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NO.205

AN APOSTLE OUT OF DUE SEASON

PAUL INTRODUCES HIMSELF TO THE BRETHREN

Upon careful reading, one cannot help but be deeply touched by the love that pours out of Paul's letters to the brethren. After being bound by "religious" forms, Paul is feeling the liberty that is in Christ and the love that he finds in his heart for those who are like-minded.

With his witness to having met the Lord Jesus, Paul introduces himself to the Church at Corinth as one "...born out of due time." It is possible that all he meant in that was that he was not part of the group that actually touched Him in flesh and blood, but as we get more acquainted with the man, we cannot help but believe that Paul's statement went far beyond that.

The other apostles each had had great experiences with the Lord but none had felt the power of the resurrected Christ as Paul who was thrown down from his high horse and blinded by the brightest light. None of the others had been as this man who was "...caught up to the third heaven. How he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful (possible) for man to utter." (II Cor.12: 2b,4)

For this reason, Paul had revelation that none were able to comprehend or grasp by the Spirit at the time. It has taken the Spirit of revelation over the centuries to stir some of the chosen along the way into understanding more and more what Paul saw in the third heaven on that day.

When God separated Paul from Judaism it was no small thing. Paul, who had been Saul, an Israelite of the tribe of Benjamin had been most devoted to his religion and its works. It took the extreme experience that God gave him to bring the drastic change in him, but more than that, this experience gave Paul the confidence and assurance that he needed; he never wavered. Think on this, is it not the way that our Lord deals with His called out ones? In some way, He brings us out through experiences that we cannot deny.

So Paul did not confer with the other apostles. "*But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb (Judaism) and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia (the desert) and returned again to Damascus.*" (Gal.1: 15-17)

Paul did not, as so many would have advised, run quickly to get the opinion of the brethren; Paul went to wait on the Lord all by himself. For this reason, he could truthfully declare that the "...gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the **revelation of Jesus Christ.**" (Gal.1: 11b-12)

Note that Paul said that it was because God revealed His Son from within that He was able to

preach the Gospel that the Lord gave him. To hear the kind of revelation that Paul received, it was necessary that he not be tied down to any church or any group of any kind. This is why he did not confer with the apostles that had been before him; he could not afford to do this. Paul's training had been different than theirs and his revelation would not be the same.

The spirit of “denominationalism” declares that “if you are not one of us, you are not moving in God!” But with maturity comes the understanding that the Spirit of God leads many in different ways although all in the same direction.

Paul had come out of the “religious systems of men.” The others had been simple fishermen who had the privilege to be taught day by day by the Lord here on earth. They could not possibly be shown the mysteries that a man who had met the resurrected Lord after having been totally immersed and involved into the religious system could receive.

A saint of God is one who has been called out and separated from the world's systems unto God. All of God's saints are called to become sons in the image of Jesus and each has been prepared and given a specialty from the foundation of the world. Paul was called as the apostle to the Gentiles. While the first apostles all worked to convert other Jews, Paul is the one who established “Christianity among the Gentiles.”

Paul did not receive his calling from any man; he received it directly through the revelation that the Spirit gave him. The revelations that he received were never contrary to the words that Jesus spoke here on earth; they were a continuation.

In each of his letters, Paul expounded the word that he had received through the revelation that the Lord had given him. As we read these we understand why Paul said that he was born out of due time; the word that he expounded would certainly be best understood by those upon whom the end of the age would come.

PAUL'S REVELATION OF SONSHIP AND PREDESTINATION

Today, there are many denominations and many doctrines among those who have left the denominations. Divisions in doctrines are not new, they were in full swing even at the time of the apostle Paul. *“For when one says, 'I am of Paul' and another, 'I am of Apollos' are you not carnal?”* (I Cor.3: 4) Many plant the seed and each plants according to the revelation that God has given, but it is God who gives the increase or the life to that seed. It is God who changes us into the image of the Son.

