bring this truth

The one body

Eph.3:6 – one aspect of the mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, and members of the same Body (with the Jews)

- There is One Body – it not Jew nor Gentile, but we are One body
- we are part of the fellowship of Jew and Gentile in Christ

Paul became a minister by a gift of His grace

v.7 – to be a minister is an amazing thing, God gives to His minister's grace by the effective working of God's power (**Col.1:29**)

- the power of the Word! Paul was a powerful minister of the word by the grace given to him

The unsearchable riches of Christ

v.8 – Paul really humbles himself

- 'less than the least of all the saints'
- we might be a nobody, but when grace is given, we have something valuable to share
- grace to preach (Gk. 'euaggelizo' - "to announce good news/to preach the gospel") the unsearchable riches of Christ
- 'unsearchable' = untraceable, past finding out – but God wants us to know it, trace it and preach it
- it is to preach among the "Gentiles" (Gk. 'ethnos' = nations; in modern usage we could use the word 'nationalities')
- we are to preach among the nations [to every nationality]
- "the unsearchable riches of Christ" – 'Christ' (Gk.) = 'Messiah' (Heb.)
- What does "Christ" mean? It means the Anointed King promised to David (**2 Sam.7:12-13**); the Great Ruler (**Micah 5:2**)

The fellowship of the Mystery

v.9 – to make all to see what is the fellowship of the mystery

- understanding together who Jesus is
- **Acts 2:42** – what was the fellowship they continued in? Being fellows, in the company together with Christ
- 'fellowship' – Gk 'koinonia' – being together
- this mystery has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ (**Jn.1:3; Col.1:16**)
- God hid this mystery in creation, it was in the garden in the tree of life but man did not realize this mystery was there and went astray to the tree of knowledge of good and evil. They did not abide in the word God had given them, and made choices against the will of God
- man looked for the mystery in the wrong place – men look for the supernatural in magic, witchcraft, secret societies, sorcery, drugs etc.
- every generation comes up with another way to enter into the supernatural realm, but not of Christ and the kingdom of God

- This mystery was hidden in Jesus Christ – He is the epiphany [appearance/manifestation] of the tree of life
- Jesus is the tree we are to feed from

Why did God hide this wisdom?

Eph.3:10 – “to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenlies”

- [“manifold” – much or many, God’s wisdom is much varied, many coloured - Word wealth at Eph.3:10 SFLB]
- God created all things through Jesus Christ – **Eph.3:9**
- **Colossians 1:16** – by Him (Jesus) all things were created that are in heaven and on earth; He created the visible and invisible realm
- He created the thrones, dominions, principalities (ruler of a territory) and powers (beings that have authority)
- These beings oppose the church and come against ordinary humans and want to kill them – [God hates murder as it takes away the right of a person to live and get to know God]
- God wants to bring us into the fellowship of the mystery so that the church will show forth the manifold wisdom of God to the invisible powers in the heavenly realm
- We are to know and speak this mystery, and keep doing it so that we all keep coming to the unity of the faith
- God gives us this wisdom of the mystery as we come to maturity in Christ (**1 Cor.2:6-7**) Without this wisdom we can never come to the fulfillment of the glorious mystery of “Christ in us” (**Col.1:27**). God hid His wisdom until His church comes to the maturity of being able to understand the mysteries and to exercise His power and authority in the earth. God is now revealing the mysteries, as His church comes to maturity in the knowledge of His will (**Rom.12:2**)

Already accomplished

v.11 – this mystery is according to God’s eternal purpose which He accomplished through Jesus Christ.

- This purpose is referred to in **Ephesians 1:10**, and it is understood through coming to the knowledge of the mysteries and appreciating the depth and awesomeness of God coming in the flesh in Jesus the Messiah, and providing the atonement for our sins, so that we can enter into the completed work of God in Christ.

v.12 – we come to this knowledge through faith in Him, approaching boldly and being confident that we have access (**Heb.10:19**)

WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE WILL COME INTO THE FULFILMENT OF GOD'S INTENTION?

1) Knowing God as Father

Eph.3:14 It is the people who know God as the "Father of our Lord Jesus Christ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named"

- It is those who are in the family of God
- those who know they are sons

v.15 – belonging to the family

2) Strengthened with might

v.16 a people whom God would grant the riches of glory to be strengthened with might in the inner man by His Spirit

3) Rooted and grounded in faith and love

v.17 - a people who have Christ dwelling in our hearts through faith – we tune in to Christ by exercising faith

- a people who are rooted and grounded in love and the Word

4) Knowing the love of Christ

v.18 - a people who know the love of Christ which passes knowledge

5) Filled with all the fullness of God

v.19 - a people filled with all the fullness of God

- "*fullness*" = full number, full complement, copiousness, plenitude, that which has been completed, describes a ship with full cargo, a town with no empty houses [see word wealth at Eph.3:19 SFLB]
- we are to be filled with all the fullness of God (**Colossians 2:9**). In Christ dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. This is a complete experience in Christ (**Col.2:10**)

Doxology - A doxology is a statement of great praise to our God, often sung.

Ephesians 3:20

- Paul is confident that God will "do exceedingly abundantly above all that we may ask or think"
- And He does that through His mighty power which is already in us.
- God will reveal this glorious people to confound the schemes of the devil
- God will turn all things for His good!

**"to Him [the Father] all glory in the church by Christ Jesus,
to all generations, forever and ever. AMEN" (v.21)**

A NEW CREATION

There are many things in the Scripture that are referred to as 'new'

He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold I make all things new' - Rev.21:5

- What a proclamation from the word of God
- Everything made new
- This a true and faithful statement – this is the word coming from the throne
- **v.6.** John heard it said "it is done" [John 19:30 – Jesus on the cross said 'it is finished', the apostle John was there to hear this statement.]
- Everything of the old, was on Jesus.

God wants us to realise that IT IS DONE! IT IS FINISHED!

- He said 'I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End'
- Because 'it is done' you can have the water of life freely'. You can drink of the river now. [the river was in the Garden]

Hebrews 10:14 – for by one offering Christ has perfected forever those who are being sanctified

- Christ sees us as perfected forever, if you are on the journey of sanctification
- Because you are a new creation. The new creation is perfect and we are growing up into that

- *'new'* means: unused, unworn, fresh, new as in respect to form, not as in regard to age, new substance, uncommon, unprecedented

A fresh call to evangelism

2 Corinthians 5:14 – 'the love of Christ compels us'

- we are to do the work of evangelism
- A fresh call to do the work of the evangelist – speak boldly the word
- We can do this because of the love of God that compels us
- Perfect love casts out all fear, so we do not need to fear
- *Compel* means: to hold together, to grip tightly

- if Christ died for all, then that means all died in Adam, when Adam sinned
- Someone needs to come and wake up people, to raise them from the dead.
- We need something new

v.15 – He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again

- we live for a cause now; we live for Him who died for us and rose again
- that is the reason we preach the gospel

Regard no one according to the flesh

2 Cor.5:16 – from now on we regard no one according to the flesh – everyone is under the same penalty

- all need to hear the gospel
- don't look at race, tribe, male female etc
- we see people who are 'dead' and need to be woken up
- Paul knew Christ as He was in the flesh, but 'now we know Him thus no longer'
- Jesus is the Messiah – we are not to know Him after the flesh; there is something new
- He came with a new government; He came with something new

1 Timothy 3:16 – “great is the mystery of godliness”

- **God was manifested in the flesh!**
- We know Him as God

Romans 9:5 – “Christ the eternally blessed God” – this is who Christ is

In Christ you are a new creation

2 Cor.5:17 – “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;”

- You now have a new nature, you are a new creation, you no longer identify with your old nature.
- You are not in Adam now, you are in Christ now
- 2 groups of people now: those who are in Christ, those who are in the old nature

Baptised into Christ - Romans 6:3-5

- **v.3** baptised into His death
- **v.4** buried through baptism into death – Christ took everything of the old nature, in baptism we unit with that/agree with that
- Now we walk in newness of life – this is the new creation, it is in Christ
- We are living now in a whole new creation – we are a new creation
- We have to learn how to grow up in this new creation
- Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of the mind

Filled with the Holy Spirit

Only the new creation can be filled with the Holy Spirit

- Only the new wine skin can receive the new wine
- The old wine skin is 'man made'
- We are under a new heavens and new earth
- Those who are led by the Spirit are the sons of God

Eph.2:1-6 - You have been made alive, no longer governed by the powers of the world

- **v.6** now we are raised up and seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus

Looking for a new heavens and a new earth - 2 Peter 3:13

- We look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells
- The key characteristic of the new heavens and the new earth is righteousness
- We are to walk as new creations, no longer in the 'old man'

Created for good works – Ephesians 2:10

- we are God's workmanship [God's artistic design, poetry] created in Christ Jesus for good works which come out of the new creation. Doing what we were created for
- The good works come out of us being created in Christ Jesus to be who we are in the new creation, specific works that He created for us to do

Ephesians 2:11-12 – five things that we once were:

1. without Christ
2. aliens from the commonwealth of Israel
3. strangers
4. had no hope
5. without God

v.13 – but now in Christ we have all these five things

Walk in the new creation man

v.14 – He is our peace and has made both ONE. The Gospel is the answer for everything.

- Do not try to fix the old, but come into the new creation. Leave the old behind. The middle wall of separation has been broken down

v.15 – 'having abolished in His flesh the enmity of the law – so as to create in Himself one new man'

- the corporate man is a whole new creation
- there is a new creation, one new man
- it is not Jew, it is not Gentile, it is one new man – coming forth, being reconciled to God through the cross

The cross is the doorway to the new creation – Galatians 6:14-16

- Through the cross you are crucified to the world, it is the doorway into the new creation. We walk in a whole new realm, it happens through baptism, we have crossed over
- It has happened – now we are in the kingdom of God
- Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation
- The Israel of God is a new creation.
- We are to walk in newness of life.

In Christ we are a new creation!

BEHOLD I MAKE **ALL THINGS NEW**

GOD IS DOING A NEW THING

Isaiah 42:8-9

- I am Yahweh, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another
- God's glory will not be given to anybody or any other god or carved image
- New things He declares, God will tell us of them before they happen

Isaiah 43:18

- Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old
- Do not remember the things I have done in the past
- "I will do a new thing"
- A road in the wilderness, rivers in the desert

Revelation 21:5

- Behold, I make all things new
- These words are true and faithful - "It is done!"

