

THE LORD IS COMING
1 Corinthians 16:22



A translated version of the International Christian periodical
MARANATHA

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SERVE



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EDITORIAL

May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with all the readers of this periodical Maranatha, which is designed to announce and prepare for “The Lord Cometh!” This is certainly what we are awaiting; His visible and audible Second Coming. The reality concerning our Supreme Hope should be the greatest absorbent desire for each and every one of us.

In the word of God there is GREAT EMPHASIS about the Lord Jesus Christ’ Second Coming. In the Old Testament, the first coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is clearly prophesied about and made reference to. His second coming is also prophesied in the pages of the Old Testament, and this is done explicitly as well as implicitly by the mentioning of the resurrection that will take place at the Lord’s Second Coming and other events related to that day. The apostle Judas mentions Enoch making reference of the Second Coming of the Lord. Job, king David, in the Psalms and also the prophets Joel, Isaiah, Hosea, Jeremiah, Zephaniah, Daniel, Haggai, Zachariah and Malakai also make mention of the Second Coming.

It is worth mentioning that there are almost 400 verses in the New Testament where the Second Coming of our beloved Savior is mentioned or made reference to. But what about us? How much EMPHASIS are we giving our lives to His Second Coming? Throughout the Grace period of almost 2000 years the true believers and followers have been waiting for His coming for more than, and it has not been in

“And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven”. Just as they saw Him with their eyes ascending, we will see Him returning (Acts 1:10-11)

vain. Since the ascension of the Lord to heaven, His Second Coming has been eagerly spoken of and awaited. In the book of the Acts of the Apostles we read: *“And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven”*. Just as they saw Him with their eyes ascending, we

will see Him returning (Acts 1:10-11). My grandfather, Pastor Efraim Valverde Sr. lived, reading, studying, thinking, desiring, loving, praying, , talking, dreaming, and preparing for the Coming of The Lord and that is the way he departed to be in the presence of the Lord. In the time of his ministry he lived leading the minds and hearts of multitudes of people to do the same. Amongst the more than 50 songs the Lord gave my grandfather, 25 of them make reference to the Second Coming of The Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, what interest and motivation do we have for the Coming of the Lord? Who of us are reading, studying, thinking, loving, praying, preparing, speaking and desiring the glorious day of His Return? Be encouraged. Let us be counted amongst those that are: *“Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God” (2 Peter 3:12)*, so that we may be of those who *“Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls” (1 Peter 1:9)*. And this shall be *when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure (1 John 3:2-3)*.

Many of us already know what we must do, but if there be someone who doesn’t know, we are here help you with the guidance of the Word of God. We must reach the goal of our life! With God’s help we will sing the SONGS OF VICTORY, *“the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb” (Rev. 15:3, Exodus 15:1-18)*. Meanwhile we continue to sing of our “Supreme Hope” with the hope and desire to see “His face and live Him”.

God bless you
Pastor Efraim Valverde, III. ■

SUPREME HOPE

“I would have truly fainted, if I hadn’t believed that I should see, the goodness of the Lord, in the land of the living” That is what king David said and that what I also say, because I am waiting to see His face in glory and to live with Him.

Chorus

Supreme hope is this that I have, glorious goal of every child of God. What I must suffer here is not to be compared with our glory in the Coming of the Lord

The fig tree has already blossomed, it lives today oh Israel, great prophetic signs are being fulfilled, God will redeem His people. His Church is also waiting upon that day where there will be only one fold and only one Pastor, as the Lord Jesus already said.

My brother, if for God’s Name you are suffering tribulation, place your eyes upon the recompense, and don’t let your heart begin to faint. The words our Lord are faithful promises, heaven and earth shall pass away but His holy Word shall remain.

Song Written by Pastor
Efraim Valverde, Sr.



Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people (the Jewish People) *and upon thy holy city* (The old city of Jerusalem) (Daniel 9:24).

Shalom beloved people of God who by His marvelous Grace have been called to stand in such time as this. Those of us who have believed in His glorious name to call upon, honor and declare, His word in these end times. The events of these latest days give us the ability to see that *"The last day"* (John 12:48) is at hand.

The following are some of the outstanding events concerning the Jewish People and the City of the great King, Jerusalem.

July 7, 2022. "Ynet News", reported that the Russian External Relations Minister qualified the Israeli attacks against Syria unacceptable. We condemn such irresponsible actions that violate Syria's sovereignty and the basic norms of international rights and we demand its unconditional cease.

July 8, 2022 "Israel National News", announced it foresees that four rightwing opposition parties allied with the opposition leader, Benjamin Netanyahu, will obtain the absolute mayoralty in the Knesset, according to a new research.

July 8, 2022 "Israel National News", published a United States report: Iran has sufficient uranium to create nuclear arms. A high level United States official affirms that the Islamic Republic is within weeks of becoming nuclear.

July 10, 2022 "Israel National News" published a report from San Antonio, Texas: A suspect was arrested behind the threat against the ADL Jewish community (Anti-Defamation League).

July 13, 2022 "Israel National News" As part of a package of "gestures of good will" that Israel plans to do to the Palestinian Authority before the visit of the President of the United States, the Israeli government announced that it would approve six master plans for the Palestinian Arab settlements in the Judea and Samaria areas, plans that according to the Regavim Movement, would isolate the Jewish communities of Israel.

GOD'S PROPHETIC CLOCK

Pastor Efraim Valverde III

July 13, 2022 "The Times of Israel", informed the following: the Hezbola leader, Nasrallah, threatens with a war for the border dispute within Israel and Lebanon.

July 15, 2022 "Israeli National News" reported that the president of the United States, Joe Biden, visited Bethlehem and spoke Friday afternoon with the president of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmud Abas and he emphasized his commitment with the two state solution.

July 21, 2022 "Israel National News" informed that the Russian Justice Ministry asked the court for the suspension of the organization that facilitates the Jewish immigration to Israel. "The Jerusalem Post" reported that several other organizations received threatening letters from the Russian government.

July 28, 2022 "Francé24" notified the following: The ex-Chief rabbi of Moscow who now lives in exile in Israel, he warned Thursday about the "Dark Clouds in the Horizon" for the Russian Jews, as the ties between the two countries deteriorate because of the Ukrainian war.

August 3, 2022 "The Jerusalem Post" news agency reported: Canadian Jews under attack. Close to 50% increase in of crimes towards the Jewish people in 2021.

August 11, 2022 "Times of Israel" Notified the following: PIJ (Jihad Islamic Palestine) launched 1,175 missiles and mortars against Israel between Friday and Sunday. According to the Israeli Defense Force, about 200 missiles fell inside the Gaza Strip. In certain instances the failed launched missiles killed civilian Palestinians.

August 14, 2022 "ABC News" announced: Eight people, including at least five Americans were hurt when an armed man opened fire against a bus in Jerusalem, Sunday morning, the minister

of the Israeli Foreign Relations said.

August 17, 2022 "The Times of Israel" Published: The Palestinian ambassador, Riyad Mansour, once again seeks the status of full rights member of the UN before the United Nations.

September 4, 2022 "Israel National News" informed that Sunday afternoon that the ex-member of the Knesset, Yehuda Glick, visited the Temple Mount and was detained by the police after transmitting the sound of the Shofar through his cellular.

September 13, 2022 "The Jerusalem Post" published that the Minister of Defense, Benny Gantz, revealed to the diplomats of the United Nations that Iran increased its production hundreds of centrifuges and tripled its enrichment base in the underground of Fordow in the past year.

September 18, 2022 "The Times of Israel" informed: It was reported that until last Thursday, the Jewish people visited the holy place 50,000 times during the last Jewish year, a new record of pilgrims to Temple Mount.

