

# THE EDIFIER

Volume 25

CHURCH OF GOD 7TH DAY

APRIL 2019

As an advent church we believe the second coming of Christ will be the most spectacular event in history. It will be witnessed by every person alive on earth at that time.

*"...They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. Matthew 24:30b NKJV*

*"Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him..." Revelation 1:7a NKJV*

The scriptures proclaim that the great day of the Lord, will be the beginning of a new age. A golden age expanding a 1000 years, where the saints will be received by their King, into the Kingdom of Christ.

*"And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.....This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years." Revelation 20:4,5b, 6. NKJV*

What a joyful time it will be! The ones who belong to Jesus will be changed from mortal into immortal. Peace and righteousness will cover the earth in a way mankind has never experienced. (Isaiah 2:2-4) NKJV

Jesus Christ as King of Kings will reign with righteousness and power over the whole earth and there will be a time of restoration.

The Apostle Peter understood there would be a time of restoration on earth after Christ's return.

*"and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, 21 whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began." Acts 3:20-21 NKJV*

We who are alive today are not the only people to believe in the Redeemer's return. A man called Job, thousands of years ago, had a great hope that he would see with his own eyes the coming of the Redeemer.



*"For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; 26 And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God, 27 Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within*

*me!" Job 19:25-27 NKJV*

As Job yearned in his heart to see his Redeemer and Lord at his resurrection, do we have that same yearning for Christ's return? Are we prepared in anticipation of the Lord's return? As the scripture says, *"be ready"*.

*"So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." Matthew 24:44 NIV*

*Written by Phil Kordahi*



## KINGDOM ORIENTED

*John Klassek*

**B**eing Kingdom-oriented is recognising the multiple facets of a high and noble calling.

Therefore, to be Christ-centred is to have Jesus lead us into the will and sovereignty of our Heavenly Father. Similarly, being Spirit-formed is to know that *“flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God”* (1 Corinthians 15:50 NKJV). Living a Bible-based life is to embrace the constitutional vision of a greater, sovereign reality as clearly articulated throughout the scriptures. And, being Sabbath-celebrating points to ultimate rest for all who are in Christ. These aspects are part of a greater vision statement, collectively embracing what we could term as being “Kingdom-oriented”. All scripture points us in that singular direction and upward call.

Woven into this Kingdom orientation is the following harrowing account of a dying man. Beaten, bruised and severely tortured beyond endurance, just hours from his last breath, with blurred vision and parched mouth the dying man turned to the one suffering next to him and uttered some of the most profound words we can ever ponder.

*“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”* (Luke 23:42 NKJV)

His plaintive cry for help then signalled the intersecting of earthly suffering and the Kingdom glory of God.

This broken man had reached the end of himself. And, it was at this precise moment that, in

Christ, he was assured of having crossed over from death to life. It took the worst of suffering to bring him to repentance, reconciliation, redemption, rebirth and the ultimate glory of resurrection.

This man is very much like you and me. When we likewise repent, coming to the end of ourselves and in turning to Jesus, at that very moment heaven and earth intersects. What the prophets and sages of old had pondered over, the disciples saw and heard, and in doing so, understood exactly who Jesus was. *“My Lord and my God!”* cried Thomas.

Matthew introduces this heaven-earth connection as noted in Jesus’ ministry.

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”* (Matthew 4:17 NKJV)

Had the criminal heard Jesus’ message? Probably. Had he also heard some or all of the parables where Jesus likened the Kingdom of God to everyday, familiar occurrences such as: a woman who hid leaven in bread dough, a farmer who sowed seed, a merchant finding a pearl of great price, a grain of mustard seed, hidden treasure in a field, and like a fishing net bringing in all kinds of fish.

Then, in Luke’s account, Jesus personalised the Kingdom by writing himself into the narrative.

*A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return.* (Luke 19:12 NKJV)

Everything about Jesus centred on the higher reality of God’s Kingdom. But, with limited, earthly understanding even with all these parables, in anticipation of this Kingdom reality, Jesus’ disciples still asked him the wrong question.

