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THE WIRE CHURCH



STAYING IN TOUCH

No.297

OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

ALL THINGS NEW

“And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.” (Rev.21:5)

Indeed, we are entering a new age in God's economy. What our Lord Jesus began as the Alpha is now culminating as the Omega. We, His church, have been translated, that is to say, transported into His kingdom by the Spirit. We do the every day mundane things that are part of our earthly life, but our souls have found a new place of peace, love and life in the Christ within. Heaven has come down to meet and marry the earth and the Bride (the earth) has made herself ready.

Each member of His Body, His church, has been dealt with by the Lord in a very personal way. We each have a new song to sing. *“And they sang as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts and the elders; and no man could learn that song, but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.”* (Rev.14:3)

The song we have is the testimony of how the Lord Himself, by His Spirit, has brought us to know Him and to worship Him, (give Him honor and glory) as we do today. It is a song that we can only learn when the dealings of the Spirit of God have changed our minds and our ways.

It was early in 1960 when I suddenly felt like I was all alone and lost. It was a dreadful and fearful feeling I dare not tell anyone, not even my husband. My mind was beseeched with questions, “who am I in this vast universe? What is my purpose here?” I had no answer, only an alarming feeling of emptiness and nothingness.

At the time, Michael and I had been married three wonderful years. True love flowed between us. We both had good jobs and were doing well. But this desolate feeling within me became troublesome. It was then that I knelt by my bed and prayed to the God who had so often been with me, but whom I had ignored. I knew I needed help.

It was not long after I prayed that I fell from the first rung of a small ladder and cracked a knee cap. I certainly never thought that this was actually the answer to my prayer! Michael was at work and I tried to go to work too, but my leg was swelling and turning blue. I knew my brother-in-law Duke was home so I called him. He came and took me to the ER.

When Michael came home from work, I was sitting on the sofa with my leg propped up, in an open cast. The Lord finally had my attention and He made His move. The next day, a nice neighbor that I had never met before, brought me lunch

and a Bible. For the first time, I read about how the Lord knew every sparrow and how He had clothed the lilies. I was impressed. As time went by, my neighbor was very helpful and we became friends. Later she took me to the Vacation Bible School of her church where I listened attentively to a man teaching in the book of Hebrews.

It was then that I felt a great need to know this Son through whom God Himself was speaking to us. *“(God) Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the world.”* (Heb.1: 2)

At first, I thought the “us” to whom the Son was speaking, were the preachers and those whom He had called to the ministry, but it was not long until I found that indeed, the Lord had been speaking directly to me. I realized that the many dreams that I had from the time I was five years old, the dreams that left a lasting impression on me and that came to pass in my life, were actually the Son speaking to me. The Lord knew us long before we knew Him and He chose a way to communicate with each of His called out ones.

Our God created this amazing universe that we are a part of, yet among the stars, the infinite galaxies and the wonders of the worlds, none were able to fellowship with Him. Our God needed a Son after His likeness and image.

When we think of the Son of God, we first think of Jesus Christ as He walked the earth some two thousand years ago. But what we perhaps miss is that *“In Him dwelleth all the fulness of God bodily, AND YE ARE COMPLETE IN HIM, which is the head of all principality and power.”* (Col.2: 9-10) Jesus as a man was much more than met the eye. In Him was God Himself and all of us were complete in Him too. He was connecting all of God's creation, to God Himself. He was bringing heaven to earth.

“In regard to the dispensation of the fulness of the times, to bring into one the whole in the Christ, both the things in the heavens, and the

things upon the earth-in Him.”(Eph.1:10 Young's literal translation) THE WHOLE of creation is brought into Christ. Not all things are the same, nor have they the same function, but He is heir of all things, living or dead, in heaven and in earth.

THE HIGH PRIEST OF OUR PROFESSION

Jesus, the man who walked the earth, died on the cross but never saw corruption for He had no sin. David by the Spirit writes, *“I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved. Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.”* (Acts 2: 25-27)

In His resurrection, Jesus Christ became the firstborn of a new creation. He is A LIFE GIVING SPIRIT. Jesus as He walked the earth did many mighty miracles, but after He ascended, He returned as the quickening, life-giving Holy Spirit, to give life to those whom the Father had given to Him. This is what He had promised His disciples before leaving.

