



A translated version of the International Christian periodical
MARANATHA

P.O. BOX 10271- SALINAS, CA 93912-7271-VOL. 8-NO.1-JANUARY-2018-TEL: 831-422-0647

**THE FILTH
OF OUR FLESH**

PAG.08

**ACTIVITY
REPORTS**

PAG.11

**YOUTH
Section**
PSALMS 119:9

PAG.10

**Women
OF GOD**

PAG.10

**GOD'S
PROPHETIC
Clock**

PAG.07

**PRICE OF
BLOOD**

*"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.
(Isaiah 1:18)"*



PERIODICAL
POSTAGE PAID AT
SALINAS, CA 93901

FOR CONTRIBUTIONS
VISIT
www.Evalverde.com

Maranatha (usps 452-370) Is published quarterly free of charge by the Church of Jesus Christ In the America, Inc. General Office: 160 Pajaro St., Salinas, CA 93901-3430 Periodical postage paid at Salinas, CA Postmaster + Please send change of address to; P.O. BOX 10271 Salinas, CA 93912-7271 /Maranatha 160 Pajaro St. Salinas, CA 93901-3430 evalverde@evalverde.com



EDITORIAL

DETAILS AND COMMENTARY CONCERNING THE RECOGNITION OF JERUSALEM AS THE CAPITAL OF ISRAEL

Shalom, esteemed readers! The year 2017 was an extraordinarily prophetic year and Jerusalem was at the heart of all the prophetic occurrences. In 2017 the 120th anniversary of the first Zionist Congress occurred (Aug 29, 1897). Also, the year 2017 marked the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration (Nov. 2, 1947), a public declaration emitted by the British government during the First World War declaring its support for the establishment of a “national home” for the Jewish people.

Another anniversary which took place in 2017 was the 70th anniversary of the miraculous vote in the United Nations (Nov. 29, 1947) to establish the Jewish State in Israel (Isa. 66:8). Then on Dec. 6, 2017, the 45th president of the United States, Donald Trump, fulfilled his promise to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

On May 14, 1948 (Mat.24:32-35), the president of the United States, Harry S. Truman, despite the objections of the State Department of the U.S. government, recognized the State of Israel moments after David Ben Gurion, the first prime minister of Israel, had proclaimed the establishment of the Modern State of Israel. Now, 70 years later, the recently elected president of the United States officially recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Fifty years ago, on June 6, 1967, the prophetic “until” which the Lord declared in Luke 21:24 was fulfilled concerning the reunification of the Jewish people with the Old City of Jerusalem. Now, on Dec. 6, 2017, the current president of the United States officially recognized Jerusalem

as the capital of Israel. Although this declaration made by President Trump filled us with joy, it also caused us to think about the following points.

THE THREE KEY POINTS OF PRESIDENT TRUMP'S DECLARATION

Being that President Trump's recent declaration was unprecedented and historic, it is to our benefit to analyze it so that we might have a greater understanding of how it has already affected and how it may continue to affect the present situation in Israel, in the Middle East and in the entire world, so that the prophecy announced in Zechariah 14:1-4 might be fulfilled. As we analyze the president's discourse we note that he mentions three key points concerning “the City of the great King” (Psa. 48:1-2; Mt. 5:35), Jerusalem.

We encounter the first key point in these words issued by President Trump: “Therefore, I have determined that it is time to officially recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.” He later added: “But today, we finally acknowledge the obvious: that Jerusalem is Israel's capital. This is nothing more, or less, than recognition of reality.”

The second important point he mentioned is the following: “That is why, consistent with the Jerusalem Embassy Act (an act the United States Congress adopted in 1995), I am also directing the State Department to begin preparation to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.”

The third key point he mentioned was: “The United States remains deeply committed to helping facilitate a peace agreement that is acceptable to both sides (Israel and the Arabs).” He also stated: “The United States would support a two-state solution if agreed to by both sides.”

Now that we have identified these three key points: recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, moving the United States embassy to

Jerusalem and continuing to support a peace process based upon a two-state solution, let us now focus our attention on each point.

**Did President Trump recognize East Jerusalem, West Jerusalem or United Jerusalem as the capital of Israel?*

In his recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, President Trump did not specify clearly which Jerusalem he was referring to as the capital of Israel. Although he stated: “Jerusalem has been the capital of Israel for almost 70 years,” that statement only applies to the Modern City of Jerusalem, West Jerusalem. He also declared: “Ever since then, Israel has made its capital in the city of Jerusalem, the capital the Jewish people established in ancient times.” In reality Jerusalem can be identified in three different ways. West Jerusalem is the modern city. East Jerusalem is the ancient Biblical city. United Jerusalem is the Modern City and the Old City unified into one city. The Jerusalem Law, adopted by the Israeli parliament, the Knesset, in 1980 declared that both parts of Jerusalem, both East and West, were now legally united into one entity, one city, and that this United Jerusalem is the capital of Israel.

**President Trump also promised to move the United States Embassy to Jerusalem, to the modern part of city, but he did not give an exact time when he was going to fulfill this promise. The president stated: “In consistence with the Jerusalem Embassy Act (adopted on Oct. 23, 1995), I am also directing the State Department to begin preparation to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. This will immediately begin the process of hiring architects, engineers, and planners, so that a new embassy, when completed, will be a magnificent tribute to peace.”*

**The peace process and the two-state solution*

Since President Trump clarified that the United States would support a two-state solution if both parties agree, it is to our benefit to recall

the requirements established by this solution for peace. This solution means that there would be two contiguous states, one Israeli and one Arab, coexisting in peace in the territory previously known as the British Mandate. Being that the Modern State of Israel has existed in this region since May 14, 1948, based upon the Partition Plan (this plan divided the region into two states, one Israeli and one Arab, with Jerusalem as a separate entity under international control) approved in the United Nations on November 29, 1947, which was accepted by Israel but was emphatically rejected by the Arab world, this two-state solution implies the creation of an Arab state. However, the Arabs have repeatedly insisted that they would accept this solution on only one condition: that Israel withdraws to the borders it had before the beginning of the Six Day War of 1967. This means that Israel would have to withdraw from the areas it captured in this defensive war, including the West Bank of the Jordan River (Judea and Samaria) and the Old City of Jerusalem, since the Arabs want this part of the city as the capital of their Arab state (what they call the State of Palestine), something that Israel would never agree to. For their part, what Israel has placed as the primary prerequisite to accepting this two-state solution is that the Arab world, especially the Palestinian Authority led by Mahmoud Abbas, officially recognize Israel as a legitimate state, something the Arabs have emphatically refused to do, even to the present.