September 22, 2022 "Israel National News" announced that the Israeli Prime Minister, Yair Lapid, declared his support for the two state solution and asked the Palestinian Authority and the Araba world to make peace with Israel, during his Thursday discourse before the United Nations assembly.

September 25, 2022 "Israel National News" published that the world Jewish population increases to 15.3 million, 7 million in Israel. Israel welcomes the greater number of Olim (immigration of Jews to Israel) in 20 years, as the agency helped 60,000 immigrants from 93 countries to make Aliyah (ascend to Israel) this year.

On October 30th, the "Jerusalem Post" reported that the United Nations General Assembly's First Committee stated in an

initial 152-5 vote for Israel to dispose of all its nuclear weapons and place its nuclear sites under the International Atomic Energy Agency's purview. It further called on Israel "to accede to the Treaty without further delay, not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons, to renounce possession of nuclear weapons and to place all its unsafe guarded nuclear facilities under the full scope of Agency safeguards as an important confidence-building measure among all States of the region and as a step toward enhancing peace and security."

Let us NOT be like the Pharisees and Sadducees who were looking for signs. *"...Hypocrites, who know how to discern* (conclude, determine, distance) *in the face of the sky; but can ye not discern signs* (indications, miracles) *of the times?"* **Matthew 16:3.**

"God's Clock" is not to set our eyes on the future signs but on the LORD. Signs or no signs, if we have our eyes set on Him and follow Him we will be ready and not caught off guard nor unprepared. However, we have the blessing to conclude, determine and distinguish that the most outstanding Biblical "signs" (past miracles and current indications) concerning the Jewish People and the Old City of Jerusalem confirm we are at the end of the "last days". We can conclude that the following past signs (miracles, indications) of the times are more than enough to believe wholeheartedly that we are at the end of the "last days". November 29, 1947 UN vote to Jewish Statehood in land of Israel was a miracle and indication of being near the end of "last days". The fulfillment of this UN vote on May 14, 1949, another miracle and indication.

The ongoing return of Jewish People to land of Israel has been a major miracle and indication of times. The tremendous miracle of the recapturing of the Old City of Jerusalem on June 7th, 1967. This is more than enough to believe we are at the end of the "last days". All of the signs (miracles and indications) current and to come only confirm our faith in Him, His Word and Return.

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem!
Pastor Efraim Valverde III. ■



“Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many” (Mat. 20:28).

The cited biblical verse is very familiar and it is constantly mentioned in the pulpits and in the Christian meeting places. But the fact that it is commonly being mentioned does not mean that that it is being lived, to the contrary, there are many more who say it than those who put it into practice, in the literal sense as the Lord requires it. For this reason I want to invite my brothers and sisters to who have chosen to stop and read these lines, for us to think once again on these Words of the Master, and reconsider them in such a way that would stimulate us to do what we need to do.

To begin with, we must make clear a very important thing, and it is that in the minds of many Christians there is a wrong idea (being that that is the way they have been taught), that to serve God is to keep themselves from sin (from vices, blasphemies, adulteries, etc.). So therefore living in such a way they believe that they are serving God, but they are deceiving themselves. It is one thing to live in holiness to please God and avoid God's judgment and condemnation and another thing is to serve.

Let us now see how we are to SERVE GOD. The apostle Paul tells us that God does not need nothing *“as though he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things” (Acts 17:25)*. Pleasing God implies two actions from us, one is DON'T DO certain things that offend

LIVING TO SERVE

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

The truth, my beloved brother is that to be able to be accepted by the Lord in His coming it is not only that we SHOULD serve but we MUST do it. Whoever does not believe it will be horribly convinced when they find themselves before the Lord, because what He has said cannot be changed by us because it will be fulfilled to the letter.

God and the other is DO certain things that God commands us to do. Therefore we DON'T DO the ones and we DO the other.

Who do we then do the things we need to do to SERVE God if God does not need anything from us? The answer is very clear and simple, and the Lord Himself explains it to us in **Matthew 25:32-46** (please read it my brother). *“Inasmuch as ye have DONE it unto one of the least of these my brethren: BLESSING. Inasmuch as ye did it NOT: CURSE”*. The Lord has moved me to speak about this when I have been in different places and it has called my attention several brothers who have told me that they were confused in this, believing that living away from evil they were serving God. The truth, my beloved brother is that to be able to be accepted by the Lord in His coming it is not only that we SHOULD serve but we MUST do it. Whoever does not believe it will be horribly convinced when they find themselves before the Lord, because what He has said cannot be changed by us because it will be fulfilled to the letter.

As I have spoken of this topic I have used an illustration that I believe can help my brother and my sister who read these lines. My wife HAS BEEN FAITHFUL to me in all of our long married

life (and I also have been faithful to her), but for a period of time, because of the experience of having lost her mind, she was unable to do absolutely nothing. When the Lord performed the miracle of returning her to life and to her mind, paralyzed and in her wheelchair as she was, she resumed her mindset of service to her husband, as she has done in love during all her life. She once again began to prepare the meals, wash, iron and all she was able to do. So what is the thought that I illustrate here? The fact that my wife has been faithful to me, but she has not always been able to serve me as she feels. So therefore we stand clear that one thing to be FAITHFUL to God and another to SERVE God.

I want to emphasize the fact that my wife wasn't able to serve during that period of time because she was completely deprived of her faculties, but as soon as she was able, the desire to serve was alive in her, as Christians, the desire to serve our brothers and our neighbor should always be alive in us, only if we are deprived of our faculties will we be able to be justified to not serve, because aware, we will not have an excuse before the Lord if we do not do the things that He has commanded each one of us to serve. Even my sister who might be handicapped or being bedridden without being able to move, if the desire and feeling to serve is alive in her, that desire and feeling will move her to something of great value and this is to pray for her brethren and her neighbor.

A while back, when visiting some of our brothers, a scene moved me, our sister, the mother of her family,



was filled with joy working in her humble kitchen preparing the food, for us as much as for her small children, who were several of them. On the other hand I saw her children who were joyfully running and playing to be served. Then a thought came to me that filled my emotions and I was unable to hold back my tears. Right there my Lord showed me very clearly two kinds of joy that exist in the midst of the people of God. Some rejoice waiting to be served, as the children in my story, but others rejoice to serve, as our sister, the mother in that family. The ones who rejoice waiting to be served, they do that because they are yet children (no matter the time that they may have or the place they may hold) but the Christians (especially ministers) that rejoice in serving, such as the mother to her family, are those in whom the maturity that the Lord requires for His sons and daughters abides.

By the way, continuing the same string of inspiration, let us notice that the desire to serve in the mother is unconditional, it is completely disinterested, and she doesn't serve to be paid, to receive recognition or because she feels obligated to do it. She serves because she loves and desire is in her heart, in her veins, in her being and she even suffers when she is unable to do it. If she is appreciated, she serves and she is not appreciated she serves. If there is food left for her, she is happy, but if there is no food left for her because her guests and her children liked it a lot, she does not complain about it, she rejoices instead because with that action she is confirming that they liked her food and that is precisely her

greatest satisfaction and reward. What a beautiful example we find here, it elevates us to think about the blessed love of our God and Savior Jesus Christ who, *"Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross"* (Philippians 2:6-8). Why? Because God did not come to be served, but to serve, to the degree of giving His life a ransom for many (Matthew 2:28).

If you, my beloved brother, are one of those many who have been rescued by the love of the Lord Jesus Christ, which the Lord has moved me to write, is having a repercussion in your heart. You understand it, you feel it and you do it for the simple reason that you cannot, as a true child of God stop doing it. The apostle Paul, speaking of his own part *"...woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!"* (I Corinthians 9:16). And the apostle Peter admonishes us saying: *"For if these things be in you (the virtues and the fruits of the Holy Spirit) and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ"* (II Peter 1:8).