After resurrection, the Lord ascended to the Father. He had been one with the Father in Spirit, but now the Father received Him as the new spirit, soul and body creation. At that time, a new priesthood is established, with Jesus Christ the High Priest of that order. Christ is the High Priest of those who are partakers of the heavenly calling, His royal priesthood serving in a tabernacle not made with hands.

“Wherefore holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus.” (Heb.3:1) Our profession (confession) is the calling that we have received from Him, and that we acknowledge. He is the High Priest of those who follow Him through death and resurrection to obtain what Paul calls the High calling of God in Christ.

“But Christ being come a high priest of good

things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building.” (Heb.9: 11) And again, “For not into holy places made with hands did the Christ enter- figures of the true- but into the heaven itself, now to be manifested in the presence of God for us.”(Heb.9:24)

Jesus Christ entered the true invisible “holy places” in the realm of spirit, to be received as the new creation, not for Himself only, but for us as well.

The Spirit says, “holy places,” plural, indicating that He is not referring to the Holy Place of the literal tabernacle, but to our “redeemed souls” in types and shadows.

When Jesus was in the flesh, He could not enter these “holy places”. This is why He told His disciples. “it is EXPEDIENT or absolutely necessary that I go away.”

To better understand why the “holy places” are a type of our souls, we need to look back at the Tabernacle that Moses built. For forty arduous years God led Israel through the barren desert of Sinai, by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Then He instructed Moses to build a tabernacle, intrinsically made of tent curtains and slain animal skins and He required that it be built exactly according to the pattern given to him on the Mount.

*“And let them build me a sanctuary; **that I may dwell among them.** According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.” (Ex.25: 8-9)* This was extremely important in many ways. First, it was where God chose to dwell among them. Also it is the pattern of the true tabernacle of God, the building not made with hands- the true dwelling place of God, the new man in His image.

There were three compartments. The Outer Court was not part of the sanctuary, but it is one of the compartments. It was where stood the huge

Altar of Burnt Offerings. The Holy Place and the Holy of Holies were covered and held precious furnishings. Each piece and each of the various coverings were also types and shadows of the tabernacle not made with hands.

Several interpretations of the tabernacle are valid and interesting, but we would miss the very life of the teaching if we did not see it as a type and shadow of our own outer and inner beings. The Psalmist reminds us that our bodies are fearfully and wonderfully designed by God Himself. *“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.” (Ps.139: 14)*

Our Apostle and High Priest has entered by His Spirit into our souls or holy places, to teach us to serve and worship God in Spirit and in truth. Our High Priest is bringing us, His royal priesthood into the high calling that we have received and professed as our own. It is when He brings us to the Altar of Incense, and our sacrifices of thanksgiving and prayers have been purified to become a sweet savor unto our God, that we will enter in to the Holy of Holies and be made one with Him.

“Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted.” (Heb.2: 17-18)

When He was here on earth, Jesus was seen in His “Outer Court” body. He was tempted as we are and fully endured the sufferings of this flesh body. He came as the sacrificial Lamb and was clothed in the “Outer Court” body.

When He told Philip, *“Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me, hath seen the Father...”(Jn.14:9),*

He was revealing His “inner tabernacle.” Jesus was saying that one who had walked with Him as

Philip had, should know Him beyond the outer flesh man. He should know Him beyond His outer tabernacle. And as we have walked with Him by the Spirit, He is also revealing these treasures unto us.

The day came when Jesus explained to His bewildered disciples, *“Nevertheless, I tell you the truth; It is EXPEDIENT for you that I go away; for if I go not away the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.”* (Jn.16: 7) The word “expedient” means advantageous, beneficial and helpful.

Jesus came in His flesh, “outer Court” body, to offer Himself as a sacrifice for sins. It was in the Outer Court that stood the Altar of Brass for the burnt offerings. It was the place where the priests slew the sacrifices to atone for the sins of the people. Jesus could not leave the Outer Court and enter into the Holy Places until the sacrifice of His blood had been offered. Calvary's cross was Jesus' Altar of Burnt Offerings.

When the resurrected Jesus ascended to the Father, He was received as the first of a new creation of God. Jesus was the firstborn of the new creation. This new man had never been seen anywhere before. As there is a seed for everything that has life, Jesus became a new Seed in creation.

