

THE LORD IS COMING
1 Corinthians 16:22



A translated version of the International Christian periodical
MARANATHA

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ARE WE WAITING
FOR A MYSTERIOUS
RAPTURE?

.....Page 07

WHAT MUST I DO
TO BE SAVED?

.....Page 15

ACTIVITY
REPORTS

.....Page 12

BAPTISM IN THE NAME
OF OUR LORD
JESUS CHRIST

.....Page 14

GOD'S
PROPHETIC
Clock

.....Page 03

*For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable,
through the living and enduring word of God. (1 Peter 1:23)*

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EDITORIAL

Esteemed readers, I greet you in the Name our Lord Jesus Christ, trusting that you are drawing nearer to the Lord more and more each day, since we understand that He will soon return.

Since the beginning of this year, 2020, the corona virus known as COVID-19 silently entered into and among humanity without us being aware of what was happening. This virus affects the respiratory system and in some cases even the kidneys. In others it is having other effects in their bodies which are coming to light little by little. God has been using this microscopic virus which is invisible to the natural eye to shake the entire world through sickness, fear and even death. The fear of contracting the virus, becoming ill and dying has moved entire nations to take drastic measures such as closing their borders, schools, universities and businesses. They have grounded their airplanes, indefinitely shuttered airports, and have ordered their citizens to “shelter at home” with the goal of preventing the virus to spread like wildfire throughout their communities, states and nation. The impact the COVID-19 virus has had globally is unprecedented and therefore has forced entire nations to adopt unprecedented measures.

There are many theories about the origins of this virus. Some claim that it was created in a laboratory in the United States

and was then taken to China and was purposely implanted among the Chinese people with the intent of destroying the presidency of current U.S. president, Donald Trump, thereby causing him to lose in the upcoming elections. Others purport that it came from bat feces. Still others state that the “Elite” of the world unleashed it with the intent of making a massive money grab worldwide. Others claim that it is a machination of the world leaders who are united in their efforts to bring down the present world system in order to establish a new world order. In addition to these theories mentioned above, there exist many other theories concerning this situation.

Among God’s people there are those who are proclaiming that at any moment the “Mysterious Rapture” will occur and that they will be “raptured” since they teach and have been taught that the Church is not called to suffer. Others are trying to figure out with which seal, trumpet or vial this virus matches up with. What we should be doing due to everything that is presently happening around us is repenting before God. We should be turning to God with all of our heart and

should be seeking His strength and His face so that we can walk in His ways. We should be striving to hear and to understand what the Spirit of God is telling us, so that we can understand what He wants us to do and what He wants us to stop doing (those things that do not please Him.)

Those who have their spiritual ears open will hear the VOICE OF GOD which is speaking to us clearly and emphatically. *“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches” (Rev. 3:22; Mt. 13:9).* Those that have an ear to hear are the *“wise who understand” (Dn. 12:10).* Daniel uses the term *“wicked”* to describe those who do not understand or who do not want to understand (Dn. 12:10). I believe that presently, based on what I see, the majority of those who are *“wicked,”* even among the people of God, fall into the category of those who voluntarily do not want to understand. Many people have hardened their hearts to God. However, God first directs Himself to His people and then to a world which has never experienced Him. The truth is that the Lord, by way of this pandemic rebuke, is reaching His hand out to us: *“Turn you at My reproof:*

behold, I will pour out My Spirit unto you, I will make known My Words unto you. Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out My hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all My counsel, and would none of My reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon Me, but I will not answer; they shall seek Me early, but they shall not find Me: For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord: They would none of My counsel: they despised all My reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. But whoso hearkeneth unto Me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil” (Prv. 1:23-33).

Which group do we belong to? Are we counted among those who leave the Lord with His hand outstretched? Are we among those who do not want to hear? Are we among those who despise His counsel? Are we among those who do not want to follow the Lord, who take His rebuke lightly and who do not choose the fear of the Lord? The Lord warns this

Cotinue on page..6

Attention!

During the “Shelter in Place Order”; Pastor Efraim Valverde, III will be ministering through LiveStream Monday through Saturday at 7pm and Sunday at 10am on YouTube Channel EfraimValverde Sr live, on Facebook Efraim Valverde Sr live and on our webpage WWW.EVALVERDE.COM



“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people (the Jews) and upon thy holy city (the Old City of Jerusalem)...” (Dn. 9:24).

At this present time the attention of the entire world, including all the means of communication, is focused on the situation caused by the corona virus. Due to this they have temporarily forgotten about the greatest sign, the sign of Israel, which continues to be the most important sign of the times. If we read and study the 24th chapter of Matthew, the Lord tells us that deception on a massive scale, wars and rumors of wars, famine and pestilences will all be a part of the signs which signal that the end of the world (that is, the end of the Time of Grace, or the Time of the Gentiles, or the Time of the Church) is drawing near. But we must remember that the reason all these other signs have more of an impact now is the context in which they are occurring. If the prophecy of the fig tree (Mt. 24:32), the return of the people of Israel to their land in 1948 and subsequently, the return of the Jewish people to the Old City of Jerusalem in 1967, had not already been fulfilled, then someone might think (although it is not true) that there is still much time remaining before the Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. But He clearly and emphatically declared: *“Now learn the parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer (the harvest, the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus) is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things (the signs mentioned at the beginning of the chapter, together with the sign of the fig tree), know that it is near, EVEN AT THE DOORS. Verily I say unto you, THIS*

GOD'S PROPHETIC CLOCK

Pastor Efraim Valverde III

generation (this present generation which has witnessed the return of the people of Israel to their land and to the Old City of Jerusalem) *shall not pass, till ALL these things be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, BUT MY WORDS SHALL NOT PASS AWAY” (Mt. 24:32-35).* Let us heed the call that our Lord and God is making to us in these days. The Eternal God told His people Israel then, and He tells us, the people of God among the Gentiles, now: *“Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel” (Amos 4:12).*

The following are some of the most outstanding events that have occurred in relation to the Jewish people and Jerusalem:

On January 8, 2020, the news reporting agency, “The Times of Israel,” reported that Spotify, the giant in transmission of music, is the host to dozens of user generated playback lists which have titles that praise the Nazi dictator, Adolf Hitler, other titles mock the victims of the Holocaust, and still others present photographs of hate signs and symbols published by different white supremacists groups.

