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# MARANATHA

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# EDITORIAL

I greet all of our esteemed readers in the Name of the Beloved of our souls, our Lord Jesus Christ. I thank the Lord greatly for allowing us to bring the Word of God in to your homes and your congregations. It is a privilege serving our God in this *"holy"* (2 Tim. 1:9), *"high"* (Phil. 3:14), and *"heavenly"* (Heb. 3:1) calling.

This year, during a recent trip to Israel, I received confirmation of an invitation to attend a celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem which will take place on June 7 at the home of the president of Israel and in the Knesset (the Israeli parliament). In addition, the leader of the party asked me to represent all of the Hispanic evangelical community on behalf of the Israeli government and with its support. I do not know what other doors will be opened through this opportunity. I only know that God is providing us a great opportunity to share the mindset that the Lord has toward His people, Israel, and to share the truth concerning the ONENESS of the God of Israel who has ONE NAME given for salvation. We will be able to do all this with the backing of the Israeli government.



PASTOR EFRAIM VALVERDE, III AND FAMILY

This is the hand and favor of God. We are living in the fulfillment of God's time. It is a time in which the Lord is moving upon the face of the waters and in which He is at the brink of pouring out His Spirit just as He did at the beginning of this Era of Grace. We read in His Word that in the beginning of the Church, after having poured out the power of His Spirit, He poured out revelation via His Spirit, the revelation that the Lord Jesus is not only the Christ, but that He is God! *"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God"* (the invisible God, Col. 1:15) (Matt. 16:16).

The revelation and the heart of the Gospel found in the second chapter of the book of Acts is that He who had given His life is *"the Image of*

*God"* (2 Cor. 4:4), *"the Image of the invisible God"* (Col. 1:15), *"the Form of God"* (Phil. 2:6), *"the Glory of God"* (2 Cor. 4:6), *"Lord (Master, Supreme Authority, God) and Christ"* (Acts 2:36). This was the fulfillment of prophecy given by Isaiah who proclaimed: *"And the glory of the Lord (YHWH) shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together (the visible Image of YHWH): for the mouth of the Lord (YHWH) hath spoken it"* (Isa. 40:5).

But the enemy has focused on trying to hide the light of this truth before this age of Grace ends. (This time of Grace will soon come to an end with the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus.) *"But if our Gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which*

*believe not, lest the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, who is the Image of God, should shine unto them"* (2 Cor. 4:3-4). The Lord will pour out His Power and revelation in the same magnitude, or in an even greater magnitude, as He did at the beginning of the age, after His ascension. God is not going to allow that the revelation of His Oneness and of His Identity remain darkened until He returns. There is going to be a tremendous outpouring of His power and revelation which will liberate, revive, quicken, empower, illuminate, keep and fulfill His divine plans here on earth, before He returns.

Let us not *"resist"* (Acts 7:51) the Spirit of the Lord. Let us not be *"rebellious,"* so that we will not *"vex His Holy Spirit"* (Isa. 63:10). We must not *"grieve the Holy Spirit"* (Eph. 4:30), because in doing so we *"quench the Spirit"* (1 Thess. 5:19). *"And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow (the days that are just ahead) the Lord will do wonders among you"* (Josh. 3:5). Let us walk close to the Lord. Let us be prepared for what He is going to do. The question is not if He is going to do something. The question is when and through whom He is going to work. Lord, *"Here am I; send me!"* (Isa. 6:8) God bless you.

Pastor Efraim Valverde III ■

On March 11th of this year, our firstborn son, Efraim Valverde IV, was united in *"honorable marriage"* (Heb. 13:4) with Esther, the daughter of our brothers, Ismael and Yadira Garcia, who are members of the congregation "Temple Philadelphia", in Salinas, California. We thank God for His Presence and for the presence of all those who accompanied us on the very special day. Pray for them so that the Lord will keep them and that He will continue to use them, together with us, in the work of the Lord.







*"And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all the nations: and Jerusalem SHALL BE trodden down of the Gentiles, UNTIL the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (Luke 21:24).*

In this portion of Scripture the Lord prophesied concerning four events which would be fulfilled in the years ahead and which by this present time have already been fulfilled. In the year 70 A.D. three of events the Lord had prophesied about to His disciples 40 years earlier, concerning His people and His Holy City, had there fulfillment. One of the witnesses of these events, the Jewish historian, Josephus, affirms that more than 1,100,000 (one million and one hundred thousand) persons died during the initial military operation. The majority of the persons who *"fell by the edge of the sword"* were Jews. A total of 97,000 (ninety seven thousand) Jews were captured and enslaved: *"and shall be led away captive into all nations."* Many others fled to the coastal region near the Mediterranean Sea. From that point forward, Jerusalem began to be *"trodden down of the Gentiles"* (all those nations who are not part of the Jewish race)."

Although the Lord prophesied concerning these terrible events which would happen to His people and to His Holy City, He ended this frightening prophesy with a ray of hope (the reunification and redemption of the Holy City) when He included the word *"until."* The word *"until"* implies the coming to an end, to reach a determined point in time. In this case *"until"* means that this *"trodding down"* would last only until the time determined by God. By stating this the Lord reveals to us that Jerusalem would not be *"trodden down"* forever. And based upon the hope that this *"until"*

established by God (the reunification of the Jews with the Old City of Jerusalem) would occur, the Jewish people around the world spent 1897 years weeping, praying and declaring to one another with desire and hope: Next year in Jerusalem! They were encouraged by this hope that next year this *"until"* would finally arrive. They understood that after the reunification of Jerusalem, the redemption of the Jewish people would soon follow, since the fact that they were once again in the land of Israel with Jerusalem as their capital would prompt the coming of the Messiah.

The birth of the Modern State of Israel following the horrible Holocaust reunited the Jewish people with the Land of Israel in 1948. In like manner, the reunification of the Jewish people with Jerusalem occurred in the midst of their miraculous victory through the divine intervention of the God of Israel in the Six Day War against Egypt, Syria and Jordan in 1967. God is faithful to His Word!

