

DISTORTION OF THE TRUTH

AFTER THE EXIT OF THE EARLY APOSTLES

Apostle Remy Uwaeme

May I borrow the statement made by Paul an apostle of our Lord Jesus Christ to his kinsmen, the Israelites, as he confessed about their zeal that was completely against god's plan in his son Jesus Christ even though they were satisfied of worshiping God. He said thus;

“Brethren my heart desire and prayers to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God but not according to knowledge. For they being IGNORANT of God's righteousness and going about to ESTABLISH their own righteousness, have not SUBMITTED themselves unto the righteousness of God”. (Rom. 10:1-3)

My heart bleeds with pains seeing how the world has been blindfolded and led into those paths that are full of imperfection and ungodly belief. We weep everyday as the day of our Lord draws nearer while people refuse to seek and ask what truth is. They continue sliding downward daily into the ignorance of the truth with every zeal as they remain committed to continue worshiping God with man's introduced doctrine that made nonsense of the doctrine of our Lord Jesus Christ which he handed in confidence to his TRUSTED apostles. (Jude 3). My heart continues bleeding as I perceive daily the level of ignorance being exhibited from people in their struggle towards inheriting the kingdom of God. How could people feign ignorance of the fact that our Lord said that it is only the truth that sets one free, and that truth refers to those teachings from our master Jesus, recorded by His early apostles and made known to us. Rather than obey the truth, they derive satisfaction in their claim of worshiping God while they entangle themselves with man's doctrines. We know that our Lord with a loud voice said to the Jews thus; “Whoever believes in me as the scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him”. (John 7:37-38)

What I am trying to emphasise here is that if you are flying on the high expectation of worshiping God but arm yourself with man's invented teachings you will be highly disappointed on that day of our Lord Jesus as heavenly reward knows no compromise.

My dear readers, I beg of you, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to be like the people of Berea who always go to the scripture to compare and contrast what ever they were taught (Acts 17:10-11). The problem the world has today is two dimensional; not having the courage and ability to ask questions concerning whatever they are taught in the name of God. The second is, being far from realizing the fact that the world will be judged by the doctrine of Jesus Christ only, having been made manifest from the foundation of the early apostles.

Having said this, let us go to some of those doctrines manufactured by man that have consumed the world and put those who hold it into vain worship.

1. We are astonished to hear and read about the age-long claim that 'Roman Catholic Church was founded by Apostle Peter and Paul in Rome and that they appointed Linus as bishop to see that the church maintained the apostolic tradition. And that the blessed apostles then, having founded and built up the church committed into the hands of Linus the office of the Episcopate'. The claim further said; 'that the apostles left bishops as their successors that gave them their own position of teaching the apostolic teaching in a special way in a continuous line of succession until the end of time'

2. The issue of PRIESTLY CELIBACY:

In continuation of the claim, we were told that the early catholic popes, bishops and priests were allowed to marry if they wanted to, before the policy of celibacy was introduced. The reasons as claimed were moral decadence and other problems relating to the behavior of some married clergymen, their wives and children, including the husbands and offsprings of FEMALE CLERGY. So because of these behaviors the Catholic Church INTRODUCED CELIBACY, stopping the popes and priests under them from marrying. And that what they did has endorsement in the statement Jesus made in Matthew 19:12 where he said: "For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb; and there are some eunuchs which were made eunuchs of men and there are eunuchs which made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it". And Paul in the book of 1Cor. 7:1, 7.; said, "for I would that all men were even as I myself, but every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner and another after that". Finally, that celibacy was adopted in the year 1074.

This is a brief copied defense from the writer of "why catholic adopted celibacy to their entire priests". However, all these claims and reasons are completely against the biblical truth.

However, we base our stand in contrast to all these claims on the scripture and on the apostolic teachings and foundation. First, our master and saviour Jesus Christ, our forerunner was able to fulfill his ministry on earth based on his total obedience to his father's command and instructions.

Notwithstanding all the confrontations Jesus encountered, he didn't compromise or subtract from all what his father handed over to him. Jesus confessed thus;

"I have many things to say and to judge of you, but he that sent me is true, and I speak to the world, those things which I have heard of Him" (John 8:26).

Therefore, if Jesus Christ being Lord could not use his position as the Son of God to add or amend some commandments given to him by his father, how do you think that we his followers will escape judgment if out of our personal or collective reasons change or add to his laid down commandment to us? How can one's inability to maintain that holiness as a child of God, more so, as a minister, bring about

complete disobedience to the word of truth? The scripture warns us that the foundation has been laid and no other foundation can be laid except that which has been laid (1Cor. 3:10-11). in this case, let us see to the foundation laid in selecting or appointing and ordaining a bishop.

“This is a true saying, if a man desires the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach. Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre, but patient, not a brawler, not covetous. One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity. (1Tim 3:1-4).

This is the authentic foundation given to the church of Christ and it is not subject to compromise at all, no matter any circumstance. For God does not need your help to amend or delete some aspects of His commandment or rules. As the scripture testifies; when Paul was addressing men of Athens, informing them and at the same time persuading them to believe that God had designed and put in place all the methods of worshiping Him he said; And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything,..... (Acts 17:25).

Now if the scripture stands and is believed to be the only source of judgment to the world; then think about the judgment that will be meted to those who disregarded Christ’s commandment with impunity (Heb 2:2-3).

The scripture is absolutely clear about bishops and their rules, but you find out that Catholic church turned their back and abandoned the commandment completely and imposed their own commandment of celibacy to priests and at the same time claim to be the church which was established at Jerusalem which has her foundation rooted on the apostolic teachings. Their base of Matthew 19:12 and Paul's statement in 1Cor. 7:1-7 do not hold water at all. It is a base laid on the surface of the sand which has no root. Furthermore; if at all it is true that apostles Peter and Paul founded the church at Rome and handed over to Linus as Bishop, then we ask why did Linus’ successors abandon the sacred commandment and turned to man's commandment of celibacy; teaching that Bishops must not marry and have their children as to know how to rule over them? For we believe that those books especially that parchment purported to have been handed over to Linus contained boldly 1Tim 3:1-4, (2Tim 4:13). However we are not surprised about this dogmatic rule or commandment of man as the scripture had before this time drummed it to our ears that after the exit of the early apostles the world will be led into accepting false teachings and doctrines of demons. Ponder and consider this;

“now the spirit speaketh expressly that in the later times (perhaps from Linus) some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. Speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their conscience seared with a hot iron; FORBIDDING TO MARRY;..... (1Tim 4:1-3).

Actually when one finds himself accepting these doctrines of devils, he is being locked up with a conscience that is seared with iron. Hence even if you shout and prove the truth beyond all reasonable doubt yet it cannot move him or make him to ponder even for a second for consideration. However we have our consolation from the fact that our Lord Jesus Christ made no mistake in his statement, as he said it clearly; "He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me, and he that loveth me shall be loved of my father and I will love him and will manifest myself to him.

Again, "Jesus answered and said unto him, if a man love me, he will keep my words and my father will love him and we will come unto him and make our abode with him" " HE THAT LOVETH ME NOT KEEPETH NOT MY SAYINGS.....". (John 14:21, 23-24).

In Paul's conclusion in his letter to the church at Galatia he said "peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon Israel of God". (Gala 6:16). No matter how many years falsehood was established and continued to exist, it cannot make it to become truth or acceptable to God. As people always make this common statement in defense of their adopted belief that; "People should be allowed to worship their God according to their beliefs and what they understand from the bible and stop condemning one another in their belief". Therefore, if their understanding and mindset is worthy and acceptable to God, it therefore means that there will be no judgment at all. Since almost all the denominations today have their bible schools that teach them and have adopted their own doctrines based on their consensus belief. However, we know that there is only one doctrine and Truth that the world will be judged with - the DOCTRINE OF JESUS CHRIST. Thus apostle John said; "whosoever transgress and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ hath not God..... (2John 9-10).

3. PURGATORY:

FALSE TEACHING AND FALSE HOPE!!

MAN'S invented teachings that help those who accept them to continue in sin, believing that whatever they do in this life will be corrected and forgiven them after death. Purgatory, according to the owner of the teaching, means 'a place or state in which the souls of their dead members stay and suffer for the bad things they did when they were alive, so that they can become pure enough to go to heaven; a middle place between heaven and hell'. We say again, this teaching and belief is complete FALLACY. It is not in line with the doctrine of Jesus Christ; neither can you trace it to the early apostles, those who wrote down to us what they heard and received from our Lord Jesus Christ. If there is any opportunity for the dead to receive mercy after he might have suffered for his sins, Jesus couldn't have told us the story of Lazarus and the rich man. Our Lord Jesus told us that the rich man when he died and found himself in hell, exhibited signs of repentance that made him to cry bitterly for help from Abraham. And we were told that even though he cried and pleaded for help, he didn't receive any and besides, Jesus revealed to us that there is a very great gulf between hell and Abraham's bosom (not purgatory). So if there is a place of suffering and mercy called purgatory, the rich man would have found himself there and would have waited for the period of his suffering and mercy. He would not have bothered himself crying for mercy, which he never got.