On January 11, 2020, the news agency, “YNET News,” reported: “If you are an ultraorthodox Jew in New York, you should be afraid. Anti-Semitism has become the latest fad,” stated the CEO

of Israeli American Council. A resident of Manhattan, a borough of New York City, Shilo Ben Ze’ev reported that he was brutally attacked two months ago as he was walking to a synagogue, but that the police tried to convince him not to file a report.

On January 12, 2020, the news agency “Israel National News,” reported that a group of about 30 Ukrainians attacked a group of Jewish faithful around midnight in the city of Uman where they had gathered at the tomb of Rabbi Nachman in what has been called a “pogrom” (an organized massacre of a particular ethnic group). Witnesses reported that the Ukrainians were running through the streets with knives and sticks in their hands looking for Jews to attack.

On January 14, 2020, the news agency “Israel National News,” declared that within a year Iran would have enough uranium to build a nuclear bomb. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) presented their intelligence findings to the Israeli government, stating that in addition to having the capacity to build a nuclear bomb within a year; Iran would have missiles to transport nuclear arms within two years.

On January 16, 2020, the news agency “YNET News” revealed that the Authority for the Rights of Holocaust Survivors at the

Ministry of Finance published a report on Wednesday about the conditions of the survivors of the Holocaust and the victims of persecution at the hands of anti-Semites during the Second World War who live in Israel, demonstrating that approximately 14,800 of these survivors died during the year 2019.

On January 27, 2020, the news reporting agency “The Associated Press” informed that survivors of Auschwitz warn about the increase of anti-Semitism 75 years later. A group of these survivors of this Nazi extermination camp gathered to pray and weep as they commemorated the 75th anniversary of the liberation of this death camp. As part of this event they returned to visit the place where they lost entire families and warned about the sinister increase of anti-Semitism and hatred toward the Jews happening worldwide.

On February 2, 2020, the news agency “YNET News” published that Russia is expressing doubts about the Peace Plan for the Middle East unveiled by President Trump, claiming that it violates some of the resolutions passed by the United Nations.

On February 3, 2020, the news agency “Israel National News” reported that the largest pan-Islamic (the political idea which advocates for the unity of all Muslims under one Islamic State or caliphate) organization in the world denounced the peace plan set forth by President Donald Trump on Monday, and asked all of its member states to not cooperate with the United States administration as it attempts to implement the plan.



On February 12, 2020, the newspaper “Jerusalem Post” published a report that the United Nations will place on a blacklist any companies that have dealings with the so-called Israeli “settlements.” The UN on Wednesday published its controversial blacklist of businesses which operate in Jewish areas located inside the pre-1967 borders in East Jerusalem: Judea, Samaria and the Golan Heights.

On February 23, 2020, the news agency “Israel National News” reported that a squadron of IAF jets (Israeli Air Force) attacked terrorist objectives in the Gaza Strip on Sunday night in retaliation to the more than 20 missiles that were launched from Gaza toward Israel.

On February 25, 2020, the news agency “The Times of Israel” reported about a carnival procession which took place in Spain in which some of the participants dressed as Nazi soldiers and others as Jewish prisoners in a concentration camp danced beside a hearse which represented the crematoriums. The Israeli embassy in Madrid issued a formal protest against this exhibition. “We condemn the vile and repugnant representation which does not respect the victims of the Holocaust,” tweeted the Israeli ambassador, “they mocked the assassination of millions of Jews at the hands of the Nazis. The European nations should fight collectively against anti-Semitism.”

On March 12, 2020, the “Times of Israel” declared: “The principal rabbis in Israel request that all Jews abstain from visiting the Kotel (the Western Wall) as a measure to try to slow the propagation

of the corona virus. Jewish law requires total adherence to all of the instructions given by the Health officials stated the Rabbis Lau and Yosef.”

On March 15, 2020, the “Times of Israel” revealed that the number of confirmed cases of the corona virus (COVID-19) in Israel rose to 143 on Friday with three of the persons infected being in serious condition and eight being in moderate condition, according to the Health Ministry. The nation continues adopting stricter measures in an attempt to slow the pandemic.

On March 15, 2020, the news agency “Arutz Sheva” informed that the president of Israel, Reuven Rivlin, announced on Sunday night that he would charge the president of the Blue and White party, Benny Gantz, with forming a government. This announcement comes on the heels of meetings Rivlin had with the heads of the political parties of the Knesset (Israeli Parliament). Gantz received the recommendation of 61 members of the Knesset, a clear majority, while the current Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, only received 58 recommendations from the members of the Knesset.

On March 16, 2020, the news agency “Arutz Sheva” published that the political party, Israel Beitenu, presented a project of law designed to remove Benjamin Netanyahu from his post as prime minister on the day that the 23rd Knesset enters into session. Oded Forer, a member of the Knesset, presented the project which would allow the Knesset to hold a secret vote during the transition period and would rescind Netanyahu’s command as prime minister, since

he is currently under indictment by the Jewish Supreme Court.

On March 16, 2020, “Arutz Sheva” reported that the heads of the smallest right wing political parties have refused to work with the president of the Blue and White party, Benny Gantz, or to establish conditions for negotiations. The Minister of Defense, Naftali Bennett, the president of the New Right political party, told Gantz that he would not agree to meet with him until the Blue and White party distances itself from cooperating with the parties which comprise the Joint Arab List, which includes members of the Knesset who support terrorism.