Therefore, based on this part of President Trump's declaration, the following questions arise: Will Israel at a later date have to pay a price for receiving this official recognition which was approved by the U.S. Congress? Will the United States in pushing forth the peace process make certain demands from Israel as recompense for making this declaration? What might the U.S. demand from Israel? These questions have yet to be answered. What is



certainly true is that the United States government now has leverage in the event that President Trump wants to make certain demands of Israel for having in a way “stuck out its neck” for the Israelis. After moving the embassy to the Modern City, will the president demand that Israel turn the Old City over to the Arabs? This, by the way, is the heart of the matter, the sharing of City of Jerusalem as capital for each respective state. Could it be that the president requires that Israel give up the Old City (half of United Jerusalem)? We know that the Arabs will accept nothing less than possessing the Old City of Jerusalem as their capital, but we also know that Israel would never agree to voluntarily relinquishing the Old City.

If this is the price that the United States expects Israel to pay and Israel refuses to do this, will President Trump then turn against Israel? In these days Israel has been in contact with at least ten countries that are planning on moving their embassies to Jerusalem. This fact also might increase the pressure on Israel when this solution for peace is presented once again. “For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape” (1 Thess. 5:3).

*Finally, we know that eventually everything will fall into place so that what the Lord prophesied in Zechariah 14:1-4 will be fulfilled. This includes all nations being against Israel, half of the City taken and then the Second Coming of the King of glory. All this is very real. May the Lord give us more and more of His Divine strength so that we can do what He demands from us, and so that we might be prepared for His Coming. Our goal in life is to be with Him for eternity. “One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple” (Psa. 27:4). Let us pray one for another. Let us also pray for the Peace of Jerusalem (the Coming of the King of Israel, who is also now our King by Grace)!

God bless you,

Pastor Efraim Valverde III.

PRICE OF BLOOD

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

So much has been said about the Lord’s sacrifice! So many paintings have been made depicting the pain of the crucified Christ!

Almost twenty centuries have passed since the Lord Jesus Christ, God manifested in flesh (1 Tim. 3:16), was sentenced by the raging mob and nailed to a cross by the Roman soldiers. Since that time, according to Daniel’s prophetic exclamation, many have been “purified, and made white, and tried,” but at the same time the other part of the sacred Text has also been fulfilled which states: “but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand” (Dan. 12:10). It is precisely those of us who are “wise” who to this day are still overcome with emotion when we remember, hear about or speak about the PRICE OF BLOOD which was the cost our salvation.

I am certain that the Christian who truly loves the Lord was moved in the depths of his soul simply by reading the title of this article and that the spontaneous cry that gushed from deep within his soul was: Thank you, my Lord, for the PRICE OF BLOOD that You paid for my salvation! On the other hand, I am also certain that there are two types of persons to whom this is not of great importance: those who have never truly known the

According to what we always emphasize in the pages of this publication, we are living in the last days of the Age of Grace, when the supreme value of the blessed Blood of the Lord which He shed on the cross at Calvary will cease to save, because it was the Lord Himself who declared: “And the Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all the nations; and then shall the end come” (Mt. 24:14).

love of the Jesus Christ the Lord and those who claim that they know Him, but do not truly love Him or who loved Him at one time in the past but who have now “left their first love” (Rev. 2:4). The apostle Paul encloses God’s entire message in one brief declaration, stating: “If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema” (1 Cor. 16:22). This truth had a maximum value when it was declared and it presently carries the same validity, because the truth is that no one, from the beginning and to this present

day, can truly serve and follow the Lord Jesus if they do not truly have a passionate love for their God.

According to what we always emphasize in the pages of this publication, we are living in the last days of the Age of Grace, when the supreme value of the blessed Blood of the Lord which He shed on the cross at Calvary will cease to save, because it was the Lord Himself who declared: “And the Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all the nations; and then shall the end come” (Mt. 24:14).

It is precisely in these last days, in the midst of all the terrible things which are occurring in the world, that in many different parts of the world (and it will soon occur in this part of the world) physical persecution and martyrdom have come upon the true followers of the Lord Jesus, and the only weapon that the child of God can rely upon in order to withstand the things which he may suffer is that passion, and that genuine, profound love for his Master.

I am aware that there are many who teach that the Church is not called to suffer and that it will be “raptured” before this time of trouble that the Word of God speaks about. However, this teaching (which we do not have the time or space to elaborate on here) is so absurd and so out of line with what the Holy Book teaches that it does not make



sense to stop and take the time in this article to reprove it. What we will do is to continue emphasizing what the Master noted when He stated: "He that loveth father or mother more than Me is not worth of Me: and he that loveth son or daughter (inheritances, etc) more than Me is not worthy of Me" (Mt. 10:37). He also declared: "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me" (Lk. 9:23). This can only be done when we appreciate with all of the strength of our soul the PRICE OF BLOOD which was the cost for our redemption.

For the man or the woman who living in sin feels overwhelmed by the weight of their burden and desires peace in their soul, those blood stained hands are still inviting them to draw nearer to Calvary to the feet of the Jesus the Lord, so that they can deposit their life in the hands of the Divine Savior. It does not matter how terrible their past might be, the Lord calls out, saying: "Come now and let us reason together: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isa. 1:18). Their part is to simply believe that those hands, those temples, that back and that side shed blood to pay the price of our redemption, and then to ask, just as those first believers inquired on the day of Pentecost: "What must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30). The answer to that question remains the same. "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38).

Now, for the Christian who is living his life of vanity and carelessness, proud of his religion or of his religious organization, and

in whose heart the pain of Calvary does not exist, this invitation from the Lord still stands: "Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am MEEK AND LOWLY IN HEART: and ye shall find rest unto your souls" (Mt. 11:29). He knows very well, my brother and my sister, that the appearance of godliness of a superficial Christianity does not and can not bring peace and rest to the soul. On the contrary, it is written: "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without which partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace" (Jas. 3:14-18).

The final words of this brief article are directed to my brother and my sister, whether I know them personally or not, whoever they are and wherever they might be, who in their heart has that passion which makes them feel overwhelmed with emotion when they consider the PRICE OF BLOOD that was the cost of our salvation. My brother, my sister, the struggle at times is very difficult. At times it seems that the trials, instead of decreasing, are increasing. There are times that the feeling that we cannot go another step darkens our path. But the Word which is a "lamp unto our feet" (Ps. 119:105) tells us and will continue telling us until we reach the end of our journey: "For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be

wearied and faint in your minds. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin" (Heb. 12:3-4).

There are days drawing near in which many of those who "have not yet resisted unto blood" (Heb. 12:4) will have to experience this. This will not be to harm nor to do us evil, much less to judge us. On the contrary, it will occur so that we can partake of the supreme privilege that our brothers experienced who were martyred for Christ the Lord and who were told: "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake" (Phil. 1:29).