On the other hand, "he who only keeps himself from jumping in front of the train" he's there, he didn't die he's just there like the luxury plant, with green leaves, but waiting for someone to come water them. Just leaves, as the fig tree that the Lord cursed (Matthew 21:19). The apostle Peter calls these type of Christians,

"myopic" (short-sighted) because they only see their own things (Phil. 2:4). All that matters to them is to have "this" and receive "that" to get "other", in other words, they only want to take it easy; him or her, their family or those their surrounding circle of friends.

These child-like children abound, their maturity has not arrived at the point of understanding that we have been called by the Lord, not to be served, but to serve. That our ministry here in this world as sons of God and *ambassadors of Christ* is not (II Corinthians 5:20) is not look to be GIVEN but to GIVE, just as our FATHER "GAVE". Not to seek to be served but to SERVE, in accordance to the example our Master gave us.

In the course of my days and the journeys of my travels until this day, I have not been able to and am able to avoid feeling the pain on one hand and desperation on the other as I see how few mature ministers and brothers there are in the Christian environment in which we move. Oh! Yes there is joy, tongues, songs, preaching, doctrine and even prophesy and it is all good. But the pain of Calvary is very scarce in many hearts and when it has to do with giving until it hurts, to serve until the point of sacrificing (unconditionally) very few are willing to do it!

I have instated much, and will continue to insist in this occasion, by means of the pages of this publication, that we are living in the last days, in which the second coming of the Lord is imminent. And if there is a time in which we need to think carefully about the topic of serving, is in this time,

being that we, His true children, have been called by the Lord to serve, imitating the example that He gave us. It is not possible to please God by only living a life separated from the world but sterile in the service. I repeat that many of my brothers have been deceived by the enemy and are walking without direction, saying that they are going to heaven because they are living a moral life, but they are serving God. But the words of the Lord continue to stand firm, saying to those who live with that mentality: *"For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink... as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me"* (Matthew 25:32-46).

I don't know seriously you can take these Words of the Master, dear reader, but as for me, I confess that I feel fear as I read them because I know that my Master is not joking. We live in a part of the world where the materialistic complacency has been a curse and the most terrible spiritual ruin for the multitude of Christians, since they are not hungry, they are not cold (and if at one time they were, they have forgotten), they don't know how to feel the need and pain for those who suffer and when the desire and the mindset are not present they neither know how to serve. Oh! Of course, they serve their own and those that are in their circle! But my brother, it is not that type of service that we are referring to in this commentary. The Lord Himself tells us that if we embrace those that embrace us, is that so wonderful? (Matthew 5:46-48). When we serve our family, our friends and our brothers, I repeat, is no great thing, it is our duty. But when we strive



to serve, even with sacrifice is necessary, to those that we know that we know we will never reward us, those whom we will never know personally because of the distance, even those that will not only will not appreciate us for giving them, but who might even do evil to us, that is the service that God awaits for us, His true children to do.

As ministers, it is easy and logic to strive to lift up their own ministry, to grow his local congregation, to build and beautify their temples, to acquire all the furnishings and other necessary things. But agreeing to use the church funds to serve in the above described fashion that is a totally different thing. They can only do it when the ministry and the church have reached the level of spiritual maturity where the egotistic spirit that prevails has been stripped away and they can feel the satisfaction that of serving, as the mother that I mention at the beginning of my narrative. But how few Christians there are and much less churches that feel and do! But I thank God for the few who are still around, and to these my brothers who feel what I have written, I ask you to pray to the Lord's face, so that He may work in the hearts and awaken the ministers and brethren from the lethargy of death who are asleep and are not serving should and can serve. One of the powerful weapons of the devil is to makes us feel very sorry for ourselves or of our situation, so that we don't determine ourselves to sacrifice ourselves in the service of the Lord. That trap is very subtle and dangerous, my brother and my sister, examine yourself and make sure you are not one of the many victims.

Does God not know what our physical condition is? He knows many Christians give of their leftovers and many others who live waiting to have more than they need so they can give and thereby they never give. But the reality is that those who have truthfully understood the will of God, they have discovered an inexhaustible mine of spiritual treasures that come as logical product of the ministry of service, of giving and doing this with unconditional liberality and with the same mind with which the One that came not to be served but to serve, to the degree of giving His own life to rescue many of us. **(Matthew 20:28).**

These are the type of Christians who give according to their strength, then above their strength and not satisfied they give their own selves. These are the members of the real church of the Lord, because in them is found the *"same mind that was in Christ Jesus"* **(Philippians 2:5)**. They are the Christians upon whom the name that is above all names has been invoked for the remission of their sins **(Acts 4:12, Philippians 2:9)**, who have received the gift of the Holy Spirit **(Acts 2:38)**; they are those that know how to rejoice in the services, in the worship of God, who testify, sing, preach, and much more but who above all know how to feel the pain for their neighbor, close and afar, that when someone suffers and asks for help, they give, serve, help and continue to give and serving others and they do not grow weary of doing it, because Christ has been perfected in their lives and the desire to serve is as a fountain *"out of his belly (that) shall flow rivers of living water"* **(John 7:38)**.

The Lord said: *"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold"* **(Matthew 24:12)**. And there certainly are multitudes of Christians who by this time are disappointed because of so much crookedness and people who take advantage which prevails amongst the so called Christianity. Many have been and are being exploited to enhance this or that religious organization. Others to exalt the ministry of this or that person. Or simply, there are some that are defrauded by freeloaders with credentials and for this reason they are "burned out" and as a result, they don't trust anyone anymore. I must point concerning these Christians, that they are right in part, but we need to remember that the Lord said, *"...he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved"* **(Matthew 24:13)**, and will not be justified in any manner if we do not seek a just way to serve. We see that the need continues and is on the rise all around us and throughout the world and there are many people in misery who cry and plea, for spiritual food and also for material food and if we close our ears to that cry, we will certainly not escape the already anticipated judgment from the Lord.

Just as we were born naturally to serve, we have also been "born again" **(John 3:3-4)** to work and serve. The Christian who ignores this, harm themselves, whether knowingly or unknowingly, the Master's word cannot fail. Many brothers live a life of spiritual ruin for not lending themselves to serve as the Lord requires of them. If on the hand we suffer and go through tribulations but we have good conscience before the Lord that we are serving our brethren and our

neighbor with all our capacity, then Glory be to God! We will certainly not lose our reward because the Lord is faithful to His promises.

How do you feel my brother my sister? If you are of those who have helped us to serve be means of these pages, may the Lord bless you and me so we can continue go forward without fainting and we reach the finish line. If had not done it but now the Lord spoke to your heart, *"Come over into Macedonia, and help us"* **(Acts 16:9)**, we need the reinforcement to continue serving many from near and afar unconditionally, announcing the name that saves and the liberty in Christ and this by the printed letter, through the radio waves, television, Internet, through trips and visits an through whichever means possible. What for? To form another religious organization? No! A thousand times no! On the contrary, against that precise digression we preached and will continue to preach. To aggrandize myself or someone else? No! That is precisely one of the heresies we disprove. God has called us to SERVE AND BE OF HELP as far as our strength will reach, so others will know the Lord Jesus and as they know His name they may receive the marvelous salvation that we have received by Grace.

Let us then strive to serve, my brethren, for we have but little time to do it, because soon the One who promised to give to each and every one of His children shall appear in the clouds with power and glory. Don't seek to be served, but rather seek to SERVE.

May the Lord bless you. ■



‘And the Lord God said: It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him’ (Genesis 2:18).