There is therefore nowhere you can find anything to support such teaching starting from the book of Genesis to the book of Revelation. However what the book of Hebrew told us is this; “And as it is appointed unto man once to die and after this the judgment” (Lk16: 19-31, Heb 9:27).

These imaginations of man have kept the faith of many in darkness. These philosophers/learned men of this world have made nonsense of the word of God by their wisdom. They use their wisdom to teach disobedience to the word of truth preached by our Lord Jesus. God Almighty through His spirit in His prophets of the old; Jeremiah and Isaiah lamented about this wisdom. Jeremiah said; “How can you say, we are wise and the law of the Lord is with us? But behold the false pen of the scribes has made it into a lie. The wise men shall be put to shame, they shall be dismayed and taken; lo they have rejected the word of the Lord and what wisdom is in them?” Jerem. 8:8-9.

And Apostle Paul wrote to brethren at Corinth, that many have corrupted the word of God even of the new covenant scriptures. (2Cor. 2:17). This is absolutely true, that Seminary and Theological wisdom have corrupted the word of God up to the level that the world can no longer differentiate between which is the doctrine of Christ and that of man. In furtherance to the teaching of Purgatory; in the book of revelation, we are made to understand that all the dead will be judged according to their works on earth and any work that fails the righteous test will be thrown into the hell fire, for every man's deed on earth are being recorded in a book whether good or bad. And it is from these recorded works that judgment will be passed on the judgment day. Therefore there is no purgatory period.

4. This takes us to the practice of PRAYING FOR THE DEAD!!

It is amazing to see those who preach that you run away from sinful acts and prepare for heaven while alive; turn back again to teach that praying for the dead body has an effect to his soul to gain forgiveness of his evil deeds and mercy from God. However, the perfect truth is that no amount of prayer can change one's position once he is dead.

Let me remind you once again in the book of Hebrew, it says; “and it is appointed unto man once to die but after this the judgment” (Heb 9:27).

Therefore if the scripture says immediately one dies judgment follows, then is there any place in the word of God that indicates that prayers of the living can turn judgment in favour of a dead sinner? There is no such place in the word of God, hence Paul wrote to the Corinthian church that they should not be deceived by such belief that the soul that sinned has no opportunity to be forgiven of his sins in the grave.

“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither the immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers nor sexual perverts, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor robbers will inherit the kingdom of God” (1Cor. 6: 9-10).

So how can prayers save that soul who was an adulterer or fornicator when he was alive? Peter the apostle of our Lord Jesus warned us to avoid being led astray by the error of those who misinterpret both the old and the new covenant scriptures to their own destruction. (2Peter 3: 16-17). But we are disappointed that in spite of all these warnings from the scripture, yet the world, because of not building their faith on the apostles teachings, allow themselves to be completely led astray. (Acts 2: 42).

Therefore we are confidently saying that the belief that there is a place called PURGATORY (as they said, a place in between heaven and hell, a place where a person who died with sins will be kept to suffer for his evil deeds before qualifying to sail through to heaven) is a complete fallacy and doctrine of man . As we keep repeating, those who rest their faith on such teachings will be disappointed on the last day. Also praying for the dead whether in the church hall or by the graveside is idol worship. It is clear that at no time did Moses and the prophets teach the Jews such doctrine. These teachings cannot be traced at any time to the living God or to Jesus Christ, showing that the doctrine came from Satan through his agents. Thus, a strange spirit has introduced a strange doctrine that opposes the very truth that has been confirmed and sealed by the living God. These corrupt teachings therefore has hindered those that are holding it not to know what was written in the scriptures, thereby causing them to miss the ONLY way to God.

However, it is of a truth that God the father cannot bear with them that hold contrary and corrupt doctrines. And only they who obey him continuously He gives His spirit. (Acts 5:32). The spirit that guides one into all the truth that the one might have the light of life to walk in the pathway of life and enter in through the only way.

The reason why God cannot continue to bear with them is that with these corrupt teachings;

1. They make the word of God of none effect.
2. They leave the things commanded by God.
3. As a result they reject the commandment of God.

But bear this in mind, that God by oath, sealed all his words that as He thought and purposed shall things stand and come to pass and it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for his words not to fulfill all His promises. (Math. 15:6; 23:16-26, Mark 7: 8-9,13. Mark13: 31).

5. THE LORD'S SUPPER:

This word 'SUPPER' is meant to be practiced to its meaning; a food served in the evening or night. But some people have interpreted it to be breakfast, while others gave the meaning to be lunch, afternoon meal.

What we are trying to point out here is that, those who handle the word of God abuse it with all impunity. They disregard the instructions giving from God at will, not minding the consequences. As we continue pointing to this very portion of the scripture which warn those who handle the word of God thus; “Do not add to His words or He will rebuke you and prove you a liar” (Prov. 30:6).

In the beginning, the Lord's Supper was first known as Passover and the Israelites received a commandment to be taking it at night. It was a law that the Israelites must keep. Let us go to the book of Exodus to see the commandment given on it “That same NIGHT they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire..... in the first month you are to eat bread made without yeast, from the EVENING of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty first day”. (Ex. 12: 8; 18). God the father through his servant Moses made the Israelite know that it is a must that they observe the commandment. He said as stipulated; “You must not sacrifice the Passover in any town the Lord your God gives you, except in the place He will choose as a dwelling for His name. There you MUST sacrifice the Passover in the EVENING when the sun goes down on the anniversary of your departure from Egypt” Deut. 16:5-6.

This is the commandment and how it was done in the old covenant.

APOLSTLE REMY UWAEME

GOD HAS CALLED US BELIEVERS TO BLESS AND NOT TO CURSE.

“..... bless and do not curse”. (Rom. 12:14)

APOSTLE MARCEL OKEKE AKUEKWE

Christianity today tends to be a mere label. It apparently does not go beyond this in the thinking and living of so many. How can one presume to take on the name of Jesus Christ, yet fail to take on his characteristics.

This is true to the instructions given to Christians (believers in Jesus Christ) in Rom. 12:4 to bless and not curse. Right from the old, God has never subscribed to people cursing one another, especially among his chosen ones. Anybody who curses another is regarded as not having the fear of God in him and so disobeys God. (Rom. 3:13-18). Again it is not the design of God for people He created in His image to use the same mouth with which they bless Him to curse their fellow man. (James 3:9-12).

Therefore, a child of God is not expected to curse, but to bless. Compare Lk. 6:27-28, Mtth. 5:21-22, 43-45.

Tracing this issue from the old, one would recall the attempt of a renowned prophet of old, Balam; who was persuaded against his understanding of God to pronounce a curse against God's own people. When Balak, king of Moab saw the strength of Israel as they approached their land on their journey to the Promised Land, with stories told of how they destroyed mighty nations, he could not wait to experience this disaster, but beckoned on Balam to come down and help him curse the children of Israel. The impossibility of this great task rendered several approaches of Balak, with enticements unsuccessful. The end result therefore was that while Balam cursed, blessing was manifested on the children of Israel. Numb. 22: 1-41, 23: 1-14. Mark the big lesson of this great venture in 23:20 "Behold I have received a command to bless, He has blessed, and I cannot reverse it". (FULL STOP).

If therefore it is so, that a true child of God should not curse, but bless, then what is the end of those who still practice these things against the will of God? The bible says that there is no hope for murderers in the kingdom of God. 1John 3:15.

We know that filthy words and cursing are products of hatred, and one who hates his brother is a murderer. 1John 3: 15. You can then see the danger or implication of wanting to curse another. Again we equally know that it is as a result of anger that one curses another and we know that the anger of man does not work out the righteousness of God.

It was as a result of anger that Noah, the righteous one of God, cursed his son Ham, father of Canaan for exposing his nakedness after the great deluge, Gen. 9:20-27. This curse has remained unchanged to date. The lesson hereto is that the words of the righteous are forceful and therefore should not be used negatively to curse but to bless. When one has entered a covenant with God to live for Him, his words are right and forceful – to be used to build and not to destroy. This was demonstrated by our Lord Jesus Christ in the city of Bethany, when he cursed a fig tree that bore no fruit. Reacting to their amazement, he assured them that they can equally do the same thing he has done to the fig tree, as believers. Matt. 21:17-22. However, a disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher, Luke 6:40. Jesus did not curse any body but a fruitless tree. Why then should a believer curse a fellow being who God has created in His image? See 1 Pet. 3:9-12.

"Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing; but contrariwise blessing; knowing that you are thereunto called that you should inherit a blessing. For he that will love life and see good days let him refrain his tongue from evil and his lips that they speak no guile. Let him eschew evil and do good; let him seek peace and ensue it. For the eyes of the lord are over the righteous and His ears are open unto their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil"

CHANTING OF HOLY GHOST FIRE:

It is amazing to hear what the so called believers today do in the name of Jesus Christ. They go as far as wanting to call down fire from heaven to consume those who agree not with them. When you ask them why, they will always refer to prophet Elijah and the prophets of Baal and conclude that the bible says "suffer not the witch to live". On the other hand, Elijah asked that fire come down from heaven and consume the captain and one hundred soldiers sent to him from Ahaziah – king of Israel and it was so. (2 Kings 1: 10-12). All these happened that the name of the Lord God may be proclaimed among the nations. The bible tells us that God spoke and worked at various times through the prophets, but has these last days spoken to us through His Son.....(Heb. 1:1-2). Therefore we are expected to hear God in Jesus Christ, Matt. 17:5, and Deut. 18: 18-19. Having tried an earlier covenant with men through the angels and prophets – intermediaries, and seen that it did not work out for the salvation of mankind, God decided to reconcile fallen man to himself in His Son Jesus Christ who we are instructed to listen to, "Looking unto Jesus.....", Heb.12:2.

Now when Jesus was confronted, withstood by some ingrates in Samaria, his disciples, James and John unhappy with the situation, demanded that they should command fire to come down from heaven and consume these enemies of the gospel, just as Elijah did. But Jesus rebuked them warning that it is not the manner of the Holy Spirit they received, for the son of man did not come to destroy men's life but to save them." Luke 9: 51-56. If Jesus – the author and finisher of the Christian faith warned against cursing people, how come that even the so called powerful men of God, demon destroyers, deliverance masters etc, do not know these things. "Their throats are an open tombs, with their tongue they have practiced deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips, whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness...." Rom. 2: 13-14.

This is why Apostle James, in his letter to the saints scattered in many nations, said; "with the tongue we praise our Lord and father and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be so.....", James 3:9-11.

Therefore, it is ignorance of the truth that leads to disobedience of the word of God in Christ Jesus. "And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you FREE" John 8:32; Freedom from the rudiments of the world, from man's teachings, from doctrines of the devil and theological wisdom.

But, WHAT IS TRUTH? Jn. 18:38.

MARCEL OKEKE AKUEKWE (APOSTLE)

DIVORCE?

DOES GOD PERMIT A MAN TO SEND HIS SECOND WIFE AWAY AFTER REPENTANCE?

Apostle Nnamdi Alozie

I give the heavenly father the glory for giving us life and good health with which we reach you again in Jesus name. we appreciate your response in our teachings we still pray that our father and God will continue to give you sound wisdom and understanding to know more of these teachings and to keep them for your salvation in Jesus name, amen.

As you know us as people that God has been using to explain accurately the mystery of the truth, it pleases us to answer a question from one of our listeners. This person wants to know the truth, for he knows that any teaching that goes contrary to the teachings of Christ is false and satanic and therefore brings judgment. Check Matth. 15:12-13.

The question is: DOES GOD PERMIT SENDING AWAY OF MAN’S SECOND WIFE AFTER REPENTANCE?

Let me start by saying that, God from the beginning did not permit any addition or subtraction in his word. In Deut. 4:2; He says: “Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the lord your God which I command you” (KJV)

In another place it says thus; “What things so ever I command you observe to do it: thou shall not add thereto, nor diminish from it. (Deut. 12:32) (KJV). When He chose Joshua to lead the Israelites to the promised land, He reminded him thus' “Be strong and of good courage, for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law which Moses my servant commanded thee. Turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper withersoever thou goest. Joshua 1:6-7 (kjb).

We also saw that Moses did not enter into the Promised Land because of this mistake, for he was told to command the rock but he struck the rock. Nub. 20:7-13. Uzzah suffered the same fate when God killed him because he tried to protect the ark of God from falling. 2Sam 6:6-7. “and when they came to Nachons threshing floor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the Ark of God and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it and the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah, and the Lord smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God”. When you look into this issue with a human point of view, we can say that Uzzah didn't deserve death because he tried to protect the ark of God from falling but in Gods own true judgment he sinned against God because it is not his duty to touch the ark, for there was division of labour in the service of the sanctuary.

God rejected the first king of Israel because he disobeyed the simple instruction of God, who told him to destroy everything in Amalek, which he did not rather he reserved some fat animals for the sacrificing to God. "Samuel also said unto Saul, the lord sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people Israel; now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the lord, thus saith the Lord of Hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. Now go and smite Amalek and utterly destroy all that they have and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox, sheep, Camels and Ass. But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep and of the oxen, and of the fatlings and the Lambs, and all that was good and wouldn't utterly destroy them; but everything that was vile and refuse that they destroyed utterly. Then came the word of the Lord unto Samuel saying; I repent me that I have set up Saul to be king for he is turned back from following me and had not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel, and he cried unto the Lord all night. (1 Sam. 15: 1-3, 9-11).

We can understand that God does not respect faces and does not compromise his words. If you want to worship God you must obey Him strictly, for He says;

"He that had my commandment and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me; and he that loveth me shall be loved of my father and I will love him and will manifest myself to him. Jesus answered and said unto him, if a man love me he will keep my words; and my father will love and we will come unto him and make our abode with him. He that loveth me and keepeth not my sayings (John 14: 21, 23-24).

It is in this regard that a believer is identified because he does not deviate from the teachings of Christ rather he defends it even if the whole world is saying contrary things. He knows that "anyone who goes ahead and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ has no God, but he that abides has both the father and the son". 2John vs. 9. This is why Jesus warned his disciples to reject men's teachings, because it is by it that people reject the written word of God. He said thus; "He answered and said unto them, well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites; as it is written; this people honour me with their lips but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandment of men. For laying aside the commandment of God ye hold the tradition of men; as the washing of pots and cups and many other such like things ye do. And he said unto them full well ye reject the commandment of God that ye may keep your own tradition". Mark 7: 6-9.

When you reason very well from this quotation you can see that the teaching and the traditions of men did not start today. That Pharisees of then introduced many things which Moses did not teach them from the law of God. The Jews then embraced those teachings with zeal which made them to abandon the one that God told them through Moses. The same thing continues today. People have introduces many teachings thing that go contrary to the teachings of Christ all in the name of making population in their various ministries. Let me remind you that the kingdom of God is not by many but by few. That is why if the whole world is teaching contrary to the teaching of Christ, and it happens that one person is teaching the perfect doctrine of Christ, it is only that person that God Knows. For God testified of his son thus; "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. (Matt. 17:5).

If Christ when he came, he didn't add or subtract anything from the commandment of his father, and then who are we to introduce our own interest as doctrine in the name of worshiping God. Jesus said thus; "I have many things to say and to judge of you, but he that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him". John 8:26.

in another place he said thus: "And if any man hear my words, and believe not; I judge him not for I came not to judge the world but to save the world. He that rejects me and receiveth not my words hath one that judgeth him. The word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of myself but the father who sent me he gave me a commandment; what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting; whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the father said unto me; so I speak. (John 12:47-50)

The apostles of Jesus Christ did not add or subtract anything from the teaching they received from the Lord Jesus Christ. They maintained it and died for it. They told us thus;

"That which was from the beginning which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the word of life; For the life was manifested, and we have seen it; and bear witness and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the father; and declare we unto you, and ye also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the father and with his son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. (John 1: 1-4)

It is in this regard that the apostles warned us to abide in what they gave to us for they received it from our Lord Jesus while Jesus received it from the Almighty Father. Paul said thus;

"and these things, brethren I have in figures transformed to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye may learn in us not to think of men above which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another. (1Cor 4:6).

Why we are emphasizing on these things is for people to know how fearful it is for one to teach and practice men's doctrine. Everyday churches are multiplying, yet we are not seeing the impact in transforming people's character instead sin increased everyday. The messages which people receive today in their various churches by their various pastors have been diluted by men's desired teachings, thereby making that word ineffective to change men. For the effectiveness of that word is when you speak it as it is written.

MARRIAGE:

God permitted marriage from the Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:16-24) His original plan is that man and his wife should remain together until death do them part. (Matt 19:3-6)

The Pharisees also came unto him tempting him and saying unto him, is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And He answered unto them; have you not read that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female and said. For this cause shall a man leave father and mother;

and shall cleave to his wife and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together let not man put asunder.

“They said unto him, why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement and to put her away? He said unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives, but from the beginning it was not so”. (Matt. 19: 7-8)

With this, we have seen that Divorce was not the original plan of God. Divorce is not from God, it is satanic. (Malachi 2:14-16). God endured many things in the past, waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ who will reform and perfect everything. Check Acts 17:30, Heb. 1:1-2. When Jesus came, he confirmed that his teachings are not his but his father's who sent him (John 7:16). Therefore every heavenly candidate must obey and abide only in the teachings of Christ and his apostles, failing to do so, results to vanity in your race. We have seen that Christ has told us that divorce is sin. Therefore there is no way or reason that God will support divorce.