*“Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”* (Acts 1:6 NKJV)

Although they knew and confessed that Jesus was

the Son of God, the promised Messiah, for they'd seen Him heal the sick, forgive sin, raise the dead, and give sight to the blind, throughout which he relentlessly preached the Kingdom of God, they still struggled to fully comprehend Jesus' perspective.

Like Thomas, Peter also confessed, *"You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God!"*

Toward the end of his testimony, John tells us the compelling reason why he wrote:

*"...these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."* (John 20:31 NKJV)

Matthew further noted the transcendent reality of who Jesus is, when Jesus declared that, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." (Matthew 28:18 NKJV)

Likewise, as Jesus' followers today, we also embrace the ultimate hope, power and authority of who Jesus is. Epitomised in His prayer, we also recognise that His Kingdom is defined by His will: "Your kingdom come," Jesus prayed, "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:10 NKJV)

Although the Kingdom fullness of which Jesus spoke of isn't here just yet, for us, the embracing of Kingdom reality now by fully being shaped into image bearers of Jesus Christ is of utmost priority in this life. The risen Jesus must in every way occupy our hearts and minds in this age!

Although still sojourners in this world today, we cherish also being citizens of His Kingdom, lived out in microcosm within our families, local churches and conferences. It's our highest and most noble calling, and is worth more than anything this world can offer. Matthew recalled Jesus' admonition of seeking first "the kingdom of God and His righteousness..." (Matthew 6:33 NKJV).

This urgent and compelling calling speaks into us today, as we await its future fulfillment. In this life

we are called to forsake all and follow Jesus. We must live like Jesus and imitate His Kingdom righteousness. As first-fruits, pioneers, beloved children of God, having experienced redemption, forgiveness and empowerment, as well as being cherished from the "foundation of the world", we await a promised "crown of righteousness".

Just as Christ paved the way for us, our lives in part pioneer the way for a greater harvest of humanity that follows our own journey. Often marked in suffering for Christ as we follow Him, those who are yet to be called to Christ do so also via a route marked by terrible suffering. This was apparent when John saw in vision an innumerable multitude from every nation, culture, language and tribe, having come out of great suffering (tribulation), and where they're pictured singing salvation songs. Redeemed from and through their suffering, just like the crucified criminal, they know who their Jesus is



and where their Paradise exists! They too, just like the crucified criminal, are being drawn to the person of Jesus (John 12:32).

Paul's reflections take us deeper into the exalted Lordship of Jesus.

*Therefore, God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.* (Philippians 2:9-11 NKJV)

That kind of worship and exultation characterises our journey today, and that's the experience of innumerable multitudes in the future, who likewise pray "Thy Kingdom", bowing at the name of Jesus, and are immersed in Kingdom unity and fellowship.

*Continued on page six*



## WHAT GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW

In line with this magazine's purpose to uplift people lives through the word of God, may we hold fast the following assurances of God's great love for us. This is how the Father and Son see us and the words used are not man's interpretation but their words only.

### I Have Acceptance

In Christ I am accepted, for as many as received Him he has given the power to become the sons of God. For all things that he has heard of the Father, he has made known to us (John 15:15) therefore he calls us his friend.

In this we may know that we have been made right, justified by faith, having perfect peace with God (Romans 5:1) being united with him in one spirit (1 Corinthians 6:17), for God himself has assured us that he will dwell in us and walk with us (2 Corinthians 6:16). Not only that but the Father will love us and make His abode in us (John 14:23).

I have been bought with a price and I belong to God (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Adopted by God as one of His children (John 1:12; Ephesians 1:5), I have direct access to Him at any time through the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:18), and as many that are led by the

spirit of God it is they who are the sons of God (Romans 8:14).

I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins (Colossians 1:14) and have now been made a saint (Ephesian 1:1) and a member of Christ's own body (1 Corinthians 12:27). In accepting my calling I have been made complete (Colossians 2:10).

### I Am Secure

My acceptance in Christ is great gain to me because it also guarantees me great security. Not one-off security, but security for all time, both in this world and in the future kingdom (2 Corinthians 6:16; Revelation 21:3). I am forever free from condemnation for the spirit of life has set me free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8: 1-2). No one, not even the accuser who attacked Job can bring any condemning charges against me (Romans 8:31-34), for I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me (1 John 5:18).