Among his many revelations, Paul's teaching on God's predestination and sonship must not be overlooked. We find him explaining this in his letter addressed to those who are the saints (separated ones) and faithful in Christ Jesus.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places (spirit and soul) in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will...” (Eph.1: 3-5)

First of all we must keep in mind that Paul's letter is addressed to the saints and not to the multitudes. Paul exhorted Timothy to “rightly divide the word of truth.” Much confusion comes as a result of applying the word to the wrong people. The high calling that Paul was pressing into is for those who have been separated and prepared by the Lord from the foundation of the world. The “whosoever will” people should not be expected to press into the “high calling of God.”

The next thing that we see is that this call is according to God's good pleasure and because of this, *He chose us*, we did not choose this calling. We were chosen in Christ from the foundation of the world. God is the One who initiated this and He is the One who is finishing it in us.

We find Jesus declaring this, *“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.”* (Jn.15: 16)

From the time that the Lord called us, He opened these truths to us so that when we are tested we are grounded and not shaken in our faith. We must realize that none can understand us unless they have heard and answered the call as well. This does not make us “elites” but it does separate us in our thinking and in our ways.

As we walk with Him and surrender our lives to Him, we find that His yoke is easy and His burden is much lighter than what we had put on ourselves or what others tried to put on us. We learn that it is God's good pleasure to give us the kingdom *“Do not fear little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”* (Luke 12: 32) We find that when Jesus said, *“You did not choose Me, but I chose you,”* He really meant it.

It is important that we know that God's good pleasure is His purpose and plan for His creation. Keep in mind that it was God's good pleasure to bruise His Son, *“Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief..”* (Isa.53: 10a) Sons will be chastised and bruised as well. They will be taught to embrace the cross each day until they are totally in Christ and the Adam man within is totally dead.

The chosen are not necessarily the wise and sophisticated either, if one is ever wise in the wisdom of the world he must let go as a chosen of God. *“For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are.”* (I Cor.1: 26-28)

Paul was saying that there are some among the “called,” who could be chosen but who are hindered

by their worldly knowledge and wisdom. Paul teaches that God knew all from the foundation of the world and He chose them at that time according to His foreknowledge.

*“For whom **He foreknew**, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”* (Rom.8: 29-30) Predestination is according to God's foreknowledge. He knew from the beginning, how we would respond to His call and He chose us accordingly.

Many have set aside God's predestination because they cannot understand it, but if we are among the called from the foundation of the world for this purpose, we will be drawn by the truth. We will understand that God has a purpose for His entire creation and that His purpose is being fulfilled as He has determined, each in his own order.

Paul compares God's purpose to a harvest, there are **firstfruits** then the rest of the harvest. *“But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For 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 shall be made alive. BUT EACH IN HIS OWN ORDER; **Christ the firstfruits**, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.”* (I Cor.15: 20-23)

The firstfruits are the first resurrection. They are the ones who will quicken or make alive those who answer to the second resurrection. Note that *“Christ the firstfruits”* is plural. When Paul writes about “Christ” he is not speaking only of Jesus the Christ, he is speaking of the entire Christ. Jesus the Head and the body also. When Christ appears at His coming, it is not only Jesus the Head, it is the entire Christ body. When Paul speaks of the *“manifestation of the sons,”* he is speaking of the revealing of the Christ.

“If anyone loves Me (the truth), he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will

*come to him and make our home with him.” (Jn.14: 23) After Calvary, Jesus rose from the dead, then by His Holy Spirit, He came to indwell those who love the truth and keep it in their hearts. When He arises from the midst of these, the full Christ will appear. This is what creation is groaning and travailing for... “Because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption (decay) into the glorious liberty of the children (sons) of God...and not only they, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, **the redemption of our body.**” (Rom.8, 21, 23)*

This is the Father's perfect plan and purpose from the foundation of the world. It is not an afterthought on the part of our God, it was all very carefully ordained from the beginning and it cannot be changed.

Paul was born out of due season because he saw all of this but could not attain to it in his lifetime here on earth. However, the Lord revealed it to him so that he could write it for those who would later understand it all.