The fulfilment or start of the New Creation - Matthew 1:18-25

- A new thing was that a virgin conceived and bore a Son
- This was absolutely new – it had never happened before
- He would be called "Immanuel" – God with us
- A Child conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of a woman
- The earthly lineage was back to David
- But His origin, His roots were from Everlasting, from heaven, He was God
- There had never been a Man like this in the earth before – God in the flesh

The Origin of this Child - Micah 5:2

- Out of Bethlehem, Judah, this Ruler will come forth
- His origin is from Everlasting (the days of eternity)
- This was the beginning of the Creation of God – the New Creation

Understanding this Man and what we are becoming - 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

- All the dealings of Israel with God were in the natural
- The natural is first, then the spiritual
- Adam was of dust; the second Man was the Lord from heaven
- We have borne the image of the man of dust; we shall also bear the image of the heavenly
- Jesus is the Firstborn among many brethren (**Romans 8:29**)

THIS NEW CREATION WAS PROPHESED IN MANY WAYS

1. The Servant - Isaiah 41:8-10

- You, Israel, are My Servant
- Not a servant like a slave, but an honoured position
- Israel is called the Servant

v.14-15 – a threshing sledge

Isaiah 42:19 - The Servant (Israel) is blind and deaf

Isaiah 42:1-4 - My Servant, whom I uphold...I put My Spirit upon Him

- This is different
- He will bring justice to the nations/Gentiles
- This Servant is different – The Messiah, Jesus
- Israel was His Servant, now Jesus is the servant

Isaiah 42:9 - These are new things

- There will be a new Servant
- Israel was always failing

Isaiah 49:3-4 - You are My Servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified

- **v.5** - His Servant (Messiah/Jesus) was formed from the womb to bring Jacob back to God
- **v.6** - not only Jacob but also a "light to the Gentiles" and "salvation to the ends of the earth"
- God is prophesying a new thing
- Servant would raise up the tribes of Jacob – Jesus chose 12 apostles/disciples (1st the natural, then the spiritual)
- Jesus is the New Servant raising up a new people

2. The Servant and the Branch

Zechariah 3:8 - I am bringing forth My Servant, the Branch

- The Servant is also the Branch
- The prophets prophesied a new branch

Jeremiah 11:15-17

- God wanted Israel to be a "Green Olive Tree, Lovely and of Good Fruit"
- Because of Israel's continual disobedience and worship of false gods they were judged

A Vine full of branches

Ezekiel 19:10-14 - The mother is likened to a vine

- Strong branches are likened to sceptres for ruling (kings)
- She was planted by waters, fruitful
- But then planted in the wilderness with no branch for ruling

Jesus is the true vine

Jesus said, "I AM the True Vine" – **John 15:1**

- Where Israel failed, Jesus succeeded – Jesus is the New Vine

Jeremiah 2:20-22

- God had planted Israel as a "noble vine, a seed of highest quality"
- Then He calls Israel a "degenerate plant of an alien vine"
- He wanted Israel to be a noble vine but Israel failed
- There would be a new vine – Jesus is the True Vine!

A Branch from the root

Isaiah 11:1-2

- A Branch will grow out of his (Jesse's) root
- There would be a new Rod (lit. Shoot)
- From the lineage of Jesse will come a Branch
- This was all new

Zechariah 3:8 - My Servant, the Branch

A Branch of Righteousness

Jeremiah 23:5-6

- I will raise to David a Branch of Righteousness; this will be a King
- The name of this Branch will be called "Yahweh (the LORD) our righteousness"
- A new branch

Jeremiah 33:14-16 - God will perform the good thing

- A Branch of righteousness risen to David
- Jerusalem, She, will be called "Yahweh (the LORD) our righteousness"
- This Branch has grown, has branched out
- This is a New Branch

Ezekiel 19:14 - Fire has come out from the rod of her branches

Ezekiel 18:30-32

- Repent and turn from all your transgressions
- Get yourself a new heart and a new spirit
- Yahweh did not want them to die – He prophesied a new thing

A Man called the BRANCH

Zechariah 6:12

- Behold the Man, whose name is the Branch
- From His place, He shall Branch out
- He shall build the Temple of Yahweh
- The Tabernacle and Solomon's Temple served their purpose but this is a new Temple to be Built
- It would embrace all mankind

- This Branch shall bear the glory
- He shall be a priest on His Throne
- This Man shall build the true Temple

The vine is to bear fruit

Isaiah 4:2 - The Branch of Yahweh shall be beautiful and glorious

- The fruit of the earth will be excellent and appealing

Isaiah 5:1-7 - God expected His Vine, His people to bring forth good grapes

- God did everything He could for His Vineyard to produce good fruit
- God will judge His Vineyard, take down its hedges, burn it, there will be briers and thorns, no rain
- The vineyard is the house of Israel
- He looked for justice but there was only oppression

Hosea 14:4-8 - God will heal Israel's backsliding and love His people freely

- A wonderful hope of Israel being restored through this new thing
- Branches shall spread; Grow like a vine

Revelation 3:14 - Jesus is the "Beginning of the Creation of God"

3. Roots

Isaiah 11:1 - The Branch shall grow out of Jesse's "roots"

- Who is the Root?

Revelation 5:5 - Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David has prevailed

- Jesus is the Root of David

Revelation 22:16 - The Root of David, the Bright and Morning Star

- "I AM the Root and Offspring of David"

THERE IS A NEW SERVANT, A NEW VINE, A NEW ROOT, A NEW BRANCH

Isaiah 53:2

- He would grow up before Yahweh like a "tender plant"
- "as a Root out of dry ground"
- The Baby born in Bethlehem was that "Tender Plant" – a new creation, a new plant, a new vine
- Forget the Former things – I am about to do something totally New

Ephesians 2:14-15

- Christ Himself is our Peace
- He has made both (Jew and Gentile) One
- This was something new – middle wall of separation broken down
- What God was doing had to be "out of this world" – from heaven
- Jesus abolished the enmity between the two

- He has created in Himself One New Man from the two
- Now both are reconciled to God in One body through the Cross
- Now we both have access by One Spirit to the Father (**v.18**)
- This is a New Creation
- We are now learning to put on the new man

Ephesians 4:11-13

- Five ministries given so we can come to a "Perfect Man"
- We can only be perfect if we are in the Perfect One, the Messiah

v.23-24 - a be renewed in the spirit of our minds

- there is a new thinking to take place, from heaven
- put on the new man who was created according to God in true righteousness and holiness
- this is a heavenly creation

2 Corinthians 5:15-17

- We now live for Him – we live for Jesus!
- From the resurrection we now regard no one according to the flesh
- The type and shadow have gone, the substance, Christ, has come
- If anyone is in Christ – He is a New Creation
- We are not a new creation by remaining in a denomination or being a Jew
- It is only in Christ that we are a new creation
- Everything under the Old Covenant has passed away, all things have become New

**We are born again from above by the Holy Spirit,
so God can come and live this new life through us**

Nothing old left in this New Creation

MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM

Jesus often spoke in Parables

"Parable" – the type of language Jesus spoke to the people and His disciples

- Specifically, for a certain group of people and not for the whole world, the remnant church, and you and I who are led by the Spirit can understand His Word
- A short and simple story that explains an idea or a moral truth or a Scriptural principle
- Within the parables Jesus spoke in a metaphorical manner, in pictures
- Underlying the metaphorical manner is reality but to outsiders it is just a picture
- **Metaphor** – speaking in a figurative sense, non-literal sometimes but pertaining to something real, e.g., trees in the Bible can be referring to God's people, the Messiah etc.
- There are many parables, some say there are only eight in Matthew 13, but there are others in other gospels

The Parables in Matthew 13

- In **Matthew 13** the parables are all linked to each other even though different pictures presented
- All the parables in Matthew start with the sower and end with the reaping
- In between we find some hidden treasures, words and things Jesus wanted us to see, especially for His disciples to see

"disciple" is a disciplined person under the teachings of Christ

- Jesus wants us to hear and to see
- These parables are as relevant today as when Jesus first spoke them

The Parable of the Sower

Matthew 13:3

- Jesus spoke many things to them in parables – many things
- Behold = listen up people, there is something you need to hear
- A sower went out to sow
- **v.4-8** – Jesus tells the story

Jesus wants us to 'hear'

v.9 – He who has ears to hear, let him hear – this is the crux

- this simple story about farming is speaking about something more than just farming,
- there is a message to catch within this

The Purpose of Parables

v.10 – the disciples asked ‘why do You speak to them in parables?’

v.11 - because it has been given to you (disciples) to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven

- this story is actually about the kingdom of heaven, about another “world”
- forget the earthly understanding about this, we are in kingdom territory
- “kingdom” – in English is two words “king” and “domain/s”
- those who are in the domain of the King will have understanding
- but it has not been given to them [those outside the kingdom]

v.14 – in “them” the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled – “seeing they do not see, hearing they do not hear” (**v.13**)

- hearing but no understanding
- seeing but not perceiving
- when we know the depth of the word of God we are healed (**v.15**)

v.16 - Blessed are your (the disciples) eyes for they see

- Jesus is taking this out of the natural so as to see and hear with spiritual eyes and spiritual ears
- many prophets and righteous people desired to see and hear these things
- there is a big shift for us to enter into
- there was a big shift to understand the depths of the kingdom of heaven

Jesus spoke of mysteries – to make them known

v.34-35 - Jesus spoke to the multitudes in parables

- He only spoke in parables to them
- there were things Jesus spoke that He only wanted some people to hear
- Jesus will utter things kept secret (mysteries) from the foundation of the world
- bringing out of the Old Testament a whole new understanding to those who have ears to hear

Understanding the Parable of the wheat and the tares

v.36 - the disciples now want understanding of the parable of the wheat and the tares

- “explain to us”

3 Common themes in these parables

- The Man – The Sower
- The Seed – The Sons of the kingdom
- The Field – the World

v.24 - ‘the kingdom is like a man’ - who is this Man?

v.37 - The One who sows the good seed is the Son of Man (Jesus)

v.38 - the Field is the World

- what is the World? It is humanity, the people in the world
- the Son of Man will sow into the field of humanity, the world
- the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom
- the tares are the sons of the devil (wicked one)

v.39-40 - the harvest is the end of the age

- we, as sons of the kingdom, are sown into the world and bring forth fruit, to bring the field of humanity to Christ

We who are born again, are the sons of the kingdom, being sons of the King

Many more sons will be brought forth out of the field through the Word that is in us

The Parable of the Hidden Treasure

v.44 - the kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field which a man...

- we have a man and a field
- he goes and sells all he has to buy the field
- the Man is Christ
- the field is the world
- why would Jesus want to hide the treasure in the field (the world)
- He sells all and "buys that field"
- which man would see humanity as the most important treasure and be willing to sell all to buy humanity?

We are the treasure that Jesus bought – with His blood, with His own death on the Cross He bought the field, the treasure

- the Man, Jesus the Christ, is the One who sees the preciousness and value of sinful humanity and He becomes the field by taking on the sin of humanity
- Jesus became part of the field, born of a woman (**Gal.4:4**)
- God sold all He had that was precious to Him because the most precious thing to Him was humanity
- this word is Spirit and it is life
- God in Christ came into the world and purchased
- God was always in that field, but hidden, being seen throughout the Old Testament with the saints
- the mystery kept hidden from ages and generations but now revealed
- the parable is concerning the gospel

God will sow, and God will reap

- He will reap good seed and bad seed and separate (the Parable of the Dragnet and Wheat and Tares – at the end God will sort it out)
- the one mandate we have as good seed is to produce more seed, to unravel the mysteries for others to grow

The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price

v.45 - from v.44 we know what the treasure was and what it represented

- it was of "great" price
- "Again", the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls
- now we have a merchant - a man
- we have pearls – plural, more than just a singular treasure
- He found "one pearl of great price"
- He went out and sold all that had and bought the pearl
- who or what is this pearl that is so valuable?