### *Will not the judge of all the earth do right*

I am assured that in whatever befalls me all things work together for good for those who love God (Romans 8:28). Will not the judge of all the earth do right? Yes! (Genesis 18:25), It is Christ

Himself who stands before God to make intercession for us (Romans 8:34). I am assured that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:35-39).

My security is in knowing that I am known by God (I know my sheep?) and that my name is written in the book of life. I am a citizen of heaven (Philippians 3:20) who can always find grace and mercy when needed (Hebrews 4:16).

Since I have not been given a spirit of fear, but one of power, love and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7) I can be confident that the good work that God has begun in me will be perfected (Philippians 1:6), hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3). For I have been established, anointed, and sealed by God (2 Corinthians 1:21-22) and that is my great security.

### I Am Significant

Who I am in Christ, and my freedom in Christ, is due to my significance to Christ. He considers me to be the salt and light of the earth (Matt 5:13-14), a branch of the true vine (John 15:1,5) that has been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16). My life prior to knowing Christ and my conversion makes me a personal witness of Christ's power and authority (Acts 1:8).

### *Continued from page four*

I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Corinthians 5:17-20), being God's own temple (1 Corinthians 3:16) for the indwelling of his Holy Spirit, given to me as a deposit and guarantee of my eternal life and salvation. (2 Corinthians 1:22). Therefore what can man do to me? I am a product of God's own workmanship, ordained as God's own co-worker (1 Corinthians 3:9) and created in Christ Jesus to do good works (Ephesians 2:10).

Since I am now seated with Christ in the heavenly realm (Ephesians 2:6) I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Ephesians 3:12) for through His great power I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13).

I am more than a conqueror (Romans 8:37) for I am born of God (1 John 5:18), beloved of God (1 Thessalonians 1:4) and am Christ's own ambassador (2 Corinthians 5:20). As the apple of my Father's eye (Psalm 17:8) I am loved with an everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:3) in which I have been given everlasting life (John 6:47).

I know God's voice so I do not stray (John 10:14). In thanksgiving I show forth his praise (1 Pet 2:9) for the abundant life I have been given (John 10:10) where all my needs have been met by God (Phil 4:19).

*Continued on page six*

## Super Sabbath

**Held in Adelaide on the 1st and 2nd of March, 2019**

We were very blessed with a wonderful attendance at the Super Sabbath with brethren from Adelaide, Perth and Sydney, which also included Pastor Hector Renderos and his wife Imelda, from Canada.



The sermons carried the theme of "Bible Based" and "Distinct, yet inclusive", which is part of the 10 Point Mission and Vision plan, which hopefully defines today's church.

A special part of the Sabbath worship service was the ordination of Elder John Klassek to the position of pastor.



It was so gratifying to see so many of the brethren contributing in the two services and the concert, with song and praise to our God and His Son!



***Looking forward to the next!***

***Continued from page three***

Leaving behind our former lives, this Kingdom reality manifests as covenant relationship with Jesus, now and forever. Jesus assured his disciples that:

*At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you... If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. (John 14:20,23 NKJV)*

Jesus is eager for this. He's knocking. He's calling. He's at the door, waiting, now.

*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. (Revelation 3:20 NKJV)*



The highest aspiration we might ever experience is to eat at the King's table, under whom all authority in heaven and earth has been bequeathed.

In this age, however, the fallen and evil powers still at sway would like more than anything to distract, interrupt, deceive and tempt us away from our Christ – to cheat us from this Kingdom orientation. Thus, the scriptures call us to run the race, to fight the battle, to endure in the love, covenant, obedience, faith and victory of Jesus, King of kings, and LORD of Lords. Never take our eyes from the prize. Never let the suffering for Christ in this life produce anything other than joy. Never allow the weariness of the “narrow way” to hinder our progress. And, may we never allow self-righteousness and self-determination blind us from His righteousness and will. In other words, let nothing steal the prize of the hope of glory.