Paul was an educated man and not a fisherman. He could write of things too complicated for those of his day to understand. Peter lovingly wrote that “*In his epistles, Paul wrote some things hard to understand, which those who are untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.*” (II Pet.3: 16)

RAPTURE OR RESURRECTION

I do not hesitate to declare here that the next great event for the church is not the physical 'rapture' of the saints as so many believe, the next great event is the 'resurrection.' This is one of Paul's great revelations and teaching.

Now, as it was in the days of Peter and Paul, it is easy for those who cannot hear by the Spirit to twist God's word and build doctrines that resemble more fairy tales than the beautiful truths that our God is revealing.

Today, because all the signs of the end of this age are in place, it is easy to get caught up in the signs and lose our focus. Because the world is becoming a frightful place, teachings that offer an easy way of escape are very popular. This is why many are desperately holding on to the “rapture” doctrine as a way of escape. Beloved, the only way of escape made for us is “the cross of Jesus Christ,” the death of the Adam nature in us.

It is in the cross that we find the peace of God and the assurance of 'resurrection' which is the true 'rapture.' Recently, the Lord led me to read the verses that are so commonly used to propagate the 'rapture doctrine.” “*But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.*

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

*For this we say to you by the Word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the **voice of an archangel**, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.*

Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.” (I Thess. 4: 13-17)

Because the nominal church of this world is still in darkness, the people who are taught by her are looking to the world for their safety and security and what they see is frightening. So they find comfort in believing that God will sweep them up in a whirlwind and take them to a place far from the horrors and terrors of this world.

When our hearts cry out for truth, the Lord will speak by the Spirit and if we listen we will know the truth and have no need for such doctrines. The church may be able to sell the people on this someday 'rapture' theory here in the States where life is still safe and pleasant, but how can they sell it to those who live where all hell has already broken loose? Why would God wait so long to rapture the

saints who are living under the constant fear of maiming, torture, famine and incurable ravaging diseases?

Anyone who diligently seeks God will come to the understanding that He never takes His people out of the fire; He walks them through the fire. God did not take Daniel away from the lion's den; He met Daniel in the den. The three Hebrew children were not spared the fiery furnace; God met them in the fire. God does not change. He is a "*Rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*" (Heb.11:6b) Himself is the reward. God has prepared us for such a time as this. He has "raptured" us already and we have met Him in the "air" with those who are in the Spirit.

"Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, 'If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed, and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.'" (Jn.8: 31-32) Jesus was speaking to believers who were seeking after truth. They were confused by the teachings that they had been receiving and now they were seeking truth and He told them, *'If you believe what I am telling you, you will find it to be true.'* This is a key; we first believe His word then we know that it is true. We first believe that Jesus is the truth then the truth witnesses to our hearts.

Receiving Jesus means believing that His Word is true. Then He gives us the understanding of the Word (written or spoken) "*God who at various times and in different ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son...*" (Heb.1:1a) When we believe that the Son is raised from the dead and alive, we receive His Spirit and He speaks to us.

We have the written testimony of those who touched the Son in the flesh and we also have the Spirit of the Resurrected Son within our own hearts. As Jesus said, "*However, when He the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come." (Jn.16: 13)* The words to note in this verse are **HE WILL SPEAK AND HE WILL TELL YOU.** When we let go all our thoughts and

activities and are quiet before the Lord, we are able to hear His voice. With a willing heart, we follow Him into all truths.

Teachers of the Word plant the seed, but only the quickening Holy Spirit within each gives it life. Teachers and preachers awaken us to His stirring within. Then when our ears are opened, the teacher confirms that we have heard from God. It is certain that all who are still in bondage to their church's works and rituals are there because they need to be. They are comfortable with the teachings that they receive so we bless them and pray for them.

WE BELONG!

Recently a dear one called to share how she had been hurt by some who had once been her friends in the church that she had left. Now they were pointing the finger at her for not going to church. When they asked her what church she attends, she told them that she had no church. I quickly reminded her that this is not so.