After making this declaration, The Lord our God moved to create Eve, in the form that the Holy Scriptures describe. And by the Creator’s determination, the first marriage was formed, from which all mankind comes. Initiating with this marriage, the Word of God tells us of the first family, of the corresponding tragedies and of the multiplication of the human race upon the face of the earth. But before all this happened, when Adam was by himself in the Garden of Eden, he surely lorded over all the creation. He gave names to all the animals, terrestrials, aquatic and volatile. By the will of the Creator, all the created beings recognized man as lord of them. But all that, Adam was not complete, he was alone and the Lord Himself declared that it wasn’t good for man to be alone. God could have created two or three men at the same time that He made Adam so that he wouldn’t be alone, but that is not the companionship to which in this case the Scripture is referring to. It is referring to the part that is complimentary to the man, the part that makes him complete: The women, *“an help meet for him” (Genesis 2:18)*, said the Lord.

By the way, God could have created the women at the same time He created man, but He didn’t do it that way, and I that we find a Divine purpose and this is that the Lord wanted Adam to be ALONE sufficient time so that by the time he was to have his “HELP MEET” he would appreciate and value the importance of marriage. And Adam understood it that way, his exclamation denotes what he felt as he awoke from that dream: *“And Adam said, this is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man” (Genesis 2:23)*. What he felt for that being that was now at his side was not to be compared to what

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he had felt for all the other beings of creation. This was a new experience for him, it was none other than the love that was making his feelings vibrate like he never experienced. And Adam loved his wife and he loved her so much that when she was deceived by the serpent, ADAM also from his own account (because he wasn’t deceived **I Timothy 2:14**) ATE OF THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT SO SHE WOULDN’T BE CAST OUT OF PARADISE ALONE, and he also be left alone as he was all the time that he didn’t have his wife.

I have to open a parenthesis here y point out, for the benefit of and joy of my brother, who reads this article, el MARVELOUS SYMBOLISM we find in this account: The second Adam (Christ) loved His bride (the Church) so much that because of His love for her *“For he hath made him to be sin for us” (II Corinthians’ 5:21, Galatians 3:13)*, so she (the church) having been also deceived by the serpent (Satan) by the love and faith in the second Adam (**I Corinthians 15:45**), the Lord Jesus Christ the Groom (**Ephesians 5:25**) COULD COME BACK TO PARADISE (**2 Corinthians 12:4; Rev. 2:7**) and that way she (the bride, the church) could be with her beloved FOREVER (**I Thessalonians 4:17**).

The apostle Paul describes marriage as a *“mystery”* that it has, in the spiritual aspect, it is certainly a tremendous meaning, but in the natural it also has such a great importance that precisely for not understanding it, many Christian marriages live unhappy and in a lamentable spiritual ruin, to such degree that THE PRAYERS OF BOTH (husband and wife) ARE HINDERED (1 Peter 3:7).

The marriage is, therefore, by the absolute will of the Creator, the basic and fundamental institution of the human race. Just as the first marriage was important to God, the billions of marriages that He has united continue to be as important. This is why the commandment of the Lord continues its stringency when He says: *“What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder” (Matthew 19:6)*.

Marriage is basic unity of humanity itself. It’s the basic unity of the nations, from the small one to the most populated. It has always been the basic unity in Israel, since its origin until the present day, the Jewish people; and they, based in the Holy Book, they are until this day the race that have placed great important and care to the sacred aspect of marriage. Marriage is also the basic in the Lord’s Church. Since the families, fruit of the Christian marriages, have been until this day the principle and stronger pillars in the congregations and Christian communities. The instruction of the theme of marriage is therefore of capitol importance, amongst the believers in Jesus Christ the Lord, THE DEVIL KNOWS WELL THAT THE BEST FORM OF DESTROYING GOD’S WORK IS BY DESTROYING THE MARRIAGES.

The marriage relation is, by the initiative of the Creator Himself, a marvelous combination between the man and the women that covers all the aspects of the human life; the physical, moral, in the material, economic, cultural sense, and etc. but above all in the spiritual sense. When the Christian spouses have discovered the *“mystery” (Eph. 5:32)* of marriage

and have found “the combination” to agree y understand each other in all the aspects of their life, “unity” can turn into a very special blessing from God Himself, and not only to their own children but also to all the people that surround them and more particularly to their brothers and fellow workers in the service of the Lord Jesus. It is indispensably needful, especially for this reason, that in the marriages in the Church of the Lord, and more in the ministry, that there be the necessary instruction so that each matrimony will reach the spousal goal and level that the Lord desires amongst His people.

In the course of my years in the ways of the Lord (referring myself more particularly to Cristian environment amongst the Latin-Americans), I have considered with sadness and even with desperation, how the devil has worked in the minds and hearts of many of my brethren, ministers and members of the churches, the idea that talking publicly and dealing openly with the topic of marriage is inappropriate and even embarrassing because they think that it is a “carnal” topic. The reality is that many of those that believe are the ones that in more need of instruction in their conjugal life, being that it is from the CENTER OF THE INTIMATE LIFE OF MARRIAGE, of which one or two are cultivated, THE MOST TREMENDOUS ROOTS OF BITTERNESS OR THE MOST MARVELOUS SOURCES OF HUMAN SPIRITUAL HEALTH.

None of the all the human relations can replace the spousal relation, being that from it and I repeat, only of it said the Lord: *“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh” (Genesis 2:24)*. The mother herself after having in her bosom the child of her bowels, after giving birth to him, feeding and raised in her care, the came when that child became a man had to separate



from her to form “another unity”. But the mother continues to be the wife of her husband, the father of her children, both of them being “one flesh”. By the way, I have seen that, the relation of the children to their parents, which is sacred, has become a subtle instrument, used by the enemy to destroy the “unity” of the marriage of the parents. When the latter are not aware of the importance and mutual responsibilities of their marital relation, without realizing they can be taken to family and also spiritual ruin.

But not only the children or other factors of natural type can the enemy use to ruin a marriage, but he can also use sacred things in the service to God. There have been many ministers of the Lord who have ruined their own marriage, family and their own ministry when they become totally immersed in “the work of the Lord”, they have believed that it is not important to give time to attend his wife as a woman because “that is carnal”, they say. Elevated to a “level of spiritual superiority”, according to their sincere way of thinking, they have carelessly ignored a warning “so carnal”, according to them, like the one that the Holy Scriptures point out: *“Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency. But she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband”* (I Corinthians 7:5, 33, 34).

When the Holy Spirit, through the instrumentality of the apostle Paul councils saying *“A bishop (the pastor) then must be blameless, the husband of one wife”* (I Tim. 3:2), is with the intention of emphasizing the importance of the “unity” of marriage and the need of that “unity” so that he also may be effective in the work of the ministry. It is certain that the apostle Paul mentions also the eunuchs and the gift of continence, but we are all aware that those are exceptions, the

normal and regular course of life the man and the woman (beginning with the servants of God), is through the marriage channel. The ministers who have ignored these Divine warnings have damaged their own selves, to their wife, the family and the believers in Christ whom they serve.

What has been said to the ministers most certainly applies also, in their level, to the each and every Christian husband, but there is also the part that is pertains to the wife of a faithful Christian or minister. Many women, wives of a faithful Christian or minister who have unconsciously ruined their marriage, their family and even the spiritual life or the ministry of her husband for wanting to consecrate herself to such degree (according to them in their sincerity) that being in fasting and occupied in the things of the Lord, have forgotten the Divine warning that have already cited. Those of use that have been united by the Lord in marriage must always have in mind that the Lord Himself warns us that it is our sacred responsibility (husband and wife) to conserve those bonds of that “unity” in all its aspects. The biblical bases upon which a happy home can be built in the conjugal life have been established in the word of the Lord: *“Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it”* (Ephesians 5:24-25).

