

# **2018 Christmas Communiqué**

## **THEME RUN AND DON'T LOOK BACK: TIME IS RUNNING OUT! TEXT: LUKE 17:26-33**

And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. Remember Lot's wife. Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.

A Biblical Message from the Founder, Mother M. L. Tate and her successors:

"My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." (Proverbs 4:20-23)

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## **THANKSGIVING LESSON**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2018**

### **GOD'S HOLY ONES: EXERCISING THE POWER OF PRAISE**

When we praise God, we are expressing our admiration to Him; we are lifting Him up in exaltation. Praise is the act of celebrating or boasting about the Lord. Praise can be done through song, poems, or confessing (through our manner of speech, dress, behavior, making a difference in our everyday life choices, etc.) the goodness of God to others. Praise and worship is a way of life, the very heartbeat of our relationship with God.

1. God is to be praised in service. He is to be exalted. We are to offer Him our praise continually. Praise is the fruit of our lips. It is written: "Let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name" (Hebrews 13:15).

2. God inhabits the praises of His people. It is written: "Thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel. Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them" (Psalm 22:3-4).

3. Paul, in exhorting the saints, exercised the power of prayer. It is written: "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" (Philippians 4:4-6).

4. Praise power is the force that gives faith its thrust to believe and to do the impossible. It is written: "Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you" (Matthew 17:20).

5. Just before Jesus attempted to call Lazarus from the dead, He exercised the power of praise. It is written: "Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me" (John 11:41-42).

6. When Jonah had been carried into the midst of the deep sea and the weeds wrapped around him, he exercised the power of praise to God saying, "I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD" (Jonah 2:9).

**CONCLUSION:** It is written: "Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD" (Psalm 150:1-6).

## **CHRISTMAS LESSON**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2018**

### **JESUS CHRIST: THE BRIGHT LIGHT SHINING IN THIS DARK WORLD**

When we think of Christ, we think of Christmas. It is the season of the year celebrated by believers who believe Jesus Christ is the promised seed that will come and deliver mankind from the curse of sin and death. For nearly 4000 years or more, believers look forward to that day when the promised seed of the woman would come and bring peace and goodwill to all mankind.

As we study the life of Christ being the light that shineth in this dark world, the writer is reminded of the prophesy of Isaiah, which reads, "Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound" (Isaiah 30:26). It is also written: "Suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?...And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus" (Acts 9:3-4, 8).

It is written:

1. "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12).
2. "I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth" (Numbers 24:17).
3. "In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not" (John 1:4-5).
4. "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined" (Isaiah 9:2).
5. "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the

world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (John 3:18-19).

6. "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world" (John 9:5).

7. "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness" (John 12:46).

**CONCLUSION:** As Christ said yesterday, He is yet constantly repeating the same message today, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:14-16).

## **WATCH NIGHT LESSON**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2018**

### **GOD'S HOLY PEOPLE: WAITING WITH GREAT EXPECTATION**

Waiting means anticipation, expectation and having confident hope. It is written: "I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope. My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning. Let Israel hope in the LORD: for with the LORD there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption" (Psalm 130:6-7). We may be tempted to put our hope in things that may disappoint. We can hope in a doctor to heal us, a teacher will pass us, our employer will reward us, a friend will help us, etc. But it is only when we put our hope in the Lord that we can wait with great expectation and know we will not be put to shame. Waiting is a blessed word saturated with the hope of glory, as follows:

1. God the Father is patiently waiting for lost souls to accept His redemptive plan and invitation of salvation and reconciliation. Is it not written? "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest...for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Read Matthew 11:28-30).
2. God the Son is waiting for the Bride to be made glorious without spot or wrinkle. Is it not written? "As the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything...That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Read Ephesians 5:24-27).
3. God the Holy Ghost is yet in the world seeking for lost members of the bridal party and waiting to escort the bride to her heavenly home. We believe the Church of the Living God is the waiting or preparing bride of Christ and that when she is sufficiently prepared and made glorious without spot or wrinkle, Christ will catch His bride away to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. To live and reign with Him for a period of a thousand years, and that in this all the dead in Christ will rise at the sounding of the first trumpet (Decree page 32).
4. Those who are asleep in Christ are waiting for the return of the Lord, when He returns to meet the living saints in the air. Is it not written? "For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the

archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words" (I Thessalonians 4:15-18).

5. Creation is waiting with great expectation to be delivered from the ruin of the curse brought upon it because of the fall of Adam. Is it not written? "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it" (Romans 8:22-25).

**CONCLUSION:** The church, the Bride, the Lamb's wife is waiting and looking forward to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, and shall be presented spotless and united with the Lamb, and seated with Him upon the throne. Is it not written? "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (Read Revelation 19:6-9, 21:7-10).

## **FAST DAY ONE**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2019**

### **THINGS THAT TAKE AWAY THE HEART, MIND AND STRENGTH OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

Text: Hosea 4:11, "Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart."