The Jews were twice expelled from Jerusalem. The first expulsion came after the destruction of the First Temple and this expulsion was repeated after the destruction the Second Temple. However, the prophet Ezekiel foretold that after the *"until"* was fulfilled what occurred would be different than in any other occasion. *"And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their*

*children, and their children's children FOR EVER" (Ezek. 37:25).*

It was on the 7th of June of 1967 at 10:30 a.m. that the fulfillment of the prophecy occurred. It was on that day and at that time that Mordechai (Motta) Gur, the leader of the brigade of paratroopers, made an exclamation that was broadcast throughout all the military channels of communication: "The Temple Mount is in our hands. I repeat, the Temple Mount is in our hands!" Upon reaching the Temple Mount, the Chief Rabbi of the Israeli Defense Forces, made the following declaration as he was standing in front of the Wailing Wall, after proclaiming a blessing and sounding the shofar: "We have returned to Jerusalem, our beloved City. We have returned never to be parted from it again." The Old City of Jerusalem, with its focal point being the Temple Mount, was once again in the hands of the Jewish people after having being trodden down (controlled) by the Gentiles for 1897 long and painful years. The Lord fulfilled His Word!

Then, two weeks after the end of the miraculous Six Day War the Israeli government decided to officially unite the Old City of Jerusalem with the modern city, proclaiming Jerusalem as the eternal capital of Israel. *"Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together: whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord which is a command given unto Israel), unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the Name*

*of the Lord" (Psa. 122:2-4).* The Lord loves Jerusalem. It is His chosen City. *"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of His holiness... As we have heard, so have we seen in the City of the our God: God will establish it for ever" (Psa. 48:1-8).* That is why it is the *"City of the great King" (Mat. 5:35).* The designs and purposes of the Lord for this City are glorious. God's time has been fulfilled. Only He knew when the time would come that Jerusalem was no longer going to be *"trodden down of the Gentile"* and when the *"time of the Gentiles"* (the amount of time predetermined by God in which Jerusalem would be under the control of the Gentile nations) *would be fulfilled."* In addition, He announced that when the time of the Jews waiting for the reunification of Jerusalem was fulfilled, then the *"time of the Gentiles"* (the time of Grace) is about to end. It is fulfilled **(Luke 21:24, Rom. 11:25).** We are living in the last months before the fulfillment of 50 years since the reunification of Jerusalem. On June 7th of this year fifty years will have been fulfilled since the reunification of Jerusalem! How incredible it is to know that the Jewish people is celebrating the first jubilee in Jerusalem after almost 2,000 years have passed! Our eyes are witnessing this marvelous event! Will this be the last jubilee before the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ? Yes, it is! The Lord is shouting to us by way of the signs: *"Behold, I come quickly."* And we, those of us who love Him, and who desire and hope to be with Him, call out to Him saying: *"Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Rev. 22:20).*

By way of an invitation made to me by the president of the political party Israel Beteinu, which is part of

**Continue on page... 5**



Here are some thoughts on the current peace making process in the Middle East.

There seems to be a wrong notion that the only way to resolve the Israel-Palestine impasse is through the two-state solution. This has been the approach of the Obama administration and is the attitude of the European Union, China, Russia and probably most of the members of the international community.

But there are other possibilities that are worthy of examination. But before we examine them, it must be noted that each possible option (or solution) must be judged by certain yard sticks, meaning how would each option affect the following issues: security for Israel and the Palestinians, the future of Jerusalem, the resolution of the Palestinian refugee problem, the borders (meaning the depth of Israeli withdrawal), the future of Israeli settlements, economic cooperation, end of conflict clause, the nature of the ties between Israel and a possible Palestinian entity, democracy (meaning rights to be bestowed on Jews who may remain in a possible Palestinian state and Arabs who may become part of Israel), demography (how many Jews to remain in the Palestinian areas and how many Arabs in Israel, including Israeli Arabs and their impact on Israeli democracy), the future of Israeli settlements now in the West bank, is the proposed solution permanent or interim, how does it affect sovereignty and how will it affect water rights. All these issues must be taken into account.

Before we go into a brief discussion of options, it must be noted that, unlike many other existing international conflicts, the Israel-Palestinian conflict is

multi-faceted. It involves history, religion, psychology, nationalism, ethnic and communal considerations, economic factors, water rights and territory. If this conflict were simply a matter of territory, it would have been resolved a long time ago. But recently, the religious and psychological factors have become more prominent. Add to this the growing influence of Iran, Islamic Jihadism and current failing states in the Middle East, such as Libya, Syria, Iraq and Yemen, and you get a recipe for continued turmoil and crisis.

We now turn to the options. I will simply note them rather than going into details.

The first is an Arab state in the entire Mandatory Palestine, meaning Israel as a separate entity disappears and merges into an Arab-Muslim state called Palestine with majority rule. That would be the end of the Zionist dream.

The second is a Jewish state in the entire country. This has been the dream of Jews for centuries, but given the demographics and the current international and regional attitudes, the Jews had to compromise and accept a truncated state. For the time being it looks a distant dream.

The third is a bi-national state, where the two communities will co-exist, living side by side with joint judiciary, executive and legislative powers equally divided

between the two communities. They will share in the governance of this country. Something similar exists today in Belgium and in Lebanon.

The fourth option is to return either the entire or parts of the West Bank to Jordan. Israel captured this territory from Jordan in the 1967 Six Day War. That was once proposed by Israel but Jordan rejects the idea saying it already has a vast majority of Palestinians in their kingdom and would not like to add more.

The fifth possibility is for Israel to annex either the entire or parts of the West Bank. The main drawbacks here are demography and democracy. Once you annex territory you have to provide civil rights, including the right to vote for the Israeli parliament. Given the current demographics there could be an Arab majority in Israel at some distant point in the future. The denial of civic rights is something that is not acceptable today among the majority of the international community.

The sixth possibility is for Israel to unilaterally withdraw from the entire or parts of the West Bank as it did from the Gaza Strip in 2005. In effect, this would mean the end of the current arrangement: an Israeli military administration in most of the West Bank, while the rest is controlled by the Palestinian Authority.

Another possibility is to give the governance of the West Bank

to the United Nations under a trusteeship. This idea has been proposed once by the United Nations. The Palestinians rejected it out of hand.

Another idea is a federal arrangement in which there would be three states: Israel, Palestine and Jordan. There would be a central (or federal) government looking after foreign policy, defense, tariffs, law and order. There are many models for this situation.