Jesus is no longer in the Outer Court, clad in the Seed of Abraham, ready to be offered up as the perfect Lamb of God; He is One with the Father in the Holy of Holies. He is One with the ONLY omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent Father to impart new life to those that the Father gives Him. He is the Seed planted into our ground through the Holy Spirit.

He no longer abides alone; He is bringing forth much fruit after His own image. He has sent us His Holy Spirit, the same Spirit who has overcome the world, the flesh and the devil. By the power of His Spirit within us, He is building His church, His body, His royal priesthood in the earth.

John the Baptist introduced Him as the Lamb of God, but Jesus is now *“Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”* (Isa.9: 6b)

CHRIST ENTERS AS OUR BRIDEGROOM

Christ is the mystery which has been hidden within us but Christ is not meant to remain hidden forever. Paul travail for the church, *“My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until CHRIST BE FORMED IN YOU.”* (Gal.4:19)

Paul also penned, *“For in him (Christ) dwelleth all the fulness of the God bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.”* (Co.2:9-10) And Christ in us is THE HOPE OF GLORY. *“To whom God would make known this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”* (Col.1: 27)

Christ within is indeed all of that. He is fully Christ, but we are the souls and bodies that He is building into His habitation. This is the forming that Paul was talking about. In other words, Christ, who is the “ways and thoughts” of God, is being molded in us and becoming flesh as us. He has been hidden in us, but now the twain are becoming one, so that we may visibly reflect His glory. He is our hope of being changed from earthly mortal beings to the eternal glory of the Son of God.

Perhaps a recent dream will shed some light on this. *“In the dream my bedroom had twin beds. My husband had come home and I saw his keys and some pocket items on one of the beds. I could smell his delightful fragrance, as the perfume of a man's fine cologne, permeating the entire house. I felt love and desire for him rising up within me. I knew he was in the house and I set out to find him. My whole being was filled with the sweet essence of his being.”* End of dream.

I know that this dream is not only for me, for the Lord is dealing with His entire bride company. The Lord Himself has entered our house and His

presence is filling our entire being. Christ has been formed in us, and now His presence is entering and being felt in the depth of our very soul and spirit. We have known Him as our High Priest as He taught us true worship. We have known Him as the Spirit of the Comforter through the hard times and testing, and now He is appearing as our Husband and Bridegroom.

In that dream, there were twin beds, showing that the final consummation was not yet ready, but His fragrance was everywhere. I believe the fragrance denotes that He is coming to take His place as Bridegroom.

This dream came on June 1, 2017 and on Aug.10, 2017 I dreamed this, *“My husband had come home and was in our double bed. I was in the living room busy talking on the phone, when a strong desire to be with him rose within me. I then realized that he was waiting for me. I was very ready.”* End of dream.

“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him; for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife has made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white. For the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints.” (Rev. 19:7-8)

The Lamb's wife has been washed in the pure water of the Word. She is clothed in the fine linen which is the righteousness of the saints (even the righteousness that He has worked in her) and that will appear as her (our) outer garment. This garment is our new body that is the product of the righteousness of Christ in our inner being.

HOPE

“The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, AND THEY THAT DWELL THEREIN.” (Ps.24:1)

It all belongs to Him and He so loves His awesome creation that He gave His only begotten Son to save it. When God's Son fulfilled His part of the new covenant by laying down His life, God

raised Him up and endowed Him with full power in heaven and in earth. All power is in Christ until He has made all His enemies His foot stool. Then He will turn all things over to the Father, that God may be all in all. (I Cor.15:24-28). Knowing this, how can we believe that man has the power to choose his eternal destiny?

Such a belief denies the truth that God has *“finished the works from the foundation of the world. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, 'And God did rest the seventh day for all his works.’”* (Heb.4:3b-4) We are walking out in the earth, what God has finished in the heavenlies.

Man's will gives him the power to choose good or evil for his life here on earth, but man's will does not supercede God's will for His creation. God gave man the authority to choose and decide what to do with his earthly life and this is the extent of the man's will, but man has no authority over His final destiny. This is a false teaching of the church in darkness. Man's will cannot change what God Himself has already ordained.

