



MARANATHA

A translated version of the International Christian periodical

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EDITORIAL

Esteemed readers, I greet you in the Marvelous Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, desiring that the power of His Spirit be saturating your lives each day, making it possible for you to do *“...that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God”* (Rom. 12:2).

A year has passed since we began to experience some of the drastic social changes or the most drastic change in our daily lives that we have experienced to this point in our lives. I say, to this point, because what awaits us in the future are changes which are even more drastic. And this will occur particularly to those who desire *“to live godly in Christ Jesus* (because they) *shall suffer persecution”* (2 Tim. 3:12). Persecution is coming.

Persecution was the reality in the lives of our brothers in the time of the emergent Church. As our brothers began their walk with the Lord, they were well aware that they would suffer persecution for the cause of the Name of the Lord, for His Word and for doing His will. However, that call of the Lord in their lives and their love and passion to live for Him was stronger than the threats of persecution and even martyrdom. The conviction and determination in our brothers was *“to live is Christ,”* and they were well aware that living for Christ was a motivation to die for His Name’s sake. Yet, their mindset was *“to die is gain”* (Phil. 1:21). Persecution was a part of the lives of our brothers in the early Church and it has continued throughout all the age of Grace, even to this present day. Presently, persecution is an undeniable reality in certain parts of the world, in nations which are ruled by atheistic governments or where the majority of people worship false deities. The followers of Jesus Christ who live in those countries are experiencing various degrees of persecution. Of the 32 nations in which there is persecution, **North Korea** has been the most dangerous during the past 18 years. When they discover

that someone is a Christian, they not only deport them to concentration camps, but in some cases are killed on the spot. Their families also suffers the same treatment, up to the fourth generation with the purpose of discouraging their future generations from following Christ. In that country the congregational gatherings or even small group meetings are nonexistent.

In Afghanistan no other religion apart from Islam is permitted. Christianity is forbidden. Those who convert to Christianity in Afghanistan are considered to be traitors to Islam, to the nation, to their tribes and to their families. Christian converts are placed in insane asylums because they are literally believed to have gone crazy for leaving the Islamic faith. Today, many are incarcerated in these asylums for life, and others have been sentenced to death.

In Somalia there is great persecution among a small remnant. Ninety nine percent of the population is Muslim. The Christian community is small and lives always under the threat of attack. In fact, persecution of Christians always involves violence and they are continuously being murdered the moment it is revealed that they are Christians.

In Libya the level of violence against Christians is extremely high and the Christians in Libya are subjected to violent, inhumane and degrading treatment. Libyan Christians who were originally Muslim face an extremely violent pressure from their family and from the community in general in an attempt to make them renounce their faith in Christ Jesus. Libyan Christians are subjected to abuse and violence due to their choice of following Christ.

In Pakistan, according to the laws against blasphemy, Christians live under the daily threat of being accused of blasphemy. This could cause them to receive an immediate death sentence. In Pakistan, Christians suffer institutionalized discrimination. The jobs which are considered to be the most degrading, filthy and undesirable are officially reserved for Christians. Most of the Christians live in poverty and some are even used as slaves.

In India, ever since the present ruling political parties assumed power in 2014, the extremist Hindus have fed reprisals directed against Christian churches and have freely attacked the believers in Christ. Therefore, any faith other than Hinduism is not tolerated. It is common for the Christians to have their water supply cut off and also to deny them access to the social benefits offered by the government. In India the decision to give your life to the Lord Jesus Christ has become a decision with many personal and familial consequences.

What price have we had to pay for following our Lord Jesus other than denying ourselves daily? The price that many of our brothers have had to pay for being children of God, just as we are, has been a greater price. Our faith has not truly been tried. We must be close to the Lord, to His Word and to His Ways! Being in Him is the only way that we can remain standing amid all that is coming our way. It is only with this firmness that we can say: *“What shall separate us from the love of Christ...?”* (Rom. 8:35).

Presently there is no price of physical persecution to pay such as some of our brothers have paid for simply identifying ourselves as Christians and true followers of our Lord. Even so, there are those who are ashamed to call themselves Christians and much less followers of the Lord. *“Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of Me and of My Words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when He cometh in the glory of His Father with the holy angels”* (Mk. 8:38). If we are ashamed of the Lord during this time, what will we do when the time comes when there will be a heavy price to pay for identifying ourselves as part of the People of God, such as the price that many of our brothers are already paying (Heb. 11:25)? If we are not sure about Whom we are believing in (the Lord Jesus) or on what we are believing in (the Word of God), then our faith will falter and we will be caught up in the fear of passing through the physical persecution that is coming.

Are we prepared to be beaten for the cause of His Name and to rejoice in

this as the apostles did (Acts 5:40-42)? We are told in God’s Word that *“when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the Name of Jesus and let them go. And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His Name.”* Are we prepared to be stoned (today it would mean being shot) for speaking the Word of God in the same manner that happened to Stephen (Acts 7:54-60)? Are we prepared to suffer in the many different ways that our brothers suffered who were placed in the coliseums to be devoured by beasts or to die by the sword? Are we willing to lose all of our material goods for the cause of His Name and His Word?

In the parts of the world where physical persecution has not yet arrived, it will arrive. This is the reality in all the places where there are true believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. I know that this is not what we want to hear, but this is the truth. Persecution is coming. The environment is rapidly changing for those who want *“to live godly in Christ Jesus”* (2 Tim. 3:12). Are you prepared?

We need to have the level of conviction described in these verses: *“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us”* (Rom. 8:18). *“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory”* (2 Cor. 4:17). Let us not be afraid for God is with us! *“I, even I, am He that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldst be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass; And forgettest the LORD thy Maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; and hast feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy? And where is the fury of the oppressor? The captive exile hasteneth that he may be loosed, and that he should not die in the pit, nor that his bread should fail. But I am the LORD thy God, that divided the sea, whose waves roared: The LORD of hosts is His Name”* (Isa. 51:12-15).

Be encouraged, Christ is coming!
Pastor Efraim Valverde III.



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

I greet you with the Shalom from the Messiah of Israel, Jesus Christ our Lord! God's clock continues telling us that God is coming soon and that we must be prepared. The Lord is coming but before He returns He will purify Israel and His Church with the fire of persecution. We must be ready in the Lord.

I thank God for the teachings He gave to my grandfather concerning “God's clock,” and that he shared it with conviction and urgency for a lifetime. This knowledge has equipped us so that we may fight to be awake and remain awake in the Lord so that we may be counted among those that are *“understanding of the times”* (1 Chron. 12:32) so that we may know what His Word tells us to do.

The alliances that have been strengthening between Russia, Iran and North Korea present a great threat to Israel in these times. Everyone knows how Iran feels toward Israel. They have publicly declared their diabolic rage and hatred toward the people of God. Let us continue to pray and waiting for the Peace of Israel, which is the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the following paragraphs we will present some of the most prominent news and events concerning Israel that have occurred during the past three months.

January 1, 2021. “Israel National News” reported that Iran told the organism of nuclear control in the United Nations that it has the intention of enriching uranium to 20% purity. This is a level which it reached before the 2015 nuclear agreement that it made with the

major powers and is higher than the 4.5% purity that it has been enriching recently.