The Christian spouses who have believed that it is possible to take for granted what has been established here by God in relation to the married life and that both have been negligent to fulfill the basic the pointed out ordinances have had to taste the BITTER EXPERIENCES that God cannot be mocked (Galatians 6:7). On the other hand, those of us who have discovered “the combination” according to the keys that the Holy Word of God gives us, we are witnesses (I say we, because my

wife and I are in this number) of the marvelous, yes, marvelous happiness and of the natural and spiritual blessings that come from God when the matrimonies live in accordance to Creator’s established order.

What has been said applies to the spouses of all ages and in all the times, but it is logical to understand that the more age and more years in the married life that we may have “OUR RESPONSIBILITY IS GREATER. It is no secret the fact that many young couples have been disrupted because of the wrong example they have received from their parent’s marriage. The son grew up seeing that his father never demonstrated his love to his mother, and that he does as well with his young wife because he believes that is the correct way of treating his wife. The daughter also grew up seeing the irreverent and rude way that her mother treated her father and that is what she also does with her young husband.

How many old and ignorant mothers, calling themselves servants of the God, have also ruined their children’s marriage? Some, wanting to continue having their sons under their wings just as when they were adolescents, but prying now into the private matters of their conjugal life, forgetting that their son and his wife are now “ANOTHER UNITY”, and that in their marriage they are now “ONE FLESH”. Other mothers, wanting to govern her daughter as if she was still her little girl, not allowing her to be the responsible and woman and wife of her own matrimony, the old mother in-law is in everything, even advising her to not submit to her husband, without understanding what great curse and ruin she is pouring into her own children and the judgment that before the Lord she is bringing upon herself and most likely also upon her husband, if he as an older and experienced man, knowing the evil that his wife is putting on herself, does not take his place as a man to avoid it. This topic

is very wide and what we have pointed out is only a small part of what we could say in the entirety of the subject. But our prayer is before the Lord is this small portion that has been written could be of help to more than one of our brethren in Christ, especially to the privileged marriages where both know and serve the Lord. That they may appreciate how valuable their matrimony is before God and how much their marital relation has to do even with the salvation of their souls.

The purpose of this writing, as the title indicates, is to emphasize how important marriage is in the Church of the Lord, and being aware of that all husbands and wives be awake to the truth of God so we don’t become victims of the devil’s deceitfulness.

To conclude I want to point out that amongst us (and amongst our brothers who read this periodical) there are some who lament that they didn’t receive fundamental advise and council as we have pointed out here in time and now they are suffering the consequences. I believe that I can justly suggest to some Christian couple that having problems and one of the two is thinking that it is best to just separate from their spouse, to talk those whose marriage has been destroyed for not applying the remedy in time and you will see what God can tell you through that brother who now lives alone or also from that sister who now laments what happened in her conjugal life that now destroyed.

As I end, I tell you my beloved brother, companion in the ministry: Don’t neglect your marriage, LOVE YOUR WIFE! And to you my beloved sister in the Lord, BE SUBJECT TO YOUR HUSBAND!

You brother in Christ, and a happy husband.

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr. ■



Shalom, my brothers! I am writing on this occasion to tell you about the wonderful blessing that I personally received from the Lord through His Word, in this meeting.

The activity began on Thursday afternoon, with our pastor Efraim Valverde III sharing with us about the importance of paying attention to our children (1 Tim. 5:8), helping them in their walk with the Lord so that on that day they can also contemplate the face of our God, and not doing it by force, but in the love and fear of our God (Zech. 4:6).

On Friday morning, the pastor shared with us the importance of examining ourselves to see the areas where we are failing the Lord and to correct our lives before Him (1 Cor. 11:31; Job 22:21). Later, when our wives were together with us, he taught us the importance of coming into agreement together to seek the face of the Lord, uniting in fasting and prayer (Mt. 18:19-20). Then our pastor led us, with the help and anointing of our God through Scripture, to examine and understand the message written by our pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr. "The Humanity of

REPORT FOR PASTORS AND MINISTERS IN MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

Pastor Elias Murillo



our Lord Jesus Christ". Delving into many passages that show us the reality that the God who made the heavens, the Earth and the universe itself (including us), He is the same one who was manifested in the flesh (1 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 2:14), not in any flesh, but without the genetics of sin (Heb. 7:26). How wonderful!

Our pastor finished, sharing with us the great need we have as ministers of God, to seek the Lord with yearning, desire, passion, fasting, prayer, with much humiliation and tears (Mr. 12:30; Miq. 6:8), to be able to minister effectively, under the anointing of God, to our family and to the brothers that God has entrusted to us in each of the congregations.

Let's not lose heart, my brothers, let's go forward holding the hand of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ the Lord in the midst of everything that besieges us (Acts 14:22).

From Guadalajara, Jalisco, your brother in Christ Jesus the Lord,

Pastor Elias Murillo. ■

Shalom to all my beloved brothers, in "the faith" (Jude 1:3). The Lord wanted to blessed us, on the weekend of August 5, 6 and 7, "with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Eph 1:3).

On Friday afternoon, our pastor Efraim Valverde III was inspired by the Holy Spirit and spoke to us about The goal and work of a pastor and the importance of understanding this. This teaching is a great blessing for all pastors and specially for me. I was greatly encouraged to continue forward. On Saturday morning, God used our pastor Efraim Valverde III, to share "Instruction for parents and children". God has called us to be godly parents, if we do not instruct our children in the way of God, the world is going to destroy them (Judges 2:10), that is why the Word of the Lord tells us: "Train up a child in the way he should go." (Prov 22:6), parents need to train their children to walk in Gods ways. In the

REPORT OF FELLOWSHIP SERVICE IN CHAMBERSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Pastor Lázaro Antonino



afternoon of that same day, Pastor Fred Griffith spoke to us, Confirming the teaching from the morning and also urging us to "not forget how good God is to each one of us". At that same time, our pastor had a meeting with the young people to remind them of the importance of paying attention to Gods Word.

On Sunday, our pastor used the Word of God to share with us the greatest truth in His Word: "God is One and His Name is One." We thank God that three brave men were baptized on that day in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. It was a great blessing for us and for all our brothers who came from far away. We thank the Lord for the miracles of those days. We desire for God to bless you, and if God allows us, next year we will have another fellowship again.

¡Shalom!
Pastor Lázaro Antonino. ■



Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts. (Zech 4:6)

Greetings from your brother pastor Moisés Quintanar, from Vista, California, first of all thanking God for giving us this opportunity to celebrate our 20th anniversary, which took place on September 10, 2022. Remembering and recognizing the wonders that God has done during these 20 years, also remembering the late pastor Apolinar López, who began the work in Oceanside, California, at the end of the 1980s, and this congregation came out from that congregation, in which now by the Grace of the Lord I am a part of this church.

The Lord Jesus allowed this congregation to begin in 2002, through Pastor Luis Quintanar, and now the Lord has allowed me to pastor for 6 years. I thank God that

REPORT FROM OCEANSIDE CA 20TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

Pastor Moses Quintanar.



from that time the Lord has helped us to take the oversight of His people. I thank God also for the men he has placed in my life to help me in this ministry whom I have been able to lean on for the support of this work that God has entrusted to us. My father Dionicio, my brother ministers Fausto Sánchez, Israel Quintanar, Álvaro Quintanar and Jorge Santiago. We thank God for each one of the pastors and congregations that were able to accompany us. We also had the privilege that Pastor Efraim Valverde III was with us at this event, encouraging us not to extinguish the fire of the Lord Jesus in our lives so He can perfect the good work that He began in us (**Phil. 1:6**).

God bless you, my brothers, wherever you are, let us go forward to reach the goal.

Your brother in Christ greets you,
Pastor Moses Quintanar. ■

I thank our Lord Jesus Christ for having allowed us to be with Pastor José Estrada and our brothers from Basuchil, Chihuahua, from August 26 to 28 of this year, 2022. The fellowship began on Friday afternoon, where we were able to talk a bit about the positive and negative influence in the world and how to combat those negative influences with the spiritual weapons the Lord has given us.