On March 24, 2020, the news agency “Israel Hayom” reported that the Committee of Labor, Welfare and Health in the Knesset, under the direction of the Blue and White party, gave the Arab Joint List the authority to elect the president of the Committee. One of the responsibilities of this committee is to oversee and attend to the disabled veterans of the IDF, victims of terrorism or families who have lost a loved one through war or through a terrorist attack. Ahmad Tibi (the leader of the Arab Joint List, parties associated with terrorism), who was an advisor to the multi-assassin, Yassar Arafat, will head the Committee of Welfare and will be responsible for the care and rights of the victims of terrorism.

On March 25, 2020, the news agency “Enlace Judio” reported that the prime minister of Israel, Netanyahu, and the leader of the Kajo Lavan (Blue and White) party, Benny Gantz agreed to instruct their respective teams to return to the negotiating table

the following day to try to reach an agreement in forming an emergency national government, according to what was reported by Channel 12 in Israel. Also on this date Benjamin Netanyahu warned the citizens of Israel that if there was not a flattening of the curve due to the COVID-19 pandemic, due to the measures taken by the government, then the option of total mandatory lockdown would have to be enforced. This lockdown would have a few exceptions such as leaving home to buy food or medicine.

On March 27, 2020, Benny Gantz, the leader of the Blue and White party, was selected to be the next Speaker of the Knesset. Gantz’ might possibly pave the way for the formation of a national unity government.

My dear brothers, the situation in Israel is critical in all aspects due to the current political situation and to the urgent situation concerning the corona virus which has infected more than 2,300 Israelis as of March 26. We began this year with the understanding that the set time has come to comfort the Jewish people. Thanks be to the Lord Jesus, through the march that we made on January 25, 2020, we were able to show the Jewish people in a massive and coordinated manner that we are with them. With all the more reason, due to the present situation that is confronting the nation of Israel and the Jewish people, we are determined to continue visibly demonstrating to them our love and support.

May the Lord bless you,
Pastor Efraim Valverde III. ■



THE “VIRUS” IN OUR MIDST AND THE PRESCRIPTION

Pastor Efraim Valverde, III.

“Or if I send pestilence and plague among My people...” In the last three months the world has been plagued by the “Corona Virus” (COVID-19) of pandemic proportions. A pandemic is global epidemic occurring on a level that crosses international boundaries, usually affecting a large number of people. At this time there is no vaccine much less a cure. In the meantime, multitudes are being infected and some are dying.

Before this “Corona Virus” began to threaten life, there has existed the “Virus of sinful living” that threatens our life here and our eternity. This “Virus of sin” moves God to hold back rain, and to send locusts, pestilences and plagues. God has sent forth this pandemic “Corona virus” plague across the globe to fulfill His Divine purposes and objectives in those that respond to Him in order to do His will so that someday we can be with Him forever.

Let’s first look at what this “Virus of sin” is. It is the “Virus” that leads to every other earthly virus. In Solomon’s prayer in which he prays wholeheartedly and with wisdom during the dedication of the Temple in 2 Chronicles 6:26-

31, there is a key portion among his words in which he identifies the “Virus of sinful living.” Sinful living is not only doing what we should not do. It is written: *“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (Jas. 4:17)*. Both are disobedience to God’s Holy Word.

The following Scriptural Portions are found in 2 Chronicles 6:26-31.

Verse 26: *“When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain (consequences of the “Virus of sinful living”) because Your people have SINNED against You (THE ‘VIRUS’) and (CONSEQUENCES FOR THE OBJECTIVE THAT..) THEY PRAY TOWARD THIS PLACE AND CONFESS YOUR NAME, AND TURN FROM THEIR SIN WHEN YOU AFFLICT AND HUMBLE THEM;*

Verse 27: *“Then You will hear in heaven and (objective) forgive the sin of Your servants and Your people Israel (and of Your Church), and (Divine Purpose) teach them the good way in which they should walk, And send rain on Your land which You have given to Your people as an inheritance.”*

Verse 28: *“If there is famine in the land, if there is pestilence, if there is blight or mildew, if there are (migratory) locusts or grasshoppers, if their enemies besiege them in the land of their cities, whatever plague or whatever sickness there is, (consequences of “Virus of sin”)*

Verse 29 and 30: (Objective of consequences) *“THEN WHATEVER PRAYER OR REQUEST IS MADE BY ANY MAN OR ALL OF YOUR PEOPLE ISRAEL, EACH KNOWING HIS OWN SUFFERING AND HIS OWN PAIN, and stretching out his hands toward this house, then hear from heaven, Your dwelling place, and forgive, and render to each in accordance with all his ways, whose heart You know; for You alone know the hearts of the sons of men.”*

Verse 31: (Purpose of consequences) *SO THAT THEY MAY FEAR YOU, TO WALK IN YOUR WAYS (in obedience to You) AS LONG AS THEY LIVE IN THE LAND THAT YOU GAVE OUR FATHERS.”*

Within this portion of Solomon’s prayer, he acknowledges the “Virus of sinful living” (verse 26) and identifies the consequences. One of the results is “plague or whatever sickness there is” (verse 28).

It has been around 2,900 years since this “Prescription or Solution” was given by God Almighty to deliver from a deadly “Virus” that has plagued and taken control of the lives of

In 2 Chronicles 7:13 God says: *“If I shut up the heavens so that no rain falls...”* Currently there are droughts affecting many different parts of the world. In Mexico, the Yucatan Peninsula (particularly in Chichen Itza) is registering its worst drought since 1986. California is once again experiencing drought conditions. Parts of North Island, New Zealand are experiencing the worst drought on record. A drought affects Barbados following its driest year in 70 years. In Thailand the worst drought in 40 years turns tap water into saline, impacting health and agriculture. The worst drought in over a century pushes Namibia (located in southeast Africa) closer to famine. The Yangtze region in China is experiencing its worst drought in 40 years, severely affecting agro-production. Over 52 million face a hunger crisis due to extreme weather in Africa. Forty five million people across South Africa face hunger following natural disasters. South Africa is facing its worst drought in 1,000 years. In addition, there are many other regions of the world where rain has been held back.