Whenever a man fulfills the marriage rites of a woman and pays her bride price and sleeps with her, they have become husband and wife before God. Even if he does it to 1 or 5 women, they have become his wives. God recognizes them as his wives.

“if a man has 2 wives, one beloved and another hated; and they have born him children; both the beloved and the hated; and if the firstborn son be hers that was hated, then is shall be when he maketh his sons to inherit that which he hath, that he may not make the son of the beloved firstborn before the son of the hated; which is indeed the firstborn. But he shall acknowledge the son of the hated for the first born. By giving him a double portion of that entire he hath; for he is the beginning of his strength; the right of the firstborn is his. (Deut. 21:15-17).

Again, we all know that Jacob married four wives; we also know that God recognized them as his wives and by their children God established his everlasting covenant with Jacob. They are called holy nation, check Deut. 7:6. God told this holy people that bastards shall not be allowed in their midst. Deut. 23:2. The bible proved that these holy people came from four women married by one man (Jacob). If God forbade them from allowing bastards among them how do we now reconcile this teaching that says that is a man marries 2 or 3 wives that they are committing adultery, making their children bastards? These things are wrong and man made doctrines. When Jesus came he recognized the twelve tribes of Israel born by 4 women to Jacob by choosing the twelve apostles and the city of God which every Christian is struggling to enter is built with its foundation and gates bearing names of the twelve tribes of Israel and the twelve apostles of Christ. Check Rev 21: 11-14. it is evidently true that God cannot build in a faulty foundation. God said that an adulterer cannot inherit the kingdom of God, if marrying four wives by Jacob is a sin of adultery, why did Jesus promised him heaven. Matt. 8:11. “And I say unto you, that many shall come from the east and west and shall sit down with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven”

In addition, we saw that King David married more that one wife; God recognized him and his children. David was a prophet; Acts 2:29-30 Jesus Christ came from his loins. If marrying more than one wife makes one an adulterer, God would not have made everlasting covenant with these men, I mentioned

here. I want you to understand the point I am emphasizing on; that divorcing a married woman from her husband because she is second or third wife of the man with the understanding that they are committing adultery is wrong and satanic, because it has no biblical backing. Again I am not telling you to go and marry more than one wife. What I am saying is that those that had married more than one wife before their repentance should be allowed to worship God without asking them to divorce their wives, because they did it in ignorance.

“and the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30).

Jesus came for sinners; he told his disciples to go and preach to everybody both married and unmarried, anyone that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Mark 16: 15-16. Baptism washed away sins and makes us new before God. Check Acts 2: 36-39, Acts 22: 15-16.

Therefore instead of you causing confusion in a family in the name of separating wife and husband, you teach them the benefits of baptism. The Bible recorded that blessed is the person whom his sins are forgiving. Again blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin. Rom. 4:6-8. Baptism in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ by immersion handles all past sins and mistakes. Trying to separate a wife or wives from her husband is hypocrisy. Many preachers that do these things today came from polygamous families where their mothers were second or third wives of their fathers. They still bear the name of their polygamous father today. Judge it by yourself who are you deceiving? When you put away the wife from the husband and allow the children of the divorced woman to live with their father and bearing the man's name, have you not planted confusion and hatred in that family? Remember that God and his son are not confusionists, rather they are peace makers. Any minister of Christ must have the qualities of CHRIST which one of them is peace making. For he said “blessed are the peace makers” not trouble maker Matt/ 5:9. In order not to be causing divisions in various homes made Apostle Paul to say thus: “Brethren, let every man where he is called there in abide with God” 1Cor. 7:24.

The Holy Spirit knew that all these false teachings will increase in these last days warned us to be very careful. “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the later times some shall depart from the faith giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their conscience seared with a hot iron; for bidding to marry and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth”. 1Tim. 4:1-3.

Mark this statement “FORBIDDING TO MARRY”. The apostles knew that many converts from the gentile world that do not know the law of the Jews were polygamists. He told Timothy thus:

“This is a true saying, if any man desire the office of a Bishop, he desires a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, etc”. 1 Timothy 3:1-2.

Which means that those among them that were polygamous should be allowed to worship God, only that they wouldn't be ordained as bishops or elders or deacons in the church.

Forbidden them from their wives or husbands is a sin against God. Apostle Paul further told brethren in Corinth thus: "Art thou bound unto a wife? Seek not to be loosed, art thou loosed from a wife? Seek not a wife...". (1Cor.&:27).

These preachers that break homes today by separating husbands and their wives, all in the name of repentance, at the same time forcing their children to be bastards. What shall they answer God on the day judgment? Because they do not know that God forgives sins and remembers them not again when one is baptised into Christ Jesus. These home breakers are hypocrites as the same thing these polygamists did in ignorance is what themselves did in ignorance. Some of them stole money and committed many fraudulent acts to build houses. Some got married and had children, bought lands, shares, companies and made some investments with these ill gotten wealth. Today they are still enjoying their fraudulent wealth, wives and children. How many of them have put away their wife and children or abandoned their ill gotten wealth if they are sincere in claiming that they have repented? That is why Christ warned us from being judges over others, because any measure or standard you use in judging people the same shall be used on you. Luke 6:37-38. If you condemn people in what they did in the past out of ignorance, God will also condemn you on what you did in the past out of ignorance.

Furthermore, the other ministers who allow the polygamists in their church and collect money from them and they even participate in every church work, but at the end of the day deprive then the Lords supper or Holy Communion which Jesus said that every believer must partake as a guarantee of everlasting life, will face the wrath of God. You are behaving like the Pharisees of the old and Balam of old who loved money more than the truth. You who have stayed in the church for many years, participating in every church activities and spent much money in the church for one thing or the other for the growth of the church yet you are being deprived of that holy sacrament, understand that they have indirectly told you that you are not worthy of heaven. For Christ said thus; "verily verily I say into you, except you eat the flesh of the son of man and drink his blood; you have no life in you. Whose eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood hath eternal life and I will raise him up at the last day." John 6:53-54. Therefore worshiping with them is useless. You are like a truck, which after usage in a day's work stays outside the owner's house. If you want to worship God in spirit and truth, ask about THE CHURCH OF CHRIST (Recognizing the True God). They will teach you everything concerning the truth which will set you free.

Finally, sending away one's second or third wife after repentance is satanic, because God hates divorce and cannot support divorce in any way. Don't be deceived! You have heard the truth, hold it firmly. If you are a polygamist or you are a second or third wife of a man and this false teaching as mentioned has caged you for a long time, the time of your freedom is here. Come to THE CHURCH OF CHRIST (Recognizing the True God) you will be baptized to receive the forgiveness of your sins. Christ died for you. For those in Christ already, remain as one wife and one husband and do not desire to marry another or you will lose your fellowship with Christ and his Church.

The servant of the Lord,

Nnamdi J. Alozie (Apostle).

HOLINESS & RIGHTEOUSNESS

Elder Bath Ebirim

The above three-word title of this write-up speaks of the state a saved believer must find himself or herself to be called a child of (God in Christ Jesus. It is necessary to check from the scriptures how one attains that state of holiness and righteousness.

There is only one person who has the word of eternal life and that is Jesus. (Jn. 6:63, 68). For during the old covenant time the heavenly Father told Moses thus: I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brethren; and I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I shall command him. And whoever will not give heed to my words which he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. (Deut.18:18-19).

And when that prophet arrived he did testify saying: I have come as light into the world, that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness... He who rejects me and does not receive my sayings has a judge; the word that I have spoken will be his judge on the last day. For I have not spoken .on my own authority; the Father who sent me has himself given me commandment what to say and what to speak (how to say it). And I know his commandment is eternal life. ' What I say. therefore, I say as the Father has bidden me (Jn. 12:47-50)

In his ministry, he selected twelve apostles with whom he lived and moved for three and a half years. He testified to the Father the scriptures about them saying: I have manifested thy name to the men whom thou gavest me out of the world; thine they were, and thou gavest them to me. and they have kept thy word. Now they know that everything that thou hast given me is from thee; for I have given them the words which thou gavest to me and they have received them and know in truth that I came from thee and they have believed that thou didst send me. (Jn. 17:6-8). He further said about them ... and you also are witnesses because you have been with me from the beginning (Jn. 15; 26-27).

He also said to them; Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so send I you. (Jn.20:21).

That is why he said to them: He who hears you hears me, and he who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects him who sent me. (Lk. 10:16). And John, his faithful disciple wrote down saying in 1 Jn. 1;1-4; That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the word of life: (for the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us). That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

You can now see why the house or people of God are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord. (Eph. 2:19-22). Therefore, both holiness and righteousness must be as Jesus and his apostles preached them.

