

THE LORD IS COMING
1 Corinthians 16:22



MARANATHA

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*The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter
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EDITORIAL

“This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up (spiritually, completely awaken) your pure minds by way of remembrance” (2 Pet. 3:1).

Beloved readers, I greet you in the Marvelous and Almighty Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are grateful to Him for His Strength which has kept and sustained us to this day.

Sixteen months have passed since the world was placed on hold and stopped by an unknown virus. Uncertainty, confusion, fear and terror of death gripped the hearts of many. Many feared that they would lose their jobs, possessions and their future. Some even thought that this was the end. All this provoked a great number of faithful Christians, of careless Christians and of unbelievers to seek the protective Hand of the Lord. The appreciation and desire of being able to congregate increased in many. For the first eight or nine months this desire remained strong in the majority of the people.

Presently this desire is still strong in some, although the fear of the virus is no longer the same. These Christians are not only seeking the Lord's protective Hand, but they are seeking His Face continuously. *“Seek the Lord, and His strength: seek His Face evermore (continuously)” (Ps. 105:4).* Sadly, there are others who have dropped their guard with the diminishing of the alarm of the danger of becoming infected and with the return to a certain type of “normal” daily routine. However, they are ignoring the danger of the spiritual sicknesses which we are all continuously exposed to. These spiritual illnesses include conformity, apathy, and laziness, being at ease, tranquility, lukewarmness, feeling comfortable and others. When these

spiritual sicknesses began to grab a hold of the child of God, he no longer seeks or calls out to the Lord in prayer. He no longer disciplines himself to work out his salvation *“in fear and trembling” (Phil. 2:12).*

If we only seek the Hand of the Lord when we are afraid and are not seeking His Face continuously, then we are in great spiritual danger. Because when the fear subsides, then also the seeking of the Lord subsides. This is because the person was seeking God's help but was not seeking to draw closer to Him. How terribly sad this is!

The danger of once again falling into the previous state of conformity and spiritual apathy is very real. We are seeing this happening around us and it could possibly be happening in our own life! I invite everyone to think back to March of 2020 to consider how you were walking. What was your spiritual condition? What changes occurred in your fear, prayer, calling out, consecration, devotion and dedication to God after that date?

Now that we can once again assemble every day in the sanctuary (if we so desire), has this mindset diminished? Are we slowly returning to the spiritual condition that we were in before March 2020, without being aware of this change? Even worse, have we already completely returned to that spiritual state? If we have returned to that spiritual condition then we are worse off than we were 16 months ago. If we find ourselves in one of these spiritual conditions I previously mentioned, then in the Name of the Lord Jesus we must shake ourselves so that we can be completely awake spiritually!

There is a warning against returning to that state of “spiritual comfort!” *“Woe to them that are ease* (secure, in a negative sense spiritually comfort and tranquil) *in Zion, and trust* (placing their confidence) *in the mountain of Samaria* (their own works, **Rev. 2:2**, jobs, money,

possessions, capacity, astuteness, etc.)” (**Amos 6:1**). This “Woe” is a warning of GREAT DANGER!

What we must continue to do is seek the Face of the Lord with urgency, humility, repentance and with hunger and thirst so that we live according to His Word with all reverence. We must return to God with all our heart, not because of fear, but because of our love for Him. And also out of gratitude for what He did for us at Calvary, for all that He has done for us since the day He called us, and for the promise we have of eternal life with Him.

The prophet Isaiah in his desperation calls out to the Lord because of the great heaviness that was prevalent among the people of God at that time. He desired for the Lord to shake the heavens and the earth and the sea so that they would awaken. He desired to see the people of Israel call out to the Name of the Lord and to have a desire to be close to Him. *“And there is none that calleth upon thy Name, that stirreth up himself* (who will rise up and provoke himself to greater passion for the Lord and into action) *to take hold of Thee: for thou hast hid Thy Face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities” (Isa. 6:7).* This clamor surges from the soul of those who have not ceased to strive in the Lord. It is a legitimate cry appropriate for this time. We must cease seeking God in crying out to Him, in supplications, in beseeching Him and in seeking to close to Him, so that He can be near to us! This is the worst time for us to provoke the Lord to hide His Face from us, so that we can be consumed because of our iniquities.

Thank God for those who continue calling on the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, as they seek to have Him nearer each day. Be encouraged! We must provoke others and seek to be provoked to demonstrate more passion for the Lord to, and to act on that passion. We must not be

“comfortable” in our spirit. We are in the last days. We must not fall back into the attitude we had before. We must not give the Lord a worship that is only lip service, and that does not come from the heart. We must not fall into the trap of hearing and reading the Word of God without having faith, hunger, attention or obedience. We must not revert to a prayer that lacks reverence and desire. We must not fall back into a serving others without joy. May our prayers not be lacking a burden for those who are lost. Deliver us, Lord!

The message of awakening was one of the many messages that God placed on the lips of my grandfather, Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr. (of blessed memory), who departed to be in the presence of the Lord 18 years ago. I bless the Lord for his life and for the messages he left us from the Word of the Lord. Thank God there were those who awakened and who continue in the battle!

One of the Scriptures my grandpa would always share and which he made his own was: *“Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up (completely awaken, provoke) by putting you in remembrance” (2 Pet. 1:12-13).* This message of admonishment (put in our minds, remind) is to stir us up!

Let us not be confused by the erroneous Satanic message that “everything is fine.” The truth is that corruption, wickedness, deviations, and deceit have increased since pre-March 2020. It has not been the same, it is worse! If this is true, then is it correct for us to return to the spiritual condition we previously had? NO! We must go from glory to glory and from strength to strength because we are soon going to see our God!

God bless you,
Pastor Efraim Valverde III ■



“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people (Jewish People) and upon thy Holy City (Old City of Jerusalem)” (Dn. 9:24).

Anti-Semitism has increased around the world in a way that has not been seen since the Holocaust. It has spread more through technology as hatred against Israel is propagated throughout social media. The past war in May which lasted 11 days marked the first time that Israeli Arabs (Arabs who are Israeli citizens) rose up against the State of Israel. Also, for the first time, military tactics utilized by the terrorist group, Hamas, were used against Israel. This also marks the first time that the modern city of Jerusalem was attacked by missiles.

The following is a summary of what has happened in Israel in the past three months.

March 30, 2021. “Israel National News” published that the rebel group, Huti, in Yemen had expelled the majority of the Yemenite Jews who still lived in Sana, the largest city in that country. With the departure of 13 Yemenite Jews, the only Jews remaining in the city are four elderly members of the community.

April 4, 2021. “Israel National News” reported that the last known Jew who remained living in Afghanistan is now moving to Israel. This brings an end to the Jewish community which had had a 2000 year history in that nation.

April 8, 2021. “The Jerusalem Post” announced that the State of Israel in its entirety observed a two minute period of silence on the past Thursday morning

GOD'S PROPHETIC CLOCK

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people (Jewish People) and upon thy Holy City (Old City of Jerusalem)” (Dn. 9:24)

as the siren which marked the Commemoration of the Holocaust sounded throughout the country. The public remained standing in silence during this two minute pause which is designed to allow the country to keep the memory fresh in their minds of all of their fellow Jews that were assassinated during the Holocaust.

April 9, 2021. “Israel National News” published the following: The interest in immigrating to Israel from the United States has skyrocketed despite the challenges presented during the era of the pandemic.

April 24, 2021. “Ynet News” reported the following: Southern Israel is bombarded with dozens of missile during nighttime attacks in the Gaza Strip. At least 36 missiles were fired at regular intervals beginning at 11 p.m.

until 6a.m. causing damages to buildings but with no injuries reported.