“If I command locusts to devour the land...” Hundreds of billions of locusts are swarming through Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, Iran, Pakistan and many other nations in the worst plague during the last quarter of a century. Experts project that the locust plague will begin descending upon the Middle East in April.



many since the time of Adam and Eve until now. This “Prescription or Solution” has not changed for the reason that it continues to be the ONLY effective treatment, for it is “...*the living and enduring Word of GOD*” (1 Pet. 1:23).

This is the prescription to be cured of the “Virus”! *“If My people, who are called by My Name, humble themselves, and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear (them) from heaven, and forgive their sin and heal their land”* (2 Chron. 7:14). *“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord”* (Acts 3:19). This does not mean repenting and feeling guilty for a moment, but it implies humbling one self, and praying with all your heart, turning to the Lord and leaving behind the evil path of sin. It does not mean that we should only seek His Presence at that moment, because we feel bad, but it means that we will be seeking His Presence continuously. We should not desire for Him to be with us only in that brief moment, but that His manifest Presence will be in us always. As we enter into this intimate relationship with God, then those *“times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord”* (Acts 3:19). Once we have turned to Him wholeheartedly, according to what His Word says, then that is when the Lord tells us: *“Then I will hear (them) from heaven,*

and forgive their sin and heal their land” (2 Chron. 7:14). Whatever “Virus” of sinful living that has been causing God to hold back the “Spiritual Rain of His Spirit” from being poured out upon us must be first acknowledged. Then we must repent, and with God’s strength, change our way of life in accordance to His Ways. *“But your iniquities have separated (held you back) between you and your GOD, and your sins have hid His Face from you, that He will not hear”* (Isa. 59:2). The “Virus of sin” results in consequences of “spiritual locusts” that “devour” our soul and our intimacy with God, as well as bringing the “pestilence and plague” of problems to our lives and to our family.

In the midst of the consequences of sin, there are Divine Objectives which God has for sending forth pestilence and plague so that His purpose is fulfilled in us “If” we respond to His Voice. He opens a window of opportunity for everyone to (Divine Objectives) “know his own sore and his own grief (acknowledge our sin), to “spread forth (our hands) to “humble ourselves,” to repent, to “confess His Name,” to “pray (intercessory prayer),” to “seek His Face (His Manifest Presence),” to “turn from sin,” to “leave (our) wicked ways.” It is then that we will receive “forgiveness of sin (receive His mercy).” We must “fear Him (respect Him and His Word),” so that we may fulfill His Purpose, and so that we may “walk in His Ways” (live in

obedience to His Word) all the days of our lives.

God is speaking loudly and clearly through this recent pandemic brought on by the “Corona virus” (COVID-19). I repeat. This virus is a scourge sent from the Lord so that there might be a reaction and so that we might awaken. Woe unto us if we do not hear (or do not want to hear), believe, understand and respond to His Voice in these last days! *“While it is said, today if ye will hear His Voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. For some, when they had heard, did provoke: wasn’t it all they that came out of Egypt by Moses? But with whom was He grieved forty years? Was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? And to whom swore He that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So, we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief”* (Heb. 3:15-19).

There is hope if we follow what God Almighty has prescribed as the solution or cure!

The Lord bless you and keep you from the “corona virus” (COVID-19), and most importantly may He keep you from the “Virus” of living in sin.

God bless you.

Pastor Efraim Valverde III. ■

Editorial - continuation...

type of persons that He will laugh at them, and He will mock them. He states that He will not answer them and that when they seek Him because that which they fear (calamity, tribulation, and anguish) is come upon them, they will not find Him. All this because they choose to be spiritually *“at ease in Zion”* (Amos 6:1) and do not want to be disturbed or awakened out of the slumber which comes upon many due to material prosperity. This spiritual slumber is causing multitudes of Christians “to ruin” their salvation.

On the other hand, are we counted among those who turn to the Lord because of His reproof, who stretches out their hand to Him and who listens to Him? Are we among those who accept His counsel and His rebuke? These are the ones who hear His Voice and respond to His call and who will dwell safely, finding rest in Him and not in the things of this world. Therefore, they will fear no evil.

This virus is an act of the Lord’s mercy which has opened a door of opportunity for many to turn their lives to Him. For others it is an opportunity to stop playing games with the Lord and to strengthen their walk with Him. To others it is an opportunity for them to return to the Lord. Furthermore, it is also an opportunity for those who are firm in their walk with the Lord to draw even closer to Him.

May God bless you greatly as you take heed to His Voice.

Pastor Efraim Valverde III. ■



“Listen, my brother, you can use all of your time effectively preaching about basic doctrines, such as repentance, baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord, or about how God’s Holy Spirit is manifested in the life of a believer by his fruits (Gal. 5:22-26) and about the receiving of the gift of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. You can also speak about holiness and about many other wonderful and interesting teachings that we can find in the Word of God. But why do you insist on making enemies by speaking against “the rapture”? I guarantee you that the moment you start taking my advice, many of the brothers who currently reject you will begin to accept you.” This is what a brother, a friend of mine told me many years ago. He, along with the majority of our brothers in the Lord, is still waiting for “the rapture” to take place.

