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NO.220-PR

FOREVER

THE EVERLASTING PRIESTHOOD

"That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us. Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast and which entereth into that within the veil; whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec." (Heb.6: 18-20)

"And inasmuch as not without an oath he was made priest: (For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, 'The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou art a priest **forever** after the order of Mechisedec;)" (Heb.7: 20-21)

The Levitical priesthood was temporal and now it can only serve as a type and shadow of the more excellent priesthood in Christ. The sacrifices of bulls and goats are no longer acceptable to God and a priest has to offer sacrifices. Our great High Priest is our bridge to God the Father. It is through Him that we have access to the Father "No man cometh to the Father but by Me." These are the words of Jesus. He is the door, the way, the truth and the life. His blood is the only acceptable sacrifice for sin and He has been made High Priest forever.

I know that the traditional churches teach that when one dies and leaves this realm there is no more access to Jesus, but then the question arises, "Why is Jesus a priest forever?"

Furthermore, as parts of the Body of Christ we are called to be kings and a priests unto God in that for

ever order. Many are children of the Kingdom. Jesus said to "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." (Matt.19:14) But those who are mature are called to the priesthood.

THOU ART A PRIEST

This is not speaking of little children in the flesh, it is speaking of all who are still immature in the Spirit. At this stage, such cannot be kings and priests although they are part of God's kingdom. To be kings and priests is to be part of the Body of Christ; it is to be as He is. This is the high calling of God in Christ.

"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." (Rev.20: 6) Those who are one with Christ are the priests who will reign with Him for this designated time. It is good to keep in mind that a priest is one who stands as a bridge between man and God, we understand that these have been given the ministry of reconciliation for those who repent and turn to God.

These priests are the ones who sing the new song (new message) and who were once redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. "And they sung a new song, saying, Thous art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God, by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue and people, and nation: And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth." (Rev. 5: 9-10)

John tells us that these have been redeemed from the four corners of the world. They have been gathered unto Christ from among all people and nations. It matters not that they are of different races or nationalities, they have become one in Christ and they are all given this great ministry to reconcile the people to God.

They are filled with praise for the One who redeemed them and ready to impart the same Jesus who saved them to others. We have seen this ministry only in part, but soon it will be in the fullness of Christ and the greater works will take place.

Recently a dear sister in Christ pointed me to this scripture "And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles" (Zech.14: 16)

And the prophet continues by saying that all nations that do not come up to worship the King will be punished in some way. This Jerusalem where the King dwells is the New Jerusalem, His church. Every nation of the earth will come to worship Him where He dwells.

THE EDUCATION OF A PRIEST

Every religion of the world has priests. They are links between the people and their deities. In Christianity there are many orders of priests. To become a priest, one has to be trained. One may go to College and take a course on religion or theology or one may go to seminary but one always has to be trained to learn to lead the people, to administer their services and rites and to advise them on spiritual matters.

The church in darkness has established its own priesthood. It is a mixture of the Old Testament priesthood and New Testament teachings. But priests in the order of Melchizedek, hold the scepter of God's righteousness. This means that their authority issues from what is right with God and not their own determination of right and wrong.

When we become sons we enter into the priest-hood of the Son. We become kings and priests unto our God. As kings and priests we speak the infallible word of the King of kings. Only in Christ can there be such an order. In the Old Testament one was either a king or a priest, but in the Melchisedec priesthood each one holds the word of the King to minister as priests to the people.

A priest after the order of Melchisedec must also learn to administer to the people. One of God's prophets wrote, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me..." (Hos.4:6a) This prophet was speaking to the people for God. These words were from the heart of God.

Just as a priest approaches God with the needs of the people, the prophet brings God's word to the people. Here God is pleading with those who are called to be priests but who are rejecting His word. Our God does not want to reject anyone but He cannot receive one who turns away from His knowledge?

When we were children, we had to learn from our teachers in school, are we not as children in the realm of spirit and is it too much for us to learn knowledge from our God? God says that to be priests unto Him, we need to learn of Him. Jesus gave teachers and sent preachers into the world as well as evangelists, pastors and apostles. Although it is the Holy Spirit that quickens the truth to us, the Lord uses many means to sow the seeds into our minds. We can hear a word of truth and perhaps a month later it comes back to mind in a very real way.