Another version of the federal scheme is a confederation or cantons, like Switzerland. The key political unit will be the canton but there will be a central or federal government.

The final option is the two-state solution, meaning the re-partitioning of the West Bank between Israel and the Palestinian Authority and the creation of an independent state in the West Bank. This solution does not provide for the existence of a separate entity called Gaza, which has been under the control of Hamas since 2007.

Until a permanent solution is found, the current status quo seems to be a reasonable situation, as long as it continues to allow economic development of the Palestinian areas and encourages both parties to learn how to live side by side with each other.

Fifty years after the Six Days War, this is the time to ponder on what best suits the two parties.

Much depends on one's religious beliefs and how one can understand the workings, meaning and intentions of the good Lord.

Professor Meron Medzini

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. ■

## GOD'S PROPHETIC CLOCK

Professor Meron Medzini





# JERUSALEM, BELOVED CITY, HOW YOU HAVE SUFFERED!

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

*"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee" (Psa. 122:6). "Cursed be every one that curseth thee" (Gen. 27:29, Jer. 26:18 and 15:5, Mic. 3:12).*

In the year 587 B.C. Jerusalem was attacked and destroyed by the legions of Nebuchadnezzar and the Jews were taken captive. But, in due time, the Babylonian empire collapsed.

The Persians (the next world empire to arise) were more moderate and tolerant than the Babylonians had been. Under the rule of Artaxerxes I, Nehemiah rebuilt Jerusalem (approximately 430 B.C.). But, where are those empires now?

Next, with the arrival of the Greek empire, Jerusalem was once again devastated in the year 198 B. C. The Temple was defiled, unclean animals were sacrificed upon the altar and an altar was erected in honor of "Jupiter." All this happened during the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes, a relentless adversary, in his savage efforts to exterminate the Jews. Thousands of Jews were sold as slaves and were subjected to many different types of torture in an attempt to force them to renounce their belief in the One True God. However, in time the Greek empire also fell (146 B.C.).

As the years passed the city of Jerusalem was reconstruction by Herod during the time of the Roman Empire. However, in the year 70 A.D., Jerusalem was attacked and destroyed by the Romans under the leadership of Titus, their general. Once again the Jews were taken captive and were scattered throughout all the nations of the Earth. However, in due time the Roman Empire also fell.

In the year 637 A.D. the Muslims took control of Jerusalem. After that the Crusaders took control in 1099 A.D. After them, the Ottoman Turks gained control in the year 1517 A.D., and finally the British gained control in 1917 A.D. But, where are all these nations now?

The Holocaust: Nazi Germany organized the cruelest, most inhumane persecution against the Jews with the purpose of exterminating them. According to calculations that have been made, we now know that during the Second World War more than six million Jews were assassinated in the most brutal forms that the Nazis could devise. Ironically, all this was perpetrated by nations which called themselves "Christian." Yet, Hitler fell and with him Nazi Germany as well (1945 A.D.) During this same time frame there were wars occurring against Arabs who also lived in Jerusalem. After many battles and many diplomatic arrangements, on the 14th of May in 1948, Israel proclaimed its independence, based upon the United Nations resolution passed on November 29, 1947, concerning the establishment of a Jewish state. But, on that occasion, what is known as the Old City of Jerusalem, the City of David, remained under control of King Abdullah of Jordan. The modern progressive city with its modern industry, hospitals, and schools, which are to the north and east of the Old City remained under the control of the Jews. However, on June 7, 1967, during the miraculous Six Day War, the Old City, where the Temple of God had stood, once again passed into the hands of its legitimate owners, the Jews. Thus, a prophecy was fulfilled: *"the fig tree...putteth forth leaves"* (Mark 13:28).

Even to this present day the people (the Jews) continue being victimized by discrimination and contempt. Even many "evangelicals" continue to accuse the Jews of "having killed Christ." But it was only the leaders among the Jews who called for the Lord's death, because they were blinded by God Himself (Jn. 1:11-12, 1 Cor. 2:8, 2 Cor. 3:14-15, Rom. 11:25). God has not cast off His people (Rom. 11:1). He, Himself, made the declaration that *"salvation is of the Jews"* (Jn. 4:22).

God bless you,

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr. ■

## 50th Anniversary...Continued

the Israeli parliament, Robert Ilatov, I will be in the City of the Great King, Jerusalem, Lord willing, on this historic date, to join with the Jewish people in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the miraculously divine reunification of Jerusalem. We will be gathering at the home of the president of Israel and in the Knesset (Israeli parliament). This is an honor which I owe first of all to the Lord and also to the work and testimony of love and support which my grandfather, Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr., demonstrated toward the nation of Israel and toward the Jewish people for more than 30 years until He parted to be with the Lord. I will go representing the Lord, and the ministry that the Lord commended to my grandfather. I will also be representing all of my companions in this ministry and also all those who support this honorable work.

In this year in which 50 years will be fulfilled since the reunification of the Old City of Jerusalem there is a hatred toward the Jewish people that has never been seen since its reunification. Israel's enemies want to separate the Jewish people from Jerusalem once again. The nations of the world have united to devise a plan on how to divide Jerusalem. The Lord tells us through the prophet Zechariah that the time will come in which the nations will unite in battle against the Jewish people in order to obtain control of Jerusalem (Zech. 12:2). The Lord also tells us that half of the City shall go into captivity (Zech. 14:2). But the Lord does not state that the City will be divided. Why not? Because He will not permit this to happen. The Word of God tells us that when the nations try to do this *"then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when He fought in the day of battle. And His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem"* (Zech. 14:3-4).

*"Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep" (Rom. 12:15).* We rejoice with the Jewish people in these days of the 50th anniversary of the reunification of the Old City of Jerusalem. However, we also weep with the faithful remnant among the Jewish people who weep and cry out to God, desiring their unification with Israel's Messiah.

As we rejoice in the fulfillment of 50 years since the reunification of Jerusalem on June 7, 2017, we must also REMEMBER the sufferings which the Jewish people have experienced and are currently experiencing as they dwell in the beloved City of David, and we must pray for the peace of Jerusalem, a peace which only the King of Peace can bring. ■





## THOSE WHO HAVE ERRED FROM THE TRUTH

John the apostle said: *"If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that is sent not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it. All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death"* (1 John 5:16-17).