For Paul, describing how a saved or redeemed or born again person obtained that state, said: And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sin; wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience; among whom also we all have our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, had quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved): and had raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: that in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness towards us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God. (Eph. 2:1-8).

When Jesus called Paul and indeed every one he chooses (Jn. 15:16) he told him: ... delivering you from the people and from the Gentiles to whom I send you to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (Acts.26; 17-18)

Yes, this transfer from the power of Satan to the power of God is a free gift by our heavenly Father through faith in Jesus Christ. But how is it done? How does one qualify for that free gift? Jesus gave us the simplest description of how it is done, saying; Go ye into all the world and preach my gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.

The message is that all have sinned through Adam and fallen short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). But our heavenly Father sent His Son to give us the truth, live the life acceptable to Him (Mat. 17:5) and to be sacrificed for our sins to save us. He was buried and he resurrected and is alive forever more.

Whoever believes this and repents of his sinful life and wishes to be saved must accept to be buried with Jesus so that he will resurrect with him into a new life, even as Paul wrote: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him in baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the (glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (Rom. 6:3-4, Col. 2:12; 3:1).

This is the first resurrection that declares a repentant believer holy according to Rev. 20:6. For a dead person through sin must first resurrect to be alive in Christ Jesus. Jesus told us this in John 11; 25, saying: I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. He demonstrated this truth by raising dead Lazarus to life as we read in Jn. 11:38-44 and was fully fulfilled in Mat. 27:52-53 which reads thus; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city and appeared unto many; as a result of that preaching to those in graves which Peter reported in 1 Peter 3;18-21.

Again he said in John 11:26. And whoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? She said unto him. Yea Lord, I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world. Take note her words: "I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God" is the way we confess Christ to enter into baptism as you prove from the confession of Ethiopian eunuch (Act 8;37-38;22:16). And it is through our baptism that we share in the resurrection of Christ, even as Paul wrote in Cor. 15:21-23:- Since by man came death, by man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all be made alive. But every man in his own order; Christ the first fruits; afterwards they that are Christ's at his coming.

It is necessary to explain that the coming of Christ for every believer are two. The first coming is Christ coming into a believer's life now (Rev. 3:20), the second coming is when all who are sleeping in the graves shall rise up for reward. This is what the Lord said in Jn. 5;25 thus Verily, verily, I say unto you, the hour is coming and now is, when the dead (Lk. 9:60) shall hear the voice of the Son of God" and they that hear shall live.

Yes, it is a resurrection NOW in this our mortal life that he is talking about, and clarified his point when he further said; Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in-the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation.

The Scriptures bear abundant witnesses of our resurrection NOW: Rom. 6:3-5; Eph. 2:5-6; Col. 2:12;3:1. That is why the Spirit describes a person who has taken part in the first resurrection as blessed and holy.(Rev. 20:6). And that is why Peter calls believers kings and priests (1Pet. 2:9), even-as prophesied in Is. 66:20-21: And they shall bring all your brethren for an offering unto the LORD out of all nations upon

horses, and chariots...And I will also take of them for priests and for Levites, saith the Lord. And fulfilled in our time as the Spirit reported saying; ... for thou wast slain, and hadst 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. This redemption through baptism is a very important sacrifice with which we enter into covenant with our God who said: Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice (Ps.50:5). And that is why Paul wrote in Rom. 5;16 saying; That I should be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. That is why Paul asks brethren to carry themselves as living sacrifice (Rom.12:1). For according to the wisdom and plan of God in Christ, after water baptism for the remission of sins a believer must receive the sanctifying Spirit by the laying on of the hands of the apostles. (Acts 2:38-39; 8:14-20).

Therefore if a person hears the gospel and gets convicted and repents, if he does not get baptized, confessing that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, but instead confesses his sins secretly to God and counts himself born again as is popularly preached these days, his sins are still in him, for he has not run according to the rule (2 Tim. 2:5). Such a person and those who ignorantly preach holiness and righteousness should answer God this question as in Ps. 50:16-17; What has thou to do to declare my statutes, or that thou shouldst take my covenant in thy mouth? Seeing thou hatest instruction, and castest my words behind thee.

There is no other way a believer can attain holiness which is a state of life without sin except by the true baptism in the name of Jesus only followed by the laying on of the apostles' hands to receive the sanctifying Spirit (Acts 19:1-6). For those who are .buried in water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit are still in their sins; for they rejected the foundation laid by the apostles who were directly taught by Christ himself. For Peter expressly answered those who were convicted by the gospel he preached, saying; ... Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for .the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts. 2:36-38). And other portions of the bible speak the same thing. (Acts 8:16;19;6;22:16).

A person who relies on confessing his sins to be saved has forgotten that the very sin that demoted the whole humanity is that of Adam. And surely those who rely on confessing their sins do not confess that of Adam which condemned every human being. Surely a convert cannot partake in the death, burial and -resurrection of Jesus by confessing his sins. And surely, some of a person's sins have long been forgotten; if he relies on confessing his sins for salvation, what of the forgotten ones? The true confession is confessing Christ and not sins for our heavenly Father hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him (2 Cor. 5:21).

And if a person who has been washed of his sins, that is, one who is now holy commits sin, he has to confess to the church, for Christ gave us the authority to judge and forgive or retain sins (Jn. 20:21-23; 1 Jn.1:5-10; Jas. 5:16). For saints are judged now (1 Pet. 4:17; 1 Cor. 5:9-13;11:28-32). But those preachers who reject confessing sins in the midst of brethren show by their preaching that they do not know how a holy person can maintain the state of holiness in this life. For the scripture says in Proverbs 28:13: He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoever confesseth and forsaketh them shall obtain mercy. And Job, even in their generation said: If I covered my transgressions as Adam, by hiding my iniquity in my bosom; did I fear a great multitude, or did the contempt of families terrify me, that I kept silence and went not out of the door? (Job 31:33-34). So must one run the race of holiness in Christ Jesus to hope to see the Lord on that day (Heb 12:14). The narrow gate has no other doctrine concerning attaining and maintaining holiness in Christ Jesus; any other preaching is the broad gate.

On the issue of righteousness, according to the scriptures there are two types of righteousness; that of the law and that of grace. The one of the law says: And it shall be our righteousness if we observe to do all these commandments before the Lord our God, as he hath commanded us. (Deut. 6;25).

But the person who was given the grace to lay the foundation of Christian practice, even Paul (1 Cor. 3:10) said in Philp. 3:9-10; And be found in him, not having my own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his suffering, being made conformable unto his death; if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

So the righteousness of the kingdom we are preaching is outside the law, as the scriptures testify, saying: Therefore by the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified in His sight ... But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested ... even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference; 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, whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his-.blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past ... (Rom. 3:19-25).

It is a gift of God to those who accept the death of Christ as their own and therefore accept to be buried with him. (Rom. 6:3-11: 1 Cor. 15:29). It is a free gift, for the righteousness or justification of the sinner is what God performed by sending His Son as a lamb to be sacrificed for the sins of mankind (Jn. 1:29: Heb.9:26). It is not our own work, it is God's own work: yes, His own righteousness. For people did ask Jesus and he did answer. Then said they unto him, what shall we do that we might work the work of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, this is the work of God that ye believe on him whom He hath sent. (Jn. 6:29).

God sent him to give us his words, and to live the life acceptable to him, and God testified he did (Mat. 17:5), and to die for our sins. One hears this good news and believes the words of Jesus and accepts the death he died as his own and accepts to be buried with him and resurrect with him to live a new life. The fulfillment of this his faith qualifies him to receive the righteousness of God. For God did all the work that justifies the sinner through His Son. It is not our work, it is His own. That is why Jesus said: He who believes and is baptized shall be saved (MK. 16:16). This righteousness is outside the law. (Rom 3:19-24). It is a free gift. God's own grace or favour, obtained through participating in the sacrifice which is the death, burial and resurrection that is in Christ. Jesus, Christ himself needed to be redeemed by baptism because he shared in the flesh and blood of condemned Adam. That is why he told John that baptism is necessary for us all, saying ... suffice it to be so now, for thus it cometh us to fulfill all righteousness. (Mat. 3:14-15).

And we noted that as soon as he was baptized the Father gave him the Holy Spirit, just as Peter told the first people that heard the gospel saying: Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts. 2:38).

You and I do hear many preachers today who preach and convict sinners but because they do not believe that baptism in water is necessary before one can receive the gift of Holy Spirit, they tell their hearers to confess their sins secretly to God and count themselves born again, rejecting the foundation laid by the apostles, even the plan of God for being born of water and of the Spirit. (Jn. 3:3-6).

The righteousness of the Kingdom we preach is a free gift as made plain in Romans 5:15-19: But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift; for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence death reigned, by one much more, they which receive abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by Jesus Christ. Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

So you see that the righteousness we preach is that of Christ which is freely given to a repentant sinner as a favour. It is God who accomplished it in Christ, that is why it is of God. For the blood of Jesus paid for all the sins of man. This righteousness is different from the works of faith with which we work out our salvation (Philp. 2:12), termed what accompanies faith (Heb. 6:9-12) or faith working through love.