On Saturday we were able to hear the council from the Word of God from through lips of my brother Alfredo Tienda, who spoke of the importance of finding grace before God and men, using history using as an example the lives of Esther and Ruth. He also advised us not to forget the greatness of God's grace. Also on Saturday, Brother Rubén Estrada shared the Word, making reference to the uniqueness of God.

In the afternoon, the Lord moved Pastor José Estrada to speak about staying firm in the truths we have received and not allowing or giving

room for deception, he also spoke about the importance of the Name of God and using it with respect.

And to finalize the night service we supported what had been shared, in reference to the Supreme Name, and to be awake to the signs that we are seeing, that announce the imminent coming of our Great God and Savior. The Lord moved us to summon the young people to the altar to pray for them, (being a large number), and encourage them to lend themselves to be used by the Lord.

On Sunday my brother Alfredo Tienda spoke to us again about the importance of being connected with the Lord in order to recognize His voice when He

REPORT OF FELLOWSHIP SERVICE IN BASUCHIL CHIHUAHUA

Brother Gilbert Tienda



are many of us who have children who, although they are not in vices or doing evil, are dead as long as they are not connected with the Lord.

That same Sunday at noon, the baptisms were announced, and thank our God that 9 people went down in the waters of baptism, the vast majority being young, including the children of Pastor Celestino Peñafort from the city of Constitución, Chihuahua.

The fellowship ended Sunday night with the blessing of the Lord. We thank our God very much for having allowed us to be there and to be able to confirm the messages, and strengthen the bonds of fellowship.

God bless our brothers and sisters who were serving us and cooking for this meeting, rejoicing to see their diligent service for the work of the Lord. Let's keep praying for our brothers in this area.

Yours in Christ:
Gilbert Tienda. ■

speaks to us, using the story of Samuel and Eli as an example. After pastor Tienda, once again, the Lord moved Pastor José Estrada to emphasize the importance of praying for our children, mentioning that there



REPORT OF FELLOWSHIP SERVICE IN LONE PINE, CA

Brother, Javier Nunez



Greetings to all my brothers, the Lord bless you and keep you together with your families. First of all, I thank God for allowing us to have our first youth service Saturday, September 3, of this year. We were joined by brothers from different congregations in California, Washington, Oregon, Utah, Arizona and Nevada. It was a joy to see all of our brothers again, faithful companions in this journey. We are grateful to all our brothers and our pastor Efraim Valverde III and his family for their effort and support.

The Lord ministered to us through our brother, pastor Efraim, about the importance of knowing how to listen to the Lord to put His Word into action through obedience. He emphasized that loving the Lord means being faithful to him, showing loyalty to him, and this is manifested in the life of those whose faith has been cultivated

through the understanding of knowing who God is, and not “what one feels”.

Thank God, the pastor was able to accompany us on Sunday as well, and he spoke to us about the heart that pastors should have for the Church and about the purpose of God’s call for pastors. He also exhorted us not to be *“dumb dogs”* (Is. 56:10), but to speak out giving warning. And he reminded the congregation of the following Scripture: *“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”* (Hebrews 13:17)

We continue to be amazed at how the Lord moved, and grateful for His Word and Presence. God bless you.
Your brother, Javier Nunez,
Lone Pine, CA. ■

YOUTH SECTION

Sister Brenda Martinez



My name is Brenda Martinez and I congregate with pastor Jaime Vigil at “La Iglesia Del Señor Jesucristo en las Americas, Templo “Monte de Los Olivos”. How sweet it is to know the Lord and get to know His wonders. I thank and praise God for choosing me and keeping me to this day. *“What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor”* (Psalms 4, 5).

Who am I Lord that you have considered me and have hand-picked me to take part in this great salvation? I’m truly blessed that God has mercy on me despite my rebellion. Young people, I urge you to seek the Lord now, more than ever *“Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light”* (Colossians 1:12). How many people can say they have been chosen by the one and only true, powerful God? Not many, let alone being chosen to understand who He is. *“And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true,*

and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life” (1 John 5:20). We are extremely blessed to have been chosen by the Almighty. Those of us who have had the privilege of growing up in the church should have an understanding of who God is and what He’s done for us. Which gives us the more reasons to hold tightly to our salvation. *“For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but him, that calleth”* (Romans 9:11).

The Lord has called us out of darkness to walk in His light. He has formed and knitted us from the beginning and called us to do His will. He paid the ultimate sacrifice just so we can know Him now in our time. We have been birthed through the Word of truth and have been chosen before the foundation of the world. He is our redeemer, He has made us new through the power and holiness of His blood. God has mercy with those He chooses to have mercy with and I praise the Lord because He has been so gracious to me.

I encourage you brothers and sisters to read **Romans chapter 9, James 1:18, 1 Peter 1:23-25, 2 Thessalonians 2:13, Ephesians 1:4-14, Colossians 1:13 and Acts 13:48** which speak more in depth about being chosen by God. A message that has been shared through pastor Efraim 3rd as well.

Continue on next page.



I pray that the Lord helps me seek Him before I seek anything else. I pray that I not be governed by my emotions, as we've been told many times by Pastor Efraim 3rd. Our hearts are fleeting and our purpose for ourselves is nothing compared to the will God has for us. *"How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You"* (Psalms 139:17, 18). How vast are His thoughts of you and me? Every time I read this verse it just reminds me that the plans I have for myself are nothing compared to what the Lord's purpose is for me. He is the author of my story; broken as I was, He took me and molded me. I am here Lord to do your will, I am fearfully and wonderfully made. The Lord has taken me, the lowest of the low, and has cleansed me and made me anew. Anything good that comes from within is not because I am good, but because the Lord has placed good deeds in my heart. We are saved by grace and not by works; I am not chosen because I was good. I was chosen because of His marvelous grace.

We should never glorify ourselves but rather do things in the interest of others. Young people seek the Kingdom of God before anything else, something I wish I'd done sooner. I encourage the youth to truly get to know the Lord on a personal level. How beautiful it is to spend your single years praising and worshipping the Lord. Just knowing 'Of Him' is not enough, but we must 'Know Him'. *"We love Him because He first loved us"* (1 John 4:19). What more do we need than the Lord's Love? We are so blessed to be hand-picked by the Lord Himself. During my teenage years, I did not live for the Lord I

did not trust in the Lord the way I do now. I thank and praise Him for the understanding He has given me. I want to give everything to the Lord no matter what, please pray for me because I don't want to fall short when it comes to obeying God. The Lord has started a good work in all who know Him; us who are far from being good. We must retain the Lord's fire, and not do our own will or do things with our own strength.

Let's rise and praise the Lord the way He should be praised. Let's bring Honor to Him by the way we speak, think, act, and dress. Let's not wait for hardships to hit before we start praising the Lord. Let's seek Him at our lowest and seek Him at our highest. Thank you, Lord, for what you've done, what you're doing, and what you will do.

Thank you once again Lord for allowing me into your presence and letting me experience your grace once more. Brothers and sisters, seek the Lord and strive till the end *"Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown"* (Rev. 3:11). I will eagerly wait for your coming Lord.

My advice for the youth is to seek the Lord before seeking anything else. Parents never stop praying for your children and young people thank the Lord for your parents especially if they have taught you the importance of loving God. Although we can never follow God in His Eternal Deity, we can follow Him in His humility. Let's learn to have compassion and pray for one another. Please pray for my family and me; as well as the congregation and youth of San Marcos.

God Bless. ■

WOMEN OF GOD

Sister Juanita Hernandez



Praise the Lord, my brothers and sisters my name is Juanita Hernandez and I live in Bakersfield, California with my husband, Aniceto. He is the pastor at our local church.