As we mature, the Spirit of revelation will be stirred within and He will quicken many things directly to our hearts as well. In any case, it would be a grave mistake to reject what He brings to us through our brothers and sisters in Christ and sometimes even through those who do not know Him. God teaches us "knowledge" in many ways.

What would cause us to reject knowledge from the Lord? One of the most obvious reason is if we are

in bondage to the doctrines of men. We cannot be opened to God's knowledge if we limit ourselves to the doctrines or teachings of one or of a few persons we esteem highly.

To make our election and calling sure and become priests of God, we must be free to receive His teachings and not be tied to the traditions and ways of men. Some of the steps that we have walked through in God can also bind us later.

This is why the writer to the Hebrews took time to say, "Therefore, leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on to perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permit." (Heb.6:1-3) We need to walk through these steps but we do not need to repeat the principles of these doctrines over and over again. They simply become part of our lives.

In other words, we are established in the truth of the doctrine but we do not make an idol out of it and revolve around that only. We do not need to teach the doctrine of Christ over and over again, we must know that Christ in us is now our life. We must hear Him daily for He is for us fresh daily bread out of the oven

Many who have moved out of their churches have felt the need to re-gather and in doing so have structured themselves with new doctrines. More often than not these have closed themselves from other teachings and have become a sect by themselves around that doctrine. Just as we have Baptists, Lutherans, Methodists and all the rest, we now have added Sons of God, Reconciliation, Eternal damnation and what ever doctrine comes down the pike. Our God is calling us to separate ourselves from these labels and move with Christ daily as He leads.

THE FOOLISH GALATIANS

When I first began to walk this walk I was joined to others of the same mind. Our meetings were wonderful and filled with praise for the Lord. Then God gave me this dream, "I see a beautiful supersonic jet plane way up in the sky. Then I see this jet coming down little by little and I know it is going to land. There is no airport or runway available so it lands on a narrow strip of dirt road. As it taxied down the road I see that it is being changed into a large fuel truck as one that transports gasoline or milk. It continues down this dirt road as a truck and soon the road becomes very muddy. The truck pushes its way through the mud for a while but then it becomes mired in the mud and cannot go any farther." (End of dream)

It was as the dream came to pass that I began to understand it. First the Lord took me to the foolish Galatians, "O foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Receive ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?" (Gal.3: 1-3)

So this is what the Lord was showing me. The beautiful jet flying high was the assembly that I was joined to. It was receiving the word of the Spirit but soon began to bring the word down into the likeness of a truck stuck in the mud. Indeed, that which we begin in the Spirit often ends up into the works of religious flesh.

Who among us has not once made it a law to read so many chapters of the Bible each day and to pray for so many hours? There was a time when I did that and if ever I failed in it, I felt guilty and out of the Spirit. Who among us has not tried to concoct situations to bring about our own "death to self?"

I pray that His Light will shine in our hearts and reveal clearly that it is not by the works of the flesh but by the workings of the Spirit that any of us can be made perfect. It is a work that He alone has begun and that He alone will finish in us. God is able to bring about the right situation a the right time that will work a work of death to the self in us. When we try to produce it ourselves we are bringing flesh on the altar.

DOCTRINES AFTER OUR OWN LUSTS

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their <u>own lusts</u> shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be <u>turned into fables</u>." (II Tim.4: 3-4)

Our own lusts are not only the strong appetites for food, drinks, wealth, fame or sex, more often they are lusts in the realm of "spirit."

Recently, the Lord gave me a dream that I cannot share with you. But I will share the shocking interpretation. It was very clear and very direct and it took a few days for me to get the understanding of it. In a nutshell, God said, "Many of the doctrines that are taught, even among those who are moving in the higher realm of my Spirit, are devised and formulated to excite and thrill the people, but they do not impart life!" Because thrills draw people in by feeding their lusts and the lusts of the leaders, the word of God is often taught to tickle the ears of the hearers. But it does not impart life.

When the young Scottish woman saw a vision of the church being lifted up out of tribulations, the leaders of the time quickly interpreted it as being a physical rapture out of great tribulations. This soothed the fears of the people and they flocked to those who taught this doctrine. While it is true that the saints who are called and sanctified (set apart) are being lifted in the realm of Spirit to be as Jesus when He appears, the doctrine of a physical rapture is much more exciting; **but it does not impart life**.