How are we going to be able to withstand those days which lie ahead? By daily cultivating in our hearts (in our emotions) that passion, that deep love for the Beloved of our soul, for Him who "though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich" (2 Cor. 8:9), and for Him who because of His love for us "humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Phil. 2:8). Only by having this type of love for our Lord will we be able to see His face for a blessing on the day of His appearance in glory. Only by having this type of love will we be able to please Him. Only with this type of love will we be able to fulfill what He has commanded us to do: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Mat. 22:39).

"Lord, thou knowest that I love thee" was what Peter answered when the Lord asked him: "Peter, lovest thou Me?" (Jn. 21:15-17). Almost twenty one centuries have since passed and the same question that our Master posed to our brother Peter, He has asked and

continues asking to each one of His true followers, even to this day. As I observe those blood stained hands and remember the PRICE OF BLOOD that my Savior chose to pay for me on that cross, I join with my brother and my sister, who, moved by a passionate love for the Martyr of Golgotha, has shed tears of love for Him as they read these lines and have joined the poet in exclaiming:

I Love You Lord!
I am not moved my God
to love You,
By the things You have
promised to give Me.
Neither am I moved by
the hell, so greatly feared,
To cease to offend You.

It is You that moves me,
Lord, it moves me
To see you nailed to the
cross, while being scorned.
It moves me to see Your
Body, so ravaged.
I am moved by your
anguish and your death.

I am moved by your love,
and even if
There were no heaven, I
would still love You.
And if there were no hell,
I would still fear You.

You do not have to give
me a reason to love You.
Even if what I hope for
was not waiting for me,
The same way I love You
now, I would still love
You.



FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGES

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

“Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; but is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world”

(Gal. 4:1-3).

One of the particular characteristics of a child who is 16 months old is that the child will walk around without a definite destination. He goes and he comes. He enters and he exits. He returns and he leaves. He does this because he has not yet developed the capacity to focus on his destination. He does not yet know how to focus his steps with certainty, and as a result he does not know where he is going.

The apostle Paul uses the cited analogy to illustrate the manner in which a Christian behaves when he is a new convert, not as something sinful, but to emphasize the importance of the spiritual growth of the child of God. It is normal for a Christian who has recently been “born again” (Jn. 3:5) in Christ the Lord to behave as a child, but it is not normal for him to remain a child, but he should grow in the Lord. One of the vital things he must learn is to know how to focus his direction by establishing his goal, so that he will know where he is going.

If this maturity is a requirement for each child of God, with all

the more reason it is necessary in those who preach the Word of God because it is written: “For if the trumpet (the watchman) give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle” (1 Cor. 14:8). This obligates us, God’s ministers, to evaluate our convictions daily, so that we might possess clarity and certainty that what we are teaching and preaching is fundamental and is what God wants us to proclaim.

Therefore, being moved by this reasoning, we are once again evaluating those messages that God has placed in our responsibility to preach and we once again are briefly mentioning the THREE FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGES that it is imperative for us to announce to the world. We do this for our own satisfaction as ministers of Christ the Lord, for confirmation of our brothers and for information for those who have never heard these messages.

GOD IS ONE AND HIS NAME IS ONE

“Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God IS ONE LORD” (Deut. 6:4; Zech. 14:9). The principal message of the Holy Book, the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation is MONOTHEISM, that is,

The names and titles that the Bible uses to name or describe God are many, including YHWH (which is erroneously translated in some versions of the Bible as “Jehovah”), which is the one most commonly used in the Old Testament. But in the New Testament, God reveals to us His Name “that is above every other name” (Phil.2:9), declaring to us “that there is none other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

God’s Divine declaration to humanity that GOD IS ONE. There are not two Gods, much less three. Neither are there “two or three persons” in the godhead, as taught by the “dualitarian” and “trinitarian” doctrines.

The names and titles that the Bible uses to name or describe

God are many, including YHWH (which is erroneously translated in some versions of the Bible as “Jehovah”), which is the one most commonly used in the Old Testament. But in the New Testament, God reveals to us His Name “that is above every other name” (Phil.2:9), declaring to us “that there is none other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

Among the more than 1.7 billion persons in the world who profess Christianity, more than 95% do not fully understand this truth. However, “How then shall they call on Him (and on His Name) in whom they have not believed (or have not truly known)? And how shall they believe in Him (whose message we declare here) of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent (if they do not have the revelation of the One true God)” (Ro. 10:14-15).

THERE IS ONLY ONE CHURCH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

“...and upon this rock I will build My Church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Mt. 16:18).

All the Christians who have had the opportunity to read the Holy Book must acknowledge that this truth is one of the basic undeniable messages found in the Bible. There cannot be two, three or more Churches. Although it is



This message, as equally vital as the others I have mentioned, is so ample that here we will limit ourselves to mention only a general idea of what this message encloses. The warning given by the Holy Spirit in the cited verse has had a terrible fulfillment during the centuries of Christianity with fatal results and consequences. Only a very small percentage of Christianity truly recognizes and accepts this vital importance of the relationship which exists between Gentile Christians and the Jewish people: between ISRAEL and the CHURCH.

sizes and colors does not in diminish in any way the truth that we are proclaiming here.

Since its establishment on the day of Pentecost the Church of the Lord has been one, and it continues as such, even to this day, and it will continue being one until the day that the Lord Jesus appears in glory to gather her, according to His promises to do so. The Church of the Lord, His Church, does not consist in any certain politico-religious denomination or organization, beginning from the largest one to the smallest one, which claims to have a monopoly on God and on His salvation. The members of the true Church of Jesus Christ the Lord are scattered throughout this world of confusion ("Babylon," Rev. 17:5) and it is the Lord Jesus who knows each one and only He has the membership list of His Church (2 Tim. 2:19, Lk. 10:20). The distinctives of the members of the Lord's Church are that they love, they live in communion and holiness, and they do righteousness (1 Jn. 3:10; Heb. 11:25).

THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE CHURCH WITH ISRAEL

"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" (Ro. 11:25). This message, as equally vital as the others I have mentioned, is so ample

that here we will limit ourselves to mention only a general idea of what this message encloses. The warning given by the Holy Spirit in the cited verse has had a terrible fulfillment during the centuries of Christianity with fatal results and consequences. Only a very small percentage of Christianity truly recognizes and accepts this vital importance of the relationship which exists between Gentile Christians and the Jewish people: between ISRAEL and the CHURCH. It has been only a few Gentile Christians, throughout the centuries and to the present day, who have accepted at full value the solemn declaration made by the Lord Himself who proclaimed: "Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews" (Jn. 4:22).

The great majority of professing Christianity does not know, or simply "ignores," this tremendous truth. It is precisely for this reason it finds itself in its present state: dismembered and full of hatred. No one can claim that he is a true Christian if he does not love the Jewish people, Israel. The Jewish race is the mother (Naomi) and the Church among the Gentiles is her daughter (Ruth). A faithful daughter will never disown her mother (Ru. 1:16-17), much less will she curse her in the way that the apostate church has done to Israel.