April 28, 2021. “Israel National News” informed: An unknown group of persons ignited a fire to the Jewish Community Center, SHAMIR, in Moscow. They also vandalized the center, marking it with a message that read “Death to the Jews,” along with a Nazi symbol. This attack took place on the 20jth of April, which is Hitler’s birthday.

April 29, 2021. “Israel National News” published the following: In a report released at the beginning of the week, Human Rights Watch claimed that Israel was guilty of “crimes against humanity,” including “apartheid.”

April 30, 2021. “Israel National News” reported that the number of anti-Semitic incidents reported in Kentucky rose 850% in 2020. This is the highest increase ever recorded in the forty years since the Anti Defamation League began recording such incidents.

May 4, 2021. The “Times of Israel” reported the following: Germany declared that anti-Semitic crimes increased 15% during the year 2020 with attacks made by the extreme right increasing. The head of the European Jewish Congress stated that the new statistics announced by Germany’s Ministry of the Interior “should sound alarms.”

May 6, 2021. “The Times of Israel” published that the prime minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, has repeatedly rejected the objections made by the Biden administration during the past month regarding the Israeli expansion in East Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria. In one of his statements, Netanyahu declared: “Jerusalem is not a settlement.”

May 7, 2021. The news agency “AP” announced that a group of Palestinian faithful engaged with the Israeli police on Friday evening at the Al Aqsa mosque complex, which is an important holy place for both Muslims and Jews, during a week of escalated violence in Jerusalem which has had repercussions in the entire region.

May 8, 2021. “Israel National News” reported the following: Dozens of Arabs violently attacked a Jewish family while they were walking to a synagogue on Saturday.

May 9, 2021. “Israel National News” reported the following: The violence in Jerusalem continued on Sunday night with a large number of Arabs involved in disturbances on Mount Scopus near the Hebrew University campus. It was reported that several Jews that were travelling near the area were injured.

May 12, 2021. The “Jerusalem Post” reported that three women were killed and more than a dozen civilians injured after terrorists in the Gaza Strip fired a volley of missiles in the direction of Tel Aviv on Tuesday.

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APPRECIATING THIS TREASURE

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

“The full soul loathed an honeycomb, but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet” (Prov. 27:7).

In the year 1956 I was a pastor of a small rural congregation in which my father was one of the members of the church. One Sunday morning my father came to me and told me: “Son, last night I had a curious dream. I dreamed that in the area that we live the ground was covered with bread and the people were trampling all over the bread.”

It was not hard for me to interpret my father’s dream, because this is the reality that to this day we are experiencing in these parts of the world where we live. There are some experiences which become engraved in our memory and that is what happened to me with this dream. Today, forty years later, I continue to feel the pain of seeing this same behavior being demonstrated by those who trample the bread with their feet. In other words, they take lightly the TREASURE OF GOD’S SALVATION.

What caused me most pain about this situation is seeing that the people who are doing this are those who should be living APPRECIATING THIS TREASURE. After all, it should not surprise us to see this type of behavior displayed by the multitudes of people who do not truly know the Lord. We understand that they behave in this manner because they do not truly know the value of “this treasure.” However, I repeat, it is painful to see that it is the children of God who are displaying this lack of appreciation toward this sublime treasure of the salvation that comes from the Word of God.

By the time that this story I mentioned occurred I had already observed for many years this unpleasant phenomenon of ungratefulness. In fact, at the

beginning of my walk with the Lord I began to notice that not all of those people who the Lord calls truly appreciate the treasure of salvation in Christ, as He desires from them. The undeniable truth is that for the most part, those who appreciate this treasure are usually the minority, and those who take it for granted are usually the majority.

Throughout my ministry which has spanned a lifetime, I have desired and hoped (and on many occasions have become “desperate”) that this cycle I mentioned would become reversed. Yet, even to this day I sadly continue to see that there are ONLY A FEW WHO APPRECIATE THIS SALVATION AND THAT THE MAJORITY DO NOT APPRECIATE IT. Therefore, the following Words of the Master have been fulfilled long ago: *“... narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” (Mt. 7:14).*

It is appropriate to clarify that the reality of what the Lord stated is not based solely on words, but on actions and behavior. It is easy to say, “I am a Christian,” but it is an entirely different thing to “be a Christian.” This cited phenomenon is precisely what moved the apostle James to declare: *“But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves” (Js. 1:22).* Genuine Christians are truly a *“little flock” (Lk. 12:32).*

Now, if it is painful for us who are limited humans to see the attitude I have previously described being displayed by our brothers, I wonder how our God, who is also our Father, feels. For this precise

reason, through the prophet Isaiah, our God exclaims and laments: *“Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Lord hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against Me. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master’s crib: but Israel (and the Church) doth not know, My people doth not consider” (Isa. 1:2-3).* The truth is that what has been most painful for our Father throughout the ages is seeing the lack of gratitude in the heart of His children.

One of the most outstanding illustrations that the Word of the Lord provides us is the story of the ten lepers (Lk. 17:11-17). All ten were healed from their leprosy, but only one returned to worship and thank the Lord, “and he was a Samaritan.” This final declaration implies that at times people who truly do not know the Lord are more willing to give God thanks. Many of my brothers who are reading this article know that what I am saying is the pure truth.

By the way, as I am writing this article I am extremely aware (just as is true with all that I write and speak) that there are many people who don’t give much importance to what I am explaining here. I know that among those who will read this article (because there are many of my brothers that won’t even take the time to read it) many will take it as something routine that does not much importance. But I am also aware that these words (and my God knows with what mindset I am writing them) are of profound value and significance to those who are grateful to God.

“This people draweth nigh unto Me (saith the Lord) with their mouth, and honoureth Me with their lips; but their heart is far from Me, But in vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men” (Mt. 15:8-9). I have heard so many Christians easily apply this Scripture to the Jewish people, but they are the same or worse! It is very easy for someone to be living in this spirit of having little appreciation, but thinking that they are fine, especially when this is the prevailing attitude among the great majority of the people. It is no secret that many in our environment (both ministers and members in the congregations) have religion, doctrine, revelation and gifts, but lack in their hearts that true deep gratitude that God demands.

All that I have mentioned previously is the prevailing situation and no Christian who is truly awake can deny this fact. Those professing Christians who do deny this reality are precisely part of the multitude that is being carried away by this powerful spiritual slumber. Many who are included in this multitude are content with putting up a front, justifying themselves because they comply with certain “customs, traditions or doctrines” required of them by their respective local or greater religious affiliation.

As I have previously mentioned, those of us who are keenly aware that this attitude of little appreciation for this “treasure” we have received from God is prevalent can do nothing less than feel pain and even become desperate as we see that we can do little or nothing to remedy the situation. The truth is that “every effect has its cause.” In this case it is beneficial to us to understand what is causing this problem we are discussing, so that those who do not appreciate can be delivered from this attitude and



for confirmation of those who do appreciate this “treasure.”

THE CAUSE FOR THIS LACK OF APPRECIATION

There is a psychological behavior which exists among all humans and this is the tendency that “we will have little or no appreciation toward something that cost us little or nothing.” This applies in all aspects of our human life, and even in the spiritual life of professing Christians. Let us now examine in God’s Word what “cause brings this effect.” The Scriptures tell us: **“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, LET HIM TAKE THE WATER OF LIFE FREELY”** (Rev. 22:17). And **“being justified FREELY by His Grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus”** (Rom. 3:24).

I know that it is not necessary to give an ample explanation to the Gentile Christians about the fact that the salvation we claim to have received from God was given to us **“FREELY”** (Rev. 22:17, Rom 3:24). It did not cost us anything since the total price was paid by our Lord Jesus Christ’s sacrifice on the cross at Calvary. Each one of us who have believed, all we have had to do to receive our salvation is to repent, to stop living in sin and to be baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins (Acts 2:38, Eph. 4:22, 1 Pt. 3:21). God has made it very easy for us Gentiles to obtain the privilege of being His children!