Naturally, for me it was and is impossible to accept such sincere “advice” coming from my brother who even was a companion in the ministry. However, his insinuations caused me to once again reflect on how the *“god of this world”* (2 Cor. 4:4) continues to insistently try to stop us from speaking about this subject. It has always caught my attention to see how *“the prince of this world”* (Jn. 16:11), who brings strong opposition against us in an attempt to deter us from speaking about the Oneness of God and about the baptism in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ among those Christians who believe that God is a “Trinity,” and does the same in regards to our teaching against “the rapture.” And this

ARE WE WAITING FOR A MYSTERIOUS RAPTURE?

Pastor Efraim Valverde Sr.

opposition is evident not only among the believers in a “Trinity,” but also amongst a great majority of our brothers who have received the revelation concerning the Oneness of God.

After what I have just mentioned, I believe that the reader desires to know what powerful reason motivates the deceiver to so strongly oppose these truths, and the reader is right in wanting to know this. The answer is rather extensive and it would be impossible for me to explain everything in these few lines. But I will try, even if only in a brief manner, to shed as much light as possible about this false interpretation of the Bible, which has brought so much darkness to the minds of multitudes of sincere, yet deceived, Christians.

I will begin my explanation by stating that the teaching concerning the “mysterious rapture” is not in the Bible. In order to understand this erroneous teaching a Christian would have to read some books concerning this subject or would have to have someone influence their minds with this false teaching. If the Christian who believing in “the rapture” would carefully examine the Biblical verses that are used as a basis for this teaching, he will discover that in reality they do

I will begin my explanation by stating that the teaching concerning the “mysterious rapture” is not in the Bible. In order to understand this erroneous teaching a Christian would have to read some books concerning this subject or would have to have someone influence their minds with this false teaching

not describe a “mysterious rapture.” The apostles never believed in nor waited for a “rapture.” In fact, none of the ministers who continued preaching after the apostles ever taught about a “rapture.” If we examine the many books which exist concerning the history of the Church we will find that

none of them mention this now famous and popular teaching about a “rapture.”

The bottom line truth is that the theory of the “rapture,” which is included in the multiple phases of the school of prophetic interpretation known as “Futurism,” is a relatively modern teaching. It had its origins in the years known as the Catholic Counter Reformation. Francisco Ribera, a Jesuit Catholic, as part of his prophetic interpretations designed to defend the papacy, who the Protestants indicated was the antichrist, initiated the idea that all the prophecies contained in Daniel, chapter 7, in 2 Thessalonians, chapter 2, and in the book of the Revelation, chapter 4 and beyond, would have their fulfillment at a future time, after the Church was “raptured.” In the middle of the 19th century the Jesuit interpretation of a “rapture” began gaining more acceptance as it was first “confirmed” by messages and revelations from the spirit (?) and then accepted by the “ecclesiastical authorities” of the Anglican Church of England.

More than a century and a half has passed since the false teaching of a “rapture” was accepted among evangelical and protestant circles. However, it is during the 20th century that it became supremely popular among the Pentecostal Christian environment. This did not only occur among the “Trinitarian” movements, but also among the great majority of the politico-religious organizations who believe in the Oneness of God. By the way, these Oneness



The apostle Paul continues speaking and tells the faithful believers: “But ye brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief” (1 Thes. 5:4) being that we, the faithful, live continuously “looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ” (Tit. 2:13).

groups did not receive the “revelation about the rapture” from heaven. They received it, at one time or another, from among the “Trinitarian” environments and from their writings and teachings about the “rapture.”

I, myself, had the experience in the beginning of my walk with the Lord of being taught this interpretation. However, I received revelation from the Lord to understand that the Bible does not teach about a “rapture.” For many years during my ministry, particularly during the time that I served within different politico-religious organizations, I believed and taught the theory of the “rapture.” But, I thank God that

the day arrived in which He, who in my beginnings chose to reveal to me the mystery of the Godhead, chose to also reveal to me by His Holy Spirit, in His Word that THERE IS NO “MYSTERIOUS RAPTURE” taught in the pages of the Holy Book. On the other hand, the Sacred Scriptures of the New Testament, both the Words of our Lord Jesus, as well as the writings of His apostles, bear witness of a marvelous event which will occur at the end of the Time of Grace, and that is nothing less than the glorious second coming of the Lord. I reiterate that it is impossible to explain all the details and aspects concerning this present subject in these few lines. It would also be impossible to include here all the Scriptures that we can cite which are related to this subject. I will mention the following for the benefit of some of my brothers who the Lord might today give the understanding concerning this subject. The Lord used a particular Scripture in a direct and special way to open my eyes to the truth concerning the “mysterious rapture.”

I will first say that one of the favorite verses used by Futurists is the one which states that the Lord will come “*as a thief in the night*” (1 Thes. 5:2). This verse is used as a basis to teach that the Lord is going to “steal away His Church,” in a mysterious disappearance. After all, the central idea of the “rapture” teaching is that the Church is going to be taken up into heaven without anyone knowing about

it. According to this invented theory, the Lord will come to “rapture” His Church seven years before His Second Coming. But as I was reading this portion of the Scripture I mentioned the Lord opened my eyes to the truth, because in the following verses the apostle Paul declares: “*But ye brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief*” (1 Thes. 5:4).