We are taught in the Bible and Decree to let everything be done decent and in order. Everything that God made He set it in order. He ordained all things, which are everlasting and eternal. The will and commandment of the all-wise God serves for the mutual benefit and good of all creation (Decree page 21).

We believe all human beings should know that it is the will of God for all true people to have a rule to walk by. Let us now study "God's Book of Law and Order" and find the things written that will take away the heart, mind and strength of God's People, as follows:

1. "Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine" (Proverbs 23:29).
2. "For their vine is of the vine of Sodom, and of the fields of Gomorrah: their grapes are grapes of gall, their clusters are bitter: Their wine is the poison of dragons, and the cruel venom of asps" (Deuteronomy 32:32-33).
3. "Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations: And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean" (Leviticus 10:9-10).
4. "He (John) shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb" (Luke 1:15).
5. "Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them" (Isaiah 5:11).
6. "Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard: And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent" (Genesis 9:20-21).

**CONCLUSION:** This lesson shows why we are opposed to strong drinks of all kinds that contain alcohol and all other narcotics such as tobacco, snuff,

morphine, opium, and all other necessary habits that may have or will bring you under its influence (Decree page 38).

## **FAST DAY TWO**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2019**

### **GOD'S RIGHTEOUS ONES: SOARING LIKE THE FLYING EAGLE**

Storms confront the life of every believer and non-believer. There will be trials and tribulations, but God's intent is not to put fear in you; His intent is to have you conquer the storm by putting it (like the eagle does) under your feet. In Christ Jesus we have been called to be eagles and to share in His majesty. As people travel through life, they may have been labeled as average by teachers, family members, friends, supervisors, etc. All too often, many respond by simply settling into a mediocre life. But this is not the kind of life God wants for His people and we shouldn't settle for it.

It is time to stretch your wings and soar like the flying eagle. When the storms of life come upon us, we, too, can rise above them. God is calling every believer to rise above the standards of this world. He wants to do great and mighty things through every believer. Is it not written? "Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation" (Exodus 19:4-6).

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME WAYS WE CAN RISE ABOVE MEDIOCRITY TO EXCELLENCE IN CHRIST JESUS:

1. Rely on God's power to take advantage of the opportunities He gives you. Be available for God to use you whenever and however He wants. Ask God to give you confidence. Trust in God even when you don't understand. It is written: "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" (Ephesians 3:20).
2. Think, fast and pray to determine what your priorities should be. Focus on more than just being efficient; strive to be effective. Surrender to God, trust His methods, and accept His timing. Never let go of hope, even when the future looks bleak. Trust God to do great things in your life. Is it not written? "Hope maketh not ashamed, because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us" (Romans 5:5).
3. Strengthen your grip while holding fast to eternity. As we seek to live as good soldiers of Christ in this present world, we will encounter our fair share of trials and tribulations. It is written: "Let us hold fast the profession of our

faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works" (Hebrews 10:23-24).

4. Embrace your uniqueness by accepting God's unconditional love for you. Trust God and remember He is on your side. Use your God-given gifts; find the things you love to do and do it well. Be enthusiastic! Make wise decisions! Be reliable! Don't listen to those who try to convince you to compromise your commitment to excellence in Christ Jesus. Is it not written? "Whether therefore you eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (I Corinthians 10:31).

5. Stand tall beyond measure when tried by fire. In the midst of fiery trials, our Lord is with us and will give His people courage to go through it. It is written: "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you....Prove all things, hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil" (I Thessalonians 5:18, 21-22).

**CONCLUSION:** Remember, it is written: "They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

**FAST DAY THREE**  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2019**  
**WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE SAVED?**

Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall received the gift of the Holy Ghost. Acts 2:38

To be saved is to be delivered from the curse of sin and death, which was passed upon every man, woman, boy and girl born in the world. Is it not written? "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). It means giving up the obsession with our needs, our wants, our pleasures, our comforts, our importance, our egos, and our power.

Being saved through the shed blood of Jesus, the old sinful man that once dwelled within is now dead and freed from sin. Is it not written: "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin" (Romans 6:6-7).

WHAT ARE YOU TO DO NOW THAT YOU ARE SAVED? 1. Avoid worldly places and things. Is it not written? "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (I John 2:16).

2. Expect temptation to return, for ye are yet in the world, but not of it. Remember, Satan never gives up trying to gain your soul. Is it not written: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (I Peter 5:8).

3. Keep in mind that Jesus has prepared you for the journey (through His suffering, death, burial and resurrection). He has forgiven you of your sins, baptized and filled you with the Holy Ghost and fire, sealing you unto the Day of Redemption. Is it not written? "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire" (Matthew 3:11). Is it not also written: "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption" (Ephesians 4:30).

4. Always consider God in all your actions. Is it not written: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

5. Pray and always give thanks unto God for your life, health, strength, salvation, and your daily necessities of life. Is it not written? "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints" (Ephesians 6:18).