January 13, 2021. “The Jerusalem Post” reported that Germany and France directed itself to the incoming Biden administration and called for a two state solution (one Jewish and one Arab) and that Israel should return to its pre-1967 borders. Also, Jordan, Egypt, France and Germany denounced the construction of Jewish housing in the territories of Judea and Samaria.

January 11, 2021. “The Jerusalem Post” announced the following: The Ministry of Foreign Relations of the Palestinian Authority asked the U.N. Security Council to “stop the crimes being committed by the Israeli occupation forces against the Al-Aqsa Mosque.” It also accused Israel of trying to “Judaize” the Western Wall Plaza (where the Jewish people pray) due to the renovation projects which are currently in progress there.

January 11, 2021. “Ynet News” reported that Israel advanced its plans to build 800 new homes for the citizens of Judea and Samaria. This is a decision that can cause tension in Israel's relationship with the administration of the president elect of the United States, Joe Biden.

January 14, 2021. The news agency “Reuters” announced: “Untrusting of Biden's tactics with Iran, Israel is reviewing its military options in preparation of a possible conflict with Iran,” according to an Israeli newspaper. Meanwhile, the government led by Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu is preparing for possible differences with the incoming administration of the United States concerning the Iran's political policies.

January 17, 2021. “The Times of Israel” reported that France's Minister of Foreign Relations, Jean Yves Le Drian, stated that Iran was in the process of acquiring the ability to manufacture nuclear weapons due to its violations of the nuclear agreement of 2015.

January 18, 2021. “The Times of Israel” reported that the Palestinian terrorists in the Gaza Strip fired two missiles toward the city of Ashdod in southern Israel, before dawn on Monday. The missiles landed in the sea near the city's coast, according to the Israeli army.

January 28, 2021. “Israel National News” announced the following: Ahmad Abu Halabiya, the head of the “Jerusalem Committee” of the Palestinian Authority's Parliament, asked the international community to prosecute Israel's leaders for “war crimes.”

February 6, 2021. “The Times of Israel” reported the following: The United Nations nuclear inspectors have found traces of radioactive material in the Iranian nuclear sites which could indicate that they are working on acquiring nuclear weapons, according to a report published Saturday.

February 25, 2021. “Israel National News” published that Israel's red line is 1000 precision missiles in the hands of Hezbollah.” The head of the Military Intelligence

Agency of Israel, division general, Tamir Hayman, recently declared that Hezbollah is presently in possession of “a few dozen” guided missiles and precision rockets. Israel's leadership is worried by Hezbollah's efforts to acquire a greater arsenal of these types of weapons, which have the range to reach important objectives in Israel during the next war, such as air force bases, military installations and government offices.

February 28, 2021. “Israel National News” reported the following: Maritime attack attributed to Iran. Israel's military intelligence agency is sure that Iran orchestrated the attack on one of its ships last Thursday evening, and promises a quick reprisal.

March 4, 2021. “Fox News” published the following: “Israel's Minister of Defense, Benny Gantz told Fox News that the Israeli military is renewing its plans to attack Iranian nuclear sites and is prepared to act independently.” Israel has identified numerous targets inside Iran which will damage their capacity to develop a nuclear bomb. “If the world stops them before we do, that is good. But, if not, we must act independently.”

March 4, 2021. “The Jerusalem Post” informed that “Iran intentionally contaminated the Mediterranean Sea and the coasts of Israel in an act of ecological terrorism, causing the worst environmental disaster in the history of Israel,” according to Israel's minister of Environmental Protection, Gila Gamliel.

March 8, 2021. “Israel National News” reported that the Minister of Defense of Iran, Amir Hatami, threatened on Sunday that Iran would “raze” the cities of Tel Aviv and Haifa “to their foundations” if

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LIFE AND IMMORTALITY

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

“Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel” (2 Tim.1:8-10).

From time immemorial when historical facts began to be recorded in writing there is evidence that man has always pondered on what exists beyond death. Archeological excavations have continually discovered different findings which bear witness of how the human race has been on a continuous search, wanting to know what exists beyond this life.

Even to the present this subject continues to be a mystery to the natural man. Despite all of his knowledge and scientific advances, man has not been able to peer into the afterlife. Moved by their pride and vanity, what men have opted to do is to deny eternity and to say that human life is the same as that of animals in the sense that once a man dies he completely ceases to exist. By the way, there are certain religious movements that have contributed and are currently contributing to this denial of the eternity of the soul by teaching erroneous interpretations of the Word of God. The truth is that even in the mind of the most obstinate atheist, although they do not wish

it to be true, exists the fear of what “lies beyond.” There have been an innumerable amount of professed atheists who, at the point of their death, have called out to God, asking Him to show them mercy. The reason why every human has this feeling, whether it be in his conscious or his subconscious, is for the simple reason that each human being has been designed by the Creator to be mortal in his humanity but immortal in his soul (in his *“inner man,” Rom. 7:22*). Among the tremendous mysteries that exist for humans is the mystery of “Life and Immortality,” which was hidden. It was not even openly declared in the Old Testament to the people of Israel who have been called and chosen by God. Only a few people who had a special calling from God understood this mystery. In fact, the Jewish people in general, even to this day, have not been given the privilege of clearly understanding this mystery of “Life and Immortality.”

Among the “Thirteen Principles of Faith” believed by the Orthodox Jews, the final one states: “I believe by complete faith that there will be a resurrection of the dead at the time that will be pleasing before the Creator, blessed be His name, and the remembrance of Him will be exalted forever and for all eternity.” This last expression denotes precisely the uncertainty that I previously mentioned. On the other hand, the Scripture that headlines this article makes a

tremendous declaration to those of us who have had the supreme privilege of receiving the Gospel of Christ. It is precisely the Gospel that is the only source of information authorized by the Eternal God through which we can obtain a certainty and profound assurance about what lies? beyond this temporal life.

This is not something small or insignificant. It is not just an “interesting religious topic.” It is the marvelous declaration of the mystery which is the most important to mortal humans. Neither is it a message which should be taken lightly, because to do so has fatal consequences as declared by the Lord Himself. After all, He spoke intensely about the reality of eternity during His earthly ministry.

The apostle Paul, the excellent expositor of the mysteries declared by God, tells us that the Lord Jesus *“brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel” (2 Tim. 1:10)*, speaking not only of the subject of immortality, but of the immortality of life and glory obtained through the Creator.

This marvelous subject is the nucleus, of God’s message and is so extensive that we can only give a general idea about it in this brief article. But I know that *“the wise shall understand” (Dan. 12:10)*. That is why the words of this brief message are directed to them.

This message is directed to men and women who, being possessors of this marvelous treasure, have ceased placing their eyes on the things of this temporal life and have *“set their affections on things above, not on things on the earth” (Col. 3:2)*. These are the children of God, scattered around different parts of the world, who do not grow tired in doing good (**Gal. 6:9**). They do not grow tired of serving others. They are the ones who are willing to do their part, even though it costs them pain and sacrifice. They are not members of a certain “religion” but are members of the Body of Christ (**1 Cor. 12:27**). They are humans who, by the Grace of the Lord, continue being an extension of the earthly ministry of their Master, our Lord Jesus Christ.