There are other doctrines that have a foundation in Christ but what is taught is simply to thrill the people and does not give them life. When the fire comes and things go wrong with their health or with their families, they find no life of God in them to give them strength. Wherever God's people search for truth, there are those who embellish the word in order to draw more followers unto themselves.

When we hear a word, it is good to remember that Christ in you is the "discerner." We can tell whether the word witnesses to our spirit or if it is a thrill to the flesh. This is what John was saying when he taught about abiding in the "doctrine of Christ."

"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: for he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds." (II Jn.9-11)

John explains that he was not writing a new commandment but that he was simply stating that which he had heard from the beginning, "And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another." (Vs.5)

John was not applying this commandment to all men, but to those who walked in the doctrine of Christ because as he wrote above, we are not to even bid God speed to those who do not hold to this doctrine. We must guard ourselves from being intimidated by those who project themselves as big ministries in God and learn to trust the Christ within.

John explains, "For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist." (Vs.7) The doctrine of Christ is to know that Jesus Christ dwells in us by the Spirit. This means that the old Adam in us is crucified with Him and that it is no longer I that lives but Christ who lives in me. Any other doctrines may fail us but Christ in us will always give life.

THE LONGSUFFERING OF GOD

We know that except for Jesus the Christ, not one man is good and acceptable in the eyes of God. All have sinned and come short of His glory. To be good and acceptable to God, one has to come through Jesus Christ. But "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (II Pet.3: 9)

God's love does not provide for men to be saved in their Adamic condition; He provides a way to put the old Adam man to death. We once sang, "Just as I am Lord without one plea..." and perhaps this was the need of that day, but that no man shall see God and live is still truth. None of us, as we are can see God, so He has made a way for all to come to Him. It is the way of the cross.

To come to the cross, men must see their need to repent. They must see the wickedness and hopelessness of the old Adam man. The Pharisees thought that they were holy because they descended from Abraham. One may believe that he is beyond a need for repentance because he is born into Christianity and is a law abiding citizen. This is why our God is LONGSUFFERING. This means that He will suffer as long as it takes for all men to see their need for repentance. We ourselves were once in need of God's longsuffering.

We were "dead in sins and He hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, THAT IN THE AGES TO COME HE MIGHT SHEW THE EXCEEDING RICHES OF HIS GRACE IN HIS KINDNESS TOWARD US THROUGH JESUS CHRIST." (Eph.2: 5-7)

God has raised us up from our sins and made us sit together in Christ for the purpose of showing His grace toward us in the ages to come. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.." (Vs.8) Because we have been saved by His grace, we understand the goodness of God and we can have compassion on those who are still in sins through the ages to come. This is how we show forth His grace toward us. This is the calling of His kings and priests.

These are the good works and the greater works that we are callled to do. This is why the next verses remind us that we are His workmanship and we must not forget that in times past we were Gentiles without Christ but that now He has made us His people.

As we said earlier, the calling of a priest is to be a

link between God and men. Jesus has been set forth to be a PROPITIATION through faith in His blood. This means that He is able to offer the acceptable sacrifice so that we are reconciled to God.

A priest is able to offer the sacrifice that reconcile men to God. This sacrifice is forever the blood of Jesus. "To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation." (II Cor.5: 19) As the Body of Christ, this is our eternal ministry as well.

THE WORM THAT WILL NOT DIE

The Lord told Jacob, "Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the Lord, and thy redeemer, the Holy one of Israel." (Isa.41: 14) This worm is not a caterpillar who is able to be changed into a butterfly. Oh! no. This worm speaks of the fleshy, spineless and legless red worm that dwells in the earth.

This worm illustrates man in his carnal state. The mind of the carnal man is one with the mind of the serpent. Paul wrote, "To be carnally minded is death... because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." (Rom.8: 6a, 7) Enmity is a deep seated hatred, it is an hostile force for which there is no remedy.

This is the condition of the carnal mind. It is set against God and always will be. Just as the worm is this soft fleshly repulsive legless and spineless blob that has to crawl on its belly, so the carnal mind has no way to stand or elevate itself above its nature.