Who purchased the pearl? - Jesus purchased it!

- the Pearl is the Bride – far more precious than humanity in the field
- there are many in the field of humanity, He was seeking beautiful pearls (plural)
- But He found One pearl of great price – this one pearl is made up of many who were in the field but have become the Bride, being One with Christ

This is the church – He loved her and gave Himself for her (**Eph.5:25**)

- the ones who have not received Christ and the depth of the Holy Spirit are blind to these things and Jesus wanted it this way
- we, the church, the Bride of Christ, are most valuable asset that Christ has!

**All of us have a job to do
It does not matter if we produce 30, 60 or 100.
We are to produce. Branches produce fruit.
God wants fruit.**

THE CONSCIENCE

God created us with a Conscience

- Greek S.C.#4893 – *the faculty by which we apprehend the will of God; by which we know the truth.* God designed us to be governed by the conscience.
- It is a faculty of our spirit,
- Designed to govern our lives
- Gives us a moral consciousness
- The place in our spirit where we know things – what is right and wrong, what pleases God and what doesn't

Romans 2:15-16 - 'their conscience also bearing witness'

- Through the gospel God judges everything – the secrets of men

John 8:1-12 – the story of the woman caught in adultery

- the woman was brought to Jesus, and they sought to trap Him
- **v.7** – he who is without sin cast the first stone – a word of wisdom
- **v.9** – 'those who heard being convicted by their conscience ...'
- speak a word that will convict the conscience
- '**convicted**' Greek SC#1651 – *admonished, refuted, brought to light, exposed, chided, reproved, chastened*
- The result of being convicted in their conscience was a change in their behaviour; our course of action – they all left

We are to commend ourselves to everyone's conscience

2 Cor.4:1-2 – by the manifestation of the truth

- By speaking the truth of the word of God we commend ourselves to the conscience of men

Have a conscience without offence before God

Acts 24:15-16 – Paul speaking in defence before Felix

- Based on his conviction of the resurrection of the dead, he always sought to live without offence towards God and men
- We can have offence towards God – 'God, why did you let that happen?' We can blame God when bad things happen
- We have to deal with this, because God is good and righteous. We may not understand, but it was not God who allowed the bad thing to happen
- [Job is an example]
- God wants us to let go of offence, and just trust Him in everything

And without offence towards men:

- It can be easy to carry offence towards men
- Deal with offence, it can only block us in our relationship with God

- Do not carry offence – it will hinder us
- Pray for those who have offended us – to have a vision of the glory helps us to let everything else go

Doctrine is important to our conscience

1 Timothy 1:3-5 – teach no other doctrine

- The purpose of the commandment – to teach no other doctrine – is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith
- The doctrine will produce in us a 'good conscience'
- Love from a good conscience

Do not sear your conscience

1 Timothy 4:1-2 – 'some will depart from the faith ... having their own conscience seared with a hot iron'

- No longer speaking the truth, lying, beware of religiously speaking denominational doctrine
- The more you speak the truth of the word, and come to know the truth, your conscience will let you know if something is not according to the truth of the word

Submit to governing authorities because of conscience sake

Romans 13:1-5

- You must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake
- We need to listen to our conscience – that 'still small voice'

CLEANSING OUR CONSCIENCE

1. Having a perfect conscience – Hebrew 9:7-9

- The first tabernacle was symbolic, but we are in the days of the true
- The old system could not perfect us in regard to conscious
- But now in the new covenant we can have a perfect conscience
- Perfect = complete, whole
- What was symbolic now takes form, Jesus is able to perfect our conscience

1 Cor.8:7-10 (also Chap.10:25-30)

- For some their conscience is weak and defiled
- We need to be sensitive of such ones, not to make them stumble
- But Jesus wants to bring us to maturity and perfect our conscience
- Through the offering of Jesus, we can now have a perfect conscience
- His Spirit working in our lives to show us what is right and wrong

2. No more consciousness of sins - Heb.10:1-2

- Animal sacrifices were insufficient
- Now we have the blood of Jesus that totally removes our sins
- We can confess our sins to Jesus, bring them into the light, He deals with our sin, then we need have no more consciousness of sin
- We can live free of the consciousness of sin
- We are now 'in Christ'

3. Cleansed from dead works - Heb.9:13-14

- The blood of Christ will cleanse your conscience from dead works, so you can serve the living God
- It is only the blood of Jesus that can cleanse your conscience
- No longer trying to serve God to cleanse our conscience
- Cleansed from doing religious works
- God wants us to have a clear conscience
- **1 Peter 3:20-21** – baptism is not what cleanses our conscience, that is only cleansed by the blood, but baptism releases you into the new life, out of a good conscience that has been cleansed by the blood

4. Sprinkled by from an evil conscience - Heb.10:22

- **(1Pet.1:2, Heb.12:24)**
- Having our hearts sprinkled by the blood
- **Evil** - Greek #4190 – *hurtful, evil in effect or influence, calamitous, diseased, culpable, mischievous, annoying, full of hardships, pressed, harassed, causing pain and trouble.*
- God wants us cleansed from all these things in our conscience
- the only remedy is to have our conscience sprinkled by the blood of Jesus
- It is only the blood of Jesus that can cleanse our conscience.

Let us "*strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men*" - Acts 24:16

BAPTISM, LORD'S TABLE...

There are 2 major ordinances that the church has preserved:

- **Baptism**
 - **the Lord's Table**
-
- **Baptism** involves your physical body; you end up getting wet
 - It impacts you physically, there is physical contact involved
 - It is an experience, the physical and spiritual engaging together

 - **The Lord's Table** – you have to eat and drink, it is physical, it is an experience, it involves your body
 - Take some ordinary daily bread and some ordinary daily drink
 - The important thing is to eat and drink – we physically engage with the spiritual

There are 3 other things that also involve a physical action

- **Tithing** – you have to physically get out your wallet and give some money
- **Genesis 14:20** – Abram gave a tithe of all he had to Melchizedek
- **Genesis 28:20** – Jacob tithed of all he would receive

- **Laying on of hands** – it is physical, it is to release the baptism of the Holy Spirit, healing and spiritual release

- **Anointing with oil** – linked with laying on of hands

Being born again is a physical reality

- 1 Corinthians 15:1-4** - You are saved by receiving the preaching of the gospel
- **v.3** - Paul delivered that which he received... (like in **1 Cor.11:23** where Paul "received from the Lord" the Lord's Table)
 - this gospel came from the Lord, not from the other apostles
- i.** Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures – believe this and you are getting saved
 - ii.** that Christ was buried - **v.4**
 - iii.** Christ rose again on the third day according to the Scriptures
 - iv.** He was seen by many
-
- The gospel is a spiritual reality that had a physical actuality
 - Christ physically had to die for our sins on the cross
 - He physically rose from the dead
 - Peter actually saw Jesus physically alive after He rose
 - This is the gospel we are to preach on the streets and everywhere

1. **BAPTISM - a necessary foundation**

Matthew 28:18-20

- Baptism is a requirement; we are to baptise disciples in the name

Mark 16:16 - Jesus commanded baptism as part of salvation

Acts 8:26-40 - Philip and the Ethiopian man

- After preaching Jesus from the Scriptures the Ethiopian man wanted baptism
- What we experience physically has a spiritual reality and outworking
- We are immersed in water, going under in the name of Jesus and that has a spiritual reality to it

Romans 6:3-5 - Baptism is into Christ Jesus, into His death

- Buried with Christ Jesus through baptism
- A physical act you did to identify with the death of Christ
- The glory of the Father raised Jesus from the dead and the same glory works in you now to walk in newness of life
- Death, burial and resurrection involved in baptism
- This is the gospel!

Actual act of baptism is only required once, the spiritual resurrection experienced in baptism is to be renewed every day

- The reality of baptism is to be taught and lived out daily

Hebrews 5:12-6:3 is a very important passage that we all need to be able to instruct and lay the foundations presented there

- I was baptised into Jesus Christ
- Baptism means immersion
- I was baptised into His death
- I was buried with Him through baptism
- I was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father
- Now I walk in newness of life, resurrection life

2. **THE TABLE OF THE LORD**

1 Corinthians 11:23

When Jesus had given thanks, He took bread and broke and said, "Take, eat"

- Take the bread, "This is My body..."
- Different to baptism, the Scripture invites to take of the bread and the cup as often as we eat and drink
- Jesus took the cup after Supper
- As often as you drink it, do it in remembrance of Me
- We normally have; breakfast, lunch, dinner
- In the life of many traditional Australian families the breakfast and dinner table are a time where the whole family is together
- The physical service Jesus gives takes on an enormous spiritual reality when we do it by faith
- The Bread represents the broken body
- The Cup represents the Blood, the life, the resurrection life

- We proclaim the death of the Lord till He comes (**1 Cor.11:26**)
- Through the Lord's Table we regularly proclaim His death, His resurrection, His coming and the Bread and the Cup

Bringing souls to Jesus through the Table of the Lord

- Preach the gospel at the Table of the Lord
- Those who believe can partake of the Table
- People can be saved through the Lord's Table
- We are seeing further into the eternal purpose of God, into the revelation of the mystery
- We come to Redemption through the Table of the Lord
- Come to the Table regularly, make it your practice
- Do not be religious but let's do it as often as you wish
- Proclaim His death, Proclaim His coming

Acts 2:42,46 – it was a daily practice, house to house to break bread (having the Lord's Table)

- Lord Jesus I take and eat the bread, Your Body
- I drink of the cup and I remember You
- Your death, Your suffering, Your resurrection, Your Coming
- I renew this Covenant

3. TITHING

Matthew 23:23

- Tithing is a response of faith to the revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ
- Never call God's Tithe "stingy"
- In the context of **Matthew 23:1** Jesus is speaking to the multitudes and disciples
- In **v.23** there is another group of interested people, the Scribes and Pharisees
- In New Covenant Jesus wants us to live in the reality of **justice, mercy and faith** (in **Luke 11:42**, "Love" is mentioned also)
- Do not leave Tithing undone
- Tithing continues for us – we are to keep tithing

Matthew 5:17 - Jesus did not come to destroy the law but to fulfill

- **v.18-19** - if you break and teach others to break the commandments you will be least in the kingdom of heaven

Malachi 3:10-12 - be a tithing person

- Bring the tithe into the storehouse that they may be plenty of food (plenty of good Word) in the house
- This is the eternal Word of God
- God will bless you, not enough room to look after it
- God will rebuke the devourer for us
- Michael the Archangel spoke to the devil saying "The Lord rebuke you" – **Jude 9**
- When things are going a little "awry" in your family, check if your tithes are up to date

- Tithing is based on revelation like with Abram and Jacob (**Gen.14:18-20, 28:20-22**)
- Under the law the tithe (**Deut. 24:28-29**) could be used for widows, orphans, strangers and especially for the Levite, the Priest
- All nations will call us blessed when we tithe, we are secure about our finances
- Through tithing you can expect God to bless you, protect, and your family will be blessed, business will be blessed and as the people of God we will be seen as blessed
- When we are generous by conviction you cannot lose

4. LAYING ON OF HANDS

Mark 16:18

- Lay hands on the sick and they will recover
- Divine healing has a physical outlet
- Physical and spiritual together
- All believers can do

Acts 8:17

- Peter and John came down to the revival in Samaria
- They laid hands on them that they might be filled with the Holy Spirit

Acts 19:6

- Paul laid hands on them to be filled with the Holy Spirit
- All believers filled with Spirit can do

Acts 13:2

- Elders of the body laid hands on the Saul and Barnabas to send them out on mission – in commissioning

All these aspects of laying on of hands involve a physical reality & a spiritual reality

5. ANOINTING THE SICK WITH OIL

James 5:14-16

- The oil is representing the anointing of the Holy Spirit

Mark 6:13

- The apostles were sent out and anointed the sick with oil and they were healed
- God knows we need the reality of the physical
- **First the natural, then the spiritual**

- 1. Baptism**
- 2. Lord's Table**
- 3. Tithing and offerings**
- 4. Laying on of hands**
- 5. Anointing with oil**

WHY DID GOD CREATE?