Think about this, *“For the creature was made subject to vanity, NOT WILLINGLY, but by reason of him who hath **subjected the same in hope**, because the creature (man) also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the sons of God.”*(Rom.8: 20-21)

Man became subject to vanity. The word “vanity” means “excessive pride” but in the verse above, the Greek word carries the meaning of being totally worthless, depraved, empty. It also has a sense of transientness which means “not permanent or lasting only a short time.” This is the condition of man here on earth. But man has not chosen to be like this; it is God who has subjected him and made him that way for a purpose.

However, God does not intend to leave humanity in this state, so to keep man from totally being desperate and desolate, God gave man HOPE. As it is written, ***God has purpose from the beginning, that the creature or creation be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glori-***

ous liberty of the sons of God! Hope is a wonderful gift of God; it is a lifeline.

From the nicest to the vilest, every man has some measure of hope for a better life. The same God who subjected man to nothingness or vanity, also planted hope of a better life within him. It has always been God's WILL to save His creation. *"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 is NOT WILLING. This means that it is not God's will that any man perish. Men cannot come to God without repentance, but God has provided the means to bring them to their knees. It is God who subjected man to vanity, and it is God who gave hope of deliverance to His entire creation.

Man's will is as vanity; it is temporary. God's Will is being accomplished in earth as it is in heaven. This is the prayer that Jesus told us to pray. It means that the Will that God has established in His heavenly plan, will be done the same way in the earth. It is with this hope that we pray, *"Thy kingdom come, THY WILL BE DONE, in earth as it is in heaven."*

God has provided the means for all men to repent, (turn around). However as it is written, *"To every thing there is a season, and a time for every purpose under the heaven."*(Eccl.3:1)Indeed, EVERY THING in its season, nothing will be left out. All of God's Will shall be accomplished in His time and order.

The three things that sustain the world are, FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE. These are three pillars that God gave to His creation to hold on to. Every person in the world has faith in something or someone, and has hope for something as well. Faith and hope keep humanity going. However, only Faith in the true God gives eternal life.

Those who categorically deny the existence of a higher power still have faith and hope that the sun will arise tomorrow. Some call themselves "athe-

ist" but they have faith and hope in themselves. To grow and mature in this world, we have to look for something more. As infants we look forward to walking and as toddlers, we want to grow to be like our older brothers. Then we are hoping to graduate from school and get a job. We are hoping to get married and raise a family and so on, we are always hoping for something ahead because life moves us on.

It is the same in the realm of spirit. We are always looking forward to being more than we are. This is good, yet we must not be driven by our ambitions. Paul says, *"Not that I speak in respect of want, for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content"* (Phil. 4: 11) The Shepherd **leads** the sheep to pasture; it is the butcher that **drives** them to the slaughter.

PAUL'S HOPE

It is clear that in this life, conditions are not always the same. Day by day things change. We may suddenly be thrown out of our comfort zone and have to deal with emotions that we thought we had conquered. Paul had learned to remain "content." Through all his sufferings, he was satisfied and at ease.

But Paul had a greater vision. He was pressing toward that goal, looking to attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Paul was not talking about resurrection like that of Lazarus who died again, and he was not talking about the resurrection unto judgment when John saw that *"..the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead were in them: and they were every man according to their works."* (Rev.20: 13)

Paul was pressing toward the first resurrection from which there is no second death. *"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)

Paul was satisfied or content even in his sufferings because he understood that all these things

were leading him to the mark or the destination that the Lord Jesus had prepared for him. Paul was not afraid to launch out ahead of the rest, and *"..apprehend that for which also he was apprehended of Christ Jesus."* (Phil.3: 12 paraphrase)

Paul's initial experience was very traumatic but Paul did not waste time; he moved quickly. Jesus forcefully threw him off his horse and revealed himself to him by a blinding light. Through it all, Paul was forever changed and as soon as he recovered his wits and his sight, he went up to the desert of Arabia. Paul did not go right away to the apostles that had gone before him. He did not seek their advice at all. Paul went some place where he could be alone and hear from His Lord.

