



THE RENEWING OF OUR MINDS

While the world is engrossed in the political hostilities that are raging in our country and in the world, God's program moves on without a hitch. His plan has not changed, *"Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven..."* is still the order of the day. To bring this into earthly reality, our Lord has been building a church that cannot be defeated, *"I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* (Matt.16:18) The company that He has set apart to be His church, has been the focus of His work ever since He uttered these words. Paul declared, *"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind..."* (Rom.12:2) This indeed, we could not do ourselves, but through the Holy Spirit, we have been going through a mighty renewing. Through His Word and much fire and tribulation, our faithful Teacher and Leader has been burning the tares of the lies that had been planted in our minds and hearts.

Today, we have come to the time of the harvest of all seeds. As Jesus prophesied, the angels are gathering the wheat in Christ's barn, while the tares are being bundled to be burned. This work has been ongoing in our own hearts, and it will continue until all the seeds of the lie, are bundled and burnt. As His called-out people, we have experienced this process first. Peter tells us that *"Judgment must begin at the house of God."* And so we have been feeling the cleansing judgment in ourselves first. It is now happening in the world, and it is most evident among those in high places of governments and power. The seeds that have been planted by the prince of this world are being bundled to be burnt. We see these bundles in the multitudes that have formed into bands, groups, parties, gangs to express and sometimes forcefully push their cause with violence and destruction. Jeremiah wrote, *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick, who can understand it?"* And Jesus minces no words about the heart of man, *"For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these evil things come from within and they defile a person."* (Mk.7:21-23 ESV) To this list we can add many more such as greed, hatred, violence and the things that are so prevalent in our world today.

Nevertheless, all good things come from God, and we see the good of God in the many heroic deeds that are seen during times of tragedy and disasters. We see hearts that rise up to help the poor and the needy. Jesus said, *"The poor you have with you always."* He knew that poverty would not be eliminated from this world in this age. As bad as it seems, poverty brings out the best in many people. It allows the good seed to flourish among the thorns.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE CROSS AND THE SANCTIFICATION OF THE SOUL.

The soul is the mind, the thoughts, the emotions, the affections, the identity of each human. Our transformation, hinges on the renewing of our minds. In my previous letter No.2, it seems that the truth *"We are what we eat,"* became the main focus of the study. However, what I tried to convey by the Spirit, was the work of sanctification that the soul goes through, in addition to the daily death of the cross. This subject may be new to us, but this is an answer to why suffering is very much a part of our journey. Indeed there is a great difference between the dealing of the "cross" in our daily lives, and the

sanctification of the soul as Paul mentions in his letter to the church, *“That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having any spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish.”* (Eph.5:26-27)

In the language of the Spirit, the soul is called the bride, for she is indeed the womb that receives the Word of life and brings forth the sons. She has been made virgin by the washing of the water of the Word, and her desire is to become impregnated with the Seed of His Word. This is the soul that seeks after knowing (having relations with) Him. And so, the soul, (bride) is being trained to *“Set your (her) affection on things above, not on things of the earth.”* (Col.3:21) She is being turned from the love of material things, to loving the things of the Spirit. The bride is a people that Jesus is preparing for Himself. She is called to be the habitation of the Spirit throughout the ages to come. *“That in the ages to come, he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”* (Eph.2:7) It is through the church, that the kindness of God will be made known to the world. The church will display the goodness and the power of God through the many ages to come.

She will always be the bride, for souls are saved to fulfill this calling. She will always yield herself to her Bridegroom, who is the Word of truth within her. So the company called, the Body of Christ, is also the company called the Bride, the Church; there are not two companies, the bride and the sons are the same company. The Bride is the reflection of the Son within, just as Jesus was the reflection of the Father within. Jesus told Philip, *“He that hath seen me, hath seen the Father.”* (Jn.14:9) And the Church, the Bride will declare, *“He that has seen me, has seen the Son.”* This is a mystery that can only be understood by the Spirit, just as the Father and the Son are one and this company is also one with them, and yet they are all one company of the many expressions of Christ.

This inner work is taking place in a dusty company of people who, as all humanity in Adam, had lost their connection with God, and had become as the beasts of the field. And so we find that the soul that was once led by the prince of the power of the air has been redeemed and made virgin. Paul calls this man of dust, the corrupt “Old man.” *“That ye put off concerning the former conversation, the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts.”* (Eph.4:22) The old man is full of lusts, which are the strong appetites of the flesh with its cravings for all manner of self-gratification. This “old man” can only be dealt with by the cross. He is crucified with Christ and is reckoned dead forever. It is finished!

There is therefore, a significant difference between the work of the old man’s death on the cross and the work of the Spirit to purify our soul. Our daily cross is the power given to us to keep our beastly nature on the cross. *“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* (Rom.6:11) *“Knowing this, that our old man IS CRUCIFIED with him, (Christ), that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is free from sin.”* (Rom.6:6-7) The purifying of the soul is accomplished by the water of the Word and the fire of the Holy Spirit within our minds and spirits. The “old man” with all his lusts, does not go through the fires of purification: it is the soul, (mind and affection), that has been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, and made pure through the process. The purifying cleanses us from all the erroneous ideas, teachings and reasonings of the world, with its polluted religions. It renews our ways of thinking and acting and lines us up with the ways of our Father. *“Bless the Lord, O my soul!”*

Because He is love, *Jackie Caporaso*