(A Christological Eschatology)

SOME THINGS GOD CREATED:

- i) Ps. 51:10** – a clean heart
- ii) Isaiah 4:5** – He creates a covering of glory
- iii) Isaiah 57:18** – He creates the fruit of lips
- iv) Isaiah 65:18** – He creates Jerusalem (**Hebrews 11:10**)
- v) Isaiah 45:18** – YHWH is the Creator
- vi) Isaiah 42:5** – The Creator gives us breath and spirit
- vii) Isaiah 43:1** – He creates Jacob
- viii) Isaiah 41:18-20** – He creates rivers in the desert and streams
- ix) Psalm 89:11-12** - He creates natural and supernatural things
- x) Psalm 102:18** – there is a people yet to be created, a new creation!
Ephesians 2:10 (created in Christ Jesus, His workmanship/poem)
- xi) Psalm 104:30** – God sends forth His Spirit and they are created – we are born again by the Spirit
- xii) Psalm 148:5** – God commanded and they were created – earth, sun, moon, stars, hosts

WHY DID GOD CREATE?

- There is an enemy to overcome
- There is reality of victory for the church
- There is an enemy, that uses all sorts of governmental parties and peoples to wrestle against righteousness

- God created for Jesus – His Son – for the Son of His love
- God created to get a Bride for His Son
- God created to give glory and pre-eminence to His Son

Colossians 1:16

- Jesus Christ created all things in heaven and on earth, things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible
- The “Son of His love” is the Creator
- By the Son all things were created or “In Him all things are created”
- The Son also created the visible and invisible realms (spiritual realms)
- Thrones, Dominions, Principalities and Powers were all created in and by the Son
- Creation was created for the Son of His love, for Jesus
- The purpose of creation is to bring forth this: all things were created for Jesus, for Him

Ephesians 3:10

- to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God will be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places

God created so that Messiah, His Son, would be the pre-eminent One, being the Centre of all things

In the New Testament Jesus is revealed as the Creator!

[If you believe the Father and the Son are One then it is easy to see that God (Elohim in Gen. 1:1) and the Son are One]

Genesis 1:29 – everything God created was good, even very good

There is an invisible realm

The reference to the invisible realm of principalities and powers are still around today

- This is why we can pray with assurance for these totalitarian regimes to be broken and brought down

Ephesians 1:20-23

- God's power was worked in Christ to raise Him from the dead and to seat Him at the right hand of God
- This is "far above all" powers and authorities
- God has given Christ as Head over all things to the church
- The church is His Body
- The Body is the fullness of Christ, filling all in all
- There is a church coming forth in the earth, built on the Rock that Jesus is the Christ, the son of the living God (**Matt.16:6-18**)
- The teaching that is to continue is **Acts 5:42** – daily preaching and teaching Jesus the Christ
- The role of the church is to preach and teach this reality as well as **Ephesians 3:8-12**

Philippians 2:9-11

- The demonic rulers (**things in heavens**) are the ones at the moment who do not bow the knee – they will
- The humans, leaders and all others who do not receive Jesus are "**on the earth**" and will bow the knee
- The demons of hell and a bunch of prisoners are "**those under the earth**" and will bow the knee
- Jesus is the One legitimate total Ruler – the only True Despot
- We as Christ's Body are the visible manifestation of the glory of Christ on the earth

Jesus has now overcome and is seated far above all the evil authorities (**Eph.1:20-23**)

- [The only time He was seen as not seated was when He got up for Stephen in **Acts 7:55-60**]

What God created was good

When God created everything in **Genesis chapter 1**, He said that it was "very good"

- No evil

There is a choice

In **Genesis 2** – God then taught Adam and Eve that they must choose to obey God's instruction of what to eat

- Adam and Eve were not evil when they were created
- Man chose evil rather than the tree of life
- God did not create evil, but He created intelligent beings that can choose
- Nothing God created was ever evil
- Evil is not created – it is the opposite of life
- When we choose not the way of life, we are doing evil and experience death

- What is evil? The opposite of life. The word "live" spelt backwards is "evil"

JESUS THE CREATOR

John 1:3 – In the beginning was the Word, through Him, all things were created

John 1:10 – the world was made through Him and He was in the world

Ephesians 3:9

- God who created all things through Jesus Christ
- This is the mystery that the traditions of the church have forgotten
- The Word was doing the work

Hebrews 1:10-12 - speaking of the Son

- "You YHWH in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth"
- The Son is called YHWH

DID GOD CREATE EVIL?

Prophecies to the King of Tyre

Ezekiel 28:12

- "You were the seal of perfection"
- "Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty"
- This does not seem to be speaking of a human being, not the King of Tyre

v.13 - This One was "in Eden, the garden of God"

- This awesome being was God's orchestra in one, he could play the pipes, timbrels
- music was in the very fabric of the creation of Eden and there was a being, covered with precious stones, and instruments prepared for him
- **this is a created being**

v.14 - he was the anointed cherub who covered

- he covered the Presence of God – this must be the highest place in the universe for any created being
- he was on the holy mountain of God; he walked in the midst of fiery stones
- he was a great musician

v.15 - he was "perfect in his ways from the day he was created"

- **"Till" iniquity was found in you**
- Did God create iniquity? No, it was found in this being

How did this iniquity emerge?

Isaiah 14:12 - Lucifer fallen from heaven

- "Lucifer" was a "light bearer"
- He was cut down to the ground (**v.11**)

v.13-14 - This is how iniquity got into his heart

- He wanted the power – five 'I will' statements
- 'I will ascend, I will exalt, I will sit ... I will be like the Most High'

v.15 - the end of that type of heart is to be in Sheol – hell, death,

- the lowest parts of the pit
- Because of pride 'you shall be brought down'

God did not create evil

- Created beings allowed illegal ambitions to take hold of their hearts and "iniquity" was found in them
- Man rejected God in the garden
- We do not know the history of Satan. But we know that he and other beings chose to reject God and serve Satan

We live in a reality of victory in Christ because we believe the Word of God, we believe what is written.

We preach Christ. We preach Jesus as the fulfilment of the prophetic Scriptures and as God in the flesh.

- Like Peter on the day of Pentecost, he preached Christ – he did not preach Saviour but He preached Christ, and the people were saved.

Let us live in the reality of victory in Christ!

LET US GO ON TO PERFECTION

There is a purpose in going on to Perfection

- God wants a people on the earth who are growing up more and more, to be like Him
- The church is to take the ground that Jesus has already accomplished for us
- This is the purpose of going on to perfection

God's plan in our growth - Hebrews 5:12 – 6:3

- God wants all of us to be able to teach others the foundational principles of the oracles of God.
- There is a progression (milk to solid food)
- There is a growth that is involved
- God wants us to be skilled in the word of righteousness, rightly dividing the Word of truth (2 Tim 2:15)
- Solid food belongs to those who are of full age (perfect)

Perfect - (James 3:2) SC GK#5046 – *refers to that which has reached an end, something finished, complete, perfect, completely sound, whole*

- We have to come to a place of maturity to receive the solid food
- A mature person is one who is putting into action the word they have heard,
- able to discern good and evil
- Let us go on to perfection (maturity) – (**Heb. 6:1**)
- The foundations must be laid first – putting them into practice in your life, and walking in the reality of them
[Perfection – SC Gk#5048 – *to complete to accomplish, to make perfect*]

The Perfection of Jesus

Hebrews 5:8-11

- Jesus was perfected. He went through a process of coming to perfection.
- He learned obedience by the things which He suffered
- Staying obedient even in the midst of suffering
- Having been perfected, Jesus became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him
- Coming to perfection is all about obedience
- **v.10-11** – understanding the order of Melchizedek has to do with going on to perfection (learning how to function as kings and priests)
- **Rev 5:9-10** – "...has made us kings and priests to our God and we shall reign on the earth" – learning how to reign on the earth

Hebrews 2:10

- Jesus (the Captain of our Salvation) was made perfect through suffering

Luke 13:32

- "...the third day I shall be perfected"
- There is a death and resurrection walking into that perfection

John 17:22-23

- "That they may be made perfect in one" – This was Jesus' prayer for us
- Completely hidden with Christ in God (one)

Old Testament Examples of Perfection

Noah - Genesis 6:9

- Noah was perfect in his generations
- Perfect** – SC Heb#8549 – means entire, integrity, truth, blameless, whole, complete, full*
- A whole and entire relationship with God*

Abraham - Genesis 17:1

- Walk before me and be perfect (blameless) – Abraham was walking in a complete relationship with God

A perfect people - Proverbs 2:21

- God gives the earth to the perfect (blameless) people
- The perfect will remain in the land
- The wicked and the unfaithful will be uprooted from the earth

New Testament – what does perfection look like?