There are multitudes of Christians who have not heard this fundamental message and it imperative that they hear it.

From whom will they hear it? From those who do not know it, who deny it or who voluntarily ignore it. This is impossible! They must hear it from those of us who understand it and who truly love Israel and the Jewish people in the Diaspora. The declaration we find in the book of Genesis still stands: "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 12:3).

God has given us an imperative command that we should proclaim these three fundamental messages, no matter what the cost. It is not possible for us to cease doing it "for necessity is laid upon me (upon us); yea, woe is unto me (unto us), if I (we) preach not the Gospel" (1 Cor. 9:16). It is certainly true that there are many other messages and teachings that we can and should speak and teach, but, I repeat, these three are FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGES upon which is based all the universal work of God, and we are giving them their respective priority.

These fundamental messages are not child's play, nor are they for children. They are cardinal messages for the children of God who are serious about their walk with the Lord and who have obtained a level of spiritual maturity.

God bless you■

certainly true that there are an innumerable amount of local churches (congregations), in this writing we are referring to the Church of the Lord in a worldwide sense. The fact that self proclaimed Christianity is currently fragmented in thousands of pieces of different



GOD'S PROPHETIC CLOCK

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

The American Vice President, Mike Pence, has come and gone, leaving behind much good will and even a better understanding of what the United States intends to do about Iran's nuclear and missile programs. More than anything else, the majority of Israelis is increasingly concerned over the recent turn of events in Syria, Iraq, Turkey, and above all, the ascent of Iran as a major regional power. For better understanding, it would be advisable to divide the Iranian threat into two parts.

The first part has to do with the agreement signed by the Obama Administration two years ago, that was basically renewed for an additional six months by the Trump Administration. This involves the threat of Iran becoming, at some point in the future, a nuclear power. Few are aware that recently, Israel and the United States signed a document called "A Joint Strategy Approach" to deal with Iran's growing threat. Joint Working Teams have been created. Their main goal is to seek means to prevent Iran from acquiring the capacity to obtain, deploy, and perhaps even use nuclear weapons, and also to prevent Iran from developing its missiles capabilities to carry nuclear warheads, not only to targets in the Middle East (Israel being the main one), but also to Europe and perhaps at some point, even to the United States.

Iran seems to have learned much from North Korea, and like that country, Iran is daily testing the will of Israel, the United States and even that of Turkey, to see how far they will let the Ayatollah flout the international community concerns. It must be recalled that the agreement on Iran, signed two years ago by the Obama Administration, provided Iran with a ten year period during which they would refrain from creating nuclear weapons and

the means to deliver them. While gaining time, in the final, continued analysis, the agreement signed in July 2016, gave Iran legitimacy to eventually develop nuclear weapons once it expires. Basically, those who signed the agreement, among them the US, China, Russia, France, Britain and the EU, admitted that they attempted to "gain time" and then see how Iran can be stopped from joining the club of nations armed with nuclear bombs.

Long ago, in the early 1980's, Israel developed its own doctrine, called the Begin Doctrine: Israel would never allow an Arab or Muslim nation to acquire nuclear capability lest it be tempted to wipe out the Jewish state. Begin not only created the Doctrine, but acted accordingly when he ordered the Israel Air Force to destroy an Iraqi nuclear plant near Baghdad in the summer of 1981.

Prime Minister Olmert did the same thing in September 2007 when Israeli planes destroyed a Syrian nuclear plant built with North Korean help and materials. This is the first part of the problem, which is more in the distant future. The more immediate problem for Israel is the rise of Iran as a serious Middle East power broker that has now become a major factor in Syria, and through its proxies, Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza, is threatening Israel directly on its northern border with Syria and Lebanon, and in the Gaza Strip as well. It should never be ignored that

Gaza is less than fifty miles from Tel Aviv, twenty miles from Israel's second major port city of Ashdod, and ten miles from Ashkelon, another major city that is the exit of the oil pipeline from Eliat.

In Syria, Iranian soldiers have moved quite close to the Israel-Syria Disengagement Lines created in 1974 after the Yom Kippur war, and is the only agreement that binds Israel and Syria. To make the situation more complex, Bashar Assad seems to have risen from the ashes and has now resumed control of most of Syria. Another factor is the virtual destruction of ISIS with American and Russian military assistance that perpetuated the presence in Syria of Russian soldiers, airmen and naval units.

Syria has become the conduit through which Iran ships missiles and other weapons to Hamas in Gaza, and Hezbollah in Lebanon. Both of these groups echo the Iranian call for the destruction of Israel. Hardly a day passes without one or another Iranian leader, secular or religious, calling for an end of the Jewish entity in the Middle East. This is basically the main concern of Israelis at this time. The IDF intelligence branch, as well as other units, are closely watching to see how much, and through which channel, these two organizations are being supplied by the Iranians. Of more concern is, under what circumstances could they commit a folly and embark on war against Israel.

No wonder that Israel has, on numerous occasions, attacked these arms shipments in Syria. Both countries have refrained from making any public announcements on those attacks, but it is well-known that Israel has proclaimed a new doctrine: it cannot allow Iran to become the major arm supplier to various terrorist groups, chief among them Hezbollah and Hamas. The concern is acute because Hezbollah claims that it has some 160,000 missiles aimed at Israel. Hamas is more circumspect when it comes to making threats, partly because Israel managed to destroy a number of underground tunnels it built, some of them deep inside Israel.

There is also concern that Hamas may attract a growing number of volunteers in the West Bank, theoretically, in those parts controlled by the Palestinian Authority. Israel has uncovered a large number of Hamas cells in the West bank.

What can Israel do? It can and does destroy arms shipments. It tries to uncover and destroy Hamas cells in the West Bank and to contain Hamas in Gaza. But it realizes that when it comes to Iran's nuclear capabilities, it will have to work together with the United States. Hence, Israel welcomed the proclamations of both the President and the Vice President, that the United States will never allow Iran to become a nuclear power. That is now a direct threat to the United States, not only to Israel. Happily, more Arab nations in the Middle East are also realizing that Iran poses a huge threat to them – among them is Saudi Arabia and some of the Gulf States. There are reports that they have been covertly in touch with Israel. If this is true, then it is very good news – probably the only good thing Iran has done for Israel in recent times■



SPEAKING NOW ABOUT "MINOR SINS"

I repeat what the Lord showed me: Among His people there are many sins which His children commit regularly, some even on a daily basis. They think that since these are "minor sins" they do not count. Therefore, they do not worry about ceasing to commit them. Concerning these "minor sins" that I extracted from the lists of "major sins" which I previously mentioned, I once again emphasize that the Word of God states: "those who do them." If these Christians do not acknowledge that they are wrong and persist in doing these things, "they shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Gal. 5:21). Notice that this is the same judgment that is applied to the "major sins." We can separate the "minor sins" into two categories: "the filth of the flesh" and "the filth of the spirit" (2 Cor. 7:1). Those which are "filth of the spirit" initially appear as emotions, but in the end they are converted into actions. Included in these are pride, conceit, arrogance, vanity, selfishness and other similar attitudes. These are impulses which the Christian can carry within himself without anyone else being aware of them, until the time comes when they are openly manifested as actions and behavior.