The truth that is declared in this particular Scripture is that the Lord is coming “AS” a thief, but not to steal, but He IS COMING IN A TIME WHEN THOSE WHO ARE IN DARKNESS DO NOT EXPECT HIM TO COME. The apostle Paul continues speaking and tells the faithful believers: “*But ye brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief*” (1 Thes. 5:4) being that we, the faithful, live continuously “*looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ*” (Tit. 2:13). “*For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God* (not in a mysterious rapture in which no one is aware of what happened): *and the dead in Christ shall rise first*” (1 Thes. 4:16). It is also written that the wicked “*shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power; when He shall come* (not seven years before) *to be glorified in His saints, and to be admired in all them that believe IN THAT DAY*” (2 Thes. 1:9-10). I insist again that it is impossible to cite

all the Scriptures related to the Second Coming of the Lord, but I know one thing, and this is that “*the wise shall understand*” (Dn. 12:10), even though the explanation might be a brief one. On other occasions, at other places, and through other means of communication, I have made a challenge in the love of the Lord to all my brothers, and I respectfully issue it once again here as a proof that I am totally confident of what I am saying when I declare that there is no “rapture.” I offer to pay the amount that I might be asked to pay to any individual if he or she can show me the explicit Scriptures in the Bible that prove that the “rapture” exists. I will give them all the time they desire to do so. I know that the Scriptures that someone might mention as proof of the “rapture” are Scriptures which in reality describe the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in glory on that day that “*every eye shall see Him*” (Rev. 1:7). At the beginning of this article I mentioned some of the reasons that have assisted the spirit of evil to strive to propagate among Christianity the idea that the Church is going to disappear in a “mysterious rapture,” before the Second Coming of the Lord. First of all this theory was invented as a way of defending Rome. Secondly, it has been spread throughout Christianity with the goal of occupying the minds of Christians with fantasies that are not real and thereby taking their focus off of the things which are real and necessary for them to understand. The third and greatest reason is to foment



among Christianity a spirit of complacency and spiritual negligence.

The theory of the “rapture” does not come alone, but it is part of a chain of other twisted interpretations. One of these is the popular teaching that “the Church is not called to suffer tribulation.” This erroneous teaching has had a tremendous impact among the people of God because it has produced “another gospel.” This “other” gospel is an elegant gospel filled with nothing but blessings, which desensitizes the Christian to the “suffering of Calvary,” thus programming his mind to live in an unreal and illusory spiritual world. The proof of what I have said is nothing less than the present mediocre and frivolous spiritual condition that is prevalent among the Christian environment where multitudes who claim to be Christians live in a manner that reflects what the Lord declared : *“this people draweth nigh unto Me with their lips; but their heart is far from Me”* (Mt. 15:8). No sincere Christian can truly deny this fact.

I have in my hands at this time a book entitled “88 Reasons Why the Rapture Will Occur In 1988,” which claimed that “the rapture” of the Church was going to happen between the 11th, 12th and 13th of September of 1988. In this book the author, Edgar Whisenant claims with certainty that God revealed to him the year (1988), the month (September), and the week (Rosh Hashanah) that the “rapture” would be verified. Additionally, Whisenant with a unique certainty proclaimed that just as

Noah knew that the rain would begin falling seven days before it actually began raining and how Abraham knew about the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah a day before, and how Israel knew about the judgment that was going to come upon Egypt, and how the wise men knew about the birth of the Child Jesus in Bethlehem, in like manner God had revealed to him the dates of the “rapture.”

The author of this book states that he spent 15 years doing research concerning all the various aspects of this event. He provides so much information and facts in his book that Whisenant thought he was going to convince even the most skeptical person. Almost twenty years passed from the time he wrote the book to the time it was published and distributed. This means that this false prophecy was in the mind of this “prophet” for many years. When I heard about this “prophecy” I had ample time to discover that many Christians of all flavors and colors were scared during those days. In fact I have in my hands an article which was published by one of secular newspapers one day before the “rapture.” The article reports about the commotion and the diverse opinions this “prophecy” was causing among the Christian community. Then the following day after the dates mentioned in this “prophecy” concerning the “rapture” passed without it occurring, this “prophecy” became history. The same is going to occur with all the other false teachings that have been spread

The theory of the “rapture” does not come alone, but it is part of a chain of other twisted interpretations. One of these is the popular teaching that “the Church is not called to suffer tribulation.” This erroneous teaching has had a tremendous impact among the people of God because it has produced “another gospel.” This “other” gospel is an elegant gospel filled with nothing but blessings, which desensitizes the Christian to the “suffering of Calvary,” thus programming his mind to live in an unreal and illusory spiritual world.

throughout the centuries, and even to the present, which have produced an unwary and deceived Christianity. When I received a copy of Whisenant’s book I read it and I showed it to as many

brothers as was possible. I told them to take note of the dates mentioned in the book since this was a God given opportunity to prove to many of our brothers who have been believing in the fantasy of the “mysterious rapture” how false this theory is.

But the author I have mentioned is not the only one who has pointed out a specific year, month and day that the “rapture” will occur. There have been many before him who have done so, and there have been many others who have joined him, even after his “prophecy” failed. Some have given different dates in which the theory of the “rapture” (which is totally false and is not found in the Bible) will have its fulfillment. I will mention some of the more outstanding “prophecies.”

After giving 88 reasons that the “rapture” would occur in 1988 (something that did not happen), Edgar Whisenant published a new book entitled “89 Reasons why the Rapture will occur in 1989.” Then a Korean group who called themselves “Mission for the Coming Days,” caused a revolution in the Korean church in the autumn of 1992. They “prophesied” that the date the “rapture” was going to occur was October 28, 1992. They based this date on numerology.

If the year 2000 is the end of the 6,000 year cycle since the creation of the earth, then the year 1993 was the year in which the “rapture” would happen, according to various “prophets,” but that year

Cotinue on page... 11



PSALM 46

THERE ARE PROMISES OF SECURITY
FOR THOSE WHO TAKE REFUGE IN GOD,
FIND REST IN HIM, AND RETURN TO HIM

Pastor Efraim Valverde, III.

1- *God is our refuge* (our “Shelter in Home,” a place to where we can escape and find continual safety) *and strength* (we find refuge and strength when we are in communion with the Lord and growing in the knowledge of His Word, so that we may live It and share It.) For those who find refuge and strength in Him, God is a *very present* (very near) *help in trouble* (we are most definitely living in a time of trouble due to this pandemic known as the corona virus or COVID-19, which has brought sickness, loss of employment, threats of worldwide economic collapse, uncertainty and fear of death.)