Furthermore, as if this “treasure” was not sufficient, the Lord has offered and also freely given to all those who ask it of Him the precious gift of His Holy Spirit, which the Sacred Scriptures call, **“the earnest of our inheritance”** (Eph. 1:13-14). My brother who is spiritually awake and who lives “appreciating this treasure” does

not require a greater explanation for him to explode in an exclamation of joy, thanking the Eternal One for having made us possessors of this supreme privilege. **“My Grace is sufficient”** says the Lord (2 Cor. 12:9). Hallelujah!

But as I continue our discussion of this subject, I insist once again that the great majority who do not live experiencing this deep gratitude I described, do not appreciate it for the “reason or cause” that they have received this treasure **“freely”** (Rev. 22:17, Rom. 3:24). Because it has not cost them anything, that is the reason they do not appreciate it as required by God. It is here, then, that we can consider the part of the people of the Bible, Israel, and the Jewish people, to receive both instruction and rebuke.

God formed and chose this people from among all the nations of the earth in order to make them into the Sacred Oracle of His Word and His Promises. Of them it is written: **“Who are Israelites, to whom PERTAINETH** (present tense, not past tense, as many teach today) **the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises”** (Rom. 9:4). The nation of Israel is the only people upon the face of the earth who can say of themselves: **“For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we call upon Him for?”** (Dt. 4:7-8).

Therefore Israel has had the unique privilege on this earth of being the conduit of God’s salvation for all the Gentile nations. The Lord Himself confirmed this when He made this tremendous declaration: **“For salvation is of the Jews”** (Jn. 4:22). On the other hand, the truth is this: What a tremendous price this people have had to pay because this privilege was conferred upon them by the Eternal One!

As I began to name some of the “payments” in the price that Israel and the Jewish people have had to pay throughout the course of millennia, I will begin by naming the most painful one: Being despised, abhorred, hated, persecuted, martyred and murdered at the hands of Gentile nations for almost four thousand years. No other race, throughout all the annals of the history of mankind, has had to suffer for such a long period of time and in the systematic way that Israel and the Jewish people have suffered.

The lament made by the Holy Spirits which says: **“Yea, for Thy sake are we killed all the day long, we are counted as sheep for the slaughter”** (Ps. 44:22) has resonated throughout the centuries as the principal “payment” that the chosen people of God have had to suffer. And this, precisely because they are possessors of this supreme privilege. The pages of history of many nations around the world, beginning with the Egypt of the Pharaohs, are stained with the price of blood that which throughout many different ages Israel has had to pay.

The contemporary history of Germany and its accomplices is stained with the blood of more than six million Jews who were massacred during the event now known as the terrible “Holocaust. And the fulfillment of the prophecy concerning the suffering of Israel has not ceased being fulfilled. “Anti-Semitism” among the nations of the world continues to raise its ugly head and will not stop until the Messiah the Jewish people are awaiting comes. By the way, He is coming soon!

It is appropriate to mention that the cited prophecy is also applied by the Holy Spirit (through instrumentality of the apostle Paul) to those of us who among the Gentiles have been called to be **“fellowheirs, and of the**

same body, and partakers of His (God’s) **promise in Christ by the Gospel”** (Eph. 3:6). The apostle Paul declared: **“For Thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter”** (Rom. 8:36). Certainly among the Christians in which this Scripture has been fulfilled and is currently being fulfilled, there is no lukewarmness or half hearted gratitude. The other “payment” that Israel has had to pay for the privilege of having been chosen to be the people of God is the abundance of ordinances, laws, rituals and other similar things that Israel has received from God for them to fulfill and keep throughout more than three millennia. For us, the Gentile Christians, it is not easy to understand the Jewish mentality, especially that of the ultraorthodox Jew, who scrupulously observes all of the traditions of his people. It would be impossible for me to try to explain it here. In fact, I could not explain it fully and even if I could my brothers would not fully understand. The truth is that the Jewish mind was designed by the God who chose them to be different than the minds of other humans.

For this reason I will limit myself to making some general observations about certain obligations of the religious Jew. I do this for the benefit of my brothers who like to learn so that they can have an idea of how easy God has made it for us Gentiles to obtain salvation. I also do it with the purpose of helping us realize why the Jews, since the First Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, have felt jealousy when they that “a Cornelius” (being a Gentile) claims that he is also a member of the chosen people (Acts 10:1-48).

Have you ever had to worry, my brother, my sister, that all of the food you eat is “kosher”? I know that even the word “kosher” is unknown to many of my readers.



And, if they don't know the word, will they be able to prepare the food? Those of us who have had the opportunity to witness how meticulous the process involving the preparation of the "kosher" meals is know that this process in itself is a very complicated obligation which is very difficult for the religious Jews to fulfill. For us, our "kosher" food is Christ the Lord. He Himself declared this when He declared: *"I am the bread of life which came down from heaven; if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world"* (Jn. 6:51).

You and I do not have to worry about keeping the "Sabbath" as has been ordained to Israel. The religious Jew observes this with the same meticulousness that they have been show for more than 25 centuries. They receive the "Shabbat" (the Sabbath) on Friday evening, 15 minutes before sunset. They do not do any work whatsoever other than that which honors God during the next 24 hours. During this time, they do not ride in automobiles or use telephones. They also do not use microphones during their services, as well as observing many other rules associated with keeping the "Sabbath" which are all difficult to observe.

For us, Christ the Lord is our "Sabbath" (which means "Rest"). As we live in Christ, we live in the "Sabbath" every day of the week and of our lives in general. The Lord has certainly made the conditions for His children among the Gentiles very easy! It is appropriate to mention here that among us, the Gentile Christians, those who claim to observe the "Sabbath" are sadly wasting their time. We, the Gentile Christians, were not given the command to observe one day, but to keep each and every day. In fact, we are told that *"let no man therefore judge*

you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days" (Col. 2:16).

What we say about the "Sabbath" can also be said about all the feasts that Israel, for millennia and until today, celebrate religiously in accordance of what was ordained by God Himself since the beginnings of the Jewish nation. I once again ask here. What worry do you have, my brother, about celebrating the Feast of the Booths, the Feast of Tabernacles, Passover, the Feast of Pentecost and others? Our salvation consists solely and uniquely in believing in the Lord Jesus and being faithful to Him. How easy God has made it for us the "ex-wild olive trees"!

In summary, as I mention this brief list of the conditions placed upon the Jews by the Mosaic Law, I want to mention something that is of supreme importance. This one affects you and me, but even so, we are not worried about it. This is circumcision. This painful surgery was commanded directly by God for all Jewish males. Many of our brothers do not even know what this is; much less do they have to subject their flesh to this operation. For us, as explained by Paul, the apostle of the Gentiles, the circumcision that matters is the one that has been made by the hand of God on our heart, thereby changing our lives. I repeat. What easy conditions have been placed on the Gentile Christians by the Lord God of Israel and the God of the Church!

I mentioned previously that it would be completely impossible for me to name all the different conditions that the Jews who observe the Law live subjected to. There are so many that even the strictest Jews cannot fulfill them all. But I think that with the few things I have explained, my brother who reads this article can have a general idea about these

things and can understand the principal point that I am making in this article: "many among us do not appreciate this treasure as they should because it has '*freely*' been given to them" (Rev. 22:17, Rom. 3:24). Since it has not cost them anything, they do not appreciate it in the way that our God requires.