The sacred text says: "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory" (Phil. 2:3), yet I have witnessed on countless occasions believers and ministers who are adept at hiding the strife and vainglory which moves them. Paul describes these types of Christians as "having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof" (2 Tim. 3:5). However, when these perverse sentiments, filthy impulses

and wicked thoughts, which are the "filth of the spirit" which were hidden, are manifested, then "the filth of the flesh" (2 Cor. 7:1) is also manifested and this type of "filth" is visible and includes the following: hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envying, rivalries, hypocrisies, whisperings, intrigue, betrayal, lies and deceit, pride, rebellion, stubbornness, capriciousness, slothfulness, selfishness and other similar ones. No one can deny that these "minor sins" are extremely common among the people of God. This particularly applies to those of us Christians throughout the world, who claim that we have been "born again" (Jn. 3:3), who have called upon God's "Name" (Acts. 22:16) and who have "received His Holy Spirit" (Acts 19:2).

ENMITIES -There are few believers and ministers who do not live in enmities. For some this enmity occurs among their families or among the members of their respective congregations. For others it can present itself within local and extended ministerial circles.

VARIANCE-This is one of the most "popular" sins, beginning with the arguments within a marriage. There are also arguments between parents and their children, among siblings and relatives, with neighbors, at school, at work and in various other places.

EMULATIONS-There are lethal types of emulations or jealousy in

which the husband or wife assumes that his or her spouse is being unfaithful. There also exists envy between believers and ministers because one does not have what the other has. This can be true both in the material realm and in the spiritual realm as well. **WRATH**-Explosions of wrath among Christians are very common and very dangerous. An angry husband or an angry wife, as well as angry parents or children, have destroyed the binding ties in many families. Also, the destructive action of an irate person can affect his congregation as well as his other human relationships.

SEDITIONS AND RIVALRIES-What can we say about these "twin" sins? They also abound within the people of God, but since they are so "popular" very few believers and ministers truly attempt to be freed from them.

HERESIES-There are many Christians who are addicted to saying blasphemous or curse words, to the point that they do it very naturally, forgetting the divine warning that "no harsh word should come out of our mouth" (Eph. 4:29).

ENVYINGS AND STRIFE-James the apostle condemns these "common" sins saying: "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is con-

But the marvelous thing about this, as I reach the conclusion of this subject, is that also through the Word of God we possess the security that if "we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin." (But) "if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (But) "if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us" (1 Jn. 1:7-10)

fusion and every evil work" (Jas. 3:14-16).

HYPOCRISIES-Although this action is extremely offensive, it is also one of the most "popular" among members and ministers. For the majority of Christians it is very common to fake friendship and love when in reality there is none present or to present one attitude when dealing directly with a person and another behind that person's back.

WHISPERINGS-James the apostle also comments about this sin which is the "daily meat" among many children of God: "Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not doer of the law, but a judge.



There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and destroy: who art thou that judgest another?"(Jas. 4:11-12).

INTRIGUE AND BETRAYAL-

In reality, these sins are not as "minor" as the others in the list. Each one of them can be categorized as "earthly, sensual, and devilish" (Jas. 3:15). These actions are so base that even in the secular world they are strongly condemned. In spite of all this, many members of the people of God, especially those within the ministry, commit this sin so regularly that it is incredible.

REBELLION-

It is said of this sin that "stubbornness is as the sin of witchcraft" (1 Sam. 15:23). Rebellion is one of the sins which are innate in our flesh. It is very rare that a Christian will not experience this emotion when he has to subject himself to someone else's authority and has to obey that person. For example: the rebellion of a Christian man when he is required to subject himself or the rebelliousness of a wife who must subject herself to her husband. Likewise, it commonly exists among children who must submit themselves to their parents' authority.

LIES AND DECEIT-

These are also very "popular" sins. To tell lies and to deceive someone else is as common to believers and ministers as eating or drinking. There is an abundance of lying ministers who are extremely adept at deceiving those who surround them in order to obtain certain benefits, beginning with money. There also exist many lying Christians who never pay their debts.

HIGHMINDEDNESS-As a logical consequence of pride, this

sin is prevalent among the people who are supposed to be humble. Many high-minded and haughty Christians believe that because of whom they are or what they have, it is correct to treat those who they think are less than themselves in a condescending fashion,

FOOLISHNESS AND CAPRICIOUSNESS-

These attitudes which are fit only for children, work in many adult believers and ministers in such a way which borders on the absurd or ridiculous. These persons, instead of seeing how ridiculous they are acting, live under the false impression that they are serious and proper persons.

SLOTHFULNESS-

Without fear of being wrong, we can say that this is the most common among the "minor" sins. Slothfulness and laziness has always hampered the work of the Lord, as well as affecting the life of the lazy person. The Word of God rebukes this sin saying: "be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises"(Heb. 6:12).

SELFISHNESS-

This is also a common sin which operates subtly among the children of God. Many people are selfish without even realizing it. They consider it completely correct to serve, seek out and fraternize only with their loved ones and those they consider to be their friends. They forget the supreme example which the Lord showed us when He gave us "dogs" the children's bread (Mat. 15:22-28).

GOSSIP-

This sin, although last on this list, could be called "the king of the minor sins" because it is so common and because of its destructive nature among God's

people. This sin is going to be the condemnation of many Christians.

MY BROTHER, MY SISTER, LET US EXAMINES OUR- SELVES IN SINCERITY

I know that the reader who truly fears God and who "trembles at His Word" (Isa. 66:2), when reading this list of "minor sins," will find that more than one of them is affecting his life. As I have amply explained in this book, the "filth of the flesh" is an undeniable and inevitable reality in our lives. These operations in our flesh make the sincere Christian feel miserable as he realizes that no matter how hard he fights against them, he cannot completely rid himself of them. Through the warning given in the Word of God the sincere Christian understands that these are sins which can bring him judgment and condemnation if he continues committing them without repentance.

But the marvelous thing about this, as I reach the conclusion of this subject, is that also through the Word of God we possess the security that if "we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin." (But) "if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (But) "if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us" (1 Jn. 1:7-10). I conclude by beseeching you, my brother, that we examine our lives with a "humble and contrite heart" (Psa. 51:17). As we become aware that some of these "minor sins" operate in us, let

us ask the Lord with a profound acknowledgment that He would cleanse us everyday by His marvelous grace. I have confidence that there are a number of my brethren who do not want to be counted among the "accursed" who, according to what the Lord showed me, are detaining the answer to the petitions of "The Convocation."