Make no mistake, this mind cannot be rehabilitated, it cannot be tamed or trained in anyway to please God. We may admire a beautiful mind and have respect for those who are very intelligent but their minds are still worms. And this worm cannot die, it will torment until it finds the way of the cross and dies. If there is any good coming from a mind, it is part of the "mind of Christ."

The carnal mind is the engine that keeps the Adam

man going deeper and deeper into its cycle of death. This cycle cannot be stopped by any other means safe the cross of Jesus Christ. The carnal mind is the enemy that keeps us in the death realm. It is the worm that will not die. Battle after battle we try to overcome him to some degree but he keeps popping back up with some new ruse.

There is no way out of the cycle of death in the first Adam except through the cross. The cross of Jesus is THE DEATH OF THE FIRST ADAM AND THE COMING INTO THE LIFE OF THE LAST ADAM. As long as we live in the first Adam, we are in an unbreakable cycle of death. This death is overcome by another death. But the death of the cross leads to life eternal.

God told this worm Jacob, "I will help thee!" Through His Son, He has made a way out of the cycle of death. He has sent His Son to slay the worm that would not die. He is the only One who is able to slay the first Adam and by the power of His Holiness He has raised up the Last Adam. Jesus took on the sins of the First Adam and by the Spirit of holiness that was in Him, He raised up the Last Adam. Jesus is the first and the last. The Alpha and the Omega. The beginning and the end of the creation of God.

"Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." (Rev.1: 5-6)

The doctrine of Christ is vital because it is only by Jesus Christ in us that we are changed from glory to glory. Any other teaching does not come close. Paul wrote, "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" (II Cor.13: 5)

The Holy Spirit within is Jesus Christ. He is our new life and His life swallows up the death that is in us. As He increases, we decrease.

WHAT BRINGS ONE TO REPENTANCE?

It is written "Despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" (Rom.2: 4)

God is not slack in His promises, in His goodness and longsuffering, He brings men to repentance and we, as priests of God are called to reconcile them to God. God has chosen His priesthood among those who once needed to repent. How appropriate that we should have tasted of the same goodness that we can offer to others.

A priest cannot approach God for a person who has not first repented. Repentance is a turn around, so one needs to clearly see the corruption of their nature. This brings one to a sincere change of heart and to lay his or her life down at the cross. Only God can open the blind eyes and change the heart.

How does God bring man to repentance? God does not use the tricks of a magician as some seem to think. Just as it was for each of us, God uses tribulations and pressures to bring a man down. When that man or woman's time has come, God turns up the heat. And God has just the right instrument for He is a consuming fire.

Christ is our strength and our refuge in the fire. He does not take us out of the fire, He walks with us through the fire. The Psalmist of Israel penned words that we have learned to know well. He knew that apart from dwelling under the shadow of Almighty, there was no safe place anywhere. "He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler." (Ps.91: 4)

His truth is our shield and buckler. We know that the truth is Jesus Christ. He is the abiding place within each one of us. God is as the sun in our universe, we could not have life on earth without the sun, yet we cannot approach the sun without certain death.

The sun is a perfect type of God who sustains life in the earth but that no man can approach lest he dies. The rays of the sun are both beneficial and deadly. They are beneficial because of the shield that God has placed between it and the earth. This shield is called the "ozone layer."

Because the ozone layer has been getting thinner and thinner over time, the earth is subject to more and more of the damaging rays of the sun. As a result of the thinning shield we are finding weather patterns with more and more extremes. These are life-threatening

When Jesus prophesied of the time of the end of the age, He said that there would be more volcano eruptions and famines, pestilences and earthquakes in divers places. Jesus named disturbed weather patterns as signs of His coming and of the end of the age.

Because of these turbulences life is becoming more difficult. The things that we had learn to depend upon, such as our governments are being shaken and we note that they were not built on the solid rock after all. Even valiant men are losing hope and courage and their hearts are failing. In times like these, some call upon the Lord, but others try to find another escape and there is none.