All those who take notice of the reality of things and understand the idea encapsulated in this teaching will not do nothing less than weep with gratitude, continually telling the Lord: "Thank you, my God. Thank you, my Lord. Thank you, my Savior. Thank you for Your love and Your Grace. Thank you, because You have given me the supreme privilege of now being a member of your Chosen People in this world, and even in eternity, even though I am unworthy, have no merit and have not had to pay anything to enter."

To conclude my subject on this occasion and as a Biblical confirmation of the same, I will now cite the following Scripture as a basis: *"Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood...for it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; that ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well"* (Acts 15:19-20, 28-29). I will not grow tired of repeating this truth. How easy our God has placed salvation for us, the "ex-dogs," who were outside!

I will also continue saying that it is sad to see multitudes of my brothers in Christ among the Gentiles who *"neglect so great salvation"* (Heb.

2:1-3) because it has been given to them *"freely"* (Rev. 22:17, Rom. 3:24). It is probable that if it had cost them a great price, then they would give it more value and esteem. But the truth is that it has pleased the Eternal God to do it this way so that He can see which of His children are faithful and grateful. He wants to try us to see if we will not be carried away by the psychological human condition that I mentioned at the beginning of this article: The tendency to not appreciate something that is given to us *"freely"* (Rev. 22:17, Rom. 3:24).

Although there are many ministers and self proclaimed Christians who do not believe it, the day is going to come in which Jesus Christ the Lord will use the Jews who keep the Law to rebuke the mediocre and lukewarm attitude of multitudes of Gentile Christians. I am speaking about those Christians who boast of their "Christianity," their doctrines, their gifts, their faith and many other things, but who do not truly possess a profound gratitude in their hearts because they are possessors of this "treasure" which they received *"freely"* (Rev. 22:17, Rom. 3:24). I believe that by this time, the "wise" (Dan. 12:10) who have read this article have a clearly understood the reason behind what I wrote about the Jewish people. It is for the purpose of making us realize the difference between Israel and the Gentile Church and about the difference in price that each group has had to pay for the supreme privilege of being part of God's chosen People. As I mentioned before, what I shared about Israel is solely to give a superficial idea about a subject which is very profound.

Therefore, I exhort my beloved brothers that we should carefully meditate about this tremendous truth, so that we can obtain the deep teaching that God wants us to learn. It is not a novel subject. In



fact, it has more than 19 centuries of history. The apostle Paul speaks extensively about this subject and he summarizes all his exhortation in the following declaration made to us, the Gentile Christians: ***“For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits” (Rom. 11:25).***

I repeat. This is not a novelty. What has happened in past centuries and what is occurring presently is nothing less than the fulfillment of the terrible sentence which was forewarned by the Holy Spirit through the apostle Paul. The “being wise in your own conceits” that he mentioned it not a small or light matter. We must accept that it is a subject that has serious implications. In fact, it implies spiritual life or death. I have tried to explain in a brief and understandable manner the “cause of the effect” produced by the attitude of ***“neglecting so great a salvation” (Heb. 2:1-3)*** that God has ***“freely” (Rev. 22:17, Rom. 3:24)*** given to those of us who are Gentile Christians.

If any person who reads this article decides to lightly esteem the truth I have explained here, that is his or her business. On the other hand, I know that there are those who will once again weep with gratitude to our Lord Jesus. I know they will appreciate more each day the privilege of having freely obtained the supreme privilege of now being counted as members of the ***“people of the saints of the Most High” (Dan. 7:27).***

May the Grace and the blessing of our God be with each one of you ■

GOD'S PROPHETIC CLOCK, come from page...3

May 12, 2021. The “Times of Israel” reported the following: Iran has enriched its uranium to a 63% level of purity, superior to the 60% that it had previously reported, which exceeds the amount permitted by the nuclear accord of 2015 by 3.67%.

May 18, 2021. “The Jerusalem Post” published the following: The anti-Semitic incidents in the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada have increased significantly since the beginning of the military campaign initiated by the Israel Defense Forces in Gaza last week.

May 21, 2021. “Fox News” announced the following: From New York to California and from Illinois to Utah, the recent conflict between Israel and Gaza has generated a disturbing reaction against the American Jews, which has become the target of death threats, hate speeches and violent physical attacks.

May 25, 2021. The news agency, “Forbes,” reported that during eleven days in May an asymmetrical war was unleashed between the Israel Defense Forces and Hamas, the Palestinian terrorist group which controls the Gaza Strip. The armed branch of Hamas, the al-Qassam Brigade, together with the group, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, launched 4300 missiles from their estimated arsenal of 14,000. This bombardment killed 10 Israeli civilians, among them a child and a teenager, and injured 330 more.

May 28, 2021. “The Jerusalem Post” reported the following: The U.N. Human Rights Council voted

to initiate an investigation against Israel for presumed war crimes, including during the recent war with Hamas in the Gaza Strip. The document was approved with 24 votes in favor, 9 against, and 14 abstentions. They also requested that an arms embargo be placed on the Jewish State.

June 8, 2021. “Israel National News” published that the Secretary of State of the United States, Antony Blinken, warned last Monday that if Iran continued to violate the nuclear agreement of 2015, then the “breakup time” which is needed to accumulate sufficient fissionable material for a single nuclear weapon would be reduced to weeks.

June 14, 2021. “The Jerusalem Post” reported that Benjamin Netanyahu’s record mandate as prime minister of Israel ended Sunday night. The Knesset voted to approve the new government formed by the coalition formed by Naftali Bennett, the leader of the Yamina party and Yair Lapid, the president of the Yesh Atid party.

June 18, 2021. “Israel National News” published the following: In response to the incendiary balloons launched into Israel from the Gaza Strip the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) on Thursday evening attacked military complexes in Gaza city and Khan Yunis, as well as a launching site that belonged to Hamas.

June 19, 2021. “The Times of Israel” informed that the Israeli security officials believe that the president elect of Iran, Ebrahimi Raisi, will adopt the hard line opinions of the supreme

leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, concerning nuclear and foreign policy. They believe that Israel should once again plan potential attacks against the Islamic Republic’s nuclear installations.

June 23, 2021. “Israel National News” reported that the government of Bennett-Lapid began its first evacuation of settlements. Agents of the Israeli border police and personnel from the Civil Administration of the Ministry of Defense were sent to the outpost of the Oz Tzion settlement in the Binyamin district in Samaria on Wednesday morning with the task of demolishing several non-authorized structures.

Although there is a new government in Israel, the political situation remains unstable. The new government of Naftali Bennett and Yair Lapid which replaced the government of Benjamin Netanyahu is comprised of a coalition of parties from the right, left and center. It even contains an Islamic party. A divided kingdom or government cannot remain standing. There will be rivalries among themselves. What united this coalition was the desire to remove Benjamin Netanyahu from his post. It is almost certain that there will soon be elections once again.

We are currently in a weekly prayer and fasting chain on behalf of the nation of Israel. Join us! ***“FOR ZION’S SAKE WILL I NOT HOLD MY PEACE, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest” (Isa. 62:1).***

God bless you and keep you until His Return!

Pastor Efraim Valverde III. ■



“For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in” (Rom. 11:25).

The subject which headlines this article is so extensive that it not only covers two thousand years, but it also is related to all God’s plan of salvation. The apostle Paul dedicates a great portion of his letter to the church at Rome to explain what he calls *“this mystery.”* He also points out the dangerous consequences of ignoring *“this mystery.”* Paul’s discourse about this subject covers chapters 9, 10 and 11 of his letter to the Romans. I invite you, my brother, to take the time to read these chapters carefully, so that you can confirm in your mind the capital teaching which in this brief article I am presenting for your spiritual edification and instruction. The truth is that it is not secret that among the Christian environment there exists a great ignorance concerning this subject. This ignorance has caused and is causing great harm to many of our brothers.