Actually, she belongs to THE ONLY church that God recognizes. "*For we have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect. To Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than the blood of Abel."* (Heb.12: 22-24)

Beloved, if this is not a glorious church, if they cannot accept that we are members of such a company in Christ, do not waste your time trying to explain. Some need the structure of a visible assembly to feel spiritual. They cannot know how happy and satisfied we are walking with our Lord. They do not know how good it is to share Him with one or two assembled by the Spirit. They do not know how we rejoice with great jubilation when we sing praises to our God with the myriads of angels.

We are not looking to separate ourselves from anyone, but we know in our hearts that God has sepa-

rated us and we no longer love the same things. Now God teaches us to seek only His approval. We belong to Him for we are in the Beloved. *“He chose us in Him...having predestined us...He has made us accepted in the Beloved.”* (Eph.1: 4a, 5a, 6b) To be in the Beloved is to be in the One who is loved the most, we praise Him forevermore!

THE LAST TRUMP AND THE ANGEL IN MY CLOSET

When Paul announced the word of the resurrection, he spoke of the “last trump.” These words inspired renown artists to paint glorious scenes of angels sounding their golden trumpets over the earth. However, as beautiful as these may be, they do not depict what Paul had seen in the Spirit.

Knowing that spiritual realities are understood by the things that are made, we know that the trump speaks of a crisp, concise, loud and clear word from the Lord. Paul explains that the Lord Himself delivers this last message, but it comes with the voice of the Archangel. *“For the Lord Himself shall descend with the voice of the Archangel.”* We know that this Archangel is Michael, the Angel of warfare. We see Michael in the book of Daniel as he comes to the aid of a lesser angel who was hindered by the Prince of Persia, on his way to deliver an answer to Daniel's prayer. (Dan.10: 12-13)

Speaking of the times of the end Daniel writes, *“At that time Michael shall stand up, the great Prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time, your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake. Some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.”* (Dan.1: 1-3)

Daniel was prophesying of the same resurrection that Jesus spoke about, *“Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the*

graves will hear His voice and come forth- Those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.” (Jn.5: 28-29)

A few years ago I had a dream that seemed so real, I thought it had really happened. In the dream *“I was in bed asleep when I was awakened by someone who wanted to introduce me to my husband. He took me to my walk-in closet where I saw a very large, majestic angel. I could not see his face but his body was very impressive. I was told, his name is Michael.”* Although I did not really understand the meaning of the dream at the time, it made a lasting impression on me and I knew that the Lord would give me more light on it later.

As I pondered the word that the Spirit has been speaking lately, the Lord led me to read again the verses about the “Last trump and the voice of the Archangel.” He then gave me a vivid remembrance of the angel to whom He had introduced as my husband in my closet and it all came together.

We know that the Husband is the Lord Himself. For several years now He has been coming to us from our closet (Spirit within) with the voice of the Archangel at the last trump. The last trump or last message is that which overcomes death in these mortal bodies and it is the message coming from our “closets” today.

Michael is the warring angel. He is the one who fought when war broke out in heaven, *“And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was there place found for them in heaven any longer.”* (Rev.12: 7-8)

“...and his mouth like the mouth of a lion (kingly power). *And the dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.”* (Rev.13: 2b)

The dragon is the one who gives power to the mouth of the lion. The lion represents the kingly powers of this world (rulers). Those who rule men are empowered with smooth and effective words to subdue the hearts of men. It is a war of WORDS.

Heaven is where God dwells. It is also where *“principalities and powers, rulers of the darkness of this age and hosts of wickedness have their being.”* Heaven is the invisible realm of spirit in our minds and affections where our thoughts struggle to choose our actions. It is the place where we can hear from God or yield to evil forces that continually press into our carnal minds. As we yield to the Holy Spirit, Michael and his angels come to fight and defeat the enemies in us.

It is from within us (our closet) that the word of the last trump is being heard. Within us, death is overcome, first in our spirits, then in our souls and finally in our bodies. For we know that not only the creation, but we ourselves *“...who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.”* (Rom.8: 23)

Michael and his angels have been warring against the enemies of our souls and bodies. They have been defeating the last enemy which is death in the flesh. The Word we hear now is the voice of the Archangel with resurrection power to defeat the beast and the false prophet, the image of man-made religions in the world, just as it was defeated within us.