WHEN THE SUN RISES

All these shakings and disturbances are caused by the rising of the Sun of righteousness. "For behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked: for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts." (Mal.4: 1-3)

This was the last prophecy of the Old Testament. It has yet to be fulfilled. Certainly, when Jesus rose from the dead, He was the Sun of Righteousness, but He was received into the heaven until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the

world began." (Acts 3: 21)

Then God sent the Spirit of Jesus into the disciples and from that time on, the Sun has been hid from view and the work of righteousness has been taking place underground, in the hearts of who are called to be disciples and priests of God.

Now this Sun of righteousness is arising more and more and soon He will be up for the world to see. By the fire of His appearing within, the Lord has been purifying His priests and the old Adam that had been ruling them is now as ashes under their feet, but for others without Christ, the light of this appearing is as the fire of a burning oven.

Our God is a consuming fire. He is as the sun that is the light and life of this earthly man, but without the shield which is Christ, this life-giving fire becomes a burning furnace. The more God in Christ is revealed, the hotter the fire. This is why God is to be feared.

This is why it is written, "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire." (Heb.12: 28-29)

One who has godly fear has wisdom and is safe. It is dangerous to take the fear of God out of our teachings. It is through the fear of God that men come to repentance. This is a tool that God uses to turn men's hearts to Himself.

I know it was fear that brought me to turn around. It was when my mind could not explain to me who I was in this world and I was here. I became afraid and called upon God.

The shield that men have benefited from in this world is thinning out more and more as God is revealing Himself more and more through His sons. What is happening in the natural is a result of what is happening in the Spirit.

God has never made the way easy for His creation and for His people. Be not deceived, the way was not easy for Israel during their forty years' march through the hot and barren wilderness yet they moved on knowing that God had promised them a land. It was not easy for Abraham, yet he could not be held back and when he was tried he offered up Isaac his only son. It was not easy for those who were stoned and mocked and suffered cruel scourging and imprisonments for the word of God, yet they accepted the tortures that they might obtain a better resurrection.

It was not easy for our Lord Jesus Christ when the sins of the world fell upon Him and He died on Calvary's cross. Yet we look for an easy way. The only way into God is by the death of the old man and the putting on of the new. It is the way of the cross and will continue to be throughout the ages to come. God has ordained it to be.

GOD SO LOVES THE WORLD

"God so love the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that WHOSOEVER believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (Jn.3:16) We have heard this verse so many times that whenever we hear it now we feel like we are back in kindergarten. It is true that the Spirit teaches us at every level of our walk and this verse certainly fit when we were just new babes in Christ.

However this same verse is worthy of our thoughts every level of the way. God so loved the world that He has provided a way out of the death cycle for us. He has provided for this worm that torments us and cannot die, to die. It is so simple and yet it is so very difficult. Through the cross of Jesus Christ, this worm, the old Adam nature has to die. And there is no other way. Eternal life is the end of the death cycle.

When Jesus died on the cross and resurrected from the dead, He "spoiled principalities and powers, and made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it." (Col.2:15) The powers that have been holding us in the death cycle are defeated by the cross of Jesus. There is no other way made to man than the way of the cross. This is the wisdom of God.

All the teachings we need are in the Christ in us. He opens them to our understanding as we need them. We do not need to store knowledge and wisdom for they are stored in Christ in us. "In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words." (Col.2: 3-4)

Not only He will bring up the knowledge and wisdom we need each day and in every situation, but He will also ring the bell of our discerner when we hear something that is not right.

From the foundation of the world, our God has made specific plans to redeem His creation. He has been unveiling these plans to those who have ears to hear but the words must be understood by the Spirit. He once spoke to me in this dream, "I was at the airport to catch my plane home. Under one arm, I was holding tightly unto a heavy roll of blueprints. I knew that they were very specific plans and that they could only be read when the plane was at its highest cruising altitude."

In this dream, the Lord was revealing that He was revealing His plans to those who were moving in the highest understanding of the Spirit, (highest altitude). When we are in the Spirit, we have no more contact with that which is earthly. We leave behind all that the reasonings of the carnal mind and the Christ within becomes our reasoning. We have on the mind of Christ. "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." (Phil.2:5)

It is then that we live by the Tree of life and no longer by the Tree of knowledge of good and evil. It is then that He receives all the glory and honor that belongs to Him and the prince of the power of the air is defeated for ever and ever.

Because of His love, Jackie Caporaso