If you, my beloved reader, by committing one or more of these "minor sins", or even worse, by secretly committing one of the "major" sins are one of the "accursed" and you have not repented, the Lord is using this article to tell you today to repent. I do not know who you are but the Lord does know. You can fake a moral life and hide the filth of your sins before every human, but it is impossible to hide it from God. Remember, "he that covereth his sins shall not prosper, but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Prov. 28:13). Join those who have repented and who with a profound reverence have asked the Lord to work through His Holy Spirit among His people and prepare the way: "By stretching forth Thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the Name of thy holy Child Jesus" (Acts 4:30).

A FINAL COMMENTARY

THE OFFERS MADE BY
THE TEMPTOR, THE
DEVIL

"Again the devil taketh Him up into a exceeding high mountain, and sheweth Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; and saith unto Him, All

Continue on page. 13



YOUTH SECTION



First of all I want to thank my Lord Jesus Christ for the infinite mercy He has had upon me to this day. I also want to thank Him for His Holy Word which speaks to us and which demonstrates His great love for us, giving us all that we need in our lives. I remember a message preached by Pastor Efraim Valverde III at Camp Sugar Pine 2017 which marked my mind and my life. In that message he made mention of the three principal reasons why young people are straying away from the Lord: WORK, EDUCATION, and BAD FRIENDS AND/OR INFLUENCES. There are many other reasons but in the times that we are living in, these appear to be the most “normal” or innocent (Matt. 24:37-39), since through these primary reasons “opportunities” can present themselves and if we follow after these “opportunities” they can draw us away from God. When I heard this message I could see part of my life passing through my mind. God allowed me to be in a situation which the world normally calls: “a great employment opportunity.” I thank God because He allowed me to realize that this “great opportunity” was drawing me away from Him. As children of God this can ruin our relationship with Him and stunt our spiritual growth. I felt stagnant and when I quit my job I heard many accusations from the devil, telling me that I was foolish for leaving this “great opportunity.” These voices even came from some members of my family and friends. But the day that I heard the voice of the Lord through Pastor Efraim Valverde III, I felt a great relief. In that moment God opened my eyes and I could see how His marvelous plan was developing for me.

Now I realize that the things I had to go through were for the purpose of drawing me nearer to God and so that I can learn to depend more on Him. I learned that He wants me to trust in Him fully. I understood that God’s plans for my life are much better than my own plans. I am now in a stage of my life that I never imagined I would go through and God is truly surprising me and allowing me to see a small part of what He has in store for me. I am sure that I could not have planned it better. I thank God for all the “NO’s” I received from Him, because all those “NO’s” have led me to where I am now. I also thank Him for the “YES’s” that He has been showing me. They are much better than I could have ever imagined.

I have believed that everything that God does, He does it perfectly and I want to continue believing this. I want to remember always that as children of God there is no greater vocation in this world or in the world to come than serving our Heavenly Father, and that everything that God allows to happen in our lives (good or bad in our eyes) is for the purpose of drawing us closer to Him, so that we may love Him more and recognize that without Him we are nothing and that through our own strength we can do nothing that pleases Him. Together with my family, I want to seek the face of the Lord more each day, because each day we need more of Him.

In my case, my job was separating me from God. I invite you to analyze your life. Only you know what is separating you from the Lord. Ask Him to guide your mind and your heart so that you will always do His will. Since we are His children, God wants us to love Him, not because He is in need of that love, but because we need Him. Let the Lord surprise you. He will surprise you and give you all that you need if you trust in Him.

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end” (Jer. 29:11).

I hope that these words will be a blessing to your lives and may God bless you. Marlén Adame, Purépero, Mich, México.

WOMEN OF GOD



Psalm 127:3 declares: “Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is His reward.” A heritage is something of value, something not acquired through our own strength. It is simply a gift. God has blessed my husband and me with three of those precious gifts. Their names are Lianna, Caleb and Levi. These gifts, our children, have brought our family much joy. The years of their childhood have been Pleasant and beautiful. We recall those tender moments which bring joy to our lives and with much pleasure we share the funny things they say and do with anyone who will lend us an ear. These beautiful gifts from God have also come to with us with a lot of work. The job of a mother is something which involve many ongoing tasks which keep us busy. I can testify to the fact that household chores never end, the dirty clothes never end, we must keep our family fed and the cycle repeats itself. Many times this exhausting sequence of events in our daily lives wears us out and what should be our priority as daughters of God, our personal relationship with our Creator and Savior, at times that priority ends up at the end of the list of things to do. When our relation with the Lord suffers our children suffer as well.

My pastor, Efraim Valverde III, recently used an example that caught my attention. He said that in order for clay to fulfill its purpose it must be kept in a container or in a protected environment where it can maintain its soft texture and retain the moistness necessary for it to continue to be formed. If it is not properly protected clay it will become hard and the risk of it breaking increases, thereby rendering it useless in the creative hands of a child.

As mothers and as daughters of God, our job is to create an environment in our homes in which we can feed the minds

and hearts of our children with the Word of God. We must provide an environment which produces sound, secure minds which trust, not in their own abilities and talents, but in Him who gives these abilities and talents; minds which are willing to be influenced and molded by the wisdom which comes from above and hearts that are sensitive to the Presence of God and to the needs of those around them. May the Lord grant us the wisdom to raise children whose minds delight themselves in the law of the Lord and which can remain firm, even when the currents of the world try to drown them with their philosophies and customs (Psa. 1:2-3).

I have found that this type of environment is not obtained automatically, but it must be intentionally created by us. This requires women who are willing to sacrifice our own agenda, our own desires and our own dreams. May the Lord help us to fill ourselves with God’s presence so that we can then share God with our children through our own lives. May God fill our lips with grace so that we might speak words that will edify our children. May our example be in agreement with the counsel of God’s Word. May we provide our children through our lives the example of how we want them to live.

I recognize that without God our job as mothers is an unreachable goal. Humanly speaking, when we know that a goal is unrealistic our mind loses its impulse and we lose the desire to continue. But we thank God that He is with us, because He can do all things. God has no limitations (Mat. 19:26).

I believe that all of us who are mothers desire to see our children loving God with all their heart, soul and strength (Deut. 6:5). I want to do everything in my power so that they will be able to fulfill this commandment together with us, their parents; because there is no greater joy than hearing and seeing that our children walk in truth (3 Jn. vs. 4).

May God bless us and may we be a help one to another, so that we might walk together along this journey.

Sis. Enoy Guevara,
Salinas, CA ■



I greet you in the Name of our Lord Jesus. I am grateful to Him for granting us the privilege of gathering together one more year and to enjoy the presence of our brothers from different places on November 3, 4, and 5 of 2017.