THE ARMIES OF HEAVEN APPEAR

The warfare between the armies of heaven (Christ power) and the beast of the earth is on! The sons who have been made free from the beast within are now endowed with resurrection power to defeat the same beast in the world. Man-made religions of all kinds are the images that the dragon has set up. They will be utterly destroyed.

“For the Lord loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever; but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off. The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever.” (Ps.37: 28-29)

God is speaking of seed. “Words” are seeds. Paul teaches that to “every seed” there is a body; a tomato seed produces tomatoes and so on. When the Word has become “flesh” in the saints, the body of that seed will appear. Our spirits and souls will then

be clothed in bodies that are preserved forever. Then, the Word appears with power (white horse) to conquer evil in the earth.

“Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He that sat on him was called “faithful and true, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called “The Word of God.” And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.” (Rev.19: 11-16)

This is the time of the fierce battle waged by the One whose name is Word of God. This is not an ordinary battle with carnal weapons. *“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.”* (II Cor. 10:4)

This battle is fought in the hearts of all men with a light so bright that it blinds their eyes and knocks them down to the ground. The Word made “resurrected” flesh and bones is the mightiest weapon that has ever been devised. This is not the watered down word that we have heard in the past and it is not the written word that men manipulate and interpret to suit themselves; it is the living Word that shakes the earth until only that which cannot be shaken remains.

The white horse represents the “power of righteousness in battle.” The word that is coming at the end is established or seated on the true righteousness of God. The armies that followed the Word of God are empowered by God's righteousness. The ones who are seated on white horses are clothed in fine white linen which is the righteousness of the saints- see Vs.8b.

These are the firstfruits who overcame the beast

systems and they are the armies of heaven fighting the last battle by the Spirit to overcome the last enemy which is mortality.

This is God's purpose and good pleasure for His firstfruits. The body of Christ, in unison with Jesus the Head, riding on the power of God's righteousness to overcome and conquer the last vestige of Satan in the earth. This has already begun but will find its fulfillment in these last days.

THE TRUMP OF THE SEVENTH ANGEL

“But in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished as He declared to His servants the prophets.” (Rev.10: 7) This mystery is stated, *“Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’* (Rev.11: 15)

The seventh angel who blows the last clear message in the earth is Michael the Archangel. Many things happen as a result. Not only the heavenlies but the entire earth is shaken from this. The powers that have been ruling the world will continue to shake until all are de-throned and the mystery of God (His plan and purpose for creation) will be finished. Christ who had reigned in His Body by the Spirit, will now visibly rule the earth as well.

The spiritual warfare that is at work in the heavens is causing a lot of trouble to the prince of this world. He knows his time is short and he is struggling to hold onto his place of power. The beast that John saw, with the mouth of the lion (kingly power) speaks smooth, eloquent and compelling words from churches' pulpits and political podiums everywhere.

In this way, the words of the dragon are inciting the hearts of violent men and spreading confusion and terror everywhere. This is a war of WORDS that ends in violence and bloodshed throughout the world. We may be offended by the “media,” but it is God's instrument to bring every work of darkness

in high places to light. When we hear the news today, we know that men seek worldly peace but cannot find it anywhere and people are rebelling on every hand. So the media will keep digging and exposing darkness and death. The Day of the Lord has come and the Sun of Righteousness is arising!

The time of the *“mouth speaking great things and blasphemies* (words against Christ).”(Vs.5) is almost over. How we praise God for having first dealt with us in His own way. We join with John and *“We give thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was and who is to come, because You have taken Your great power and reigned. The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth.”* (Rev.11: 17-18) Selah!!

The Adam creation man was finished on the cross, and now the same one who had made himself to be God in us and in the earth is replaced by the new creation of God in Christ! Jesus is Lord! Our God reigns!

Because of His love, *Jackie Caporaso*

NOTICE: Clydell Williams, a brother in Christ, has made the words of prophecy that he receives from the Lord available to all. This is the link to his website:

<http://sites.google.com/site/voiceofthecrayer/>