I would like to share the work God has been doing in my life. It is my hope and prayer that it will encourage you.

I am thoroughly involved with helping in our church ministry. I teach the children during Sunday school, I help with events in the church like fundraising, cooking, gardening, and volunteer at our Christian school. I attend our prayer meetings, worship services, and out of town special worship services. All of this might seem normal, but I have been doing this even though I'm living with stage 4 cancer.

I have been battling stage 4 cancer since 2014. It's my second time with cancer. I had breast cancer in 2007 and was healed, but in 2014 it returned. This time it was all over my body including my bones. The doctors told me there was nothing they could do! But my hope and trust is in the Lord! It's been hard at times when my body is hurting from the cancer or the medication, but I have peace through God. The Lord reminds me that I'm just passing by; this is not my home.

I have learned many things during this season. One, is to be content in all things. I am content with what I have

and I'm not desiring what others have. I have also learned to be content with my body; whether I am hurting or feeling good.

I try to make the most of every day, because tomorrow is not promised; this is another thing I have learned during this season. If I am tired and friends or family visit me I still make every effort to interact with them and build memories. I try to teach my grandchildren about God and to trust in Him. I've learned to be thankful. I am so thankful for the peace God has given me. I am thankful that He gives me strength to be able to help in ministry. The days I'm feeling down I make myself get out of the house and go do something. I know it's God that gives me that strength. And for that I am thankful. I've also learned to be thankful in every situation. Why? Because I know God has a plan and a purpose for me. I must admit that the majority of the time I feel fine. I live mostly a normal life. I've been able to go to Israel twice with Temple Philadelphia and many brethren. What a joy! But the Lord has also granted me an opportunity to travel to other places throughout the United States and Mexico. All the while with no problems. I know without a doubt it's been because of my Lord! Some of my favorite scriptures are: **Psalms 23:4** *"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."* Another is **Philippians 4:13** *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."* Lastly, **1 Thes 5:18** *"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."* I hope what God has been doing in me and through me has been an encouragement to you. I know he isn't finished with me yet. And when He is, I am ready to do what He asks.

Lord bless you richly. ■



“Thus saith the Lord, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The Lord of hosts is His Name: If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me forever” (Jer. 31:35-36).

I began this brief commentary with this tremendous declaration made by the Creator of the universe, about the fortune of Israel. And I say “fortune”, because now, by the Grace and mercy of God, we the Christians amongst the gentiles, along with Israel, were fortunate (of having been) *“being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will” (Ephesians 1:11)*. Today, the fact that this chosen nation is alive, is the irrefutable proof that the cited prophetic miracle has not ceased to be fulfilled throughout the millenniums.

It is impossible to write in brief all that can be said about this people, I therefore reduce my words to the more outstanding aspects in the last days. Today there are more than 14 million Jews worldwide. A little more than 6 million integrate the Modern State of Israel. Close to five million reside in the United States. A good number are in France, Russia and other oriental countries and the rest are still scattered throughout the rest of the world.

During the brief number of years of the existence of the Modern State of Israel, the Jewish State (since 1948 to this day) tremendous signs have been fulfilled in it for which we Christians who love Israel have rejoiced. And to this is precisely what I want to make reference to because I have heard and have seen my brothers rejoice as they mention

MEDITATING ON ISRAEL'S FORTUNE

Pastor Efraim Valverde Sr.

“Thus saith the Lord, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The Lord of hosts is His Name: If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me forever” (Jer. 31:35-36).

Israel's victories. However, they forget or ignore the continued pain of the chosen people of God who have had to pay much bloodshed, in the world because of “its fortune”.

It was on August 29, 1897 that the first Zionist Congress was celebrated in Basilea, Switzerland, the literal fulfillment of the prophetic return of the Scattered People to the Promised Land begin to be fulfilled. From 1897 to 1947 there were an innumerable number of tremendous events that gave origin to the new State, among them was the “Holocaust”. The most grotesque, frightening and gruesome event in all the annals of the history of mankind, as was the

systemic death of 6 million human beings. Their only crime consisted of being members of the Jewish people. No matter how much is said and is written, it has been and will continue to be impossible to relate all the details of this incomparable crime.

The Holocaust occurred at the hands of Nazi Germany, under the satanic leadership of the well known evil Adolf Hitler. I was an adolescent at the beginning of the Holocaust and of draft age when it ended. I had never heard anyone say anything about the horrible suffering of the Jewish people in the Holocaust. Even after my conversion to the Lord at the age of 20 years, 15 years more had to transpire for my eyes to be opened and to know about the frightening Holocaust. Today, after another 35 years, I know that there are many Christians who ignore “Jacob's trouble” (**Jeremiah 30:7**).

Many love Israel and the Jewish people of the Diaspora without a doubt, but as I have already said, they rejoice with their victories but they have not known how to cry and weep because of the afflictions of the people from whom our salvation comes (**John 4:22**). I know they have not taken the reality of the Holocaust seriously. If they don't take notice of such an outstanding event as this, much less will they be able to see and understand the danger and trouble that Israel is currently living in, the people of whom God has said: *“... Israel is my son, even my firstborn” (Exodus 4:22)*.

God is my witness that I carry the pain of the Holocaust in my bones, in my blood and in my being until this day. And through the years, that pain has helped me not to feel sorry myself for what I have had to suffer. As I think of the pain of *“my people” (Ruth 1:16)* and as I compare it to my pain, many times it has even made me feel embarrassed before the Lord. But also those who today feel the same can testify together with me that Israel's present trouble and pain is also our pain.

Who can avoid the worldwide danger that threatens the people of the book? Who can resolve the incredible problems that currently overwhelm the chosen people of God? We ourselves cannot even explain with specificity the daily occurrences, much less resolve any of it. One thing we can do and it is what we have been doing: Cry out to the face of the God Israel that He may sustain and direct His people, especially the faithful remnant who continues to believe in the promises that He has for them. It is written: *“Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep” (Psalm 121:4)*.

Therefore, by means of this brief writing I am exhorting those who love Israel to not stop praying for the Jewish people, nor stop blessing Jerusalem. Everything is moving so speedily. In Israel, yesterday's news is no longer news today, because in a matter of hours, minutes or seconds something else has happened. At the same time, the demon of antisemitism has been flourishing rapidly around the world. It is unbelievable and ironic that even in the countries where there are no Jews, hatred and ill will against them is palpable. What is next? We must stay vigilant.

God bless you. ■



BAPTISM IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

discussing the subject of water baptism with the purpose of obtaining members for a certain religious denomination or organization. Rather, my goal is that the obedient Christian, whoever and wherever he is, will receive from God the fullness of His salvation. Now that we are aware of these basic truths, let us now continue in our discussion by considering the following questions.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF WATER BAPTISM?

The Lord stated that *“he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved”* (Mark 16:16). On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit, through Peter’s lips, declared: *“Repent and be baptized, every one of you...for the remission of your sins...”* (Acts 2:38). Paul, referring to the Lord’s sacrifice, declares that the Lord gave Himself for His Church *“that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water (baptism) by the Word”* (Eph. 5:26). Peter, referencing the fact that Noah was saved by water in the ark, states: *“The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us...”* (1 Peter 3:21).

HOW SHOULD WATER BAPTISM BE ADMINISTERED?

Paul explains to us that baptism is a symbol of the burial of one who has died. For this reason he poses the following question: *“Know ye not, that so many of us as were*

baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death” (Rom. 6:3). On another occasion he explains to us that we are *“BURIED with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him”* (Col. 2:12). According to these Scriptures, baptism is a symbolic burial through which the believer, now dead to the world (repented) is buried in the waters of baptism and emerges from them, ready to live a new life in Christ. For this reason, baptism should be administered through immersion, submerging the body of the penitent completely in water, according to the example given by the Lord Himself when He entered into the Jordan River to be baptized: *“And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water”* (Matt. 3:16). Likewise, when Phillip baptized the Ethiopian eunuch, the Scriptures tell us that *“they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water...”* (Acts 8:38-39).