The Lord told the Samaritan woman that *“salvation is of the Jews” (Jn. 4:22).* The apostle Peter, directing himself to us, the Gentile Christians, declares: *“Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God” (1 Pet. 2:10).* With these declarations it is easy for us to understand that the salvation that we profess to have, which has given us the right to be children of God, did not belong to us and that we did not have a right to it. In fact, we were counted among those who the Lord called *“dogs” (Mt. 15:26).*

First of all, when our blessed Savior was manifest in flesh, He came in the likeness and appearance of a member of the lineage of Israel, from the tribe of Judah (although He did not come from the blood of the fallen human race). Then, all the men He chose to be His apostles were members of the lineage of Israel. When the Lord began to build His Church on the day of Pentecost, all the new members were

natural Jews or proselytes to Judaism (Acts 2). It was only until later that the Lord began to fulfill His promise of bringing redemption to the Gentiles, when He called the Roman centurion named Cornelius (read Acts, chapter 10).

However, by the time the second century of this present era began, the number of Jewish Christians was minimal. On the other hand, the membership of the Church was now compromised of a majority of Gentile Christians. When the Jews were the majority many of them discriminated against the Gentiles (including the apostle Peter and Barnabas. Gal. 2:11-13). However, when the Gentiles became the majority, the roles were reversed and there were now Gentile Christians who began discriminating against the Jewish Christians, to the point that they began to despise the entire lineage of Israel. When the apostle Paul saw the Jewish Christians discriminate against the Gentile Christians, he rebuked them, such as in the cited Scripture. Likewise, when he saw that the Gentile Christians were now doing the same, then he wrote the exhortation that we find at the beginning of this article. Unfortunately, this warning was not heeded and we see the logical result of not heeding it.

Almost 19 centuries have passed since then and history, without a doubt, bears witness that the Church “ignored the mystery,” and the “being wise in your own conceit” took a hold of the Church. It is certainly true that during the two and half centuries that the Church was persecuted by pagan Rome, the Church did not persecute the Jews nor did it try to destroy them. However, once the persecutions ceased, the apostasy prophesied by the apostles entered into the Church with full force. One of the Satanic distinctives of this apostasy was that the discrimination against the Jews

began. This then lead to persecution against the Jewish race. The history of this persecution is a long one. The pages of this history are stained with the blood of a people which the apostate “Christian Church” has not ceased to accuse, even to the present, of committing a particular crime: “The Jews crucified Christ.” In the name of this “crime” Nazi Germany, during the 20th century, moved by an incredible bestiality, massacred more than SIX MILLION human beings, whose only “crime” consisted of being members of the Jewish race. This infernal Holocaust was witnessed by a world of “Christian” nations. Some of them were not only spectators but also partook of this horrendous crime. Some contributed directly and other indirectly to the annihilation of the Jews.

Some of my brothers might ask: And what does this have to do with us? Then answer is: IT HAS A LOT DO WITH US! It is certainly true that none of my readers took part in the Holocaust. However, the initial warning contained in our headline text still remains, and it is still fully applicable to nations, as well as to individuals, even to the present. And precisely, leaving the part about the nations pending for the time being (which is also of capital importance), let us consider the tragic effect that this has brought to the lives of thousands of professing Christians in our time, who, because they live “ignoring this mystery” have brought upon their lives (consciously or unconsciously) the horrible curse of “arrogance,” a sin which is an abomination to the Holy One, the God of the saints.

Now, it is not a strange for this awful spirit to govern the lives of people who have been deceived, those who, being controlled by pagan religious organizations which masquerade as Christianity, live a life of total

ignorance of what is contained in the Holy Word of God. But what can we say about those who profess to know Christ, who know His Word and who glory in the fact that they have received the Holy Spirit? They even have had His Name called upon them during baptism and they preach the Gospel, but yet they have their hearts filled with arrogance. All we can say is that they are worthy of pity, because if they do not awaken from that mortal lethargy in time, at the end of their journey they can only expect death. The “Canaanite woman” received the blessing she desired because she humbled herself completely. In doing so she left an invariable example for the *“dogs” (Mt. 15:21-28)*, who in due time did not receive crumbs, but the *“Living Bread which came down from heaven” (Jn. 6:51)*. Paul the apostle refers to this when he says: *“Be not high minded, but fear: For if God spared not the natural branches (which became proud and arrogant), take heed lest He also spare not thee” (Rom. 11:20-21).*

To summarize, “to ignore this mystery” consists in something which has been, and is still, very common among Christianity:

RELIGIOUS PRIDE.

I am totally certain that no one can deny that this in general this is the atmosphere that surrounds us, one in which it is very easy to get wrapped up in. Let us now consider various scenarios which involve not only one group or race, but that involves all of arrogant Christianity throughout the ages.

DENOMINATIONAL PRIDE.

This has been the most effective poison for many years in the hands of Satan to kill the humility in lives of millions of Christians. And in these days, which are the last days, we see our brothers (both those who speak Spanish and those who speak other languages), moved by a pride based on their affiliation with a certain denomination or religious organization, discriminate, despise, condemn and curse their neighbor as if it was the natural thing to do. They do this without having their



conscience bother them in the least. Due to their blindness, they feel that since they are being faithful to their particular group, then their actions are justified, even though they read in God's Word that such behavior is an abomination to Him.

DOCTRINAL ARROGANCE.

This action works in conjunction with the previous one. There are many Christians who, having received revelation from God to understand some of the various doctrines which are found in the Holy Book, "forget this mystery" and become entangled by arrogance as they glory in what they have received. They then use this revelation to behave in the same manner that is described above. We can include in this number the Christians who boast of having received, according to them, the Holy Spirit with the evidence in speaking in new tongues. However, their fruits are far from matching those listed in **Galatians 5:22-23**.

THE ARROGANCE OF POSSESSING MATERIAL THINGS.

It is very easy for the reader to recognize this deviation, especially in these parts of the world in which it is possible to obtain and have material possessions. There are Christians (and ministers) who live extremely blinded by and proud of the things they own: money, houses, cars, properties, clothing, furniture, temples, buildings and other similar possessions. It will only be until that day arrives (which is at the doors) that the Father's chastisement (**Heb. 12:6**) will rid them of their vanity. It is then that they will understand how badly they are behaving today, not because of the fact that they own things, but for the boastfulness which drives them to become arrogant.

THE ARROGANCE AGAINST THE JEWISH PEOPLE.

A true Christian will never despise that people from where "our salvation comes." On the contrary, he will love them as it is written in the Word of God (**Rom. 11:28**). The conclusion of this marvelous mystery is that we, by mercy, are called, together with them, to be part of the ONE FLOCK, which is property of the ONE SHEPHERD (**Jn. 10:16**). ■

THE MIRACLE OF THE FAITHFUL REMNANT

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

When God called Elijah out of the cave, He told him what missions he had to fulfill (**1 Ki. 19:15-17**). However, the Lord kept for Himself a unique responsibility which was to ensure that a faithful remnant would always exist in Israel. The Lord declared: **"Yet I have left Me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him"** (**1 Ki. 19:18**). To this day, the divine option of choosing the integrants of the faithful remnant is a prerogative that belongs solely to the Lord.

Just as He did in antiquity (and is still doing presently in Israel among the Jewish people) the Lord has continued doing this for the past 20 centuries, even to the present, in His Church. During all the times of the existence of the human race, God has never been left without faithful witnesses. We first find these faithful witnesses among the pre-flood patriarchs. Then, after the flood, we read about the faithfulness of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This lineage of faithful witnesses has continued among the people of Israel, even until the present.