(Gal. 5:6; Jas. 2:14-18). For one may be full of such good works that earned Cornelius heaven's testimony yet he needed something more to qualify for this righteousness, even as we read in Acts 10:3-6.And when he looked on him, he was afraid and said, What is it lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thy alms are come up for a memorial before God. And now send men to Joppa and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter.... He shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.

In conclusion, we read in the same Acts. 10:47-48 "...can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Spirit as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord".

Indeed, most of the zealous preachers of these last days preach godliness but some because they are ignorant of the processes of redemption and sanctification called the righteousness of God. by which one lays hold on the power of Christ's resurrection which is got through the proper baptism taught by the apostles which is in the name of Jesus Christ only (Acts 2:38; 8:16;10:48; 19:5; 22:16), they ask the converts to confess their sins secretly to God and declare themselves saved or born again, hoping one day the Spirit will fall on them as it fell on the apostles and on Cornelius' family disregarding laying on of apostles hands. Others who baptize burying a repentant sinner in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit evidently show they do not understand that he who gave the command in Mat.28:19 taught his disciples how to go about it, which his disciples consistently and faithfully followed and recorded in the scriptures. For the Father and the Holy Spirit did not die as to be buried in line with what we read in Rom.6-3-4; ICor.15:29.

Evidently, holiness and righteousness in Christ Jesus are achieved through only the sacrifice that made the coming of Jesus Christ into the world a meaningful work of God, his death, burial and resurrection. Only those whose eyes are opened to see themselves dead through Adam, who therefore subject themselves to be buried with Jesus who died for all sins and resurrect with him having been justified by that sacrifice are holy and righteous for as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ (Gal. 3:27). But you cannot put on Christ by confessing sins. For One may preach godly ways of life but overlooks or rejects this entrance, we are asked to avoid such. Paul wrote to us concerning this our present age: "...Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as James and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth". (2Tim. 3; 1-8).

The Lord had earlier warned us in Mat. 24:24 saying; "For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets, and shall do great signs and wonders, in so much that, if it were possible, they should deceive the very elect".

And Paul prophesied further saying in 2 Tim. 4:3-4; for the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers having itching ear and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables

Even as Peter wrote saying:... there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them and bring upon themselves swift destruction, and many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of (2 Pet. 2:1-3).

Jesus warned us to take heed; what we hear (Mk. 4:24-25) and how we hear (Lk. 8: 18) for on that depends our entry into the kingdom, for Jesus was plain on what qualifies a person to enter the kingdom, even his Father 's will (Mat. 15 :12-13). Concerning those who reject the principles of the doctrines of Christ, even the foundation (Heb. 6:1-2) and coin their own teachings, Jesus warned, saying Not every one that saith unto me , Lord, Lord, shall enter into kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day. Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.(Mat :7:21-23). Luke did report Jesus' warning concerning the narrow and the broad gate, for some zealous workers will be surprised at a judgment too late to mend, that will be dished out to self-willed preachers and followers Lk. 13:23-29).

Let him that has ears hear, so says our Lord. Mat. 13:9.

Elder Barth Omerem Ebirim

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CAN SOMEONE IN CHRIST BE HUNTED BY THE INIQUITIES OF HIS/HER PARENTS?

Elder Osinachi C. Osuagwu

This question is seldom asked by people who desire to know and serve God from the innermost part of their hearts; People whose quest for making heaven real never cease; who seek to know what God

desires from those who would worship him in truth and in spirit today. You can trust God and his word. After a lifetime of trusting God, the patriarch, Joshua told the children of Israel;

“I am going today in the way of all the earth, and you well know with all your hearts and with all your souls that not one word out of all the good words which the Lord your God spoke concerning you; all have come to pass for you; not one word of them has failed....” Joshua 23:14.

As a matter of fact, the more you get to know God's purpose, activities and qualities the more you will believe his words. In the book of Psalms Chapter 89:34 He says; “My covenant I will not break, nor alter the word that has gone out of my lips”.

Now the bible tells us that “a curse causeless shall not come” (Job 5:6); however, people delve into spiritual issues without first tracing the origin of such issues and their terminal points.

GOD (THE FATHER) AND ISRAEL

It is a well established biblical fact that God created man in His image, for His glory but rather than give God glory, man chose to obey Satan – the deceiver, and this resulted in the spiritual death of mankind. It was in this condition that God decided to reward the unusual unequalled faithfulness of Abraham and Isaac by accepting Jacob their offspring as a special nation to Himself. Upon the separation/ deliverance from the slavery of the nations, God gave them commandments to guide His covenant with them (Israel). He further made them to know thus; “You shall not bow down to them nor serve them for I the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me” Exodus 20: 5-6.

I have underlined the substance of this curse; “those who hate God”. By this we are meant to appreciate that God is a loving God (Deut. 4:31, 24, Heb 12:29). It is a well established understanding that the opposite of love is hate. If you therefore pretend not to hate God you must prove that you love Him. How? Jesus said: “If you love me keep my commandments” John 14:15, 23-25; (whether you are of the stock of Israel or a gentile).

Therefore, disobedience /unfaithfulness to Gods word is responsible for this curse on man. If this can be true to Gods own separated children who found the favour of God from obedience and faithfulness of their father and forefathers how much more would it be for the nations who have not known God nor considered His ways. The bible says that: “it will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the Day of Judgment than for such cities or nations”. (Matt 10:15).

This is the result of God's jealousy on the people He created for His glory. Example of the fulfillment of this curse both on other nations and on God's children (Israel) abound.

ON OTHER NATIONS: (CASE STUDY: THE LAND OF AMALEK)

“Thus says the Lord of hosts; I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt. Now go and attack Amalek and utterly destroy all that they have and not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey” (1Sam 15:2-3).

This is God's express instruction to King Saul against the nation of Amalek when God remembered to recompense them for their wickedness on His people on their way to the promised land several years back. Remember it is not these nursing children and infants that committed the offence but their grand fathers and great grand fathers.

“...for he said because the Lord has sworn; the Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation” – why? Because they fought Israel in Rephidim, refusing them to pass through their land. (Exod. 17: 8, 14-16). This is indeed a big curse.

ON HIS OWN PEOPLE: (CASE STUDY: THE HOUSE OF ELI THE PRIEST)

The bible recalled how Eli (the priest) ministered faithfully before the Lord all his life. He had children (Hophni and Phinehas) who were automatically priests with him in Shiloh. It is this Eli that groomed the prophet Samuel. Eli was faithful, but his sons were evil, and because he did not take the evil reports against his children seriously, the Lord repented of his earlier promise of perpetuating the priesthood of Israel in his household, but rather placed a curse on them – his later generation: “...and there shall not be an old man in your house forever”.... and all the descendants of your house shall die in the flower of their age”. (1Sam 2: 22-36”

Therefore all these conditions (curses) are provoked by God's jealousy for mankind, who He created for His glory (Isa 43: 7, 21).

God said in Ezek.14 :12-20; “The word of the Lord came again to me saying; Son of man, when a land sins against me by persistent unfaithfulness, I will stretch out my hand against it, I will cut off its supply of bread. Send famine....., Even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness,” says the Lord GOD. If I cause wild beasts to pass through the land, and they empty it, and make it so desolate that no man may pass through because of the beasts, even though these three men were in it, as I live, says the Lord GOD, they would deliver neither sons nor daughters; only they would be delivered, and the land would be desolate. Or if I bring a sword on that land, and say, 'Sword, go through the land,' and I cut off man and beast from it, even though these three men were in it, as I live, says the Lord GOD, they would deliver neither sons nor daughters, but only they themselves would be delivered. Or if I send a pestilence into that land and pour out My fury on it in blood, and cut off from it man and beast, even though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, as I live,

says the Lord GOD, they would deliver neither son nor daughter; they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness."

A MERCIFUL GOD

Again "But in every generation/nation, whoever fears him and works righteousness is acceptable by him" (Acts 10:35).

WHAT RIGHTEOUSNESS?

This is where the whole issue of SALVATION/REDEMPTION/DELIVERANCE from curses rests.

In His ever merciful considerations to the plaguing curses on humanity as a result of unfaithfulness touched by His mercies, but justifying His stand that every of His word must come to fulfillment, whether CURSE or BLESSING; the Lord, God designed a way of escape for mankind. The bible states thus:

"hear the word of the Lord, O Nations and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, he who scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him as a shepherd does his flock..., and they shall sorrow no more at all." "In those days they shall say no more; the fathers have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are set on edge, but every one shall die for his iniquity, every man who eats the sour grapes, his teeth shall be set on edge" (Jerem. 31:10-12, 29-30)

Thus everything that pertained to the worship of God contained in the covenant of Moses awaited the time of reformation – a later covenant in Christ Jesus. Heb. 9: 6-10.