Matthew 5:43-45,48

- You shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect
- Loving others and doing what is in the best interest of others
- Loving your enemies – making the choice to do so

1 John 2:5

- Whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him
 - The love of God is perfected in us by being obedient to the Word
- Perfect** – means to carry through to the end, to reach a goal or to fulfill, to bring to a successful conclusion*

1 John 4:12

- If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us
- Learning how to love each other in the body (**1 John 4:20**)
- Loving people freely (**Ephesians 4:16** – the whole body, joined and knit together...edifying itself in love)

1 John 4:17

- As love is perfected among us, we are bold in the day of judgment
- As He is, so are we in this world
- **V.18** – there is no fear in love, perfect love casts out fear

The need for patience

James 1:2-4

- The testing of your faith produces **patience** (endurance, perseverance, constancy, steadfastness, not being swerved from your deliberate purpose and loyalty to faith)
- We need to remain constant
- Let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing

God's strength is perfected in my weakness

2 Corinthians 12:9

- My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness
- Allow yourself to be honest about your weakness so that God's strength can be perfected in you
- Strength – God's mighty power
- Learning to boast in our weaknesses, needs and distresses so that the power of Christ can rest upon us

Wisdom and revelation are given to the mature (perfect)

1 Corinthians 2:6

- We speak wisdom among those who are mature
- The wisdom of God ordained before the ages for our glory
- Understanding the deeper things of God (**Ephesians 3:10-11** – ordained before the ages for our glory)

Philippians 3:15

- Let us, as many as are mature, have this mind
- A mature mind is willing to suffer the loss of all things for the sake of following Jesus
- Being conformed to his death, in order to attain to the power of the resurrection
- A mind to press on
- Not getting caught up in arguments but walking together unto perfection

Being a perfect man

Ephesians 4:11-13

- Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers given until we all come to a perfect man (a mature man – the corporate body of believers)
- The measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ – this is what perfection looks like

Jesus has accomplished our perfection

Hebrews 10:14

- The law could not perfect us
- God has always wanted perfection
- Through one offering, Christ has perfected forever those who are being sanctified

Let us go on to perfection!

PICTURES OF THE CHURCH

"Church" – Gk. 'Ecclesia'

1. IT IS A BUILDING

a) Jesus is the builder - Matthew 16:18

- Jesus said, "I will build My church (Ecclesia)"
- It is built on the Rock – the revelation of who Jesus is, the Christ, the Son of God
- **1 Corinthians 3:11** – Jesus Christ is the only foundation

b) Origins of word "Ecclesia" – Church

- Comes from Greek Empire, Athens as a City State
- "Ecclesia" referred to the government of Athens
- The Ecclesia were the male citizens over the age of 30 that gathered as the governing body of Athens
- Citizenship was either by birth or by purchasing it
- The Ecclesia were the "Called out ones" to come together to make laws, decide on going to war or not, and to appoint magistrates and judges
- The Church is God's government on the earth
- The Church is the governing citizens of the kingdom of heaven on the earth
- This Ecclesia has governmental authority – **Matthew 16:19** – I give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven – the church in apostolic order has the authority to legislate (speak it forth) God's will on earth as it is in heaven

c) Jesus is in the midst

- **Hebrews 2:12** – Jesus the Son of God comes into the midst of the assembly (Church) declaring God's name, and leading the worship
- **Matthew 18:20** – whenever two or three of you gather together in My name, I am there in the midst of you

d) The Rock

The Church is built on the Rock

1 Corinthians 10:2-4

- Children of Israel were in picture/type born again and baptised into Moses in the cloud and through the Sea – we are baptised into Christ
- They ate same spiritual food (the teachings of Moses, Torah) and they all drank the same spiritual drink (they drank of that spiritual Rock)
- The Spiritual Rock that followed the children of Israel in the wilderness was **Christ/Messiah!**
- Messiah is the Rock and He was and is in the midst

The gates of Hades cannot overcome the Church that is built on the Rock

e) **The only Foundation – 1 Corinthians 3:11**

- Jesus Christ is the only foundation
- Who is Jesus? He is Yahweh saving us – the meaning of His name
- Yahweh in the flesh was called "JESUS" = Yahweh saves (**Matt.1:21, Lk.1:31**)

- Who is Christ? The Messiah, the Anointed King
- The church is built on the foundation of God saving us and on Jesus as the Messiah, the Anointed King

f) **The Authority Jesus gave the church He is building**

Matthew 16:19 – Jesus gave the keys

- I give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven
- How were the keys used?

The Day of Pentecost - Peter preached on day of Pentecost and revealed the keys of coming into Christ

- I) repentance; ii) faith; iii) baptism into Christ; iv) receiving the Holy Spirit through laying on of hands
- The authority is in preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ
- We need to go where the gospel needs to be preached

In Samaria – Philip had been discipled and he had the keys as well

- He preached the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ – **Acts 8:12**
- The people believed and were baptised
- But he lacked the key of being able to fill others with the Holy Spirit
- Peter and John came with the keys to open that door through the laying on of hands to receive the Holy Spirit – **Acts 8:14-17**

In Cornelius' house – a Gentile

- **Acts 10:38** – Peter preached Jesus, as the Anointed One
- As he preached, the Holy Spirit fell upon every one of them and they all entered the kingdom, they were baptised – **Acts 10:44-48**

These keys are given to the church to open the kingdom to all who will believe

2. THE CHURCH AS A SPIRITUAL HOUSE

a) **The Living Stone - 1 Peter 2:4-5**

- We come to Him, a Living Stone
- Jesus is a Living Stone – Chosen by God and precious
- We also as living stones are being built up a "spiritual house"
- These are the spiritual children of God, they have been born again by the Spirit
- We are being built together, built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood
- As a holy priesthood we offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God
- This includes regularly participating in the Lord's Table, in prayer in the home, in reading the Word

b) The household of God - Ephesians 2:19-22

- This household is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets
- Apostles and prophets have been given grace by the Spirit to know and preach the mystery of Christ and to lay the foundation of Christ in the church – **Ephesians 3:5**
- Jesus Christ Himself is the Chief Cornerstone
- House is built on the Rock as the foundation, and Christ is also the Cornerstone
- When the Cornerstone is in place then the building begins to grow and is fitted together into the Cornerstone
- The building grows into a holy temple
- We are being built together in Christ for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit
- The house is to be in every locality, a dwelling place of God, the knowledge of the glory will be seen and cover the earth as the waters cover the sea (**Isaiah 40:5** – all flesh shall see the glory, **Hab.2:14, Numbers 14:21**)

c) The building pattern – 1 Peter 2:5-6

- It is contained in the Scripture (**Is.28:16**) that the Stone is laid in Zion
- The Stone is a Chief Cornerstone, elect and precious
- **Isaiah 28:16** - This Stone is a foundation stone
- It is a Cornerstone also – it is the same Stone
- Jesus Christ is the foundation Stone and the Cornerstone upon which and in which the whole building can be built together
- **Psalms 118:22-24** - What is the day of YHWH that we rejoice in?
- The day being referred to is the day that Stone which the builders rejected has become the Chief Cornerstone
- This is the work of YHWH, it is marvellous
- Do you appreciate the Cornerstone?
- This is the Day we sing about!
- The Cornerstone is essential and holds the building together
- **Zechariah 10:4** - From YHWH comes the Cornerstone
- From YHWH the Tent Peg
- The Messiah is the Cornerstone, the tent peg on which humankind's destiny hinges
- From Messiah, all rulers come

3. THE TEMPLE

a) 1 Corinthians 6:19 – Our individual bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit

- God dwells in our bodies
- There is glory in the temple
- **v.20** - glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which belong to God
- the glory of God is to be in our bodies
- "Temple" suggests sacrifice – we are to be willing to offer up our bodies as a sacrifice to the Lord - **Romans 12:1** – present our bodies as a living sacrifice
- **John 2:19-22** - Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up
- He was speaking of the temple of His body

- **v.17** – zeal for your house has eaten Me up
- our temples are to be holy

b) 2 Corinthians 6:16 – you (corporately) are the temple of the living God

- I will dwell in them (the corporate saints, the church congregated together)
- He will walk among us and be our God and we His people

c) Ephesians 2:21 – The whole building is being fitted together

- It grows into a holy temple in the Lord
- A corporate body, a holy people, a holy nation (**1 Pet.2:9**)
- This temple stretches across the globe, it is “in the Lord”
- We have covenant brothers all over the nations now, we are a holy temple
- **v.22** - each one of us are being built together
- why are we being built together – so that God can dwell in us
- let each family be a dwelling place

d) Revelation 15:5 - a mystery

- The temple of the Tabernacle of the Testimony in heaven was opened
- “Temple” = sanctuary, referring to the “inner shrine”, the holy of holies
- The temple here is not referring to the outer building but the inner shrine, the Most Holy Place
- The Tabernacle of the Testimony was opened in heaven – actually the inner shrine of the Tabernacle was opened
- **v.6** - out of the “temple” (the Most Holy Place, the Inner Shrine)

4. THE BODY

Colossians 1:18 - The Son of His love is the Head of the Body, the church

- The Body is the Church

1 Corinthians 12:12 - The Body is One, has many members

- Christ is a many membered Body
- **v.13** - By One Spirit we were all baptised into One Body
- we drink into the One Spirit
- remember **1 Cor. 10:3-4** – this is the spiritual drink

Ephesians 4:12 - Five ministries are given for the “edifying of the Body of Christ”

- This continues till we all come to the unity of the faith... - **v.13**

Ephesians 4:4 - One Body, One Spirit

- Do not worry about the many churches, we are One Body
- We are involved in and committed to the manifestation of that One Body
- There is One Head of the Church – Jesus the Christ
- He is the Head of the Body

Ephesians 4:16 - There is a whole Body

- This body is joined and knit together by what every joint supplies
- All the ministries act as joints supplying
- Every part does its share

- Growth takes place
- The mature body is fully functioning, every part is contributing
- The result = a body of people functioning in love, looking out for the whole body

Ephesians 5:23 - Christ is the head of the Body

- He gave Himself for her
- He is the Saviour of the Body

5. THE FULLNESS

Ephesians 3:19

- To know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God
- To be fully ready to be married, we must be filled with all the fullness of God
- "Fullness" – *full complement, copiousness, plenitude, a town with no empty houses*
- It is time to be filled with all the fullness of God – it is in the context of love - a fully functioning body building itself up in love

Ephesians 1:21-23

- Christ is the Head over all and given to the church
- The church is His Body, the fullness of Him
- The fullness of God is found in the mature Body

6. THE GLORIFIED BRIDE

Ephesians 5:26-27 - A church washed by the water of the Word

- Glorious church presented to Christ holy and without blemish
- This is meant to be mirrored in human marriage, complete intimacy – **Eph.5:31**
- The perfect marriage in the natural is pointing to something much greater

v.32 - for this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife

- Christ loves and cherishes each member of His body
- This is a great mystery, of Christ and the Church!

A HELPER COMPARABLE TO HIM

God's plans are to all generations

Psalm 33:10-11

- Yahweh brings the counsel of the nations to nothing
- The counsel of YHWH stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations

One of the great Mysteries of God's will

Ephesians 5:32 - A great mystery concerning Christ and the church

God declares the end from the beginning

Isaiah 46:9-10

- There is none like God
- He declares the end from the beginning
- His counsel shall stand
- Nothing stops God from doing what He wants to do

We go back to the beginning to see God's intention for us

Genesis 1:26-28 – the final part of God's creation was mankind

- Male and female made in the image of God
- God blessed them to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and have dominion
- The man and the woman were both given the commission (together)

Genesis 2:7 – gives more detail

- YHWH God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life
- Man became a living being
- Adam was made able to relate with God like no other created being
- Man was made to rule God's creation and exercise dominion, just as God would
- God always intended to rule in the earth through man

v.18 – It is not good that man should be alone

- There is something deep for us to understand

Adam – a type of Him who was to come

Romans 5:14b

- Death reigned from Adam to Moses
- Adam was a type of Him who was to come
- Adam was not the fulfillment of what God intended – He was a type
- Adam was a picture of something greater (a shadow of what was to come)
- Adam was a type of Christ the Messiah

- Adam was made in the image of God
- BUT Jesus the Messiah IS the image of God – **Colossians 1:15**
- Adam was made a living being (a living soul)
- BUT Jesus the Christ is a life-giving spirit – **1 Corinthians 15:45**
- Adam was the father of all
- BUT Christ is the Everlasting Father – **Isaiah 9:6**
- Adam was a created being
- Christ is the Lord from heaven – **1 Corinthians 15:47**
- Adam was of the earth
- Christ is heavenly – **1 Corinthians 15:49**

A HELPER COMPARABLE

Help/Helper – means *help, comfort, to give aid, one who helps [not a servant]*

- God was not looking for a servant, he was looking for a helper
- Someone to help Adam in the purpose of God that he had been given
- They were to walk together in the mission.