These people, who are special to God, are not seeking to be rewarded, honors or recompenses here on earth. They are not seeking to be praised or approved by men. Neither are they enticed to do their part by the cheap stimulants that this temporal life offers as others are enticed who do not have their same vision. This group which is special to God understands very well the value of the Scripture which states: *“And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever” (Dan. 12:3)*.

It is certainly true that we can live this life in a normal fashion and enjoy the happiness of having a family and a home. It is also certainly true that we can enjoy the good things that pleases the Lord to give us. But the greatest joy of our walk here on earth comes from knowing that in



Christ Jesus, our Lord, we are now possessors of the supreme privilege, not only in the universe, but even in the *“third heaven”* (2 Cor. 2:2), where resides the visible Presence of our God who, while here on earth, *“brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel”* (2 Tim. 1:10). And now, through faith in Him, we are partakers of that life and immortality.

The members of this group, who the Bible calls “the Church” (Eph. 1:22), cannot live in the same moral level as the rest of the world. The special treasure which we own provokes us to voluntarily reject the vulgar and worldly pleasures in which those who have not discovered this marvelous secret of *“Life and Immortality”* (2 Tim. 1:10) occupy themselves and waste away their lives. To live in both interior and exterior holiness is not a problem for the true members of the *“people of the saints of the Most High”* (Dan. 7:27) because their lives are *“hid in Christ in God”* (Col. 3:3). No one obligates them to straighten their steps. They voluntarily do it due to their love and fear of God.

This peculiar people have existed throughout the age of human history in the world. They have been the remnant of God and the “faithful remnant” of the Lord’s flock (Rom. 11:4-5). What this group feels cannot be understood by the world for the simple reason that they live in a superior realm because of what they know and possess. We are not referring to simply “religion” or “doctrines” or “exterior dogmas.” This difference does not consist in carrying out certain ceremonies, sacraments or rituals. It is something much higher and superior to this.

It is that which moved “the just Abel” (Mat. 23:35) and what Enoch experienced, who “walked with God” (Gen. 5:22). It is the same thing which provoked Abraham, and also Moses. It is what Samuel professed and David sang about in his Psalms. It is that which moved all the heroes of faith among the people of the Bible, wherein are also counted Peter, Paul, James and John and the rest of their companions in the apostleship.

It is that which, throughout all the centuries, has been felt by millions of martyrs, who had the privilege of offering their lives, provoked by the marvelous hope that we are speaking about. It is the same mindset that moves us today to join in with our brother Paul in proclaiming: *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me”* (Gal. 2:20).

This special group of human beings is not limited to a certain race or nation. Neither is it limited to a certain denomination or to “this” or “that” religious organization, but is a special number which only the Lord Jesus has the list of its members. These are those who *“follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth”* (Rev. 14:4), without worrying about the price they have to pay for this privilege.

It consists of men and women, adults and young people from among all the different races and social classes, who not only know the Word of God, but who also follow the example left by their Lord. Faithful Christians

who know how to weep as the Master wept. They also know how to humble themselves and “lose here,” as the Lord Jesus did in His earthly ministry. They are men and women in which remains intact that *“mind which was also in Christ Jesus”* (Phil. 2:5). They are those who not only love those who love them, but also those who hate them and who mistreat, afflict and persecute them.

I know that these words are going to reach the hands and the hearts of some of those who are members of this special group that I am mentioning here. To them these words are not “vain repetitions,” but are declarations which come from the heart and which penetrate hearts, because they are words which originate from “the heart of God.” Those who are not counted by God in this number cannot understand or feel these words. In fact they are strange, offensive and ridiculous to them. After all, it is necessary to be in the superior dimension of the Spirit of God to be able to truly appreciate how marvelous it is to have the privilege of knowing and having obtained *“Life and Immortality”* (2 Tim. 1:10).

More than one of these precious sons and daughters of God are currently passing through the fiery oven of trials in one or many ways. This could be illness, family problems, poverty, persecutions, etc. However, there in the midst of pain and affliction abides in them that mark which distinguishes them as special people of God. This mark consists in the fact that they know how to glory in the tribulations, *“knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience hope”* (which is

marvelous) *and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us”* (Rom. 5:3-5).

To you, especially, I direct these words my beloved brother and sister. For the precise reason that you are my brother, my sister, and you feel the same thing I feel, the Lord has moved me to tell you, do not grow weary. Remember that it is written *“let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not”* (Gal. 6:9). You are not the only one that the tempter has tried to discourage. He has also tried to do the same to your companions. Everywhere, near and far, throughout different parts of the world, your brothers are being tempted in the same way as you are tempted. After all, if there is someone Satan hates with all his strength, it is those of us who by the mercy of God have been *“delivered from the fear of death”* (Heb. 2:15) and who have been made heirs of *“Life and Immortality through the Gospel”* of Christ Jesus our Lord (2 Tim. 1:10).

I am not better than you, my brother and sister. The tempter has also tried to discourage me many times throughout my walk with the Lord. But I have always been able to declare as our brother, King David, exclaimed: *“I had fainted, Unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait on the LORD: Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD”* (Ps. 27:13-14). So, if King David, who lived before the *“appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ”* (2 Tim. 1:10), was able to believe



in the divine promise of *“Life and Immortality”* (2 Tim. 1:10), how much more should we believe, who have the living testimony of the Powerful Christ resurrected, who has changed our lives and has given us His Holy Spirit!

That is why you and I can declare together with our brother Paul: *“But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God”* (Acts 20:24). After all, the reason for the existence of those of us who are awake to the truth of *“Life and Immortality”* (2 Tim. 1:10) is solely, as long as we are here in this temporal life, to do the will of Him who has given us this sublime opportunity of being *“ambassadors (here) for Christ,”* of our heavenly homeland (2 Cor. 5:20).

For this reason, we will continue to serve (in all the different forms and manners possible, and in all different parts of the world), those who ask for our help. We will continue to serve, not only those who appreciate our help and show gratitude, but also others who do not. After all, *“our Father which is in heaven, maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust”* (Mat. 5:45). We are possessors of sublime and marvelous truths which has pleased our God to reveal to us (not because we are good, nor much less because we are better than anyone else, but only through His magnificent mercy), and we have to announce them. We are extremely aware that those of us, the vessels that the Lord has chosen to do His work, are not the

most important thing. The most important thing is the Message given by the Eternal One and His tremendous promises which have no comparison.

Will we place conditions and limits on doing the work of our King? Our enemy will never see such a thing! Will we do the work of the Lord in order to seek benefits, credits and honors here on earth? Such a thing is not possible! Those who act and operate in this manner (and I know that there are many who do it for this reason) do so because their spiritual eyes are not open to the marvelous and sublime truths of the promises of the Eternal One. The true children of God do not stand out for what they say, but for what they do, because they do it according to the measure of God’s standards, not according to man’s standards. That is why the Lord declared: *“Ye shall know them by their fruits”* (Mt. 7:20).