The apostle's statement concerning *"the sin of death"* (1 Jn. 5:16) has caused a diversity of interpretations. Many of these have been used to kill the wounded Christian instead of helping him.

In the list of sins previously cited (Gal. 5:19-21), the first one named is adultery. However, the apostle, guided by the Holy Spirit, names several other sins as well. Then, in summarization of the list, he states: *"That they that do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."* Some among our religious circles, considering themselves to be directed by God, have determined in different times and places that adultery is the only sin of death. They interpret that this is the sin John the apostle is referring to.

First of all, using the doctrinal authority that the Lord has conferred upon me, I say that the only one who can determine if a sin unto

## FILTH OF THE FLESH PART V

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

*I say that the only one who can determine if a sin unto death has been committed is the Supreme Judge. The only things that we can see and judge without fear of being wrong are the deviated and perverse actions of those who God has already killed spiritually. It is one thing for someone to be lying wounded along the way but who is still alive. It is another thing for that person to be already dead, and without remedy.*

death has been committed is the Supreme Judge. The

only things that we can see and judge without fear of being wrong are the deviated and perverse actions of those who God has already killed spiritually. It is one thing for someone to be lying wounded along the way but who is still alive. It is another thing for that person to be already dead, and without remedy.

Many times I have witnessed ministers assume the role of God as judges. They have condemned those who committed adultery, but who showed signs of life and even begged for mercy. James the apostle makes this comment concerning this scenario: *"Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him, let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins"* (James 5:19-20).

James is speaking about the sins that Paul enumerates and about many more similar sins. Notice that judgment and condemnation will come to those *"which do such things"* (Gal. 5:21). Since the verb "do" is in the present tense, this indicates that these

Christians are currently committing one or more of the sins on the list, but without remorse. After all, if someone has not committed adultery, but lives with strife and enmities and does not repent or cease from doing this, condemnation will awaits him.

Paul the apostle tells the Church at Corinth: *"For I fear, lest when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envying, wraths, strife, backbiting, whisperings, swellings, tumults: and lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed"* (2 Cor. 12:20-21).

### IS IT TRUE THAT HATRED IS THE SIN OF DEATH?

It is true that if there is one sin which can be categorized as a sin *"unto death"* and which is not included on any list, but is mentioned independently, it is the one John mentions when he says: *"He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer; and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him"* (1 John 3:14-15).

It is appropriate to mention here a story about a minister





of “high moral integrity” who happens to hate me. He was once asked: “Don’t you think you are bringing condemnation upon yourself because of the hatred you have toward Brother Valverde?” His response was: “As long as I don’t commit the sin of adultery, I have no fear of condemnation.” This is attitude that prevails among many that glory in living a life of “high morality,” without acknowledging their wretchedness (**Rev. 3:17-18**).

For my part, I could also glory since it has pleased the Lord to preserve my integrity for the more than half a century I have been in His path. However, I would never commit such a blasphemy, because of the reasons I have already amply explained. In fact, I have always tried to use my integrity and spiritual reserves to help the weak, many whom have been categorized as “fallen” Christians by the “righteous” Christians.

I most certainly would never approve of the act of adultery nor of any of the many other sins. In fact, those who have heard me speak throughout the years of my ministry have always heard me harshly rebuke any and all wickedness ~~always~~. However, as I have explained in this study, I have understood how the marvelous grace of God operates among His people, and I rejoice in applying that

marvelous medicine to give spiritual life and health to the “*little ones*” of the Lord (**Matt. 25:40**).

I will state beforehand that I know that none of the (self-described) “righteous” who read this will accept what I am saying, since “*none of wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand*” (**Dan. 12:10**). For this reason this message is directed to the sincere children of God and to the true ministers of the Lord who travel this road surrounded by weaknesses, but in whose hearts resides the determination to fight against the sin in their flesh, so that they might please their Lord. My brothers, my sisters, my companions in the ministry, take a close, meditating look at what I am explaining here. Remember that in your sincerity and genuine humility is where this marvelous grace of God operates, through which we can “*demand of Him a good conscience*.” Lift up your head to the heavens and together with our apostle, let us lift up a shout of victory: “*Thanks be to God for our Lord Jesus Christ*” (**Rom. 7:25**).

### FACTORS IN THE LIFE OF HE WHO IS TEMPTED

Considering all that I have explained, it would not be fair to omit mentioning the methods the faithful believer can use to fight against the

illicit sexual impulses which he experiences in his flesh. Let us begin by clarifying that the sexual nature of a Christian can be totally different from his Christian brother and sister. We must also categorize other important factors such as his age, his marital status, and his overall level of health.

On the other hand, it is impossible to ignore other important factors that affect the believer who is tempted. One of these is the environment in which he lives or works. Another is what he reads or hears or sees. Another is the person who he deals with directly in his daily life and who can influence him either in a positive way or a negative one with their conversation and advice. Finally, the condition the Christian is in or the place he is at when he is tempted also has an impact on the outcome.

Most of the cases of spontaneous provocations or eruptions of the sexual impulses are directly related to one or more of the factors mentioned in the previous paragraph. However, what are most common are thoughts that jump into the mind of the believer when he least expects them. The faithful believer will reject these thoughts in his mind, the majority of which are thoughts which do not affect his emotions or his sexual impulses, but they are enough to make him aware

of “*the sin which is in me*” (**Rom. 7:17**).

I want to make it clear that all I have said applies to Christians whether they are ministers or members of the Church of the Lord in whose heart there is a great fear of God and who does not want to sin. It is that fear of God which is the most effective weapon the true Christian can use to control the sinful impulses which reside in his flesh. If that were not so then anything else I explain here would have any importance.

I say this because throughout my walk with the Lord I have dealt with many people who I call “professional Christians,” both members and ministers, who do are not truly interested in being delivered. In fact, they pretend that they do need help, but in the depths of their hearts their passions have already been unleashed and they truly don’t care to refrain them. By this time in my life I am convinced that for this type of “Christians” there no longer exists any protection or assistance that can help them. Among this number are counted those which Paul rebukes saying: “*Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art thou judgest; for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things*” (**Rom. 2:1**).