JESUS CHRIST - TO THE RESCUE

Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?... surely He has borne our grief and carried our sorrows yet we esteem Him stricken, smitten by God and afflicted, but he was wounded for our transgressions....., the chastisement for our peace was upon Him and by His stripes we are healed. ...He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge my righteous one shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquity" (Isaiah. 53:1-11)

This is the promise of a Saviour for the salvation of mankind, to free man from the curse of the jealousy of God. It is for this reason that God has arranged a new covenant in Christ, distinct from the old covenant in Moses, and has warned that we should not mix the two for his service in order not to continue in the curse of the old. (Heb 8; 6-13, Matth.13;52, Matth.15:13-14, Math.5:17-18) New wine in new wine skin (Matth. 9: 17).

But they say that the old is better (Lk. 5:39).

DELIVERANCE/REDEPTION/SALVATION

Now, the word salvation/ redemption/deliverance means the same thing - that is, to save from curses. These curses started with our earliest father – Adam, who chose to obey Satan –the destroyer, rather than God – his creator. This disobedience resulted in the stripping from man of the Holy Spirit of God who man received on creation.

“And the Lord said, my spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh....” Gen. 6:3.

It was on this condition of spiritual death that Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob did their very best to attract favour from God, but the situation could not hold, as the later generation proved the impossibility of pleasing God in the flesh. “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23).

“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin and this death spread to all men, because all sinned – for until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come” (Rom. 5:12-14)

Even those who ordinarily go to church today cannot be said to be free from the curses of the law they have always transgressed. They only succeed in striking and wounding the savior every day by renewing the law for which the Lord, Jesus Christ died and rose again. And Jesus answered them and said;

“Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill me? John 7:19.

“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified” Gal. 2:16.(NKJV)

If therefore you want to embrace deliverance in Christ while you still hold the covenant of God in Moses there must be a dangerous reaction. There is an entire newness in Christ Jesus as declared at the mount of transfiguration. Matt. 17:1-5: “...While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"

I have taken time here to explain the issue of curse on parents which the children are suffering from in a general concept, the cause of the curse and the remedy (the way out of the curse). Let us now treat the question as it concerns those who have been liberated from the general curse on mankind – Christians.

NOW. IN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION – CAN ANYONE IN CHRIST BE HUNTED BY THE INIQUITIES OF HIS/HER PARENTS?

The bible says “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation”. 2Cor. 5:17-19. (NKJV)

For one to be said to be in Christ two things are expected to accompany his decision - REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS OF HIS/HER SINS. The scriptures foretold of what was to be attained in Christ Jesus by those he was coming to save thus; “ And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem”. Therefore to be in Christ is not to go to church. Church membership either from childhood or upon maturity is not a guarantee that one is in Christ.

TO BE IN CHRIST IS TO PUT ON CHRIST

This means that parental curses are no longer effective on him/her. He can only be punished for what sins he or she commits. Now the truth of the matter is that; “As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Gal. 3:27.

WHY BAPTISM AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

Jesus commanded; “go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature and he who believes and is baptized will be saved but he who does not believe will be condemned” MK 16:15-16.

This was further explained by the apostles in Acts 2: 36-38;

“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, men and brethren what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

“But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed being witnessed by the law and the prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by his grace through the REDEMPTION that is in Christ Jesus”. Rom. 3: 21-24.

This is true to the Jews Israel who received the law and the gentiles who did not know God nor had received any law from God. Curse (spiritual death) came to man through Adam and so redemption (deliverance from curses – resurrection from the dead into spiritual life) must come through Jesus Christ.

“For I delivered to you first of all that which I received that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, for since by one man came death, by man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die even so in Christ all shall be made alive....., otherwise what will they do who are baptized for the dead, if the dead do not rise at all? Why then are they baptized for the dead? 1Cor. 15:3-4, 21-22, 29)

REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS

Repentance alone cannot approve one righteous before God and so cannot free one from parental curses. It is only when one is buried with Christ in baptism and rises to life that he can come in contact with the blood of Jesus Christ that blots out his Adamic nature and purifies him to receive back the Holy Spirit that was lost through Adamic nature – disobedient nature.

“Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that first as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” Rom. 6:3-4.

This is the entry point for every one who desires to come to God through Jesus Christ – the advocate, Lord and Personal Saviour.

STEP 1

Repent and confess Jesus Christ, that God raised him from the dead for your salvation. “But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”. Rom. 10: 8-10. NKJV

STEP 2

Accept to be buried with Christ (in water baptism) as to come in contact with the blood for the remission of your sins. This is true for both the Jews and Gentiles – for there is no distinction; the same entry point into the body of Christ.

When we talk about baptism for the remission of sin, it appears so easy but the issue there is the administration. It is not just an all comers affair. The Lord God has designed it to be obtained in faith. The faith is that of Christ Jesus. It is only effective for those who believe that Jesus Christ came in the flesh (1John 4:1-2), and who practice the wholesome teachings of Jesus Christ, (2John 9-11). "Blessed are those who do His commandment that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gate into the city". Rev. 22:14, Rom. 10: 1-4.

THE GATE WAY: EXAMPLE 1: APOSTLE PAUL - A Jew.

"So I said, what shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said to me, Arise and go in Damascus, and there you will be told all things which are appointed for you to do..." then a certain Ananias....., came to me and he stood and said to me, Brother Saul receive your sight. And at the same hour I looked up at him then he said, "the God of our fathers has chosen you that you should know his will, and see the just one and hear the voice of his mouth. For you will be his witness to all men of what you have seen and heard. And now why are you waiting? arise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord" Acts 22:10-16).

This is Apostle Paul's account of his calling into the faith of Jesus Christ. How he was sent to a preacher who will guide him into the gate to enter the city – the body of Christ. For the scripture says; "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher, and how shall they preach unless they are sent? (Rom 10: 14-15).

Please note that it is not all preachers today that are sent, "for some indeed preach Christ even for envy and strife and some also from good. The former preach Christ from selfish ambition (for their belly), not sincerely..." Phil 1:15-16.

However, the most important thing for you is to bend down and seek and ask for the right way – (not where you were born into or where you were lured into by a friend or relation) then walk in it and find rest for your soul. (Jerem. 6:16).

THE GATE WAY: EXAMPLE 2: CORNELIUS – The first Gentile worshiper

"About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, Cornelius! And when he observed him, he was afraid. And said, what is it Lord? So he said to him, your prayers and alms have come up for a memorial before God now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter..., he will tell you what you must do". Acts 10: 4-6.

"And he (Peter) commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus..." Acts 10:48).

THE GATEWAY: EXAMPLE 3: THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH (African Worshiper)

“So he, Philip arose and went, and behold a man of Ethiopia, a Eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians who had charge of all the treasury and had come to Jerusalem to worship...., then Philip opened his mouth and beginning at the scriptures preached. Jesus to him, now as they went down the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, see, here is water, what hindered me from being baptized? Then Philip said, if you believe with all your heart, you may. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God. So he commanded the chariot to standstill and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and he baptized him” (Acts 8: 27: 27-38)

EXAMPLE 4: OTHERS (CHRISTIANS WHO WERE NOT RIGHTLY BAPTISED)

And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. Now the men were about twelve in all. Acts 19: 1 - 5. NKJV

SUMMARY:

It is therefore evidently clear that;

1. God's jealousy on man resulted to curses which has kept man under the hands of the evil one, Satan. (1John 4:19)
2. Only the truth of God in Christ Jesus will free one from such curses as elucidated in the above examples.

WHAT TO DO

Flee the wrath of God that will come upon the children of unbelief. Come to Jesus Christ – repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (who died and rose for your sins) so that your sins may be forgiven that you may be free to call upon the name of the Lord and be saved. Then you will be guided on the rest of the things that will make your salvation wholesome.

“By whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison who formerly were disobedient when once the divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah while the ark was being prepared in which a few, that is eight souls were saved through WATER. There is also an antitype which now saves us BAPTISM, (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience towards God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” 1Pet. 3:19-21.

“For you will be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard. And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.’ Acts 22:15-16 NKJV

It is after these things, when you have come into the city through the GATE – (Jesus - the way), that you will know the TRUTH, the wholesome doctrine of Christ that will lead you into living the LIFE – true Christian lifestyle that leads one to make heaven at last.

THERE IS NO OTHER WAY! BEWARE!

To preach to a people that by mere 'hearing the word of God, confessing their sin and repeat after you that Jesus is Lord and personal Saviour' makes them born again Christians and therefore qualified to go to any bible teaching church and worship is an unfounded, baseless teaching. It is unfortunate that many have been made to supposedly accept Jesus Christ into their lives this way, but it is man's philosophy and satanic. It is the devil's device to block the way of salvation for the children of God. Many pastors and preachers are of this stock and have not considered to ask for the true way as recorded by Jeremiah in Chapter 6:16.