I repeat what I have previously mentioned. This is the fact that this message is directly directed to the faithful ministers of Jesus Christ our Lord. It is also directed to the faithful members of His Church who are scattered throughout the world. This message is directed to those children of God who speak the language in which it is written, who are members in part of the universal Church of our God and Savior, Christ Jesus the Lord. Only those who know and understand the *“language”* of the Lord (Jn. 8:43) can take seriously and truly appreciate all the truths that I mention here in this article. I know that they will help you, my brother, my sister.

May the Grace and blessing from the Eternal One keep you always.

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Israel launched a preemptive attack against the Islamic Republic.

March 15, 2021. “Israel National News” reported the following: “Israel will be hit by 2000 missiles daily in a future war,” according to General Uri Gordin of the Israel Defense Forces. He also added: “They know that they cannot defeat us on the battlefield, so they will try to move the focus of the war to a second front by attacking our homes and our cities. This is why we believe we will be hit by an avalanche of rockets and missiles launched by Hezbollah from Lebanon.” Israel believes that Hezbollah has an arsenal of approximately 150,000 rockets and missiles.

March 23, 2021. “The Jerusalem Post” reported that a British defense group called “Hope not Hate” has published their findings about the levels of discrimination in Great Britain, including anti-Semitism, which are related to COVID-19. They reported that there was an increase in anti-Semitic rhetoric related to COVID-19, primarily centered in the idea that the “new corona virus was created by the Jews.” According to the Community Security Trust report, there were 1,668 anti-Semitic incidents registered in Great Britain during the year 2020.

March 25, 2021. “Israel National News” reported about the recount of the double envelope ballots which concluded on Thursday without putting an end to the political impasse that currently exists in Israel. There is no change expected in the present results which show that the pro Netanyahu bloc, together with the Yamina party (this coalition consists of both right and extreme right parties), won 59 seats in the Knesset (Israeli Parliament). On the other hand,

the anti-Netanyahu bloc won 61 seats combined. Nevertheless, they would not be able to form a government due to the extreme range of viewpoints that exist among them.

The news reporting agency “Axios” named some of the different scenarios that could happen: 1. Benjamin Netanyahu could obtain a majority by convincing one or two members of a conservative separatist party, led by Gideon Saar, and comprised primarily of ex-members of Likud, to join his coalition.

2. Benjamin Netanyahu could pressure the Islamic party, Ra’am, headed by Mansour Abbas, to support a minority government led by Likud in exchange of policies that would benefit the Arab population in Israel.

3. Yair Lapid, leader of the centrist party, Yesh Atid, which won the second highest number of seats (18), could attempt to form a government. This scenario is highly unlikely to happen.

4. Naftali Bennett, leader of the Yamina party, could try to form a coalition with the anti-Netanyahu bloc and could demand the post of prime minister, because he knows that Lapid and other right-center leaders are motivated to topple Netanyahu at any cost.

5. The continued political impasse could lead to the fifth election since April of 2019. This currently seems to be the most likely outcome of the present situation.

We must not cease in calling out to the Beloved of our souls: Come, Lord Jesus!

God bless you and keep you until the end.

Pastor Efraim Valverde III.



The Lord Jesus declares: *"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life"* and *"ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free"* (Jn. 14:6, 8:32). The apostle Paul asks: *"Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?"* (Gal. 4:16).

Having cited these initial Scriptures, I will now mention the popular saying which states: "The truth does not sin, but it makes people uncomfortable." This truth is recognized by the general public and among the multitudes who do not know the Word of God. Many of them are completely ignorant of the Scriptures I cited, however they accept the fact that they become uncomfortable, and some even get angry, when they are told the truth. It should not surprise us if these people who do not know the Word of Truth react in this manner since they do not know that the Truth is the Lord Jesus Himself. But why does the truth make Christians uncomfortable?

Why do many who claim to know the Lord and His Word become "uncomfortable" and some even "gnash their teeth" (Acts 7:54) when they are told the truth? Almost 20 centuries have passed since the apostle Paul posed the question cited above to the "foolish" Christians in Galatia. Today I ask the same question to the "wise" Christians of this present time. I am referring to those Christians who have considered me to be their enemy when they have heard the truths that I have spoken and written about throughout my lifetime, truths that were not originated in my own mind, but that are found in God's Book. I will name a few of these truths as I continue.

I have declared that **GOD IS ONE** (Dt. 6:4) not two or three and the dualitarian and Trinitarian Christians have become uncomfortable with this truth. I have taught that **water baptism** should be in the **Name of**

WHY DOES THE THE TRUTH MAKE CHRISTIANS UNCOMFORTABLE?

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

the Lord Jesus Christ and should be administered only to those who are no longer innocent (Acts 2:38, Mk. 16:16) and those who baptize in the titles, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and who baptize babies have become uncomfortable. I have preached that baptism *"doth now save us,"* but that it DOES NOT PUT AWAY *"the filth of the flesh"* (1 Pet. 3:21) and those who teach that sin no longer exists in their flesh become uncomfortable. I have stated that we can **speak "in other tongues,"** but above all we must live the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23, 1 Cor. 14:1-12), and those who believe that the most important thing is "speaking in other tongues" become uncomfortable. I have announced that the priesthood, celibacy, the mass and the worshipping of "saints" and other similar practices are contrary to the teachings of the New Testament (Mt. 23:9, 6:7, 1 Tim. 4:1-3, Acts 10:25-26, Mt. 4:10), and those who believe and practice these things become uncomfortable.

I have taught that **the people of Israel are the chosen people of God** and that we should love and bless the Jewish people *"for salvation is of the Jews"* (Gen. 12:1-3, Jn. 4:22), and the anti-Semites have become uncomfortable. I have taught that the **Church of the Lord is ONE** and that it is NOT a politico-religious organization (Mt. 16:18, 20:25-28, 24:30-31) and those who worship their political denomination, claiming that "their church" is the one and only true church, have become uncomfortable. I have preached that we as ministers should not be *"lords over God's heritage"* (1 Pet. 5:1-4) and those who *"loveth to have the preeminence"* (3 Jn. 1:9) become uncomfortable. I have taught that we

must live in obedience, humility and sincerity (1 Pet. 1:2, 22; Mat. 11:29; Jos. 24:1-4) and the disobedient, the proud, the hypocrite, and those who hate their brothers become uncomfortable. When I say that we should be generous with our money for the service of the Lord (2 Cor. 9:6-7, Dt. 16:17, Mal. 3:8-10, Acts 20:35) those who are miserly and stingy become uncomfortable.

When I explain that it is one thing to *"stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free"* (Gal. 5:1), but it is another thing to be "libertines," those who are libertines become uncomfortable. When I state that we must bless those who curse or hate us (Lk. 6:28, Mt. 5:44, Rom. 12:14) those who hate their own brothers become uncomfortable. When I declare that *"in this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother"* (1 Jn. 3:10) those who are counted among the latter part of the verse grind their teeth.

I have declared that the antichrist is Satan himself, and that the beast is the universal system of man's government, and that the mark of the beast, 666, symbolizes those who hate others (1 Jn. 4:1-3, 2 Cor. 4:4, Mt. 20-25-28, Rev. 13, 1 Jn. 3:10). I have also declared that the mysterious rapture is not found in the Bible, and that the apostasy has existed for centuries, and that there does not exist seven literal years of tribulation, because the tribulation against the faithful among the People of God has always existed (Tit. 2:13, Heb. 9:28, 2 Thess. 2:7-10, 1 Tim. 4:1-3, Jn. 16:33, 1 Thess.