**CONCLUSION:** The power of sin, which hung over believers like a dark cloud, has been cut off through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. The burden of sin is gone. Is it not written: "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication and thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:4-7).

**FAST DAY FOUR**  
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 2019**  
**WHAT GOD SAYS IS RELEVANT TO ME**

As we travel this highway of life, we must believe what God says in His Word is relevant to each of us today. Without God, you and I would not be here. And without the Bible, we wouldn't be able to discern which things in life are truly the most relevant.

It is written: "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book" (Revelation 22:18-19).

WHAT DOES GOD SAY, IN HIS WORD THAT IS YET RELEVANT TO HIS PEOPLE TODAY?

1. We are God's workmanship. It is written: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10).
2. We are chosen vessels. It is written: "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love"  
(Ephesians 1:4).
3. We are royalty: It is written: "Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" (I Peter 2:9).
4. We are to bear much fruit. It is written: "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples" (John 15:7-8).
5. We are to be faithful. It is written: "Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (I Corinthians 4:1-2).

6. We are to prove what is good and acceptable unto the Lord. It is written: "Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2).

7. We are to be blameless unto the coming of the Lord. It is written: "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it" (I Thessalonians 5:23-24).

**CONCLUSION:** No matter what trials or tribulations we encounter, we are more than conquerors. It is written: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Romans 8:35-37).

**FAST DAY FIVE**  
**SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 2019**  
**EARTH'S OUTCASTS HEAVEN'S GOLD MINE**

Lesson Text: I Samuel 2:7-8, The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up. He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and he hath set the world upon them.

As we study God's Word, we see God Almighty observing the works of His hands. We see heaven and earth filled with His awesome glory. The LORD is yet saying to His people, "Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled" (Luke 14:23).

From the lesson text, we see God's true love and intention for the poor of this world as follows. It is written:

1. "That thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success" (Read Joshua 1:7-8).
2. "If they obey and serve him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures" (Job 36:11).
3. "And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper" (Read Psalm 1:1-3).
4. "Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually. Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant" (Psalm 35:27).
5. "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32).
6. "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" (Read Mark 11:22-24).

**PRAYER:** We thank thee, O God, that when we were outcasts you raised us out of poverty. O Lord, you have set us among princes in heavenly places as kings and priests, who are ruling with you on the earth. For this we give you all the honor and glory. Amen! Amen! Amen!

## **FAST DAY SIX**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2019**

### **TRUSTING GOD THROUGH THE TRIALS OF LIFE**

James 1:12, Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

1. Trials of life test our faith. It is written: "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy" (I Peter 4:12-13).
2. Trials of life can strengthen our faith. It is written: "For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us" (II Corinthians 1:8-10).
3. Trials of life are sometimes physical. It is written: "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me: Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong" (Read II Corinthians 12:9-10).
4. Trials of life are endurable. It is written: "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 " (I Corinthians 10:13).
5. Trials of life are rewardable. It is written: "Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you" (Read Matthew 5:10-12).
6. Trials of life can increase our faith. It is written: "Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing" (Read James 1:3-4, 12).

7. Trials of life can bring us to a better place. It is written: "Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water: but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place " (Read Psalm 66:10-12).

8. Trials of life are sometimes used to chasten us and to glorify God. It is written: "Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction...Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf" (Read Isaiah 48:10; I Peter 4:12-16).

CONCLUSION: It is written: "He knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold. My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined" (Job 23:10-11).

## **FAST DAY SEVEN**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2019**

**NOW IS THE DAY OF SALVATION: HEAR GOD'S CALL, REPENT, AND BE CONVERTED BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE**

Jeremiah 18:3-6, "I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it. Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel."

God is known to be a God of mercy and grace. He is merciful to even the worst offenders, sinners, and law-breakers. This means that even though He knows of our guilt, He doesn't always issue the punishment deserved. Is it not written: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:23-24).

The LORD is yet pleading, "Come now, and let us reason together...though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isaiah 18:1). Now is the Day of Salvation, why not hear God's call, repent and be converted before it's too late:

1. God judgeth the righteous, and is angry with the wicked every day (Read Psalm 7:11-13).

2. Christ has been calling sinners to repentance for over 2000 years. It is written: "Thou hast forsaken me, saith the LORD, thou art gone backward: therefore will I stretch out my hand against thee, and destroy thee; I am weary with repenting" (Jeremiah 15:6).

3. God's purpose for salvation is swiftly coming to an end. God is saying to backsliders and hypocrites, "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot" (Read Revelation 3:15-16).

4. God will render vengeance to His enemies. It is written: "If I whet my glittering sword, and my hand take hold of judgment; I will render vengeance to mine enemies and will reward them that hate me" (Deuteronomy 32:41).

5. God's destruction cometh as a whirlwind. It is written: "I have called and ye refused: I have stretched out my hand, and no man regard;...you have set at naught all my counsel...and reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. (Read Proverbs 1:24-33).

CONCLUSION: It is written: "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water, Let us hold fast our profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works; 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" (Hebrews 10:22-25).