Many times, in the Psalms, God is called our Helper

- **Psalm 70:5** – You are my help and my deliverer (also Psalm 115:9)

The commission in Genesis was given to them (together)

- They were to walk in the inheritance together
- **1 Peter 3:7** (husband and wife are co-heirs of the grace of life)

The Fulfillment

- God wants a helper for the Messiah, Jesus; God in the flesh wants a helper!
- He wants a helper to be with Him to reach the nations
- God has always wanted a people with whom He can share His glory, authority, power, will, heart and purpose.
- God's heart was that it was not good for the Messiah to be alone
- And God wants an intimate relationship with these people
- **Ephesians 4:13** – a helper who is at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ
- A helper who is comparable to Him
- We were made to walk together with Christ in the inheritance - **Romans 8:17** (joint heirs with Christ)
- We are to have dominion with Him – **Ephesians 2:6** (seated together with Christ in the heavenly places)
- We are to be fruitful in making disciples with Jesus – **Matthew 28:18-20**
- We are to preach the gospel to all nations with Jesus – **Mark 16:19**
- We were made to do all things with Him – to rule with Jesus.

The Creation of the Woman

The Rib – Gen 2:21-22

- God did not create the woman in the same way He had created man
- She was not a different or separate creation to the man, she was in him
- God caused a deep sleep to come on Adam
- He took one of Adam's ribs and made it into the woman

'Made' – Hebrew #1129 *'banah'* – means *to build (fig. to build a house or family)*

- The woman was not a different creation
- She was *built* from the same material as the man.

Jesus is building a church

- Adam is a type
- God is building something 'out of' Christ
- **Matt 16:16-18** - Upon this rock I will build My church
- The church is built on the revelation that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the Living God – this is the material
- **Ephesians 4:11-13** - Ministry gifts given for the building up of the body of Messiah
- **Ephesians 2:20** - Built on the foundation

- **2 Peter 1:4**
- Partakers of the divine nature (partakers of the Godhead)
- This is the material that the church is made out of

- **Jeremiah 31:22**
- YHWH has created a new thing in the earth, a woman shall encompass a man (a hero/champion)

We come from within Christ

- **Ephesians 2:15** - So as to create in Himself one new man
- The church comes from within Christ – we are of His substance
- We are being built into a new corporate man
- **Ephesians 1:4** – the church was always there in Christ

The nature of Christ has been birthed in us. We are made of Christ. We are being made into a helper comparable to Him

- **Ephesians 1:23** – the church is the fullness of Him

The Presentation

- **Genesis 2:22** - God brought the woman to the man
- She was a work of God (built by Him), and presented to Adam

The church will be presented to Christ

- **Ephesians 5:25-27**
- That He might present her to Himself, a glorious church
- Jesus is building this 'woman' by the Word

- **2 Peter 2:13** – no spots or blemishes (no false doctrine)
- She is filled with the pure doctrine of God's word
- **2 Corinthians 11:2** - "I have betrothed you to one husband"
- this is the role of a minister – to prepare God's people for the Bridegroom
- That I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ
- **John 3:27-30** – John likens himself to a friend of the Bridegroom
- The joy of friends is to hear the voice of the Bridegroom

Bone of His Bone, Flesh of His Flesh

- **Genesis 2:23** – the woman was taken out of the man
- **Ephesians 5:28-30**
- Husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies just as the Lord does the church
- The Lord nourishes and cherishes the church
- We are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones – so He loves us and cares for us
- He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one – (**Heb.2:11**)

The Marriage – Joined to the Lord

- **Genesis 2:24** – leave, be joined together, become one
- They have left every other tie

Joined – (Hebrew) – means *to cling, stick, stay close, adhere, to catch by pursuit*

- If you want to be part of the bride, you need to stick to Jesus
- This sounds like discipleship
- **1 Corinthians 6:17** – whoever is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him

The Fruit of the Marriage – Bearing Fruit to God

- We are to bear fruit to God
- **Romans 7:4** – married to another
- We are no longer married to the law but to the One who was raised from the dead
- We are to bear fruit to God (**John 15:16**)
- The fruit of the marriage is disciples – sons of God
- The bride and the bridegroom produce spiritual sons

Sons coming forth

Galatians 4:19 - Paul joined in the labouring to bring forth sons of God

Colossians 1:28 – to present every man perfect in Christ Jesus [**Psalm 45**]

A corporate son to rule the nations

Revelation 12:5

- The dragon stood ready to devour the Child as soon as it was born
- She bore a male Child (a mature son) to rule all nations
- Her son was caught up to God and His throne

A Glorious Bride in union with Christ!

THE FIVE MINISTRIES

GRACE TO GROW TO MATURITY

God's goal for the church of Jesus Christ is for His church to grow to maturity, to perfection

Five ministry gifts - Ephesians 4:11

- The ministries of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers
- Like the picture of your hand – we need all of them

Grace is released - Ephesians 4:7

- Grace has been released to all of us
- We have received this grace according to the measure of Christ's gift

Gifts given after Christ ascended - v.8

- the gift of Christ in **verse 7** has become a plural gift in **verse 8**
- Christ ascended on high, gave **gifts** to men
- in dying and rising again Jesus took captivity captive
- this was the time when Jesus was down below
- He preached to spirits in prison – **1 Pet.3:18-19**
- He ascended with those in Paradise
- He took back the keys of Hades and Death – **Rev. 1:18**
- He then gave gifts to men – giving apostles, prophets...
- through these gift ministries we all receive grace

- God appoints and raises these ministries
- all the ministry gifts need to be recognized and received, not just pastors
- We need all the five ministries to release the grace in them to help the church grow to maturity

The One who ascended first descended

Ephesians 4:9-10 - Jesus spent that critical time in Hell, meaning the realm of the dead

Acts 2:22-24

- Jesus went down to hell in the Spirit, in the form of God (**Phil.2:6**) - no longer as a suffering Servant
- The demons cannot touch God
- Jesus was made alive in the Spirit (**1 Pet.3:18**)
- Jesus' body was in the tomb
- God raised Him up and "loosed the pains of death"
- "pains" = birth pangs
- What was Jesus birthing in Hell? He was birthing a whole new creation

- When he rose all the graves opened and the saints were seen walking around Jerusalem (**Matt.27:52**)
- Paradise was then below but it is not below anymore

Jesus Christ was all of the five ministries

- **Hebrews 3:1** – Jesus is the **Apostle** and High Priest
Have you considered Jesus as the Apostle?
As the Apostle, Jesus is the builder of the church (**Matt.16:18**)
- **John 6:14** – Jesus was recognised as the **Prophet**
- **John 10:11** – Jesus is the Pastor – the **Good Shepherd**
- **John 3:1-2** – Jesus was recognised as the **Teacher**
- **Luke 19:9-10** – Jesus is the **Evangelist** – seeking the lost

WHY DID JESUS GIVE US THESE FIVE MINISTRIES?

- Ever since Adam sinned these ministries had been locked up
- Jesus gave us the five ministries is so that He might “fill all things” – **Eph.4:10**
- Jesus is building His church through the five ministries that He has given
- Jesus Christ is the Cornerstone of the church – **Isaiah 28:16**
- We are living stones being built upon Jesus Christ the Living Stone – **1 Pet.2:4-5**
- Apostles and prophets are the foundation of the building of God’s house – **Ephesians 2:19-22**

Ephesians 4:12 - The five ministries were given for:

- The equipping of the saints
- For the work of the ministry
- To build up the body of Christ

1. For the work of the ministry

- There is a need for true apostles
- We need to know what our calling is and be faithful to the calling
- The calling/ministry can change e.g., **Acts 13:1-4** – Saul and Barnabas were among certain “prophets and teachers”, they were then separated for another ministry calling – **Acts 14:14** – now Saul and Barnabas are called apostles
- Saul was a teacher (**1 Tim.2:7**) and Barnabas was a prophet (Bar = son, nabas = consolation or prophet); they were released into apostolic ministry by the Lord through the Body (**Acts 14:4, 14**)
- The ministries must do the work of the ministry in order to bring the church to maturity
- What is the fruit of prophetic ministry? – encouragement, consolation, edification – **1 Corinthians 14:3**
- What is the fruit of a Teacher? – there is such a need for good teaching of the Word in the church – only speak the Word

2. To equip/perfect the saints

- "equipping" – Greek '*katartismos*' – *making fit, training, preparing, perfecting, making fully qualified for service*. In classical language the word is used for setting a bone in surgery.
- This equipping sets the Body in order to function as the Body
- When you are around an evangelist what happens? You grow a desire to be active in evangelism
- That is the grace of an evangelist
- We need all the ministries to equip and set the church in order to function

3. Build-up/edify the church

- Foundations have been laid and now the church needs to come to maturity

SIGNPOSTS OF MATURITY - Ephesians 4:13-16

- i) Unity of the faith
- ii) Knowledge of the Son of God
- iii) To a Perfect Man
- iv) To the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ
- v) No longer children
- vi) Growing up into Him, the Head
- vii) The Body growing and edifying itself in love, all parts working and doing its share

The ministries are all to continue until ...

i) We all come to the unity of the faith

- **Jude 3** – we are to contend earnestly for the faith once for all delivered to the saints
- The faith was the teaching that Jesus delivered to the apostles who delivered it to the saints
- **Acts 2:42** – it is the "apostles' doctrine"
- **Matthew 28:20** – it is everything Jesus commanded
- **Ephesians 4:5** – there is one faith
- **Titus 1:9** – holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught...
- Let us stick with the Word, stay with what is written and speak the Word
- **2 Peter 1:19-21** – no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation – we are not to interpret things our own way
- Only share what is clear from the Scripture

ii) The knowledge of the Son of God

- **1 Timothy 3:16** – the mystery of Godliness – God was manifested in the flesh
- Jesus was God manifested in the flesh
- **Matthew 16:16** – Jesus is the Christ/Messiah, the Son of the Living God
- This is the Rock on which the church is built (**v.18**)