First of all, it pleased the Lord to use our brother, Pastor Ubaldo Rojo, to speak to us concerning the events currently occurring around the world in which the Lord is manifesting His "righteous judgment" (2 Thes. 1:5). The Lord is giving us a small taste of who "He is" (1 Jn. 3:2), because our Father does not want us to be "condemned with the world" (1 Cor. 11:32). Now, more than ever, is the time to humble ourselves, because that is what the Lord demands from His children. We should live in that manner, giving glory to our Father, as well as setting an example for those around us that our God lives in our hearts. He also spoke to us about the importance of not losing our identity as children of God. Later, God spoke to us through our

Fellowship Service in Mexicali, BC. Mexico



brother, Daniel Ybarra, about the importance of seeking the Lord in our homes, creating a sanctuary for the Lord, especially since we are living in a time when technology has invaded our time and we have

put the Lord aside. However, our God asks us to give Him "the preeminence" in all things (Col 1:18). We should ask ourselves: What am I doing to better my relationship with God? The Lord

commands us: "Be ye holy, for I am holy" (1 Pet. 1:16). We should ask Him daily to sanctify us so that we can feed our divine nature and be influenced by our God and our Savior.

The next day we were able to once again hear the counsel of the Lord through the lips of our brother, Ubaldo Rojo, who told us that our God is not a God of random chances, but a God of purposes, and that we do not walk following our own influences, but that we are either controlled by God or by the evil spirit. For this reason we should be rooted in our Lord Jesus Christ so that one day we can be with Him for all eternity in that glorious body that our God will give us (1 Jn. 3:2).

We ask you through in the love of God that you carry us in your prayers so that the Lord Jesus will help us be faithful as we walk in His path.■

Pastor Pablo Ojeda.

Shalom to all my brothers who read the "Maranatha" Newspaper. I thank our Lord Jesus Christ for allowing us to once again host our annual fellowship service. It was a great blessing for the local congregation to hear the Word of God through the lips of the pastors who accompanied us. Pastor Jose Osorio spoke to us on how we can seek the Lord our God with more intensity (Jl. 1:13-14). Pastor Alfredo Tienda preached to us about asking God to give us more wisdom to be able to walk closer with Him (Col. 2. 2:2-3), and Pastor Nestor Quintanar spoke to us about God's promises to His children (Rev. 3:11).

Fellowship Service in Poblado Miguel Aleman, Sonora



We received other counsel from the Word of God throughout the activity because the time is fulfilled. The time of prayer was a great blessing. We were able to feel God's presence in our lives. To conclude the activity, on Sunday we offered a special day of fasting for the people of Israel.

I thank all the pastors who accompanied us from California, Oaxaca and Baja California. God bless each one of our brothers who made the great effort to attend the service to encourage the members of the local congregation. Let us press forward.

Greetings and blessings,
Pastor Delfino Chávez.■



Pastor Pedro Aguilar and the congregation in Ventura, Ca, give infinite thanks to the King of glory, our Lord Jesus Christ, for allowing us to once more host our annual fellowship service on November 11, 2017, and for being able to receive all our brothers who attended this activity. We were able to savor this blessing, as it is written: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psa. 133:1). The Lord manifested Himself and gave us a marvelous blessing.

We thank all the pastors and all the congregations who honored us with their presence. We also thank the Lord for all that He allowed us to do on this day of many blessings. We thank God for the pastors who greeted us and gave witness of what the Lord has been doing in their lives.

May the Lord bless our brother, Philip Nava, who shared the Word of God with us during the morning service. We also thank our brother, Pastor Efraim Valverde III, who

Fellowship Service in Ventura, CA



shared the Word of our Lord Jesus Christ during the evening service. This service, as has been the case in previous years, was very blessed by the Lord. This year more brothers attended than in previous years, as we received approximately 800 brothers on this occasion. We rejoice in what we were able to do with the help of our Lord, as we praised and worshipped Him through songs and praises. I also want to thank God for allowing me to once again be with my brothers as together we rejoiced and worshipped our God. We are anxiously awaiting our Lord Jesus Christ, who is coming soon. We anticipate meeting Him in the clouds and being with Him for eternity.

May God bless every one of you. Greetings to all our brothers and companions. We also thank God for this new year, 2018, which I am sure will bring many trials and tribulations. May we be ready for the Second Coming of the Lord.

Your brother,
Pastor Pedro Aguilar■

Greetings in the powerful Name of Jesus Christ the Lord to all the readers of Maranatha. It is a pleasure to report to you that this year's Seminar was a great blessing. From the first day we could see the hunger and enthusiasm evident in the lives of the many brothers who arrived from both Northern and Southern California on Friday. Despite the fact that our pastor, Efraim Valverde III, had been battling with his health the entire week prior to the activity, it pleased the Lord to give him the strength necessary to minister to us through God's Word. God moved him to speak about the need for us to love God above all things. He also provoked us to seek the Lord's face, more

Fellowship Service in Salinas, CA

than seeking His hand. Saturday, during the day, he ministered to us on how we should love God. In the afternoon service he continued with this message, but he also explained why it is important to seek the power of God in our lives, the power of God's Holy Spirit. We ended the night at the altar, bathed in the powerful presence of our God, a confirmation of His Divine approval of the message. A great number of the adults and young people that were present were moved by what God spoke

to us during the three days of the activity. It seemed that time evaporated and the days passed quickly. On Sunday, we ended the activity with another special experience which filled our souls. The Seminar ended with us savoring the presence of our Lord and our God. Many young people manifested their mindset and some tearfully expressed their gratitude for what God had given them during this activity. We hope to continue desiring and seeking God's friendship in our

daily living. It was explained to us that God passionately awaits and desires having a close relationship with His children. Let us not defraud nor displease God. This coming year let us fight to draw closer to Him. Let us not forget to continue to pray for our pastor so that God will give him t brother and servant, negatd will give him yhe physical and moral strength that he needs so thathe physical and moral strength that he needs so that he may continue encouraging some and rebuking the discouragement in many others in which this negative operation is strongly working in these last days My brothers, greetings from your brother and servant,
Phillip M Nava■



Once again, Shalom in the Name of our beloved and glorious God, Jesus Christ the Lord to all our brothers and friends who love and anxiously wait to read the revelations and teachings found in the pages of this marvelous publication, "Maranatha." It is a well-known fact among us who have walked along this path for some time now, that the Lord in His immense kindness and wisdom has raised up vessels of honor so that they might serve us by showering upon us such wealth of information which reaches us through this newspaper as torrents of invaluable blessing which have an effect upon our being that can perfectly be compared to the manna that God provided for His people, Israel, when they were journeying through that crude and arid desert. And, just as we were not lacking food yesterday, we trust that today we will once again partake of it.