In the Church, this lineage of faithful witnesses began with His faithful apostles. After them, throughout the centuries and by a miracle of God, a remnant has faithfully kept **"the faith which was once delivered unto the saints"** (**Jude vs. 3**). Who have been the members of this faithful remnant

The apostle Paul gives a perfect description of the traits which have characterized the members of this faithful remnant from the time of the apostles to the present, beginning with his own life

throughout the past centuries? History ignores them and when it does mention them, it is to defame them.

The apostle Paul gives a perfect description of the traits which have characterized the members of this faithful remnant from the time of the apostles to the present, beginning with his own life: **"But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings; By pureness, by knowledge, by long suffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, the Word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true; AS UNKNOWN, AND YET WELL KNOWN; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making**

many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things" (**2 Cor. 6:4-10**). One of the traits he focuses on is **"as unknown"** (**vs. 9**), but he also adds, "but well known," being **"KNOWN OF GOD"** (**Gal. 4:9**).

Today, among the monumental "spiritual Babylon" (**Rev. 18:1-4**) which is prevalent among those who profess Christianity, **"The Lord knoweth them that are His"** (**2 Tim. 2:19**). It is the Lord who continues working this miracle in the minds and hearts of His children who love Him, those who are sincere and humble of heart (**Mt. 11:29**), so that this faithful remnant will continue to be a faithful witness of the true Gospel.

The apostle Peter gives wise advice to the members of this remnant: **"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear"** (**1 Pet. 3:15**). After all, the faithful Christian is not only distinguished by what he knows, but also by the humble spirit which abides in him, and by the level of the love of God in him that influences him in all the actions of his life.

The day is soon coming in which you shall **"discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not"** (**Mal. 3:18**).

May God bless you and open your understanding to His Word. ■



THE NEW ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AND ISREAL'S NEW CHAPTER

Albert Veksler Director JPB Director Global Aliyah

24. Several other countries have also pledged to open embassies in Jerusalem, including Brazil, Malawi, the Czech Republic, the Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, and Serbia.

The list of Netanyahu's achievements is long: getting the U.S. to recognize the Golan Heights as Israeli sovereign territory and bringing about the U.S. withdrawal from Iran [nuclear] deal. However, there was no landslide victory in the last four elections for Netanyahu.

Netanyahu is not in the office because the right-wing parties which agree with him on policy have had it with his personal style and management approach.

On Sunday, June 13, a new Israeli government was sworn in.

If the coalition stands so long, Bennett will serve as prime minister for the first two years, with Yair Lapid — whose centrist party earned almost three times more votes than Bennett's — will serve as the alternate prime minister and foreign

minister. Lapid will transition to be the prime minister for the latter two years of the government; each can veto the other's policies during the four years.

The new government has nine women ministers; it includes an Arab Israeli Party in the ruling coalition, the United Arab List Ra'am. It includes government ministers born in Ethiopia and the Soviet Union, an Arab Israeli minister, and Israel's first openly gay party leader. There are plans for a record \$16 billion to go to the Israeli Arab sector, which will help move the country toward greater equality; a freeze might accompany these on home demolition of unrecognized Bedouin villages in the Negev.

In addition, it will be the first government since 2015 that does not include ultra-Orthodox parties, making it possible for the reinstatement of one of Netanyahu's broken promises: to dedicate space at the Western Wall for egalitarian prayer. The first Reform rabbi, Labor party member Gilad Kariv, along with the new Diaspora

Affairs minister Nachman Shai (also of the Labor party), pledge to further equality for all Jewish denominations, with hopes for relative greater flexibility on conversions to Judaism.

Bennet prayed during the inauguration of the new government: "Now, hours before accepting this responsibility, I pray to God that He grant me wisdom and understanding to lead the State of Israel.

Heavenly Father, Rock and Redeemer of Israel, bless the State of Israel, the first flourishing of our redemption, guard it in your abundant kindness, spread over it the shelter of Your peace. Send forth your light and truth to its leaders, ministers, and advisors, and grace them with Your good counsel. Strengthen the hands of those who guard our holy land, grant them deliverance, and adorn them in victory. Give peace in the land, and grant its inhabitants eternal happiness."

I think we all should join him in this prayer for the state of Israel.

Shalom Shalom,

Albert Veksler

Director JPB

Director Global Aliyah ■

REPORT OF FELLOWSHIP SERVICE IN SAN MARCOS, CALIFORNIA

Pastor Jaime Vigil

spirit he shared with us some of the current projects taking place in Israel. That evening we rejoiced in the praise and worship, *"speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord"* (Eph. 5:19). After this we once received the Word of God with joy. We were invited to reflect upon our spiritual condition before the pandemic, during the pandemic and in this most recent stage.

God moved Pastor Efraim Valverde III to encourage some and to exhort others with the intent of provoking some to begin to seek the Lord with intensity. Just as in the same manner we sought Him when the fear of the pandemic was near, we should continue to increase our seeking

of Him each day and we should not cease doing so. Also, he stated that he prayed that those who were not shaken by the pandemic could realize that worse things are coming in the future. To stand firm through these things a spiritual maturity is required so that we can make it to the end of our journey (2 Pet. 3:1).

Once again, we thank God for move Pastor Efraim Valverde III to minister to us, provoking us to seek the Lord daily for who He is (Great God over all the earth, hallelujah!). He told us that we should seek His Face and not just His favors. Although it is not bad to have petitions before the Lord, we need to seek Him because we love Him, and when we love Him we will obey His commandments (Ps. 105:4).

We concluded the activity in the strong Presence of God at the altar, pouring out our hearts before the Lord because we love Him and we want a relationship with Him. There was brokenness and a recognitions that we the Lord Jesus Christ. There was also a liberty to dance before the Lord. It was a joy to see our young people give themselves to the Lord, singing, listening to His Word and praying. It was a complete service because the Lord Jesus Christ was present among His saints.

We thank God for Pastor Efraim Valverde III for his willingness to be with us. I also thank the Lord for my companion pastors from around the San Diego area. Together we were able to organize this activity. I also thank the Lord for all of our brothers from different places who accompanied us in this activity. May God bless you and may the Lord Jesus Christ allow us to soon gather together once again is my desire and prayer.

Pastor and companion in this militia, Jaime Vigil. ■

Former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu led the Jewish state for over 15 years, including the last 12 consecutive years. He displayed a keen interest in and considerable understanding of economics throughout his long tenure, a rare occurrence in Israeli political leadership.

Under Netanyahu's recent leadership, Israel's GDP per capita soared by 60%, from \$27,500 in 2009 to \$43,689 in 2020. As a result, Israel's GDP per capita is today compared to Japan, France, and Great Britain. At the same time, the Jewish state is struggling with a very high cost of living, and it is among the unequal economies in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Together with President Trump, he accomplished not one, not two, not three, but four Arab-Israeli peace treaties, not to mention Kosovo, another Muslim country. Remember the moving of the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem - other nations started to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and bring their embassies here. After The United States, Guatemala, and Kosovo moved their embassies to Jerusalem. The president of Honduras, Juan Orlando Hernández, announced that he would officially inaugurate his country's embassy in Jerusalem on June

First of all, we would like to thank God for granting us the opportunity to gather together during the regional conference.

After such a long period of time of not being able to have this type of activity, approximately 14 months, by the will of God He granted us the privilege of being able to enjoy the blessing which states: *"Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity"* (Psa. 133:1), to be able to dwell together, and remain in this same mindset and to worship our Lord Jesus Christ as if we were one single man! We planned this activity with the expectation that we would receive from God what had not been possible for many months, a liberty, a hunger for God and the possibility of receiving brothers from many different congregations. As the brothers began arriving we could already sense the powerful Presence of God.