“Thus said the Lord, Stand ye in the ways and see and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, we will not walk therein.”

The bible says again; “There is a generation that is pure in its own eyes, yet is not washed from its filthiness” Prov. 30:12. Such people are confused and blocked by the mysteries of lawlessness, false miracles, signs and wonders which God has delivered them into, for rejecting the truth of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ but delight in lies.

“Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send

them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness". – 2Thess. 2:3-12. NKJV

Having pointed out these facts, if anyone says he has repented of his sins and has come to Christ as a believer and is still hunted by the problems of his parents, his village, clan or any form of hereditary curses, it means that something is wrong with his redemption; it is either he did not abide in the teachings of the apostles (Acts 2: 41-42) but was misled into confessing his sins and advised to worship with any bible believing church of his choice – he is born again (HALF-BAKED CHRISTIANITY). The result will be that the person will be running helter skelter, from one man of God to the other in search of deliverance. He will be made to spend his life's fortune on deliverance – either to exhume what people in his village supposedly planted for him or his family in their compound or in endlessly sowing seed of faith for his business prosperity. They will give you olive oil, handkerchief, take you to the stream to wash your body and several other things they do in the name of deliverance. Yes, your business prospects will change and you will bear children, but these are not the things that benefit man most, for life does not consist in what one has abundantly. The bible says, what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul.

Even from the old, in the covenant with Israel God detests Soothsayers and diviners.

"If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods' — which you have not known — 'and let us serve them,' you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him. But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage, to entice you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall put away the evil from your midst". Deut 13:1-5 NKJV

Equally, in the new dispensation, when apostle Paul saw a lady with a similar spirit operating like a 'Prophetess of a Prayer House' he rebuked the spirit of divination

Thereby ending that business of trading with the word of God.

"Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation. And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. 19 But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities". Acts 16:16-18 NKJV.

However, the author and finisher of our faith, even the Lord Jesus Christ warns that in things pertaining ministrations in the new order, “freely you have received, freely give”. Matt.10:8. Therefore nothing should be attached to Salvation/Redemption/ Deliverance as if ministers of God are now native doctors or soothsayers/diviners. This is the way opened by Satan to compensate his loyalists that they may be busy, confusing the children of God, chasing shadows until that great day of the Lord overtakes them unawares. Remember that the Lord Jesus foretold what their end will be in Matth. 7:21-23. "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness" NKJV

Many, having witnessed what is happening in the Christian circle today, have decided to stay away from anything called church; while a vast majority have chosen to remain in the state wherein they were born, never to repent and come to Christ. They rather assign to themselves reformists, trying everything they could to force Christ into their original church dogma. All these are done in ignorance. This is not the will of God in sending His son Jesus Christ to die for the world. Rather, Jesus has come to set man free from the slavery of Satan, from the curse of the first man -Adam.

Let everyone whole heartedly come to the throne of grace with a pure heart that you may be saved.

Except you do this, you will ascend to the highest level of human reasoning, taking titles, even that of the Most High God, only to be disappointed on the last day, just as the people of Babel were disappointed at the anger of the Lord (See Gen. 11:1-9).

May the Lord grant you true wisdom resting upon the reverence of God that you may know what is the acceptable will of God in Christ Jesus, amen.

ELDER OSINACHI OSUAGWU

UNITY in worship

What does this mean to you? Is it achievable now?

“Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers”. Acts 2:41,42NKJ

As the world gradually packs up, given the quick fulfilment of end time prophecies and with the drift from the original structure/foundation laid by the early apostles; as people who claim that they are called to be ministers of the gospel resort to the new anointing syndrom - everyone working according to the dictates of his own peculiar anointing, abandoning the written instructions of the Holy Spirit, this question calls to mind.

What should this mean to you? Indeed it is very difficult to stay on the WAY leading to life, and yet more urgent than ever that we do. This is the WAY that requires UNITY in worship.

Watch out for this MUST READ article in our next edition.

HOLYGHOST FIRE:

IS IT PROPER AND SCRIPTURAL THAT PEOPLE INVOKE WHAT THEY ASSUME TO BE HOLYGHOST FIRE ON THEIR PERCEIVED ENEMIES?

ELDER (EVANGELIST) IFEANYI ONICHABOR

Firstly, the Holy bible says that God is a Spirit and they that worship Him, must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth (Jn. 4:27)

1. It is improper and unscriptural too, for any one to use the word "Holy Ghost Fire" on their perceived enemy, REASON –

There is no where in the Holy Bible, were you can see the word (Holy Ghost Fire) that word is vain word, it has no biblical effect. Any word that is not as oracles of God is vain and can not please God if any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God, 1 Peter 4 v 11.

a) Jesus told us what to do to our enemies: - but I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them- that hate you and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you, that ye may be the children of your father which is in heaven, for the maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good and sendeth rain on to the just and unto the unjust (Matt. 5 v. 43-45) He also said: -

bless them which persecute you bless and not curse, Rom 12 v. 14, if it is possible as much as lieth in you live peaceably with all men dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves but rather give place unto wrath for it is written vengeance is mine I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if your enemy is hungry feed him, if he thirst, give him drink, for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head (Rom. 12 v. 17-20).

b) For we are called to this: - Who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity. And purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works these^ things speak and exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee, Titus 2: 14. We are called for good works, not to be part of bad works.

c) An Example of Christ: - For even hereunto were ye called because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that ye should follow His steps. Who did no sin, neither was guilt found in His mouth. Who when He was reviled, reviled not, again when he suffered, he threatened not but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously, 1 Pet. 2 V. 21-23. Christ is an Example to us, you too, be an example to others, also not to fire your enemies or kill them.

2. Can Holy Ghost Come with Fire? The answer to it is NO.

Holy Ghost has no fire but the bible says that, and there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire and it sat upon each of them, Acts 2 v 3 please underline the word, ^like as of fire" not fire the bible said: - and things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to my self and to Appolos for your sakes they might lean in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another (1 Cor. 4 v. 6) in a nut shell it has no fire and can not hurt or kill any human.

3. Is He Sent on Earth to Kill or fight for the Saints?

1. The answer to the question above is No. He has not*'sent to fight for the saints or kill any of the saint's enemy.

2. But howbeit when He the Spirit of truth is come He will guide you into all truth, for He shall not speak of Himself but whatsoever he shall hear that shall he speak and he will show you things to come, he shall glorify me for shall received of mine and shall shew

it unto you, all things that my father have are mine therefore said I that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you (Jn. 16 v.12-15)

3. But when the comforter is come, whom I will send unto from my father even the spirit of truth which proceedeth from my father he shall testify of me and ye shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning Jn. 15 v. 26-27 all this are the work of the Holy Ghost. An example of what I am saying.

A SAMARITAN VILLAGE REFUSES TO RECEIVE JESUS:

It came to pass, when the time was come that He should be received up, He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem; and sent messengers before his face and they went and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for Him and they did not receive Him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem, and when his disciples James and John saw this they said. Lord, will thou that we command fire to come down from heaven and consume them even as Elias did, but he turn and rebuked them and said ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the son of man is not come to destroy men's lives but to save them and they went to another village Luk. 9 v. 51 - 56. You can see with me the Holy Ghost came to save lives and guide us, not to kill but to obey the words of Christ, not to obey man that is full of wicked works. For the bible said that, do not render evil for evil or railing for railing but contrariwise blessing knowing that ye are thereunto called that ye should in hereto a blessing.

For he that will love life and see good days let him restrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile let him eschew evil and do good let him seek peace and ensue it. 1 Peter 3 v. 8-11. It is not that same mouth you use to say Holy Ghost fire, die die, you use again to say Lord, Lord, bless me: Did you think that God will listen to such prayer? Let us see what the bible says: - out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren these things ought not to be so. Doth a fountain send for that the same place sweet water and bitter? James 3v. 10-11 Jesus warn again, but I say unto you which hear love your enemies, do good to them which hate you. Luk 6 v. 27. this saying is for those who listen and obey the teachings of Christ not those full of cursing and full of words that defiles one. Example; for from within out of the heart of men proceed evil thoughts, adultery, fornication, murder, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile the man, Mark. 7 v. 21-23. If you are one of those who are praying Holy Ghost Fire, back to sender, die die, please desist from such prayer and hold fast the teaching of Christ, because the bible said who so rewardeth evil for good, evil shall not depart from his house, Proverbs. 17 v. 13 for whosoever "Transgresseth" that is one, who goes beyond the teaching of Christ does not have 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 John 9-11 be careful then.

Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God but he that doeth evil hat not seen God, III John vs.11.

Thanks for reading, waiting to receive your question.

ELDER (EVANGELIST) IFEANYI ONICHABOR

"Defender Of The Gospel Of Christ"