"But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb (Judaism), and called me by his grace, to reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days." (Gal.1: 15-18)

For three years, Paul stayed by himself in the desert of Arabia to be taught of God. And the Lord revealed many new things to him as we know by his teachings and his letters. Paul was chosen of God. This is the way that God deals with those whom He has chosen.

"Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified." (Rom.8: 30) Paul had been through all of these things but as we also know now, he had to walk it all out. He had to fill up his part of the sufferings of Christ. *"Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church."* (Col.1: 24)

When we know this, we understand why God separates us, again and again. We also know that

the "abundant life" message that is so popular among some, has no resemblance to what our Lord is doing in the world. Paul was not conformed to the world or to any doctrine of his day; he strictly followed the calling that Jesus Himself gave to him. *"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."* (Phil.3: 14)

Paul had been a rigorously faithful Pharisee of the Pharisees, but when he received his calling from Jesus Christ Himself, he left it all behind and washed every bit of its teachings out of his mind and heart as though it had all been dung! What a picture that gives us, what an example as we move on in Christ!

"Yea, doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ." (Phil.3: 8)

All things that Paul counted as dung were not only earthly possessions, but also the position of honor that he had enjoyed among men, and the esteem and respect that such power commands. All that he had been taught and that he taught to others, he traded for the knowledge of Christ. And he scraped them off his mind and his heart, like dung from the soles of his shoes.

Although we may feel that what we have learned in the various churches has been somewhat profitable to us, it is most likely that it was the experience that taught us that man's knowledge is based on imagination and not on truth.

EVERY SPOKEN WORD OF GOD MUST BE FULFILLED

When Jesus was born in this world, the angel of the Lord said, *"Now, all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet.."* (Matt.1: 22)

Joseph took his young son to Egypt until the death of Herod, *"..that it might be fulfilled which*

was spoken of the Lord by the prophet..” (Matt.2: 15b) When Herod slew all the children that were under two years old, *“Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet..”* (Matt.2: 17)

When a multitude came from the chief priests and elders, brandishing swords and staves to take hold of Jesus, Judas came near unto Him to betray Him with a kiss. Jesus then said to them, *“I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and ye took me not; but the scripture must be fulfilled.”* (Mk.14:49) When Jesus laid His life down on the cross, He fulfilled the Word that was spoken by the prophets.

The saints that went before us and were slain for the Word of their testimony, are told to wait under the altar *“until their fellow-servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.”* (Rev.6: 11b)

Revelation tells that some *“..shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire, for **God hath put in their hearts to fulfill his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.**”* (Rev.17:17)

And there is the Word to the overcomers, *“And they overcame him (Satan)by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of **their testimony, and they loved not their lives unto the death.**”* (Rev.12:11)

At this time in the world, there are thousands of Christians slain for their faith, daily. And those who are not literally slain, are being shunned and demeaned in some way. Indeed, the cup of Christ's sufferings is still being filled. Everyone who must be killed for their testimony, has to be slain.

We are the overcomers and we have the testimony, the Word of God's plan and purpose for His creation. We have been slain for that Word. We have no place to lay our heads. No or-

ganized group will accept our Word and many of those who have no organization have failed to move on with the Word received years ago. They deny the Truth given to the Son in His body today. We have been laying dead “in the street” of the city as the witnesses that John saw in his vision. The “city” is the religious orders of our day; from their pulpits, they have killed the Word of truth.

But the Spirit declares that after three days, the witnesses will arise. That day is at hand for our souls and spirits are arising from the dead. This is the resurrection that Paul was pressing toward, and it is the Lord's life within us that is bringing the end of the fulfillment of all that God has spoken. Our God has finished His works in the “heavens,” and now it is being finished in the earth.

When we hear Paul say, *“I fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church.”* we know that Paul was talking about fulfilling all that God had already purposed for His people and established in the heavens (realm of His Spirit). And we recognize that this is the calling that we have been walking out as well.

Jesus told His disciples, *“Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized.”* (Mk.10: 39b)

This cup includes not only those who were physically with Him that day, but also Paul and all who came after that, including us. We are His last day church. It is when we drink the last dreg of the cup of His sufferings that God's purpose will be finished and established in earth. This is not the message that the multitudes want to hear, but it is what His close disciple's hearts are desiring to do.

May the Father richly bless us with the true riches of Christ.

Because of His love, *Jackie Caporaso*