3:4, Phil. 1:29). For these and other truths that I have announced, the believers in the Futurism theories have become uncomfortable. I have always told all the true ministers of God that we should be men of truth, and that we should be clean, honest and responsible (1 Cor. 4:1-2, Rom. 12:9, 1 Pet. 2:1, 1 Tim. 3:2-7). I have told them that we should serve unconditionally, following the example of the earthly ministry of our Lord Jesus, and that we should not be covetous of material benefits, honors, popularity, titles, power and other things that men who do not know or serve God commonly seek after (Phil. 2:1-8).

Throughout the years of my ministry these truths that I have spoken and written about have provoked disgust, offense, ill feelings and even hatred among many of the Christians who have heard or read them. However, this negative reaction has always manifested itself more strongly among the ministry. This reaction is evident among those who are not in agreement with the doctrines and the prophecies that I have mentioned, but also in simpler things such as hearing about truths of a moral character and who do not accept them.

In conclusion, all that is left for me to say is that I am more than convinced about what the Lord showed me almost 20 years ago: *"Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand"* (Dan. 12:10). Therefore *"the wise"* will hear and receive *"the truth, and the truth shall make them free"* (Jn. 8:32).

To finalize my words, I ask this question once again: *"Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?"* (Gal. 4:16). In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ I bless those who love me, and I ask Him to also bless those who are my gratuitous enemies. Amen.



THE VESSEL "BELOW" AND HIS VOICE "ABOVE"

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

states: *"But Jesus called them unto Him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto (to be 'above'), but to minister (to be 'below'), and to give His life a ransom for many" (Mt. 20:25-28).* Throughout all the times of antiquity, as confirmed in the writings of the Old Testament, all the men who were "great" and who were "above" in the eyes of God were the ones who learned how to be "small" and how to be "below." In fact, it is written about our Lord Jesus Himself that *"being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself...wherefore God hath highly exalted Him..." (Phil. 2:7-9).*

In the primitive Church the Master's warning was extremely clear in the memory of the apostles and in all their writings in the New Testament we see that all of their actions and counsel are in exact accordance to what was ordained by the Lord. Even though they were in a place of prominence and honor due to the special ministry they had been given, they never acted as if they were "above" others. In fact, they always acted as servants, putting themselves "beneath" others in order to serve them. They never used their apostleship as a title of authority or superiority in a hierarchy. Also, they never

used the faithful members of the Church of the Lord as a platform or as a pyramid in order to place themselves "above" others. Those men of God were well aware of the warning given by the Lord during the days of His life and ministry here on earth. They knew very well that in the Lord, when the messenger is "below," that is when his voice is "highest."

When Joseph the dreamer, son of Jacob, was "above" his words and his dreams did not come to pass. It was necessary for him to first be "below," beginning with the time he spent in the well in which his brothers, moved by hatred, placed him. He learned to live "below" during a lengthy period of his life. However, after that time of being "below," his voice grew "higher" and it was then that it was heard in due time, not only among his family, but also in the world that surrounded him.

David lived in a position of being "below" during a great part of his life, beginning with his youth in which he was held in low esteem by his own father and his older brothers. But having been called by God as a messenger, in due time his voice became "higher" and was heard not only in Israel, but also among many other nations. We can say the same thing about the prophet Jeremiah whose ministry was marked by him always being "below." But even when he was "below," even finding himself placed in a dungeon on several occasions for speaking the truth, his voice and his message reached

"higher" places and was heard by even those who did not want to hear it. And what can we say about Moses who lived 40 years "below" as a shepherd of sheep in the desert? We can also mention Micah and Jonah, who lived three days in the belly of a great fish, or John the Baptist who was placed in prison. When each one of these men was "below," their voice was heard "above."

When the apostle Peter was in prison his voice was heard "above." The apostle Paul and Silas (when they were in the inner prison with their feet in stocks) were witnesses to the fact that their message rose and was heard in an exceptional manner. Also when we speak of the apostle Paul, when he was "below" due to his illness, was told by the Lord: *"My Grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:9).* The beloved elderly apostle John, when he was "below" during his exile on the isle of Patmos where he was sent so that his message could be heard, received the tremendous Revelation which closes and seals God's Book.

However, the example par excellence of all the examples I have cited, and which is above any example we could cite, is that of our Lord Jesus Christ Himself. He being God manifest in a human body could have easily made it possible for His voice to be heard around the world while He was "above." However, He did not choose to do it this way. In fact, He confirmed with His own life (as He was manifest in the flesh and dwelt among us, **1 Tim. 3:16**) the example which His servants had imitated, and when He placed Himself "below" by His own will, made it so that from the lowest place (the grave) His message would rise, not only here on earth, but even also above the heavens.

I believe that in the natural human sense the voice of the orator is better heard when he is "above" his audience. It is natural to think that if the announcer is "below," his voice is not going to be heard; much less will it stand out. That is why the announcer usually tries to stand on something that will help him be "above" his audience so that they will be able to hear his voice.

What I have explained here in the literal sense can also be illustrated as Christians and as ministers of Christ: The operation of the messenger in the spiritual sense. The ordinary idea is that the "higher" the messenger, then his message will be heard louder and better. There are times that God has worked in this manner. However, the reality that we find in His Word when we are referring to sharing God's truths is that when the messenger is "below" is when his voice is at its "highest."

The Lord did not speak empty words when He said: *"Formy thoughts aren't your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isa. 55:8-9).* He also declared in His Word: *"Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men" (1 Cor. 1:25).*

Throughout the ages it has been a common occurrence among the people of God that many of God's messengers have lost sight of the truths cited in these verses. Therefore their desire to be "above" has become a very intense obsession to the degree that it has moved them to violate the same message that they are sent forth to announce. After all, among the specific ordinances given by the Lord to His Church is the one that



This message has been announced so strongly from “below” that it has been echoed throughout all the centuries and ages. In fact, it has changed the course of history of humanity.

The mold established by God has not changed and it will never change. Even to the present day it is declared by Him that the most effective way in which the voice of His true messenger will be heard “above” is when they are “below.” It is to this group that the Holy Spirit refers to by the instrumentality of the apostle Paul when we are told: *“But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: THAT NO FLESH SHOULD GLORY IN HIS PRESENCE”* (1 Cor. 1:27-29).

In this present time, how many people are willing to be “below”? It is a very small number! Humanly speaking, being “below” is not pleasant at all to our flesh. It is a heavy price to pay and to pay this price it is necessary for the calling to come directly from God. What is commonly pleasant and desirable to our flesh is to be “above,” and to be at the pinnacle, having a place of honor among the people of God and before the world. It is for this reason that many men who claim to be ministers of Christ connect to the political-religious structures called “churches.”

In those popular and common environments which can be found across borders and among different pseudo Christian doctrinal colors, what is fed is the ego of deceived ministers, who at the same time feel comfortable in those environments.