- **Hebrews 1** – the revelation of the Son of God: there are 18 points that help us to know the Son of God
 - o **Heb.1:8** – “To the Son He says, “Your Throne O God...”
 - o **Heb.1:10** – To the Son... “You Yahweh...”
- **John 9:35-38** – “Do you believe in the Son of God? ... You have seen Him and He is the One speaking...” The formerly blind man “worshiped” Jesus
- You only worship God
- **Matthew 14:27** – Jesus did not say “It is I”, in the Greek He actually said, “I AM” = the name of God
- **Matthew 14:33** – then the disciples “worshiped Him saying, “Truly You are the Son of God”
- There is a huge lack of the knowledge of the Son of God, of who Jesus is

iii) **To bring forth a Perfect Man in the earth**

- A fully functioning Body, a mature corporate Body
- We are to be conformed to the image of His Son
- Then the world will see Jesus
- “Perfect” = mature, complete

iv) **To the measure of stature of fullness of Christ**

v) **No longer children (babies)**

- **Hebrews 5:12-13** – God’s expectation is for every believer to be discipled so they can teach others, no longer babes
- **2 Timothy 2:2** – the things you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men (and women) who will teach others also
- This is apostolic succession – apostles training ministers, ministers committing the teaching to faithful people, those faithful ones then teach others
- They go out in the revelation of the Word, not the teaching of a denomination
- **Hebrews 5:12-14** - They needed again the “first principles of the oracles of God” – the milk
- Without this foundation we cannot go on to maturity, we will not understand the mysteries (**Heb.5:11** – we become dull of hearing)

vi) **Speaking the truth in love**

- **Eph4.15** – not judging but speaking truth in love

vii) **Growing up in all things into Him**

- We are measured by Christ
- We are to grow up in all aspects into Christ
- He is who we are measured by

viii) **We are being knit together by what every joint supplies**

- **Eph. 4:16** - Effective joints release life into other parts of the Body
- We need the five ministries to be working in the Body, releasing life into all the body

- A picture of the Body functioning in maturity, all parts doing their share
- This causes growth of the Body for the edifying of itself in love
- This is true unity, through submitting to God, receiving the ministries that Jesus is given, He knits us together
- When we get our eyes fixed on Him then we come into true unity
- Each joint is able to fully co-operate and function
- All the life comes from the Head to the whole Body

CONCLUSION

- We are the house of God
- **Hebrews 3:6** – Christ is the Son over His own house, whose house we are
- **Matthew 18:20** – where two or three gather in Jesus name, He is there in the midst of us
- We are the church
- **Zechariah 6:12** – He, the Messiah, will build the house of YHWH

Jesus is building His church, He is doing it today

Foundations must be set properly - Hebrews 6:1-3
 the six elementary principles (foundations) of Christ are needed
 if we are to **"go on to perfection/maturity"**

THE GOODNESS OF GOD

The Goodness of God was with Daniel even in captivity

Daniel 9:4-5

- Great and Awesome God who keeps covenant and mercy with those who love Him
- Daniel was praying on behalf of God's people – "we"
- He was praying on behalf of his nation, corporately as "we"
- Daniel never took his eyes off God even though he was torn from his family, country and culture
- God's goodness to Daniel followed him into Babylonian captivity

God gave wisdom and understanding to Daniel

Daniel 2:1-23

- Nebuchadnezzar had a very disturbing dream and he demanded that the magicians and wise men should tell him what his dream was and the interpretation
- Daniel got together with his prayer friends and sought mercy from God

v.19 - God revealed the dream to Daniel in a night vision

v.20-23 - God's goodness to Daniel and his friends

- God was willing to reveal the secret

v.28 - Daniel gives glory to God in the presence of the king

- God is the One who reveals secrets and knows all things
- God is speaking to Nebuchadnezzar and making known to him what will come to pass

v.31-35 - the recounting of the dream

v.36-44 - the interpretation of the dream

- God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed
- the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and broke in pieces all the other kingdoms
- the dream and interpretation is sure/true

God knows the beginning from the end and He does reveal what is necessary to us

"Written in the Book"

Daniel 12:1-3 – "at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book"

- All whose names are written in the will be delivered in the days of trouble
- Those who sleep will awake – resurrection
- The wise will shine
- **v.13** - Daniel shall rest and then arise to his inheritance at the end of the days

Exodus 32:32 – Moses pleads with God – "blot me out of Your book ..."

- this is in the context of when children of Israel had made a golden calf

- Similar to what our nation has been doing with the terrible laws we have made
- Moses stood in the gap for Israel
- Moses even said he would be willing to be blotted out of the book for the sake of God forgiving Israel
- **v.33-35** - God is in charge of who He blots out of his book
- God blots out those who have sinned against Him

Malachi 3:16

- Malachi prophesied concerning the failure of the priests, the coming judgement
- But then there is a "Book of Remembrance" written before God
- Those who feared Yahweh spoke to one another and God listened and heard them
- Those in the book are the ones who fear Yahweh and meditate on His name
- We do not need to be "sinless" as God works this out for us – what He wants from us is to "fear Him" and to "meditate on His name"

His Jewels

- **Malachi 3:17** – the ones who 'fear Him' and 'meditate on His name' - God says these ones shall be His
- They will be His "jewels"

"Jewels" - **Word Wealth at Deut.26:18 in NSFLB** - "Yahweh has called you to be His special people"

- Hebrew SC #5459 '*segullah*' - *a possession, personal property, special treasure*. It is a noun. Man's treasure is in material objects, but consistently in Scripture, God's treasure is (in) human beings. Means - *to shut in, enclose, wealth (as in closely shut up)*.
- From SC #5458 Hb – *shut up that is, the breast as enclosing the heart* (Jesus is in the bosom of the Father – **John 1:18**, Lazarus went to "Abraham's bosom – **Luke 16**). We are God's special treasure, "jewel", enclosed up in His heart
- This word '*segullah*' is translated as: *Peculiar treasure, peculiar, special, jewels, particular treasure*
- It means *a possession, signifies property in the special sense of a private possession, one carefully acquired and preserved*

Examples:

- **Exodus 19:5** - "peculiar treasure" in KJV
- God's people were to be a "special treasure"
- **Deut 7:6** - A holy people to Yahweh, a special treasure, people
- **Deut. 14:2** - A peculiar people above all peoples of the earth
- **Deut 26:18** - A peculiar people (special)
- By keeping His commandments, will be set high above all other nations in fame and praise

- In English dictionary: "peculiar" – *it belongs exclusively to somebody, belonging to an individual as per one's character, a peculiar interest. Strange, odd*
- *A peculiar people – as in the Jews, God's elect people*
- *A peculiar property or privilege*

In New Testament

Titus 2:13-14 - Redeemed to become a peculiar people, zealous for good works

1 Peter 2:9 - A chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, "God's own special people", to proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvellous light

- KJV – "His own peculiar people"
- "chosen" – 'eklektos' – compare 'eclectic', one picked out from among the larger group for special service or special privileges. Jesus the Messiah was the Chosen One of God! We are his chosen people.

Through the goodness of God, we have been chosen

- Separated unto Him
- For good works
- To proclaim His praises
- To be His chosen people
- God not only loves us but His goodness follows after us

Chosen to be His special treasure

Matthew 13:45-46 - This is what God's treasure looks like

- Merchant looking for "pearls"
- He found One "Pearl of great price"
- This is the special possession that God is seeking in the earth
- "*segullah*" looks like that One Pearl, His Treasure, He sold everything to get us, His Bride!

BABYLON IS FALLEN

Babylon HAS fallen

This is one of the mysteries of the Bible

Be encouraged that Babylon has fallen!

- We are living in an interesting time of history (2021)
- Covid; Election time in USA etc – much confusion, cannot trust what the media say
- Could be easy to be fearful and concerned for the future

Revelation 17:5 – Babylon is a mystery, she is the mother of harlots, and the abominations of the earth

- The good news is that she has a destiny – Babylon has fallen!
- We are to persevere and remain faithful to Jesus

THE WANDERER

Gen. 4:16 – Cain went out from presence of Yahweh to land of Nod

- 'Nod' means '*wandering*'
- Cain's life was in a place of aimless conduct (**1 Peter 1:18**); he had no purpose; he began to live outside the Presence of God
- he became a wanderer
- (**2 Peter 3:11-12** – this is how we are to be living – with godliness and holy conduct) – we can hasten the coming of the Lord, by our behaviour – how we live; having purpose in our lives
- Stop looking at Babylon, start looking at the bride (there are two cities, two women)
- Many people look at all the bad things happening, they look at the world to see where we are at in terms of the coming of the Lord – we need to look at the Bride, we need to be focused on what God is doing, not on what Babylon is doing
- The place that Cain went to was a place of no rest, constant wandering without ever finding the purpose of God
- **1 Kings 4:25** – a picture of the kingdom at rest – everyone under his own vine and under his own fig tree with no-one to make them afraid

Gen. 4:17 – Cain named his son Enoch; built a city and named it Enoch

- 'Enoch' means – '*dedicated, initiated; trained up*'
- He was dedicated to evil, trained up outside of the presence of God
- The City called "Enoch" was a city of indulgence, dedicated to wickedness; a city of flesh, worldly pleasure, without God

BABYLON, A PLACE OF CONFUSION

Genesis 11 – The tower of 'Babel'

- **Gen. 11:4** - Let us build *ourselves* a city; make a name for *ourselves*
- Man's attempt to get up to the heavens

- The Tower of Babel was a monument of the pride of man
- **Rom.10:6-7** - we are not to try to ascend – through pride, religion; or descend – access witchcraft, occult practice

'Babel' means *confusion* - translated as Babylon.

- God would not allow this to happen
- **Gen.11:7** – God confused their language – they could no longer communicate with each other and they lost their unity to do evil
- They stopped building the city
- Babylon is a city of confusion
- God is not the author of confusion, but of peace; order (**1Cor.14:33**)
- In the church today there is a little bit of Babylon which manifests in disunity of the faith, divided denominational doctrines, dogmas and traditions
- There needs to be a sorting out
- The church is meant to be governed by the will of God, by the Word of God

The Church is to be the place of Truth

- **1 Timothy 3:15-16** – the church is meant to be the place where the truth is found – it is to be the pillar and mainstay of truth – which is to bring peace
- The truth is that God was manifested in the flesh
- This is the foundational truth that is meant to be found in the house of God
- When you try to work God out in your mind – confusion comes in
- Just receive God according to the Scriptures – receive the revelation of God, the mystery of who He is!
- There is nothing lacking in God – Jesus is the fullness of the Godhead (**Colossians 2:9**)
- All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found in Christ (**Col.2:3**)

Isaiah prophesied about Babylon

- **Isaiah 13:19** - context of a prophesy of Babylon
- Babylon called the "glory of kingdoms" – still man's kingdom
- As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah – this is Babylon's destiny
- It will become an uninhabited place – **v.20.** – there will be no trace
- **Jer.51:25:26** – Babylon likened to a mountain.
- God is against it – it will be desolate forever
- There is no stone for a corner or a foundation to be found in it
- You cannot take a stone from Babylon and build on it
- Only Christ can be the cornerstone and the foundation stone – this is the only stone we are to measure up to – **Ephesians 2:20-22**

Remember **Daniel 2** about the dream of Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel's interpretation
There was a Stone taken out of a mountain that struck the statue representing all the kingdoms of the earth, with Babylon at the top

All the other kingdoms are still manifestations of the head, Babylon

The Stone that struck the statue became a "great mountain that filled the whole earth" –

Daniel 2:35

Rev.11:15 – the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ

- They HAVE become! This is an eternal reality, and it will be manifested
- We are not waiting for this to happen, it has happened and is to be outworked

Isaiah 21:9 – ‘Babylon is fallen, is fallen’ – this was an eternal proclamation

- It has fallen, God has broken her carved images to the ground
- Where there is idol worship, there is confusion
- Where there is no true worship of the true God, there is only confusion
- All ‘carved images’ will be broken down and so all the confusion will cease!