On Saturday morning we had a gathering of pastors and ministers during which the Lord once again ministered in a very special way to each one of our companion ministers. Robert Ilatov also attended the meeting via internet. With a joyful



TESTIMONIES ABOUT THE DAILY LIVE SERVICES

These transmissions have been a great blessing to me. I give God many thanks for the daily live services. How wonderful, real and authentic are these teachings. Thank God for these men, Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr. and Pastor Efraim Valverde III, who God has allowed to come into my life. Their ministry has been my spiritual roots. God bless all of you. Receive a brotherly hug!

Sis. Oti Garrido, Puebla, Mexico.

God bless you. For me the teachings from the Word of God that are being transmitted through this medium have been a great spiritual help. I thank God for being able to hear His unadulterated, pure Word. In now understand mysteries which in the past I did not understand. The Lord pulled me out of man's system of government in the Church through His Word through the lips of Pastor Efraim Valverde III. In man's system we worship man and do not worship God.

When Pastor Efraim Valverde III visited us for the first time in Nicaragua he met my father (who was a pastor and who the Lord has already called to be with Him). I also thank the Lord for my parents, because ever since I was in my mother's womb I heard the Word of God. I am now a married adult. I have a precious family that the Lord has given me. Blessings to all of my brothers.

Bro. Modesto Isaac Cruz Gomez, Managua, Nicaragua.

I thank God for the live transmissions of services via the internet. They have encouraged me and uplifted my spirit, especially during these times in which the world is rapidly changing and in which there is much confusion. May God help and bless His people. God bless you.

Bro. Salomón Flores, Tucson, AZ.

For me, I personally met Pastor Efraim Valverde Sr. approximately 30 years ago. From that point on his ministry has been a blessing to me. I thank God for being able to continue hearing these teachings. They make me very joyful.

Sis. Belen Alcauter, Tijuana, Mexico.

God bless your brothers. I pray that you are well. It is a pleasure to be able to share my personal experience in the Word of the Lord through these great men of God. I was introduced at a young age to the teachings of Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr. through cassettes, articles and through different types of media. I have had the privilege of experiencing the same with Pastor Efraim Valverde III. He has been like a spiritual father for me. I am totally convinced that what we have learned, the doctrines and other teachings, the audio messages and now the video sermons are the truth. I thank them very much for transmitting the live services for my benefit and the benefit of my brothers. They are always a blessing. God bless you and keep you. Greetings.

Bro. Raul Sanchez G., Culiacan, Sinaloa.

We are happy to be able to share the live transmission of the preaching of Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr. through radio stations in Mexico. Each message is edification for the people of God. We have people who testify in every city in which the Word of God is transmitted through this ministry.

Bro. Hazael Orozco, San Luis Potosí, Mexico.

I thank the Lord for the message and the food for our soul that we receive through the services that are transmitted through the internet. God bless Pastor Efraim Valverde III for Word that our Heavenly Father gives us through him every day. May the Lord bless and strengthen him day by day, together with his wife and all of his family.

Sis. Viviana Cordoba Benavidez.

First of all, I would like to thank God because He has protected us from this physical illness. I also am very grateful to Him because He has delivered us from the spiritual virus that Pastor Efraim Valverde III has mentioned. All this time that we were unable to congregate was very difficult, but thank God that for the transmissions of the Word of God through our pastor and the ministry in Salinas. We tried our best not to miss any of the transmissions because we wanted to take advantage of this opportunity of this method that God permitted through the internet services. However, we desired with all of our heart to be able to congregate once again. Here in our home we could feel the Presence of our God, but meeting at the temple is something special and unique. I bless the Lord Jesus Christ because He had mercy on us and we are now able to congregate once again. Glory to God!

Sis. Rosa Elvia Gutiérrez Mora, Tijuana Baja California, Mexico.

Thank God the live services have been a great blessing because I share them with persons who do not know God. I also thank the ministry in Salinas, Pastor Efraim Valverde III, and all the group of pastors who labor in the work of the Lord. May God always bless them. Receive a strong hug, my brothers. Our God is good and His mercy is great. I also thank God because He has kept us in good health.

Many blessings to all. I send you greetings from Mexico City. I congregate with the congregation Temple Nazareth where my pastor is Carlos Morales.

Your brother in Christ,

Aurelio Ramirez, CDMX, Mexico.

God bless my Pastor Efraim Valverde III here in Salinas. He has been a great blessing for the local congregation and for many around the world. May God continue to use him. We have a great privilege to have a man of God like him in our midst. May God bless my pastor and his family.

Sis. Ruth Santos, Salinas, California.

It has been a great blessing for me to hear the Word of God through the messages that the Lord has given Pastor Efraim Valverde III. May God continue to use his life to help many so that we can continue pressing forward, praising Christ.

Bro. Ismael Villela, Springfield, Missouri.

The services that are transmitted live have been a great blessing to me. They have helped me to feel closer to the Word of God. Wherever I go I can listen to the messages and get to know the brotherhood.

Sis. Mireya Cortez Olivera, Guerrero, Mexico. ■



PASTORS AND MINISTERS SEMINAR IN GUADALAJARA, MEXICO

First of all I want to thank God for allowing me to share this brief testimony concerning what I experienced at the meeting for pastors and ministers which took place on April 22, 23, and 24 in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico.

What was spoken during those days was very special, particularly what was told us on the first day, beginning with the testimony of Ezra and how he had prepared his heart to inquire about the law of the Lord (**Ez. 7:10**), and in this manner the Lord prepared my heart to hear His Word. After this we were ministered to about the danger of falling into the trap of seeing things on the internet that are not helpful to our spiritual walk. I could feel the authority with which God was speaking through the mouth of our pastor, Efraim Valverde III. In fact, a sense of fear overcame me as I listened to the warning that was being given to us. For me this message has been a treasure, pearls of a great price. That day I asked the Lord to continue to keep Pastor Efraim Valverde III, and that He would continue to use him to help us.

I ask God to help me so that I will not trample under my feet these precious pearls that He gave me through what He put in the lips of our pastor and brother. I want to value them as the precious pearls that they are.

God bless our pastor and brother, Efraim Valverde III, and may He keep his vessel in holiness so that he can continue to speak God's Word with authority.

Pastor Alfredo Corcoles
Purepero, Michoacan

God bless all of our beloved brothers. I want to share with you how the meeting of pastors and ministers held in Guadalajara, Jalisco, was a great blessing to my life.

It was a very special meeting. Because of the pandemic it had been a long time since we had been able to meet like this. A group of brothers from the congregation and I arrived on Thursday afternoon. It was a special joy to see many of our brothers again since it had been a while I had seen them.

Early Friday morning we had breakfast together with joy and simplicity of heart. Our brother, Pastor Efraim Valverde III spoke to us about the resurrection. What a blessing it was to hear the Word of God all day! On Saturday he spoke to us about the falsehood of the theory of the rapture and all of its related subjects. He also proved to us through the Scriptures that we are waiting for *"the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ"* (**Tit. 2:13**). At the end of day we gathered together and prayed and poured out our hearts before the Lord. We reluctantly bid farewell to our brothers, because the joy of being together in the Presence of the Lord and of being able to see one another again was so great. We then returned home full of blessings and joy.

God bless our pastor, Efraim Valverde III and all of the pastors, ministers and brothers who are companions in this militia. I pray that the Lord will continue to once again allow us to gather in this fashion. I want to take this opportunity to ask your prayers for my beloved wife and children, and also for the congregation here in Tijuana. Shalom!

Pastor Jose Covarrubias,
Tijuana, Baja California Norte,
Mexico.