But thank God that those who are “below” still exist here on the face of the earth! Thank the Lord that there are still (though not many) people who are willing to be used by the Lord while being “below.” Thank God for the Christians and ministers whose preoccupation is not being “above,” but whose desire is that the Lord be lifted up in all their actions and aspects of their lives. They desire that His Name and that His message should always be “above.” These are men and women who have learned the true meaning of the Lord’s words when He declared: “...Learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart” (Mt. 11:29).

For those who are just beginning the process of having their voice heard “above,” as we mentioned previously, this ardent desire to be heard becomes an unbridled obsession which impulses them to do whatever it takes, whether this be righteous or unrighteous, to obtain the satisfaction that they covet. In fact, the behavior of many of them is similar to that of a drug addict, who because of his love of acquiring the drug which satisfies his addiction, begs, pleads, grovels, steals and even kills. That behavior is fruit of the prevalent environment by which we are surrounded. It is an

environment which has prevailed for centuries and that will only cease to exist when *“Babylon the great is fallen”* (Rev. 18:2). It is into this environment that many of the ministers who are now old were born and raised. The same spoiled milk of this “religious grandeur” that they drank is the same milk on which the newer generations are being raised. They are taught that it is “a great accomplishment” for them to be “above.”

I am sure that they know what I am explaining here. I am sure that they understand what the Word of the Lord teaches, however they say: “That is not for us.” In fact, they teach that the Church is not called to suffer and that it will mysteriously disappear so that it will not suffer any time of tribulation. They teach that as long as we are here on earth we are called to prosper in every sense of the word. And to top it off, they are taught to measure the degree of “God’s blessings” by the level in which they are progressing in their flaming intent to be “above.” In order to justify this attitude, one of the Scriptures that they unilaterally use is the expression made by the apostle John who declared: *“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth”* (3 Jn. 2). Powerful religious organizations and renowned Bible colleges teach that it is in fashion to be “above.” They teach that it is not for intelligent, distinguished, elegant people to be “below,” because being “below” is for those who are outcasts, for those who are ignorant and for those who do not have any class. They also teach that it is also for those who “do not have faith.”

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For these true servants of God the “brightness” of the religious-Christian environment does not have any attractiveness. Their convictions and spiritual alliance does not depend on men, and much less on human structures. Their relationship is a direct, personal one with their Lord and Savior, who they love and serve with all the strength of their being. These are people who have learned how to walk with God as Enoch walked (Gen. 5:24). This type of Christian, scattered throughout the world among different races, languages and people are genuine members of the Church of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ, which is here on earth.

What title do they use or what organization do they belong to? This type of Christian could care less about the answer to these questions. They know that those who demonstrate love and do righteousness are of God (1 Jn. 3:10). They are ministers of God who have understood the Lord Himself has called them to imitate the example that He left, and they are willing to live being “below,” because they know that in this manner HIS MESSAGE AND HIS VOICE WILL BE “ABOVE.”

God bless you.



TESTIMONIES

We thank the Eternal God because on the February 4, 1986 (I was 34 at that time) I was introduced to our beloved elder pastor, Efraim Valverde, Sr., through the pages of the Christian magazine, "THE CLARION." This was the beginning of our good Lord Jesus' great blessing for me, for my household and for the congregation that the Lord has called me to serve. That elderly pastor, who to this point I had never heard about planted in my heart (something which came to my life by God's mercy) the fervent desire to continue striving to love my Lord Jesus and to do His work. Although I lost communication with Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr. for many years, one day the Lord performed the miracle of reconnecting us once again, but sadly our elderly pastor had already gone to be with the Lord. He was no longer available to communicate with, but his grandson, Pastor Efraim Valverde III, was now continuing the work. We have come to love Pastor Efraim III as our pastor and our brother in Christ Jesus (although we have not personally met him). Although when we first knew Pastor Efraim Valverde III he was very young, we have seen how through the years the Lord has filled him with His Holy Spirit and has given spiritual wisdom and maturity (**1 Cor. 2:6-7**). He has been as Elisha who followed in the footsteps of Elijah and his teachings have been refreshing to our souls in these times of anguish. The words that the Lord gives to him to speak to us are those of a watchman and are a strong tower during our weakness. At the same time they are a balm in our sadness and solitude. However, it is not just the teachings that have been a blessing to us, but he has been like a father to us. He encourages and motivates us and helps us even beyond his strength. We pray that our brothers will continue to keep us in your prayers; because those

prayers have filled our lives with answers we have needed for our lives in those moments that it appeared that everything was impossible. Pastor José Antonio Ortega Chacón and my wife, Nayla Camargo León. Tachira, Venezuela.

From Mission Hills, thank you very much for speaking truth. May God greatly bless you! Tammy Carrillo.

God bless you, my brothers. First of all I thank God through this medium and I also thank you for sharing God's Word every day. It has been a great blessing for my life. Once again, thank you, my brothers. May God greatly bless you. Sister Carmen Reyes, Chambersburg, PA.

God bless you. I want to share with you what the Lord has been doing in our lives. On Nov. 12, 2020, we were registered into the group called SOLCA (Fight against Cancer Society). That is when our lives changed. This was very painful for us, knowing that our son, Edgar Garcia, the youngest of our three children who is only 9 years of age, was diagnosed with LLA (Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia). From that point on our son was battling with this illness, receiving extremely high risk chemotherapy. We have always trusted in God, believing that we would soon be delivered from this situation and that we would be able to give testimony about our experience. Thanks to God, our son is fine and is now at home. I am very grateful to God because He healed my son. The Lord used our son's sickness to allow us to return home, so that we would praise His

Holy Name and testify that only God can save and heal. We thank God also for allowing us to hear the live transmissions of the Word of God through this media because it has helped us a lot.

Thank you, Lord for Your infinite mercy toward Your children.

Sis. Cynthia Ruiz Quinde, Guayaquil, Ecuador.

God bless you. It has been a great blessing for me to hear the Word of God through this medium. Each morning when I wake up I turn on the preaching, because my soul is thirsty for the Word of God. It has truly been a great blessing to me to hear Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr. I also thank God for His Word through Pastor Efraim Valverde III. It is a blessing for us to hear our brother, Pastor Efraim Valverde III. May God give him much strength to continue feeding God's people and may He greatly bless his family. I ask you also to pray for my family. Sis. Elena Flores.

God bless all of my brothers and sisters. God bless Pastor Efraim Valverde III and all of his lovely family. It is a great blessing to hear the Word of God which is transmitted each day. I ask you to please pray for my family and for my husband. He became ill with a fever and pain in his bones. I asked many prayers for him and God healed him. I thank the Lord Jesus Christ because He is always with us. Sis. Rosi Castillo Martinez.

First of all I would like to thank my Lord Jesus Christ for the opportunity to share how the live transmissions have been a blessing to my spiritual life, and I know that

it has also been a blessing to many others. I recognize that I am guilty of not watching every day due to various reasons, but the times that God has permitted me to hear have been a great blessing for me. It impacted me greatly when our pastor Efraim Valverde III spoke to us about the determination that should be in us in the same manner that it was in Stephen, who, in the midst of persecution, did not take his eyes off of the Lord (**Acts 7:55**). I have not experienced persecution but I am well aware that there are stages in our lives that we are overcome by discouragement. If we do not have our eyes fixed *"on the author and finisher of our faith"* (**Heb. 12:2**) we will begin to sink such as happened with the apostle Peter when he walked on water, but when he took his eyes off of the Master, then he began to sink (**Mt. 14:29-30**). I ask the Lord that He will not permit me to take my eyes off of Him, because without Him I am nothing and I can do nothing (**Jn. 15:5**).