It is a wonderful privilege to once again share with you concerning our most recent fellowship service. We have many testimonies to relate concerning what it pleased God to do during our recent activity. Several congregations united in harmonious and cordial worship

Fellowship Service in Cuba

and we enjoyed the presence of several pastors from our local area and from other parts of the country as well.

On Sunday, the 17th of December, Pastor Alexis Ortega Jorge shared a message on how we must live in holiness and how we must be spiritual men, full of the power of God. We were encouraged by the powerfully evident manner God was dealing with several of our brothers in their personal lives, as well as in their family life. It was a very solemn and special experience when we, united in the same mind, were able to experience the presence of God, as His Spirit reigned in our midst.

Later that day, I, your servant, gave a brief summary of all that has been happening around the planet and about how all these occurrences are pointing more each day to the Final Day, to the end of the Time of Grace. We then united in prayer in favor of Israel, the Jewish people and for the peace of Jerusalem.

After this time of prayer I shared a message based upon Matthew 24:14, emphasizing that the Lord Himself has commissioned us, especially because of the time we are living in, to give a faithful, constant testimony concerning His imminent return.

He has called us as bearers of the lamp of the Divine message; therefore we should shine brightly as the sun in the sky. We should make it evident that the light has not stopped shining, even though we know that this light will only bring delight to the "wise" (Dan. 12:3). Once again we strongly felt the presence of the Lord when we, as one body, prayed and cried out to Him.

I ask that we continue to intercede on behalf of our brother, Pastor Efraim Valverde, III, and for all of our brothers scattered around the corners of the planet. We cannot help sharing the fact that we greatly missed the presence of some of our brothers, who, for reasons beyond

their control, were not able to join us in this great celebration. Before we bid farewell we would like to implore that you continue to support us with your prayers and intercession because we need them greatly.

We are experiencing some health problems but we know that God is in control of all things. Regardless of how difficult the times have been, He will sustain us until the time that it pleases Him to do heal us. We are always extremely grateful to all the saints of the Lord. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ always accompany you.

From here in Cuba we send you our love and our most fervent desire is that the Lord of glory blesses you and keeps you. May He give you the strength to conquer through Him all that He has previously prepared for us to possess.

Cordially, your servant, indebted for all the grace received, which, no doubt, I can never repay even if I offer myself daily as a living sacrifice for the rest of my days. Until next time,
Your brother, ■

Pastor Francisco Hernandez.

Comes from page. 09

these things I will give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him: Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve" (Mat. 4:8-10).

The Biblical passage that I am citing bears witness of the occasion when our Lord Jesus Christ at the beginning of His earthly ministry was "tempted" by the devil.

Although the apostle Paul tells us that the Lord "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (Heb. 4:15).

However, the purpose of this brief commentary is to draw the reader's attention to a tremendous truth that we find in this cited passage which is: If the devil "tempted" the Lord Jesus Himself when He was here on earth as a man during His ministry in flesh, with all the more reason the devil can tempt humans so that they will worship him by accepting the

glories which this world offers. The devil began by deceiving our mother, Eve, in the Garden of Eden and throughout the centuries and millennia has been successful in doing the same to the great majority of humanity, including multitudes who claim to be Christians. There is a definite reason why Satan is called the "deceiver of the whole world" and "the accuser of our brethren" (Rev. 12:9-10).

It is certainly true that since the beginning and throughout all

the ages there have always existed many methods and things used by Satan to tempt humanity. In the cited text we are told that the devil offered the Lord the "glories of the world." But no one can deny the fact that due to the increase in knowledge and technology, there are many more methods available to Satan for him to use to provoke humans to sin.

God bless you. ■



BAPTISM IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

PASTOR EFRAIM VALVERDE, SR.

(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
Continue on page..... 15

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 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"*



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.

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

You, the reader, can find the answer in the Word of God. It is for the Jews (**Acts 2:36-38**). It is for the Samaritans (**Acts 8:14-16**). It is for the Gentiles (**Acts 10:45-48**). It is for believers who have already been baptized with other baptisms (**Acts 19:1-5**). *"For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call"* (**Acts 2:39**).

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

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

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

PASTOR EFRAIM VALVERDE, SR.

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

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

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

It is for those who have come to the point in their lives in which they are compelled to ask the same question that the jailer at Philippi asked Paul and Silas: *"What must I do to be saved?"* If you find yourself

in this category, through the love of Christ the Lord, I will explain to you God's plan of salvation precisely as it is described in the Holy Bible.

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

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

BOOKS ON DOCTRINAL TEACHINGS

TO ORDER CALL 831-422-3449

- *Called To Attack
- *Does De Trinity Exist?
- *Lord Jesus God's Supreme Name
- *666 Literal O Symbolic?
- *The Hope Of The Resurrection
- *The Leadership Among The People Of God
- *The Oneness In The Godhead
- *The Children Of God: Fantasy Or Reality
- *The Marvelous Grace Of God
- *The Humanity Of The Lord Jesus
- *The Judgment Seat Of Christ
- *The Truth Concerning The Rapture
- *The Verb Of God
- *Tithing And Christian Stewardship
- *Who Are Israelites?

DOWNLOAD OUR NEW RADIO APP FOR ANDROID DEVICES

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=vdee.vdee>



Voz del Evangelio Eterno

Benito Sanchez Music & Audio

Everyone

★★★★★ 5.0

This app is compatible with all of your devices.

Installed

TUNE IN TO OUR



Sunday 9:30 am to 11:00 am
12:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Wednesday 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

www.Evalverde.com



PASTOR EFRAIM VALVERDE, III

Donations

Radio Vision Project &
TV Programs
Offerings and Tithes
Union Bank
0103142147
Church of Jesus Christ

Please indicate the
purpose of
Your donation (TV,
Radio, Tithes &
Offering)

TV Chanel 6

In the City of Ventura,
CA

Schedule:
Thursday at
7:30pm
Friday at 4:00pm
Sunday 8:00am
And other days
various days
throughout the week

24
hours

World Radio
By Internet
www.vdee.org



TV Azteca

Schedule:
Monday through
Friday 8:00am to
8:30am

It covers King City,
CA, Salinas, CA,
up to San Jose, CA.

FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

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

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

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

Baptism is by immersion
(Rom. 6:4)

In the name of the LORD
Jesus Christ (Act. 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)

World Radio by Internet

24 Hours

WWW.VDEE.ORG

In this radio station you can hear the preaching of Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr. at 12:00am, 3:00am, 6:00am, 9:00am, 12:00noon, 3:00pm, 6:00pm and 9:00pm Pacific Time. You can also hear latest news from Israel and selected music all 7 days of every week. Based in Salinas, California and sponsored by Pastor Efraim Valverde, III and the congregation of Temple Philadelphia in Salinas, CA.