Confusion will cease

- There is a battle between confusion and truth
- Between false teaching and the word of God
- Babylon falls when confusion ceases
- It is a battle of the word – of the truth – “Sanctify them by the truth, Your word is truth” – **John 17:17**
- **Hab.2:14** – the knowledge of the glory of Yahweh will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea
- The word of God is to be made known over the whole world – published, proclaimed and influencing life and behaviour.
- The revelation of the true God made known in the world – this is when confusion ceases
- That the world may know that God sent **Jesus** – **John 17:23**
- **1 John.5:20-21** – stay with the true God, who is Jesus the Messiah, this is eternal life. All else is an idol and brings confusion.

In the New Testament Babylon is referred to as the basic principles/elements of this world

Col.2:8&20; Gal.4:3&9; 2 Pet.3:10-12 – these are the basic elements of the world, the principles on which the world works and governed by

We need to get out of Babylon and get into Christ and be founded on the “elementary principles of Christ” and “the first principles of the oracles of God” – **Heb.6:1 & Heb.5:12**

THERE IS ANOTHER CITY - Heb.11:10

- Abraham saw this city.
- It has foundations – the builder and maker is God
- Babylon is the city of man
- **Heb.5:12** – the ‘elementary principles of Christ’ are the foundations (**Heb.6:1-2**) – then we can go on to maturity
- **1 Cor.3:11** – Jesus Christ the only foundation
- **Rev.21:14** – foundations of the walls of the city are the 12 apostles of the Lamb – there is an apostolic foundation
- It is prepared as a bride, God is the light, the Lord God and the Lamb are its temple – **Revelation 21:2, 22-23**

Babylon is fallen - Revelation 14:8

- **Rev.14:1-7** is the context of how Babylon falls

A Lamb standing on Mount Zion - v.1

- Jesus is the Lamb
- Zion the mountain on which the city, the church, the house of God, is built (**1 Peter 2:4-6**)
- the stone is laid in Zion, Christ is on Mount Zion as the foundation and cornerstone of the house!

- **Heb.12:22** – we have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem – there is another city
- Do not get caught up with looking for a literal number of 144,000
- It is the people who are with the Lamb on Mount Zion
- We are marked by our Father's name, His name is on us, we are identified by Him, we are sons of the Father!

A voice from heaven - Rev.14:2

- heard a voice from heaven, worship

Singing a new song before the throne – v.3

- we are part of the throng around the throne
- His name is on us; we are singing the new song – the song of the Lamb – there is a new song in our mouth now that we are redeemed
- we do not sing the songs of Babylon, the world, anymore
- we sing the songs of the Lord, the song of Moses and of the Lamb, the new song, a song of praise to our God – **Psalm 40:3**
- we have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb

The ones who follow the Lamb – v.4.

- (**2 Cor.11:2** – the church as a chaste virgin) – made whole in the word, cleansed by the blood
- not speaking about literal virgins, but not defiled by the world, not joined to the harlot city, not seduced by evil spirits of this world, not taken by false doctrines or "other gospels" (**2 Cor.11:4**)
- these people are following the Lamb wherever He goes, they are disciples, adherents, followers
- we are first fruits unto God – **James 1:18**

Without fault before the throne of God – v.5

- because of what Jesus accomplished this is our true state before the Throne – through Jesus' death and resurrection we are presented "holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight" – **Col.1:22**
- we can now approach the throne of grace boldly – **Heb.4:16**

Preaching the everlasting gospel – Rev.14:6

- an 'angel' which would be better translated 'messenger' with the everlasting gospel is preaching to those who dwell on the earth – to every nation, tribe, tongue, to every people.
- God has not given the gospel to 'angels' to preach – it is for men to preach
- This messenger is a corporate messenger, preaching the everlasting gospel to all the earth, committed to the mission that Jesus has given!
- this is fulfilling **Mark 16:15-16** – preach the gospel to every creature

'fear God and give glory to Him' – v.7

- calling all nations to worship the true God
- this corporate messenger with the everlasting gospel brings the truth
- This corporate messenger is a generation of preachers who are preaching the gospel like never before

This company described from **Revelation 14:1-7**, through their devotion to Jesus, their lifestyle as disciples and through their preaching of the true gospel and calling the world to worship the true God, **will see Babylon fall!**

**Are you a part of this company that sees
the destruction of all confusion?**

WRESTLING, PRAYER **and the WORD**

Ephesians 6:10-20

Wrestling → serious **prayer** to block the wrestling → the release of **the Word**

There is Warfare/Wrestling

Ephesians 6:10-20 - comes after five chapters and nine verses in Ephesians

- This warfare is not for babes but is for a mature church who can wrestle in prayer and release the Word

Summary of Ephesians:

- **Ephesians 1** - Adoption as sons
Prayer for revelation and enlightenment to understand the mystery of Christ
- **Ephesians 2** - We are seated with Christ in the heavenly places, far above
Brought near by the blood of Christ
We are part of One New Man
Built into the house of God
- **Ephesians 3** - Deep insights into the mystery of Christ
Manifold wisdom of God made known by the church to principalities and powers
Powerful prayer to be filled with the fullness of God
- **Ephesians 4** - Five ministries to being forth a mature corporate church
Nature of the new man
- **Ephesians 5** - Walking in love, light and wisdom
The mystery of the Bride church, a glorious church
- **Ephesians 6:1-9** - How to have right relationships
within marriage, family and workplace

The Whole Armour of God

Ephesians 6:10-12 - We are to put on the whole armour of God

- There is wrestling against: principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places
- These are not demons; they are spiritual beings in the heavenlies

Gird your waist in truth - Ephesians 6:14

- Having the truth in the mind (**1 Peter 1:13**) and being girded to speak it

Breastplate of righteousness

- Covers your heart
- We believe in our heart – faith happens in the heart **Romans 10:9-10**

Feet shod with gospel of peace - Ephesians 6:15

- Walking in the truth

Taking the shield of faith - v.16

- Up till now, all these aspects are defensive to stop the enemy hurting you
- Clears up the things that would make you doubt
- With your mind you know something and with your heart you believe it

Take the helmet of salvation - v.17

- This is the area of the conscience and decision making
- The mind is where you know things – it is deep down
- The helmet covers the head enables us to make godly decisions even in the heat of the moment

❖ Now we are ready to step into the battle

Take up the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God

Matthew 4:7, 10 - The three temptations in the wilderness

- Jesus overcame these temptations by the Word (Rhema – the quickened word in the crisis), "It is written"

Hebrews 4:12 - Word (Logos) is living, active and sharper than any two-edged sword

- The Word is the only thing in the whole universe that can sort us out
- The Word sorts out the difference between our soul and spirit, between if we are hearing God's voice in our spirit, or just our own soulish thoughts
- The Word gets into our conscience and discerns the will of God

Ephesians 6:12 - There is a wrestling with the powers

- This is the state of warfare

Ephesians 3:10 - To the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God will be made known to the powers in the heavenlies

- This is because the eternal reality of the victory accomplished by Jesus Christ
- The church is in victory, having come to the fellowship of the mystery

How do we prepare for battle?

2 Corinthians 10:3-6 - The weapons of our warfare are not carnal

- Pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing exalting itself against the knowledge of God
- We take every thought (trigger) captive to obey Christ

- We are in the warfare arena and we are to be fully armed!
- Many are taught about the armour without any working knowledge of the previous five chapters of Ephesians
- After we have prepared for battle and put on the armour, then we engage in the battle

When the engagement in battle comes, what can we do?

- Like Moses in the battle, we stand watching the battle with our hands raised (**Exodus 17:11-12**)
- Stay in victory
- Stay in intercession
- We engage in the battle in prayer; History changing prayer
- Prayer is a dialogue
- exercising the instructions of **2 Corinthians 10:3-6**

Praying always

Ephesians 6:18-19 - Praying always – it is a dialogue,

- be listening and take note of quickened verses or His voice answering or directing your prayers
- Always - in prayer, in supplication, in the Spirit
- Watchful, perseverance, supplication, for all the saints
- This is a big responsibility and prescription
- We are in the state of warfare
- We are exercising our authority in the Lord from **Ephesians 3:8-11**, and **2 Cor. 10:3-6**
- **Phil. 4:6** – through prayer and supplication make your requests known to God (with thanksgiving), then the peace will guard us in our heart and mind (**v.7**)
- The arbiter of having prayed successfully is peace in the heart, not necessarily the manifestation of the answer immediately
- **1 Peter 5:8** – be sober, vigilant, adversary the devil roams about like a roaring lion
- Resist the devil, steadfast in the faith
- Always realise that the same sufferings are being experienced by the brotherhood around the world

1 Thessalonians 5:17 - Pray without ceasing

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith and labour of love and patience of hope...

- Paul spent a long time praying

1 Thessalonians 2:13 - We thank God without ceasing

- 3 times “without ceasing” is mentioned

1 Timothy 2:1-9 - It is of first importance for us to:

- **pray, intercede, supplicate, give thanks** for all men and for those in authority
- That we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all dignity and respect
- This is good and acceptable in God's sight who desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth
- Truth is One God, One Mediator, Jesus the Christ
- The answer of the prayer is that Paul was appointed a preacher, apostle and teacher

Ministry of the Word

Ephesians 6:19-20 - the oracle going forth

- The oracle is that which comes from between the wings of the cherubim, the Word coming forth from the Throne
- Paul calls it the "mystery of the gospel" (hear the preaching and you will be born again)
- **Romans 1:9** – God whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel
- We serve in the gospel in our spirit
- Pray for the apostles and others in ministry to have "utterance" that they may "open their mouths boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel"

Messiah has come - Job said he would see the Redeemer standing on the earth one day

- People need to see and have an encounter with Jesus
- Let people go on the journey
- When we preach let the Word do its work

v.20 - Paul was an ambassador of the gospel

- 'ambassador' = to be the elder, a representative of a ruling authority
- ambassadors were mature, experienced men
- Paul was an "ambassador in chains"
- Through the written word coming out of the prison cell the gospel was going forth
- The prayer was "that I may speak boldly" – this is the ministry of the word

Wrestling in prayer releases the word to go forth