I thank the Lord for the strength and conviction that He has placed in me, so that I might seek His face and His Presence more diligently through the live transmissions. The Lord has placed in me the desire to be ready for what lies ahead, so that I will not falter or waiver, but that I will lift my eyes to the heavens to see the glory of God. *"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us"* (**Rom. 8:18**). Please pray for the young people in Santa Maria and for the entire congregation. Shalom! Hno. Leonardo González. Santa María, CA.

The preaching that I hear in the daily services has been a blessing to me. They have helped me press forward. I did not have

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The service began on Friday, March 5, 2021. Pastor Alfredo Tienda ministered the Word of God, speaking to us about striving to seek the Lord with security, knowing that our God is real and that He is the Almighty.

On Saturday morning Pastor Delfino Chavez led us in worshipping the Lord through the prayer and in the joy of singing hymns and praises. From there we began studying the Word of God. At this time the Lord permitted me, bro. Nestor Quintanar, to explain about the Lord's order and about He makes no mistakes in His purposes. As a basis of teaching about God's order we were able to make an illustration about the times in which the apostles asked the Lord: *"Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?"* (Mt. 24:3). We then explained how each event would happen in God's timeline. We were also able enter into the teaching concerning the resurrection *"every man in his own order"* (1 Cor. 15:23), beginning with the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ as the first fruits, then

REPORT OF FELLOWSHIP SERVICE IN VILLA JUAREZ, SINALOA, MEXICO

Sis. Anaís Juárez Ortiz



the resurrection of His saints and the final judgment. Later Pastor Alfredo Tienda spoke to us about the times we are currently living in and how our Lord Jesus Christ continues waiting for all those that would be saved, so that we can receive *"the hope"* that He promised us (Col. 1:5). During the evening service the local congregation



showed a brief presentation consisting of photos and videos about the life of Pastor Crispino Diaz, who parted to be in the Presence of the Lord in days past. On Sunday we were convoked to fast and the Lord allowed me to explain a little about the last days, the Second Coming of the Lord, the millennium and the final judgment.

After this Pastor Alfredo Tienda explained about the Time of Grace we are living in, giving us historical facts about what has happened to the people of the Lord, events which have been prophecies that announce the Second Coming of our Lord. However, in the midst of this the Lord Jesus Christ has shown how *"so great is His mercy toward them"* (Psa. 103:11), giving those who had not yet given their lives to the Lord the opportunity to do so.

We dismissed the service on Sunday afternoon, thanking the Lord Jesus Christ for giving us the opportunity to gather and rejoice together in one accord, despite the present sanitary situation we are going through. We ask that you keep the local congregation in your prayers, since they have suffered through the loss of their pastor. Nevertheless, they are faithfully pressing forward, being faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ, because we know that we have the hope of the resurrection if we persevere until the end.

God bless you.
Bro. Nestor Quintanar.

God bless you, my brothers. I thank God that He allowed us to once again host this fellowship service which we held on February 5, 6, and 7 of 2021. It has always been a great blessing to us and we witnessed how God worked to make it possible to gather once again. Many brothers from different places were able to accompany us at this service.

As you well know, we are living in critical, difficult times because the prophecies are being fulfilled and as time passes the *"day of the Lord"* (1 Thess. 5:2) is drawing nearer.

The Lord spoke to us in a very direct manner, telling us to *"work out our own salvation in fear and trembling"* (Phil. 2:12). He has given us salvation. What a privilege to be saved, but how much do we appreciate this? The Scriptures tells us that we are going to judge the world and the angels (1 Cor. 6:2-3). The Lord has called us

REPORT OF FELLOWSHIP SERVICE IN JUXTLAHUACA, OAXACA, MEXICO

Sis. Anaís Juárez Ortiz



to be *"kings and priests"* (Rev. 1:6). For this reason we are told to guard closely our salvation because it is something tremendous that God has given us. We have an extremely great blessing, but if we do not appreciate

it, we can despise it, just as Judas Iscariot did: *"...for he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry...let his habitation be desolate...and his bishoprick let another take"* (Acts 1:16-20). We

also have the example of Esau *"...who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright...afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears"* (Heb. 12:16-17). That is why the Lord tells us: *"Hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown"* (Rev. 3:11).

So, what should we do? *"Take ye heed, watch and pray"* (Mk. 13:33). *"Watch therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come"* (Mt. 24:42). It is up to us to hold on to our place.

It is fitting to mention that Pastor Efraim Valverde III was not able to be physically present at the activity but spoke to the pastors through a videoconference on Zoom.

God bless you.

Pastor Timoteo A. Cervantez Perez.



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internet previously, but I now have it since my children need it for their schoolwork. I utilize it to listen to the messages and it has been a blessing. I am grateful for the work you do so that I can listen every day. I also ask prayers for the pastor of this congregation in San Juan Chapultepec, since we just started having the Sunday services once again. With the Lord's help we will continue marching forward. I thank you for transmitting the services live. God bless you.

Sis. Rosalina Lopez,
San Juan Chapultepec, Oaxaca.

May the peace of the Lord be with you, my brothers. I am motivated to share with everyone how the Lord Jesus Christ has been confirming His Word in me, by way of this ministry, using our brother and pastor, Efraim Valverde III. The Lord has been using the live transmissions for us to hear the Word of God. Also, the printed studies (the books and the "Maranatha") have been a blessing to my personal life. God bless all those brothers who have been daily working so that this message can reach more persons. I especially thank Bro. Felipe Nava because he has been a great help to me. Shalom.

Bro. Nicolas Villalobos,
Cd. Insurgentes, Baja California Sur. ..

May the Lord Jesus Christ bless you, my beloved brothers. I am part of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Two years ago the Lord rescued me and I was baptized in the powerful Name of my Lord Jesus Christ. Now my only desire is to serve Him. I thank God for allowing me to hear the Word of God through this medium. It has been a great help to my life. I ask prayers for my family and for me. The Lord is great, let us not grow weary. Press forward!

Sis. Esmeralda Pino, Parral, Chihuahua, Mexico.

YOUTH SECTION

Timothy Benjamin Cervantez II



"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are, honest whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Phil. 4:8).

God bless you greatly. It is a great privilege for me to direct my words to my fellow youth, knowing that it is the Grace of our Lord Jesus that keeps us standing. We know that a year has passed since the confinement caused by this pandemic began.

During this pandemic I do not know exactly when a type of spiritual lukewarmness began in me, however I felt that everything was "normal." I no longer felt the urgency to participate in the days that were set aside for fasting. I began feeling that participating in the prayer meetings was something that "I had to do." The same thing happened concerning the

reading of the God's Holy Word, to the point that I stopped doing it. Instead I began spending all of my time on my cell phone spending all my time on the internet and on social media (things which are vain). In fact, I began staying up late at night on my phone "to take advantage of the time," since I knew I had to work the next day. Throughout all this, I felt that "everything was fine."