2- *Therefore will not we* (those of us who remain under the Shadow of the Almighty, **Psalm 91:1**) *fear* (we will fear no evil for the Lord is with us, **Psalm 23:4** and He is our refuge and strength), *though the earth be removed* (altered; God has altered life here on earth through this COVID-19 virus), *and though the mountains* (those persons and things in which humanity places all its trust and hope, believing that they are unmovable and stable) *be carried into the midst of the sea;* (Go is moving and shaking things and the inhabitants of this world, so that we might be moved and shaken into seeking the Lord and His strength, and into seeking His face continually, **Psalm 105:4**).

3- *Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled* (they are experiencing great commotion and instability), *though the*

mountains shake with the swelling thereof (there will be an even greater commotion and instability when nature, health and wealth all are affected by this pandemic.)

4- *There is a river* (the pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God, and of the Lamb, **Rev. 22:1**, those who believe in the Lord drink from that river of living water, Hallelujah!, **John 7:37-38**, *the streams* (the flow of His Spirit, His Glorious Presence) *whereof shall make glad* (shall cause rejoicing) *the city of God* (His people, His bride, **Rev. 21:2**), *the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High* (a habitation of God through the Spirit, **Eph. 2:22**, the temple of the Holy Spirit, **1 Cor. 6:19**, the temple of God, **1 Cor. 3:16**).

5- *God is in the midst of her* (those who are seeking refuge in Him, God’s building, **1 Cor. 3:9**); *she shall not be moved* (like the tree planted by the rivers of waters, **Psalm 1:3**): *God shall help her, and that right early* (rapidly).

6- *The heathen raged* (the nations are furious because of this pandemic of COVID-19), *the kingdoms were moved* (the nations are on the verge of

collapse): *He uttered His voice* (God is definitely speaking in a loud voice through this current pandemic), *the earth melted* (the health and the wealth of the earth’s habitants is disappearing and dissolving and their hearts are fainting).

7- *The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge* (amid the destruction of the earth, when the mountains will be cast into the midst of the sea and there will be turbulent waters (both literal and symbolic), those who remain in God, who is our Refuge and our Strength, will not be moved, even though everything around us is being shaken and eliminated).

8- *Come, behold the works of the Lord, what desolations He hath made in the earth.* (How is it possible that as a result of one virus two-thirds of the world has been shut down? Businesses have closed. The streets and freeways are virtually empty. Entire nations have closed their borders to people coming from other countries. It is only by God’s mighty hand.)

9- *He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; He breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; He burneth the chariot in the fire*

(God has used the fear generated by the COVID-19 virus to cause many abortion clinics to be shut down in the United States and in other nations around the world, thereby putting a hold on the war that has been waged against unborn children.)

10- *Be still and know* (acknowledge Him, draw near to Him and focus on Him) *that I am God:*

I want to pause here in order to make particular emphasis on God’s command for us to “*be still.*” One of the things that God has done through this current pandemic is to bring quietness to a great part of humanity around the world. He has caused an abrupt end to the bustle of the daily routines of life. He has also brought to a sudden halt all the worries of life, as well as entertainment. He has halted or diminished many sinful activities, such as prostitution, adultery, and sports and has caused the closure of abortion clinics, bars, night clubs, brothels, movie theaters, etc. In fact, there is not only stillness here on earth, but also in the heavens and in the oceans with the grounding of airplanes and anchoring of cruise ships. Behold the works of the Lord! He has caused this stillness!

The quietness that God has brought to this world through this virus is so that in the midst of this cessation of activities we can free our minds from pressured thoughts, from distractions, from things that are not essential or important, so that we can began thinking on the things that are truly important. “*I thought on*



my ways, and turned my feet unto Thy testimonies” (Ps. 119:59). We must ask ourselves. What am I doing? How am I living? Where am I going? What am I living for? What is my purpose in life? What is important to me? In what direction is my life going? Where is my way of living taking me? Is my lifestyle drawing me nearer to God or separating me from Him? Am I living a life that is pleasing to God?

If we are honest and sincere with ourselves and with God, with frustration and disgust we will ask ourselves: “What am I doing?” We see this reaction in the parable of the prodigal son: *“And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father’s have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee” (Lk. 15:17-18).* King David declared: *“I turned my feet (changing the direction of our life and turning to God our Father) unto Thy testimonies (His Word which testifies to us what His will concerning how we should live)” (Ps. 119:59).*

Then, in the next verse of this Psalm, King David tells us: *“I made haste (I hurried to do it with great enthusiasm) and delayed not to keep Thy commandments” (Ps. 119:60).* When we consider our ways and realize the things we have been missing out on by walking in our own ways, not walking completely in God’s ways, we will be excited and enthusiastic about turning to Him and to His ways without delay. *“Let us search and*

try our ways, and turn again unto the Lord” (Lam. 3:40).

10- *I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.* (When those among His people who have been walking according their own way turn to God and to His ways, taking refuge and strengthening themselves in Him through prayer, through His Word, and began to walk wholeheartedly in His ways and share His Word, He is exalted among the nations and in the earth!)

11- *The Lord of hosts is with us* (God is with those that are with Him; “Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded” (Jam. 4:8, Jn. 15:4, 1 Chron. 28:9); *THE GOD OF JACOB IS OUR REFUGE.*

These times are for us to be still so that we can consider our ways and turn our hearts to the Lord and to His ways with all of our heart. Only then will we be able to confidently and assuredly proclaim: *“GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH, A VERY PRESENT HELP IN THE TIME OF TROUBLE” (Ps. 46:1).* If you have not turned to God with all your heart, do it today. Make haste and do not delay in turning to His commandments! Today is the day of Refuge! Today is the day of Strength! Today is the day of Salvation!

God bless you.■

Rapture. Continuation...

passed and nothing happened. Then in 1994 in a book he entitled “1994, The Year of Destiny,” F. M. Riley predicted the occurrence of the “rapture.”