God bless you. ■





*“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a NAME which is above every name: That at the NAME OF JESUS (the Lord) every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:9-11).*

**T**his brief tract was written first and foremost with the intent of exalting the marvelous **NAME OF THE LORD JESUS**. But, it was also written with the purpose of stimulating those who may read it into entering, with their mind’s eye (where the true value of everyone or everything that we appreciate resides), into the depths of the mysteries of God, so that they might discover the fountain of infinite treasures that reside in the invocation of the **“NAME WHICH IS ABOVE EVERYNAME.”**

This tract was also written as a direct counterattack to the tenacious insistence of the diabolical power, which, using all the means available to it, has attempted, throughout the centuries of the Christian era, to deny or at the very least to degrade the supreme and almighty value that resides in

## THE SUPREME VALUE OF THE NAME WHICH IS ABOVE EVERY NAME

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

the **“NAME which is above every name.”** The Name I am referring to is **YESHUA ADONAY** in the original Hebrew and in English it is the **LORD JESUS**.

It is impossible to quote here all the portions of Scripture that make reference to the prominence of **THE SUPREME NAME**, which was hidden in the Old Testament (Genesis 32:29, Judges 13:18), but was revealed in the New Testament (Matthew 1:21). It is this Supreme Name that the apostle Peter referred to when he declared that **“there is none other NAME under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”** (Acts 4:12).

It is in the almighty **NAME of the LORD JESUS CHRIST** that the apostles worked countless healings, miracles and prodigious signs. It was for this **NAME** that they were willing to suffer persecution and all types of afflictions and sufferings, even to the point of joyfully

giving their lives at the end of their ministry as a sacrifice because of their intense love of **THIS NAME**. Paul, the apostle, acknowledging the supremacy of **THE NAME** tells us: **“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS, giving thanks to God and the Father by him”** (Colossians 3:17). It is this marvelous and supremely divine **NAME** that God has given to us so that we may ask of Him all that we need, as long as it is **“according to His will”** (1 John 5:14), because He knows better than we what things are beneficial to us.

The tract was not written with the intent of entering into an in-depth explanation regarding the mystery of the Godhead. Rather it is intended to emphasize on a important fact which every Christian who professes to believe in the Lord should know and understand about the supreme power that abides in the **“Name which is**

**above every name,” JESUS CHRIST THE LORD**. This knowledge transcends all denomination differences and doctrinal concepts concerning **THE LORD** that the readers might have.

The undeniable reality, according to the Scriptures, is that it is only through that **NAME** that we can receive the forgiveness of our sins (Luke 24:47, Acts 2:38). It is only through that **NAME** that we can **“cast out demons”** (Mark 16:17). It is through the power that resides in that **NAME** that we can receive healing in our bodies and spiritual deliverance. Also, through that **NAME**, the believer who has strayed from the Lord’s path can receive restoration if he or she repents (James 5:14-15).

The apostle warns us, saying: **“Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost”** (1 Corinthians 12: 3). If we, as Christians, underestimate and take for granted that **NAME**-which in reality is the **GOD’S NAME** that He has revealed and manifested to His people (John 17:26)-and if we do not love He who bears that **NAME** in the manner that HE requires





(Deuteronomy 6:5, Matthew 10:37), then not only do we lose out on many blessings, but through this attitude we can bring a curse upon ourselves (1 Corinthians 16:22).

I invite you, professing Christian who may read this brief tract, to believe what I has been stated about the marvelous **NAME OF JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD**. Seek to serve and please the Lord. When you have done so, focus your mind on the sublime reality described herein and prove this Divine truth for yourself. With all of the recognition and acknowledgement that you can muster, call upon the *“Name which is above every name,”* believing that you will receive an answer. When you do receive your answer, give glory to God for answering your prayer.

When you do call upon that **NAME**, do so with all due respect and reverence for the **NAME**. Do not ever refer to the Lord solely as **“JESUS.”** This is a sign of disrespect. Refer to Him as the **LORD JESUS** or **JESUS CHRIST THE LORD**. He is the one *“which is, and which was, and which is to come, the ALMIGHTY.”* He is the *“KING of kings and Lord of lords”* (Rev. 1:8, 19:16). ■

## THE MIRACLE OF THE FAITHFUL REMNANT

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

**W**hen the Lord called Elijah out of the cave, He informed the prophet of several things he must complete (**1 Kings 19:15-17**). However, the Lord reserved for Himself a unique right: to cause that a faithful remnant would remain in Israel. The Lord stated: *“Yet I have left Me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him”* (**1 Kings 19:18**). Even to this day, the divine option of choosing who will be part of the faithful remnant is a prerogative that only pertains to the Lord.

Just as He has done in the past and is still doing today in Israel (among the Jewish people), He has also done this throughout the almost 20 centuries of the history of His Church and is still doing it presently. Throughout all the history of the existence of the human race here on earth, God has never been left without faithful witnesses. In the beginning of human history, before the worldwide flood, His witnesses were the antediluvian patriarchs. After the flood He continued having faithful witnesses. This lineage of faithful witnesses continued

with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and continues until the present among the people of Israel.

In His church this faithful remnant began with His faithful apostles. After their death, throughout the centuries, a faithful remnant, sustained by a miracle from God has kept the integrity, *“the faith that was once given to the saints”* (**Jude, vs. 3**). Which persons have been a part of this faithful remnant during the past centuries? History or historians have voluntarily ignored this special group and when they are mentioned it is only for the purpose of defaming them.

The apostle Paul provides us a perfect description of the attributes which have characterized, both then and now, the true members of this faithful remnant, beginning with those evident in his own life (read **2 Cor. 6:4-10**). One of these distinctives is *“as unknown”* (**vs. 9**), but he adds *“rather are known of God”* (**Gal. 4:9**).

Today, among this monumental spiritual *“Babylon”* (**Rev. 18:2**) which is prevalent among those who claim to be Christians *“the Lord knoweth them that are His”* (**2 Tim. 2:19**). In this manner

the Lord has continued operating this miracle in the emotions and minds of His children who love Him and who are sincere and *“humble of heart”* (**Matt. 11:29**), so that this faithful remnant will continue being a faithful witness of the true Gospel.