Then one afternoon the Lord used someone I know to open my eyes. That elderly man greeted me and instantly his voice changed to a sweet, caring tone which I had never heard before. He told me things that only I knew, secret things. In my mind I asked: "Lord, is that You?" He answered: "Do not doubt. Go to your room and make it a place of prayer." This is something that Pastor Efraim Valverde III had been recommending us to do. When I returned home no one was there and I began to weep. I wept in a way that I have never done before, like in those times when you cannot articulate any words. I poured out my soul before the Lord and suddenly realized that all I had been doing was wrong. To fall into such a trap is something imperceptible. It happened to me and I feel ashamed about this. But you, young man and young lady, are also not exempt from this happening to you. You receive a notification on your cell phone: "Your friend has ticketed you in

a photo," but you cannot see the photo. It is an invitation for you to enter into that social media site. The enemy wants us to be trapped in that web. If we are not sufficiently strong spiritually, we remain in that web for more time than is "normal." This can become an addiction. You and I know this very well. I am not saying that we cannot use the internet or social media, but that we should limit our usage of these things and should use it for something edifying (**1 Cor. 1:23**). It saddens me to see so many young people and adolescents who are so ensnared by social media and popular internet games that it is causing them to stray from God's path.

Young man, young woman, pray for your fellow youth. If you know someone who has become enslaved by social media, talk to them, give them advice, give them a word of encouragement or suggest an activity that can help them be freed from that addiction. After all, this is a very serious situation and it is difficult for many to realize that they are imprisoned by this vice. My desire is that the Lord Jesus bless you. Be encouraged in the Lord.

"For this God is our God forever and ever: He will be our guide even unto death" (Psa. 48:14).

Brother Timothy Benjamin Cervantez II.



WOMEN OF GOD

Sis. Katie Valverde

"Our children are vessels that need to be filled. Let us speak to them about the great things and miracles that God has done in the family and in their own lives. Teach in the ways that are pleasing to the Lord. A mother has a great responsibility in this sense, since she is the one who usually spends more time at home with the children. These vessels should not remain empty because as they grow the enemy comes and tries to fill them with trash. However, if they are filled with God's oil, the anointing of God, there is no room for the enemy and he must flee"

or even lying down. In **Psa. 6:6** King David declared: *"All the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears."* Prayers are powerful! We have a great testimony of this power. Each one of us has great testimonies about the power of prayer.

In 2 Kings the advice the prophet gave the woman after listening to her complaint was: *"Shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons."* Her children were going to play an important part in what was to follow. For this reason he did not tell her to leave them outside to guard the door while she was following the prophet's instructions. Many times the mother behaves in this way. She tells her children, "I am going to pray. Don't disturb me." Or she takes advantage of the time when her children, both young and old, are occupied doing something else. My advice is the following: "It is necessary to take time alone with the Lord Jesus, our Father, but without ceasing to do the other."

"Shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons." This means that we must include them in our time of prayer. We must not only tell them that prayer is important, but we should make them part of this special time. In this manner we can cultivate in their lives an intimate relationship with their God, so that they can savor the time of prayer, since they will know that they are talking to God. Therefore, when any danger or difficult situation comes there way, they will call out to Him. If they are still small, this is an excellent time for them to learn to savor the precious Presence of the Lord and to receive answers to their own prayers. They will grow knowing that their part is indispensable, just as the role the widow's children played was important and absolutely necessary. As is written, they were the ones who brought the empty vessels to their mother so that they could be filled with oil.

Our children are vessels that need to be filled. Let us speak to them about the great things and miracles that God has done in the family and in their own lives. Teach in the ways that are pleasing to the Lord. A mother has

a great responsibility in this sense, since she is the one who usually spends more time at home with the children. These vessels should not remain empty because as they grow the enemy comes and tries to fill them with trash. However, if they are filled with God's oil, the anointing of God, there is no room for the enemy and he must flee.

Are children are never too young for us to include them in our time of prayer. Also, it is never too late to do this, even if they are already older. We must do this with wisdom, taking time with each one of them according to their age. In this way we can develop in them the desire to speak to their Father, our God. If they are small, God will guide you in how to help them. *"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it"* (**Prov. 22:6**).

In this article I am directing myself directly to my sisters, since, as I mentioned previously, they are the persons that spend the most time with the children at home. But we must not forget the role the father who as the head of the household has the greater responsibility (**Dt. 11:19**). **1 Timothy 5:8** tells us: *"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."* I must confess that I resisted including this last Scripture in this article, but I trust that my sisters who read this article will be very careful about this aspect. Each child is a talent that God has confided to us. Let us remember the parable of the talents. In each congregation there are prayer warriors. Those who have not yet become a part of this army, I encourage you to do so. There is room for all. It is imperative and vitally important. More than ever we must be watching and praying, prepared for what is coming ahead. We are not alone. Our God told us: *"I will never leave thee nor forsake thee"* (**Heb. 13:5**). He is faithful to His promises.

God bless you.

Sis. Katie Valverde.



I greet all of my sisters with the peace of our God, asking the Lord that you might all be well, waiting and trusting in Him. We are living in very difficult times, times which we have never experienced, the time of the end. More than ever before we need to acknowledge that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal God, the Almighty, is the only one who can deliver us from this pandemic. Now is the time to call out to Him with repentance, asking Him for mercy if we have been serving Him in a lukewarm fashion. It is written that as *"brethren to dwell together in unity...for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore"* (**Ps. 133**).

More than ever our enemy is prowling like a roaring lion, seeking to steal our families and our children from us. However, the Lord's counsel is *"Shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons"* (**2 Kgs. 4:1-7**). We do not owe the devil anything. He has no place with us or with our families. Our Lord Jesus Christ paid the price for us. It was a very costly price, the price of His Holy Blood. It was a price of extreme pain. God is our owner. We belong to Him. Through His sacrifice He gave us salvation. He gave us His Name, the Lord Jesus, as a powerful weapon to fight the battle against our enemy. *"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds"* (**2 Cor. 10:4**).

Our battles are fought on our knees through prayer for those who pray kneeling. For those of us who cannot kneel, we can pray standing, sitting



BAPTISM IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

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 "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.



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 (Isaías 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**).

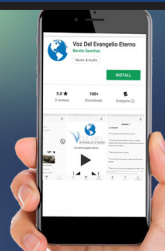
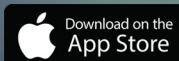
CONCLUSION: Even though we may not know you, the Lord knows who you are, and our prayer is that He will bless you. We also ask our Lord Jesus that He will work in your life, praying that the plan described in this tract will bring the change in your life that you greatly desire. If the Lord places in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

*Tune in to the daily broadcasts of Pastor Efraim Valverde, III and Pastor Efraim Valverde Sr. **Monday through Saturday** at 7:00 pm and Sunday at 12:00 noon. On Youtube and Facebook under the name of "Efraim Valverde live"*



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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
 (I Cor. 12:27, 2 Tim. 2:19)

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