WHAT NAME SHOULD BE INVOKED DURING BAPTISM?

The Lord commanded His disciples to baptize the Gentiles *“in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”* (Matt. 28:19), and when the apostles carried out the Master’s commandment, they baptized thousands upon thousands of believers in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. They did

not disobey the Lord, as some have had the audacity to say. On the contrary, they faithfully executed His commandment, because they had understood that the “Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” is JESUS the Lord, and that He is ONE. They understood when the Lord told them: *“He that hath seen me, hath seen the Father”* (John 14:9). They understood that *“God was manifest in the flesh”* (1 Tim. 3:16). They understood that the Lord Jesus was Israel’s Messiah, and that He could be none other than God Himself, because there is only one God (Deut. 6:4, Isa. 44:6). They understood that only the God, YHWH, can save, and they were given revelation to understand that the Lord Jesus is that same God, because the Name of God given to men that they might be saved is JESUS the Lord (Acts 4:12). This is the Name “which is above every other name” that Joel mentioned when he prophesied: *“That whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered (saved)”* (Phil. 2:9, Joel 2:32). The following Scripture verses bear witness that the original believers in the Church were all baptized calling upon the Name of Jesus Christ, and never with the titles Father, Son and Holy Spirit: Acts 2:38, Acts 8:16, Acts 10:48, Acts 19:5, Acts 22:16, Rom. 6:3, Gal. 3:27, 1 Pet. 3:21. The baptism invoking the titles of Father, Son and Holy Spirit was not utilized in the apostolic era or in the first centuries of the Church. It was an interpretation which came later as part of the package of many other false doctrines, fruit of the apostasy, which were accepted and confirmed by the Council of Nicea in the year 325 A.D.

The doctrine of baptism is a subject of supreme importance, and has been considered to be so throughout the centuries which have passed since the Church was founded by our Lord Jesus Christ. He himself demonstrated the prominence of this sacrament when he issued the following command: *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned”* (Mark 16:16). He also commanded His apostles to: *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost”* (Matthew 28:19). He also emphasized the importance of being baptized, when He traveled to the Jordan River where John was baptizing, and asked John to be baptize Him, saying: *“Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness”* (Matthew 3:15).

Many present-day religious leaders teach that baptism is not truly important; thereby contradicting the same Lord they claim to obey and serve. They are following the example of the Pharisees and lawyers who *“rejected the counsel of God against themselves”* by refusing to be baptized by John (Luke 7:30). Nevertheless, this tract is not directed to those who oppose the Word of God, but to the sincere Christians, who, having a pure and sincere heart, want to obey the Word of God. These Christians are willing to obey God’s commandments, whether they come directly from the Lord or through His apostles, since the Lord bestowed upon them His authority when He declared: *“He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me”* (Matthew 10:40). I must clarify here, that I am not



TO WHOM DOES THE BAPTISM BY IMMERSION, INVOKING THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS, APPLY?

You, the reader, can find the answer in the Word of God. It is for the Jews (**Acts 2:36-38**). It is for the Samaritans (**Acts 8:14-16**). It is for the Gentiles (**Acts 10:45-48**). It is for believers who have already been baptized with other baptisms (**Acts 19:1-5**). *“For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, EVEN AS MANY AS THE LORD OUR GOD SHALL CALL”* (**Acts 2:39**).

In conclusion: My beloved brethren and friends, if you love the Lord and are one of those who are interested in being sure of the salvation of your soul, we sincerely invite you in the love of Christ to meditate on this important doctrinal subject. The message contained within this tract is not merely a denominational point of view, but is a very specific commandment given by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, who declared: *“He who believeth and is baptized shall be saved.”*

Note: If you were enlightened by reading this brief tract or if it awakened an interest in you to know more about this fundamental doctrine in the process of salvation, we invite you to visit your brethren at the address listed on this tract or write to the editor of Publicaciones “Maranatha.” ■

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

“Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house” (**Acts 16:29-31**).

I must inform you that this message is not for everyone. It is only for those who are convinced of the fact that none of the many things that this world has to offer can give the peace that their soul desires.

Neither is it written with the intent of obtaining followers by attempting to convince someone to leave their religion to accept a different one. On the contrary, it is for those who have already experienced the fact that no religion can change their lives. This message is intended to help those who, because of the miserable circumstances in which they presently live, whether it is a sickness, marital or family problems, addictions, traumas, prisons or similar situations, have arrived at the conclusion that only God can deliver them.

It is for those who have come to the point in their lives in which they are compelled to ask the same question that the jailer at Philippi asked Paul and Silas: *“What must I do to be saved?”* If you find yourself in this category, through the love of Christ the Lord, I will explain to you God’s plan of salvation precisely as it is described in the Holy Bible.

FIRST STEP: You must acknowledge and confess your misery and need before God, and you must sincerely repent from your sins. Without this fundamental step, everything else you do will be in vain (**Acts 3:19**).

SECOND STEP: You must now accept the Lord Jesus as the Savior of your soul. You must believe that by His Grace and His Blood that He shed on the cross, He is able to cleanse all your sins, no matter how filthy they might be (Isaias 1:18).

THIRD STEP: You must believe that by doing the previous step, this is proof that you have become a partaker of the miracle of having been *“born again”* (John 3:3), which is the same miracle as having been *“born of God”* or *“begotten of God”* (**1 John 5:18**).

FOURTH STEP: It is now imperative for you to be immersed in the waters of baptism just as the Lord was, making certain that when you do so, the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ is invoked upon you (**Acts 2:28 and 4:12**).

FIFTH STEP: Being now a *“child of God”* (**1 John 1:12**), a *“new creature in Christ”* (**2 Corinthians 5:17**), allow the Lord—who now lives within you—to direct you in how you must live, what you must do and what things are not beneficial to you.

SIXTH STEP: The Lord has promised to give each of His

children the power of His Holy Spirit to help us to overcome and to give forth the *“fruit of the Spirit”* (**Galatians 5:22**). Ask the Lord to give you this gift together with the evidence of *“speaking with other tongues”* (**Acts 2:4**).

SEVENTH STEP: Exercise yourself in reading the Word of God so that you might grow spiritually and become grounded in your faith. Occupy yourself as much as possible in serving others, thereby doing God’s work.

FINAL STEP: now try to live the rest of your life in peace and in holiness, loving everyone, and being in communion with those who love the Lord as you love Him now. Seek out as much as you can the fellowship of those who live *“looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ”* (**Titus 2:13**).

CONCLUSION: Even though we may not know you, the Lord knows who you are, and our prayer is that He will bless you. We also ask our Lord Jesus that He will work in your life, praying that the plan described in this tract will bring the change in your life that you greatly desire. If the Lord places in your heart the desire to receive help from us in any way that we can, please contact us. We are here to serve you ■

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FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

The LORD our God is one
LORD (Dt.6:4)

God is not a Trinity
(John 1:1, Col. 1:15)

The Supreme Name of our
God
Is the LORD Jesus Christ
(Phil. 2:9)

Baptism is by immersion
(Rom. 6:4)
In the name of the LORD
Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38)

The Holy Spirit of God
manifests itself by means of
the fruits (Gal. 5:22-26)
The gift of the Holy Ghost by
the evidence of speaking in
tongues.

Seeking to live a sanctified life
is an imperative requirement
(Heb. 12:14)

The Church is ONE and it
belongs to the LORD
(Matthew 16:18, Acts 20:28)

The Church of the LORD is
not a religious organization,
It is the body of Christ
(1 Cor. 12:27, 2 Tim. 2:19)

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