The apostle Peter wisely counsels this faithful remnant saying: *“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear”* (**1 Pet. 3:15**). What distinguishes a faithful Christian is not only that which he knows, but also the humble spirit which abides in him and the level of God’s love that moves in every aspect of his life.

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

May God bless you and may He open your understanding of His Word.

Your friend and brother in Christ the Lord,

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr. ■





**I** bless the Lord for granting me the opportunity to visit the Holy Land of Israel for the first time. We were able to be in the places where our great Master taught and in places where He fulfilled the words of the prophets concerning Him. How marvelous it is to read the Scriptures in the place where they occurred. Our feet were walking amid history.

We arrived early Monday morning. We travelled toward the Judean desert, which is in east of Jerusalem, where Jericho, the Jordan River, the Dead Sea, Masada, the caves of Engedi and the ruins of Adullam are all located. In the evening, I was able, for the first time in my life, to visit the Western Wall (also known as the Wailing Wall). This is the most sacred site for the Jewish people since it surrounds the area known as the Temple Mount, where the Temple of the Lord previously stood.

My heart burned with emotion as we approached the Wall, as I witnessed how the people of Israel (our older brother, the first of the two witnesses) seeks the Lord with great passion and fervor. However, when I finally stood before the Wall I experienced a moment of confusion. I was under the impression that in reaching that place, immediately the Presence of God would overwhelm me, but I did not feel His Presence in that way. I then remembered some brothers who had stated: "You are not going to feel anything." I then began to pray amid that silence that I felt. Suddenly, a thought struck my mind as lightning: *"Behold, bless ye the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord, which by night stand in the house of the Lord. Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord!"* (Psa. 134:1-2). Hallelujah! Jerusalem is not a place of luck or an amulet for the Christian. It is a place to give maximum worship to the Creator of the universe. I can now say: "Jerusalem, how beautiful

## Report of Trip to Israel



you are." I fell in love with its walls and its palaces. My desire is that I may have the same mindset as the Psalmist who exclaimed: *"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I*

*do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth"* (Psa. 137:5-6). Glory to God for the Word of His prophecy. The fig tree has sprouted before the entire world (Mat. 24:32). Our

feet walked among the land where the prophecy was fulfilled. We saw the desert that has literally blossomed and the land from which flows milk and honey. We stood within the waters of the Jordan River, in the region of the desert where the Master was baptized by John the Baptist, and where Joshua and the people of Israel crossed the river on dry land. We sailed upon the Sea of Galilee. We walked among the ruins of Capernaum. We visited the Caesarea of Philippi, the ruins of maritime Caesarea where the door to us, the Gentiles, was opened in the house of Cornelius. We made a very special prayer on Mount Carmel, where Elijah prayed and fire came down from the heavens. We also visited all the region of Galilee, the Golan Heights, Bethlehem and the Mount of Olives (from where the Lord ascended into heaven). We visited the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron and the tomb of Rachel in Bethlehem. These were the places that for me personally were the most special. There I experienced the Divine Presence of the Lord in a very palpable manner, as if one entered behind a curtain.

I bless my Lord Jesus for having permitted me to be in the Holy Land. I thank our pastor, Efraim Valverde III, for organizing these trips, for his love and for his companionship in the ministry. I also thank the Lord for granting me the privilege of getting to know my fellow brethren, especially my roommate, Brother Juan Enriquez, the pastor in Salem, Oregon.

God bless all my brethren who might read this report and may the Lord grant you and also my family to visit Jerusalem once again.

With love, your brother and companion,

Pastor Emmanuel Woods. ■





I thank God for allowing us to host the annual fellowship service of the congregation "Templo Monte de Sion," on January 13th through 15th of this year, where our brother, Miguel Molina, was the pastor until he departed to be with the Lord. After he passed away I have assumed the responsibility of the congregations. I have been serving in the ministry for two years now.

I thank the Lord that we can count on the support of Pastor Alfredo Tienda, through his preaching, his teachings and his counsel which have served to motivate the congregation.

I also thank God for the brethren in Sinaloa from the congregation in Los Mochis, located in the region

## Fellowship Service in Hermosillo, Sonora

known as Ferrusquilla, and for our brother Jose Angel and the ministers who accompanied him, enriching and contributing to the environment of harmony among the congregation. I also thank the Lord for all the other pastors and ministers from around the area that accompanied us in this activity. God bless you all.

We thank our brother, Pastor Francisco Miranda and our brethren from the congregation "El Jordan" from the neighborhood "El Sahuaro" here in Hermosillo for their economic support and for their help

with the arrangements necessary for this activity. They covered all the expenses needed for this type of service. We were able to rejoice in the worship led by the local musicians and in the teachings which were of great value brought forth by Pastor Alfredo Tienda. We also thank the Lord for the baptisms which took place on Sunday. Three persons who we have served through the shelter offered by our local congregation were the ones who were baptized. We also thank God for the support that Pastor Alfredo Tienda has given to the family of

the former pastor Miguel Molina, during the time of his illness which lasted more than a year, and his continued support after our brother parted to be with the Lord. Thank God for the congregation which has been able to go forward due in great part to the ministerial support provided by our bro. Alfredo Tienda. We are striving to carry forth the responsibilities of the local congregation.

We ask our brother, Pastor Efraim Valverde III for his prayers for the congregation that God has given us the responsibility to lead, and for the pastors in this area, since the work of the Lord has multiplied in this region. God bless you,

Pastor Manuel de Jesus Castro. ■

I give the Lord many thanks for allowing me to write these few lines concerning the annual service which took place in Juxtlahuaca, Oaxaca, where our brother, Timoteo Cervantez, is the pastor. This activity, which, as always, was a great blessing. It took place on February 3, 4 and 5 of this year 2017.

On this occasion the Lord moved our brother, Pastor Efraim Valverde III, to spend most of his time speaking to the pastors. He shared with us about the huge doors that the Lord continues to open. He reminded us of how the Lord had told his grandfather, our beloved brother, Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr., that He was going to open great doors before him. He mentioned that we have the privilege of not only witnessing what God is doing, but by His great mercy and grace, He has made us partakers of what He is doing in these last days. We beseech the Lord that He will continue to include us in His plans.

