

# *The Gospel Herald*

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“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by

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## *“And ye shall be witnesses unto me”*

*Acts 1: 8*

*As our Lord Jesus Christ testified in the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, he declared that when his people were endowed with the Holy Ghost that they SHALL be witnesses unto HIMSELF unto the uttermost parts of the earth. NEVER did our Lord Jesus indicate that his people were to TRY and be witnesses, but that they were GOING to be witnesses.*

*There are NO “second hand” witness in God’s kingdom; those called of God and revealed the glorious salvation of Christ Jesus are “First hand” witnesses! They are NOT riding through this mortal life on another’s experience, they are those called, appointed, ordained, chosen, elect, and predestined to be “first hand” witnesses by the operation of sovereign irresistible ever-ruling grace. And once the children of God have been born again and translated into the kingdom of God’s dear Son, they have an engraved experience upon the heart that NO MAN can erase nor challenge. “Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s elect? It is GOD that justifieth” (Rom. 8:33).*

*In the realm of the world’s judicial system, a Lawyer DOES NOT normally call a “second hand” witness to the stand, one who has only been told about the case and point under consideration, yet NOT actually seen or experienced personally as an “eye witness” or verbally “heard” what occurred on or during a particular event.*

*I am persuaded that our Lord Jesus was referring to those who are “TARES” among the Wheat are those who have never “first-handedly” seen nor heard the voice of the Son of Man, but are going along the religious broad road to destruction. I ask myself, have I seen the Lord with faith’s eye? Have I heard His sweet and divine voice call me personally? Or am I merely going along with the religious program of tradition? Have I witnessed the love of Christ and experienced in my heart His mercy? Or is my head just filled with dead KNOWLEDGE?*

*I have indicated in times past that spiritually speaking, KNOWLEDGE is the fact of knowing something, and WISDOM is the God-given divine ability to put KNOWLEDGE to work for the glory of Christ, as HE works in us to BOTH WILL and to DO of His good pleasure. Knowledge alone, without God's WISDOM (Christ), leaves a lifeless, dead experience that falls prey to the "traditions of religion" rather than experiential salvation that bears the fruit of the Spirit. When I hear brethren (so-called) throwing up walls, fences and barriers, dropping fellowship with one another I often wonder, where is CHRIST-LIKE love being demonstrated? Where is CHRIST-LIKE forgiveness being manifested? Why don't the brethren seek the spiritual council of others in an attempt to reconcile the difference?*

*Our Lord said, "Ye shall know them by their fruit." An orange tree cannot hide the fact it is an orange tree when it comes to fruit-bearing season. Those who have become "Trees of Righteousness" by the operation of God's determined favor, SHALL BEAR FORTH GOOD FRUIT, because the TREE IS GOOD, for Christ is the TRUE VINE which is the SEED of God's Trees. I must look at myself and see what fruit do I see, if any at all? The apostle said, "Examine yourselves," "Make your calling and election sure." How does one do that? LOOK AT YOUR LIFE! What are your priorities? What does your heart long after? Is your true and real family those who express a HOPE in Christ? Is the assembly of the Church where your hearts longs to be at the time to gather? Is the singing of the doctrine of Christ's grace, love, mercy and gospel truth your heart's joy? If someone asks you to give an account of the HOPE that you profess that is within you, are you ready? Do you know HIM in whom is our HOPE? Or merely know about Him? For the devil and all his demons have that KNOWLEDGE. It's not enough to merely know about HIM, but to be made a New Creature IN HIM and BY HIM.*

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