When Rabin and Arafat signed a peace treaty in the White House on September 13, 1993, many saw this as the start of “The Great Tribulation” (another link in the erroneous teaching of the Futurists). Then, by adding the 1,260 days mentioned by the prophet Daniel to the September 1993 date, they arrived at the date of February 24, 1997, as the date of the “rapture,” (we must remember that according to this false teaching the “rapture” has to occur before the “Great Tribulation”). After this there were others who based on numerology “prophesied” that in the year 2000 the “rapture” would occur since dividing 2000 by three we obtain the number 666.666666666, but the famous “rapture” never occurred for the simple reason that it is a false teaching. It will never happen since it is not in the Word of God.

As I say and write all of this, I am praying to my God, asking Him to open the minds of multitudes of my brothers, among my race and among other races as well, who are still believing in the “biblical” mythologies originated by the “god of this world” (2 Co. 4:4), so that the Lord will awaken them to the truth.

For my part, I emphatically repeat that in my life there resides an unmovable conviction concerning the doctrine of the resurrection, as well as relating to all the other marvelous truths that God has revealed to me and has commissioned me to announce. In the past there were times that I felt alone and I even began thinking that maybe what God was showing me was not really true. But those days are long gone. I now know that I am not alone and I do not even have the slightest doubt about what WE are preaching and teaching. I say “we” because among those who are reading this article there are a good number of my brothers and companions in the ministry who can say “Amen” to what I am saying. God bless you who are very beloved of the Lord and whom I also love.

I conclude by asking you once again that you will continue supporting us with your prayers and with your financial support. To those who are helping us, may the Lord help you so that you will not grow weary in doing so. To those who are not supporting us I say, May the Lord change your hearts so that you will began supporting us. We need all the help that you can give us.

May the Lord bless you.■



I greet you in the glorious name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord, I thank the Almighty once again for the opportunity to have our annual service which has been a blessing to us. This year we were visited by various pastors, friends in the Lord, from near and far. The Lord once again spoke to us through our brother, Philip Nava and later through Pastor Arturo Rios. Amazingly, the Lord visited us in a very special way as we were to dismiss, and each one of us kept this great blessing and the presence of our God.

Blessings from your brother,
Pastor Carlos de Jesus. ■



REPORT OF FELLOWSHIP SERVICE IN FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

I thank the Lord for allowing us to hold our third fellowship service here in Fresno, CA in which I was honored to have the support of fellow pastors and ministers from around the area: Pastors Herminio Cruz, Celso Suárez, Efraín Arreola, Francisco Bazante, Jaime Vidal, and brother Philip Nava. I thank God that He continues to speak to us; He used brother Philip Nava to share with us once again regarding our human condition, giving us a clear and concise (but at the same time heavy and necessary) explanation that we would not allow ourselves to be carried away by the desires of our flesh.

May God bless all my brothers, and Pastor Efraim Valverde III—would the Lord use him wherever He takes him. I also thank God for Brother Philip (who did not refuse us his visit), and Pastor Efraín Arreola (who was the vessel God used in my life). Above all, I give all glory to my Lord Jesus Christ for His love and His mercy.

Pastor Leopoldo Aguilr. ■





REPORT OF FELLOWSHIP SERVICE IN HONDURAS



last subject, a special prayer was made for the married couples.

On Monday, March 2nd we gathered in La Flor Langué (where Pastor Pedro Mejía ministers) for three days. Various pastors and congregations were already awaiting us. After Wednesday's service, we headed out to Nicaragua, where we were welcomed by Pastor Modesto Cruz from Managua.

We pray for these services to continue taking place as they are a great blessing to us.

We hope, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, to hold another in the month of May if He allows. There is so much to say.

Greetings and blessings,
Pastor Orlando Fernández. ■

REPORT OF FELLOWSHIP SERVICE IN JUXTLAHUACA, MÉXICO



in His temple and to seek to enter into His Presence. In the evening service, Pastor Efraín Arreola briefly shared his testimony with us, stressing that our faith shouldn't falter because for God nothing is impossible. He can heal any illness and disease. He encouraged us in prayer, seeking the presence of the Lord.

Brother Gilbert ministered to us on Sunday regarding the importance of taking the message of salvation to those who don't yet know this Living God whom we serve. Baptisms in the Name of the Lord Jesus were held later that day. We ended the service very blessed and thankful to our God for what He allowed this conference.

Pastor Timoteo A. Cervantes Pérez. ■

Peace and mercy be multiplied unto all who read this valuable newsletter "Maranatha".

The Lord Jesus Christ gave us the opportunity to carry out our fellowship service in Choluteca, Honduras, where we were able to gather with brethren from different parts of Honduras and Nicaragua.

Pastor Efraín Arreola (accompanied by his wife) was with us. The service began on Friday, February 28th and concluded on Sunday night. Our brother shared various teachings from the Word of God: the history of Israel, the woman's place in the Church (1 Cor. 11:2-6), and marriage (Eph. 5:22). After speaking on this

God bless you, my brothers. I greet you in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank our God for once again allowing us to hold our fellowship service on February 7th, 8th, and 9th, 2020, which was a great blessing. In spite of great opposition from the enemy, the Lord gave us the victory!

We began on Friday, witnessing near the "Aviación" market place, sharing the Word of God and proclaiming the good news. In the evening, Brother Gilbert Tienda spoke to us about our inability to do anything of our own strength, without the Lord.

Saturday morning, Brother Gilbert ministered once again, placing in our hearts Psalm 27:4, exhorting us to have a willing heart to inquire



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 the “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 cometh 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?

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

PASTOR EFRAIM VALVERDE, SR.

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." ■

"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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- *666 Literal O Symbolic?
- *The Hope Of The Resurrection
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- *The Children Of God: Fantasy Or Reality
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**FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIAN
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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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