On Saturday, in the meeting with the pastors, Pastor Efraim III shared with us about the special celebrations that he was invited to attend in Israel, to have an audience before members of the Israeli parliament and to discuss subjects of supreme importance. And if we ask ourselves, why have these invitations been extended to our

## Fellowship Service in Juxtlahuaca, Oax.

brother, and not to other leaders of huge movements? One of the answers to this question would be, God knows why. God gives testimony in His time, and He has chosen to give testimony of the love that has been cultivated toward Israel, as the Lord moved our brother, Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr., to do so, and Pastor Efraim III has continued doing the same. Those of us who by the grace of God are in the same "*mind that was in Christ Jesus our Lord*" (Phil. 2:5) have now benefitted from this same blessing. He also spoke to us about the letter of eviction the United Nations issued in which it declares that Israel is settled in the land "illegally," referring to Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria. This announces to us that the fulfillment of the last and greatest prophecy is near which is "*the blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ*" (Tit. 2:13).

On Saturday evening, during the general service, our brother focused on the mystery concerning Israel. What is the mystery? It is composed of three

parts. First of all, why has the blindness come? Second, what does it mean that blindness in part has come to Israel? Finally, when will the blindness be taken away? Thank God for the revelation of this mystery.

On Sunday, Pastor Efraim III once again gathered with the pastors and ministers and the Lord moved him to once again speak about Israel and about the importance of being awake to what is occurring in Israel. He told us that it is not time to be playing around but that we must behave as men of God. He emphasized the importance of being in the same mind, in the same spirit and that we must be sincere companions in order to be able to do the work of the Lord in these last days. I have described here briefly what I was able to capture about what the Lord chose to do in this activity. The activity concluded with a good number of baptisms, with our brother, Gilbert Tienda sharing a message from the Word of God.

May the Lord continue working and may He continue to include us in His

blessed plans. May He continue moving us to continue blessing the people of Israel and may He place in us the desire to do something in favor of the people of Israel, as we declare our love and support to this blessed people. God bless Israel, the blessed Jewish people who are our brothers. From the innermost part of my soul I bless Israel!

Let us continue to pray for our brother, Pastor Efraim Valverde III, so that the Lord will continue to use his life. God bless all of the pastors who were able to attend this activity and each and every one of our brothers who were able to attend. God bless our brothers, Timoteo Cervantez and Nestor Quintanar.

My brethren who read the publication "Maranatha." You who may be in a distant place where few brothers come to visit you, but you receive the "Maranatha," may God continue to bless you through this publication so that you may receive the message and the information.

God bless all those who contribute to this work in Salinas, Ca. "*Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not*" (Gal. 6:9).

May God speak well of you. Amen.

Your brother in Christ the Lord,  
Pastor Alfredo Corcoles ■





Each day God continues to open up minds so that there will be a greater interest in His Word, and He continues to bless lives, including mine.

God in His grace gave us the opportunity to host our first fellowship service for the year 2017, in Ocotal Santa Cruz de Yojoa, Honduras, where my family lives, we are blessed because it has been a while since we experienced something so precious. Pastor Edy Flores and the congregation gave all the brethren who were present a warm welcome. God bless my brethren for their efforts. On Friday, Pastor Jaime Vidal shared with us concerning the mystery of Israel: *"For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto Himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth"*

Greetings to all my brothers and sisters in the faith! I'm Jasmine Luna. I'm part of the congregation with Pastor Rudy Madera in Lone Pine, CA. It is a privilege to be able to write for this month's Maranatha publication; all honor and glory to my God who has sustained me to this day! I know that of my own, I would have nothing... but the Lord is so good and I asked Him to be the One who will speak through me in any way He wants. Because, even if I were to say the most beautiful words a human can hear and speak with eloquence and grace, but if the Lord isn't the One speaking, it's all in vain, and it would be nothing more than meaningless noise (1 Cor. 13:1). I don't want these to be my words, but His.

A couple of months ago, I was with some friends, thinking of different young people we ~~knew~~ know that had have strayed from God. Our hearts were heavy as we prayed for each one we could think of. We prayed for each one of them, one by one. The list kept getting longer and longer. I was saddened to think of so many people

## Fellowship Service in Honduras



(Deut. 7:6), confirming that in this year, 2017, Israel will fulfill 50 years since they once again gained control of Jerusalem, after almost 2,000 years that have passed. On Saturday, Pastor William shared the Word of God with us, using the verse in, **Matthew 6:9-15**. On Sunday

morning we continued with teachings from the Word of God and ended by praying for our families. In the evening the activity ended as different brethren shared words of thanksgiving. It was something special. We were witnesses and recipients to the

Presence of the Lord's Spirit. Afterward, we shared a meal together. We know that this is God's will, as we witnessed our brethren who were encouraged in the Lord. Glory be to God! We are already planning the next activity. If the Lord permits, it will be held in the city of Choloma Cortes, near San Pedro Sula, where our brother, Rony Rodriguez is the pastor. We hope to see you there.

We thank you for your support. Let us continue praying so that we can continue to improve in our service to the Lord and so that we may be even more united. *"That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ"* (Col. 2:2).

Pastor Orlando Fernandez. ■

## YOUTH SECTION

Jasmine Luna

that have left the church, and have left the faith that they were brought up in. Some; of these young people were "brought up in the pews." I had the sudden realization that it could have easily been me on that list too. I don't deserve to still be standing. There's NOTHING that I've done on my own to merit God's grace and mercy. If I'm still here, it's because of Him.

All of this started me thinking and asking: Why on earth were so many young people (and even adults) leaving behind such a precious faith? Surely most of them had at some point experienced that *"first love."* Surely, some of them had even promised the Lord, like the apostle Peter, that they would always love Him, and follow Him, even unto death (Luke 22:33). What then was it that eventually made all these people become careless in their walk, even to the point of not

going to church or to leaving their *"first love"*? It all boils down to one thing: self-control, or the lack thereof. In the original Greek, the word for self-control is *"sphrōn."* This word is translated into English as "having a sound mind" or "being disciplined." It can also mean "knowing how to deny your carnal desires" or "thinking straight." Let me explain.