I greet you in Name of my Lord Jesus Christ. I am very happy with my Heavenly Father. For me it was marvelous to once again see, greet and feel the appreciation and brotherly love of my brothers (pastors and companion ministers). We really needed to be able to gather together physically and to be ministered to by the Holy Spirit once again, through our beloved brother, Pastor Efraim Valverde III.

We lived through a very difficult year. The doors of the temple were temporarily shuttered, but the Lord opened many other doors, thanks to our God! We were told that presently it is easier to be a hypocrite than in other times. We were also told that our fellowship with God is the most important thing in our life and that our heart should be solely dedicated to God. In fact, having a close relationship with God produces changes, just as Ezra ascended, prepared, inquired, obeyed and taught God's commandments to the people (**Ez. 7:10**). He told us that during these last days we must seek more of God's anointing so that we can serve and preach with a heart that is filled with the Holy Spirit.

He also spoke to us about the importance to be faithful to the matrimonial covenant (**Mal. 2:14-15**) and that we must guard the place of honor, because he who is unfaithful defrauds God, his own soul, his wife, his children and the congregation (**Prov. 8:36**). Being careless blinds our vision and carries several consequences. On the other hand, if we keep the Word of God, He will keep our mind. We must not exchange the blessings from God for something "cheap and worthless," as what happened to Esau (**Gen. 25:31-34**).

My brothers, I bid you farewell, desiring to see you again soon, and desiring that we remain faithful and firm in Him who called us to be good soldiers of righteousness. I also take this opportunity to ask you to remember me, my wife and our daughters in your prayers.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Miguel Gonzalez
Cuernavaca, Morelos.

Beloved brothers, may our God, the Lord Jesus Christ, bless all of you. Thank God that we were able to attend the meeting for pastors and ministers in Guadalajara, Jalisco. These meetings have always been a blessing to me. Every time I have attended I have been able to learn not only about doctrine, but also about the importance of our walk with God, and also about the importance of our relationship with Him, with our wife and with our children.

God bless our pastor, Efraim Valverde III, who has continued with the same ministry and mindset as our beloved elderly pastor, Efraim Valverde, Sr. He has always reminded and confirmed us about the messages we heard through his grandfather.

It is a blessing when we are told the truths from God's Word. The following is one of the topics we heard about during this meeting: Pornography and the great damage it has caused! How it has stained the pure and special work that the Lord Jesus has done in our lives. Help us Lord Jesus!

Let us continue praying for Pastor Efraim Valverde III so that the Lord will continue using him. For my part, I am very grateful to the Lord for the privilege of having known, of having heard and having learned from Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr. and Pastor Efraim Valverde III.

God bless all of you. Amen.

Please do not stop praying for us.

Brother Néstor Quintanar Guzmán,
San Martin del Estado, Oaxaca.



YOUTH SECTION

Sis. Katie Quintanar.



The Bible tells us that the “day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night” (1 Thes. 5:2)

not love you.” I did not know how to respond to this voice, but then I heard another voice which told me: “The Lord Jesus suffered and died because He loves you.”

As you can see, the enemy puts those thoughts in our mind so that we can become distracted from the truth. However, the apostle Paul declared: **“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Phil. 4:13)**. We do not have to be afraid, because we know that the Lord is always with us. We are living in the last days and we need to draw closer to God, as Pastor Efraim Valverde III recently told us.

The Bible tells us that the **“day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night” (1 Thes. 5:2)**. The biggest lie the enemy tells us is that there is still a lot of time, but the reality is that we do not have time. We must prepare us for the Coming of the Lord. The enemy is trying very hard to make us forget about God, by using social media, movies, or even friends and family. We must be careful what we watch and who we speak to, because these connections can be a strong influence in our lives. Therefore, we must be very careful.

I hope that these words will be a help for some of you, my fellow youth. I ask for your prayers and I encourage you to continue walking in the ways of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God bless you, Sis. Katie Quintanar
Oceanside, California. ■

WOMEN OF GOD

Sis. Maria Ines Quintanar.



we are wearing modest apparel, we are pleasing God. For those sisters who have just given their lives to the Lord, I know that it is not easy to give up the way you are used to dressing. But with the Lord’s help, we can manage to make changes in the way we dress.

I want to share something else. When my daughter began going to school I dressed her in pants so that she could be more comfortable. I thought that it would be easier for her to run and play. In my mind I would say: “She is only a small child,” or “she cannot run wearing a dress or skirt.” When we would visit other families, her tendency was to choose to wear pants. For her this was normal because that is how I had accustomed her, but at the time I did not consider this to be wrong. But I give honor and glory to our God who speaks to us on time. The Lord used Pastor Efraim Valverde III to speak to us concerning these subjects. On one occasion he spoke to us strongly about how if we taught our daughters to wear pants when they are small, then when they are older it would be more difficult for them to stop using them. He told us that we should do not have to do things just because we are told to do them, but that we should do them in order to please God. After all, for those who fear God, their greatest desire is to please Him at all costs.

This preaching made me think and I began to make a change in how I dressed my daughters. It was not easy, but there are ways to do it. When we send our daughters to school they can wear leggings under their skirt and they will become accustomed to dress in this manner. And most importantly, we, as mothers, should be examples to them.

In conclusion, I leave you with this verse: **“The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman’s garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God” (Dt. 22:5)**.

May God bless all of my sisters! I ask prayers for my family and for the congregation here in Vista, California.

Sis. Maria Ines Quintanar. ■

I greet you with the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ giving Him honor and glory for giving me the privilege of being able to communicate with you through this medium.

My name is Maria Ines Quintanar. I came to know the Lord Jesus at the age of 19. When one does not know about God it is easy to criticize people who are not like us. I say this because I could identify people who are Christians by the way they dress. The simple fact of seeing a woman walk down the street wearing a long dress would make us ask: “Could it be that she is a sister?” On the other hand, when we would see a woman dressed in pants or in provocative clothing would automatically think that that woman did not know the Word of God. For them it is normal and they do not think that they are doing anything wrong. However, we know that the Word of God teaches us that **“women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety” (1 Tim. 2:9)**.

I thank the Lord for the men of God who taught and exhorted us about these subjects. I remember that in 2001 in one of the teachings given by Pastor Lorenzo Mendoza, he spoke to us strongly about how we should dress and about not using makeup. From that moment on the Lord began to speak to my heart and began to initiate a change in the way I dressed. The closer we get to God, the more His Spirit admonishes about how we should dress and behave. Sisters, let us not be ashamed in the way we dress, no matter what others say. As long as

My desire is that there be many blessings for all the young people. I am joyful for this opportunity to encourage all of my fellow young people. I am grateful to the Lord because He still has us standing. This year has been difficult but the Lord has been faithful and merciful.

Before the pandemic began, I did not really make time for God. I was focused on other things and I eventually stopped praying. I stopped thanking God for the food that He provides, for the roof over my head, and for my family. When the pandemic began I became extremely frightened. I became terrified about thought on what could happen to me if I became infected by the virus. Then one day, God used my uncle to speak to me, reminding me that I should never feel terrified because God is always with me.

That day when I returned home I fell on my knees and cried out to the Lord. I told Him: “Here I am God, forgive me. I have not been keeping Your commandments. I am your daughter and I want You to use my life.” When I said these words, something came into my head and told me: “You cannot be used by God because you are not ready and because He does



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?

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**).

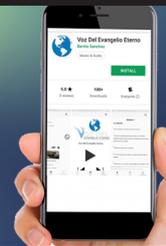
CONCLUSION: Even though we may not know you, the Lord knows who you are, and our prayer is that He will bless you. We also ask our Lord Jesus that He will work in your life, praying that the plan described in this tract will bring the change in your life that you greatly desire. If the Lord places in 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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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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