The crucified criminal beside Jesus knew and valued the promise of Kingdom paradise. Jesus, the “bread of life”, was his only hope. And, at the height of his suffering, he found redemption. He had come to the end of himself. Likewise, we too must come to the end of ourselves. Because, as assuredly that Jesus will remember that repentant man, he will also remember us. Just as Jesus called Lazarus by name from the grave, so too He will call our names at that last day. Jesus will remember. We must not forget.

And, just like that criminal who was led to Jesus through suffering, we too are called to “pick up our cross” and follow Jesus, facing that same jeering crowd. There is one great consolation, however, that in suffering for the name of Jesus, while our eyes are on Him, we too have crossed over from death to life, from ridiculous to righteousness, from rottenness to resurrection, towards a Kingdom glory prepared for us from the foundation of the world (2 Timothy 4:8)

In this Kingdom-orientation, we may then ask: Have we also come to the end of ourselves? Is the weight of our burden too heavy to bear? Turn to Jesus. Re-orient our lives towards the reality of His Kingdom. It's not too late. It is our only hope.

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**Continued from page five****WHAT GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW**

I am one in Christ (John 17:21-23) having the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16). Because I am judged holy and without blame before him (Ephesians 1:4), I do not fear death or God's judgement. I am a new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17) alive with Christ (Ephesians 2:5), even being qualified to share in His inheritance (Colossians 1:12).

Even so, come Lord Jesus (Revelation 22:20).

***Written by Richard Todd***

Answers to Bible Quiz  
1. Locusts 2. Benjamin 3. On the Mount  
4. The Parables 5. Love

# Youth Vibe



## Curving Your Anger

It doesn't matter how young or old we are when it comes to anger and loss of temper, we all face it from time to time. Should we vent our feelings to "get it out of our system" or should we learn to control our temper through the guidance of God's Word and be overcomers through God's Holy Spirit? *"Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit, for anger resides in the lap of fools."* [Ecclesiastes 7:9 NIV](#)

How does God relate to anger?

*The LORD is compassionate and ....., slow to anger, abounding in .....* [Psalm 103:8 NIV](#)

Get over anger quickly.

*"In your anger do not ....."*: Do not let the ..... go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold. [Ephesians 4:26-27 NIV](#)

How does love relate to anger?

*It is not ....., it is not self-seeking, it is not easily ....., it keeps no record of wrongs.* [1 Corinthians 13:5 NIV](#)

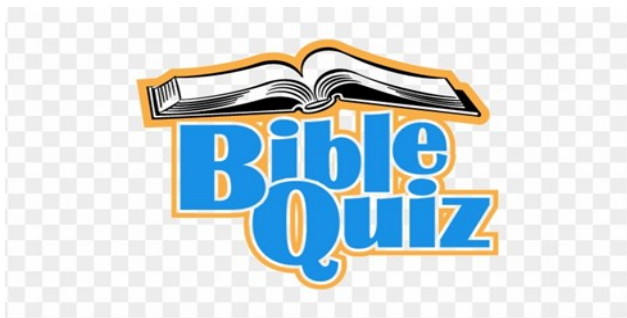
Anger produces strife.

*For as churning the milk produces butter, and as twisting the nose produces blood, so ..... up anger produces ....."* [Proverb 30:33 NIV](#)

Please try to fill in the blanks of these bible verses with the words below. Then confirm them in the Bible.

strife - gracious - sin - rude - sun - angered - love - stirring





## SECOND EDITION

1. What type of insect did John the Baptist eat in the desert?

.....

2. What tribe is Paul from?

.....

3. According to the Gospel of Matthew, where does Jesus's first public sermon take place?

.....

4. According to the Gospels, what is the unique literary genre Jesus employs to preach his message?

.....

5. What does Paul say may "abound more and more in knowledge and in all judgment?"

.....



The second edition of "IMC News", is out now sharing news of the International Ministerial Congress of the Church of God (Seventh Day) around the world. In it you'll find not only items of news, but also feature interviews, articles and helpful information.

English and Spanish translations can be downloaded in high resolution (printable) and low resolution versions, or just read it on-line.

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Produced and Distributed by CHURCH OF GOD 7TH DAY (Australia)

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