Spiritual death usually doesn't happen all at once or overnight, but gradually and subtly! One compromise at a time. It happens when one gets carried away with the things of this world. We compromise things that don't seem like a big deal. Instead of having all areas of our lives governed by the Holy Spirit, we lose *"sphrōn,"* self-control. "Small" sins start to creep in, and after a while, it's all normal. But the scary thing is, it is not always the big sins that separate us from God. In fact, most of the time it is the small

things and common things turned into idols. And by idols, I don't mean little gold statues; I mean idols of the heart. If something takes God's place in your life, consumes your thoughts and causes you to devote all your attention and energy to it, that thing can become an idol.

It can be pride. It can be music that might not necessarily be "bad," but deep inside you know it doesn't glorify God. It can also be that "harmless" show on television that has an occasional bad word or crude joke or inappropriate scene in it. It can be the social media you spend most of your day interacting with. It can be gossip or those friendships that you know are not building you up spiritually (1 Cor. 15:33).

It can even be "good things." Maybe you spend so much time at work that you're too tired to attend church. Maybe providing for your family becomes such a priority that money is all you can think about. Perhaps school and your future career are your MAIN focus right now. Maybe you are so busy serving that you have forgotten about Who it is you are



serving. Maybe it is a sports team you love. Suddenly, you cannot think of anything else. Sports can take over your mind and your every conversation. Often, what starts out as a small lack of self-control turns into a bigger problem later. It doesn't matter if we think we have got it under control or if we justify ourselves by saying "just one last time." Our enemy is constantly throwing things at us in an attempt to separate us from the Lord. He can use unwillingness to forgive, bitterness, resentment and gossip so that you cannot experience true fellowship with your brothers and sisters in the Lord. Or, he sends you thoughts that you carelessly stop channeling through the filter of God's Word. He tempts you with pornography, things you know you should not be looking at. I heard someone say that "even a crack provides an opportunity for the enemy to come in."

Guard your heart (**Prov. 4:23**)! If you see any sign of Satan trying to sneak into your heart, thoughts or actions, remember, God has given you the power you need to put a stop to it. *"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it"* (**1 Cor. 10:13**). If you have been playing with fire, young man, young woman, please flee while you still can!!! The blood of the Lord Jesus Christ is stronger than any stronghold, chain or bad habit! There can be freedom! You can once again experience intimacy with Him.

Come before His presence with genuine repentance and confess it. It also helps to talk to an older godly person about it and ask for prayer. Then, you must let the Lord renew your mind, let Him put His mind in you (**Rom. 12:2**). Strive to honor the Lord with all your future choices, asking Him for help to not repeat the sin (**John 8:11**). And, do anything and all that you can to get rid of it. (**Matt. 5:29**). Keep a sound mind. I made a resolution that has been helping me to

have a sound mind, one that is focused on God. It's not always easy to do, but every morning I make the effort to reach for my Bible before I reach for my phone. This practice helps me to more clearly hear what God is speaking to me. Otherwise, I would have a distracted mind, trying to think of my to-do list, emails and messages I need to reply to, responsibilities, etc.

With any choice you make, any entertainment choice, social media, thoughts and even words, you can ask yourself: "Would the Lord approve? Does this glorify Him?" If you hesitate to answer, then you know your answer.

With God's help, you can replace any bad habits with good ones:

If you're tempted to:

-See something ungodly. Stop what you're doing and pray for strength to overcome.

-Listen to worldly music. Put on some worship music.

-Gossip. Pray for that person instead.

-Waste time on social media. Listen to a preaching or a Christian podcast.

-Think worldly things. Meditate on a Scripture.

-Complain. Write things you're grateful for (**Psa. 103:2**).

And, the list goes on and on!

*"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching"* (**Heb. 10:25**).

Young people, adults, everyone! The Lord's coming is so near. It is not time to be playing around and only going to church when we "feel like it." Let us be diligent and be there with our whole heart, to encourage and to be encouraged!

I love you all with the love of Christ,

Jasmine Luna. ■

## WOMEN OF GOD

Hna. Jazmín Woods

God bless each one of my sisters in the many different places that this publication may reach. As I was considering what to write, the following thought came to my mind: God has given us a unique privilege to be called "*sons of God*" (**1 Jn. 3:2**). We recognize that this calling has not been given to us because we deserve it, but simply because it has pleased God to call us (**Tit. 3:5**). As I was meditating on this, I came to the realization that we not only have a privilege, but we also bear a great responsibility.

Unfortunately, this responsibility is not always clear in our minds or at times it can be uprooted from our hearts. We have to constantly ask our God to clarify our spiritual vision so that the tasks and cares of this world will not make it blurry (**2 Pet. 1:8-9**). Furthermore, to those of us who God has not only granted us to be wives, but also mothers, the responsibility is even greater. That is why we have to dedicate time to prayer. We must ask God to place words of pleading and supplication in our lips. We must also dedicate time to the reading of God's Word. It is His Word that we can find great examples that provide us encouragement, motivation, light and above all, hope.

As we read the Word of God we find that the men, and in our case, women, who we uphold as being holy and righteous, were subject to the same passions as we are. The Word of God does not always give us a lot of details about certain women, but it

provides enough information so that we can see the great mark they left. We are told about certain qualities which stood out in the lives, such as Mary's discretion, even though she was chosen as a very special vessel by God. We appreciate Ruth's love, loyalty and service. In Abigail we see the epitome of prudence. Sarah's is characterized by her subjection. In Rizpah, the wife of Saul, we see a firm determination. After her sons were put to death and their bodies hanged out in the open for all to see, she did not leave them alone. She took it upon herself to care for them for months, forgetting about her own comforts, until their bodies were finally buried.

We read of other women whose names are not recorded but who left a notable testimony. Perhaps you have your own list of pious women that is different than mine and maybe yours is longer. But the important thing here is the testimony each one left. What testimony are we leaving, my sister? What character traits do we have that are worthy to be emulated? Which of these characteristics help us to fulfill our responsibilities? My desire and prayer is that the Lord would give us more of His Spirit. May He also deposit in you and in me all the qualities which heaven has to offer us. Only through His help can we be faithful to our calling.

In your service and in the service of the Lord,

Your sister by His blood,  
Jazmin Woods. ■





# 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 in  
**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"*



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 ■



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## 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)

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