

## -THE MIND OF CHRIST-

Highly esteem among yourselves the same thing you esteem highly in Christ Jesus. Think them deeply in your hearts. Let them be constantly on your minds. Let them become so much a part of your very being that the moving force that was in Christ may also be in you, seen and approved of men.

Christ was the essential form of God. This creature form was taken by God when He created the heavens and the earth and all that in them is. Christ was a manifestation of God, for God in His essence is invisible and therefore could not be manifested to a creature. This manifestation is spoken of by John as the LOGOS (Word) which means an expression. It is not to be wondered at that God in the flesh was equal with God in His essence. He Himself did not regard this equality as something to attain or grasp as He already had it. So Christ in the form of God had all the essential qualities of God that could be manifested to the eye.

Now Christ stripped Himself, or emptied Himself of His glory. He took upon Himself the likeness of man, which to Him was the form of a slave, a bondservant. In this likeness of man he further humbled Himself and became obedient unto death. He stooped to die for you and for me on the tree. But this was a stumbling block to the Jews, for their Holy Book said that any man who was hanged upon a tree was a curse. It was on that tree that God judged the sin of the whole world. He took that sin upon Himself. He became sin. There on the tree the wrath of God was emptied upon that body, which was the likeness of sinful flesh which He Himself had assumed in order to manifest Himself to man. Had He not said, "He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father"?

Now because God had judged sin in this body of humiliation, thus freeing mankind from the penalty of sin and death, He exalted that body in a glorious resurrection, giving it a name that is supreme,

above every name that is named. It is quite possible that nothing so far has caused more chagrin and rage in Satan (Lucifer) than this act, for Christ takes the place to which he had aspired. This is just another way of saying that since God has taken upon Himself the penalty for sin and satisfied every claim of righteousness and justice, this all brings glory to His praise in all the heavenlies. God, manifested as a creature, has made a name for Himself that is recognized and known thru all the universe. Yes, so much so, that at that name (Jesus) every knee should bow, the knees of every being in heaven, on the earth, and under the earth. This name, JESUS, means GOD OUR SALVATION or GOD WHO IS SALVATION. He is the anointed One, for Christ means ANOINTED.

Every tongue shall confess Him as Lord. Lord in the Greek is KURIOS and in the Old Testament is used consistently of God. It was so understood in the first few centuries and it is said that Polycarp was martyred rather than call the Emperor LORD. Many today refuse to call the Christ GOD. They refuse to give Him due glory and honor. Such are under the influence of Satan who is determined to dim that glory as much as possible. It is Satan-inspired men who today so openly deny the virgin birth and essential deity of Christ. Few seem to rise up in defense or to in any way question this. But this will not last for long.

The time is coming when every tongue of the principalities and powers in the heavens, every tongue of those on the earth, and every tongue of those under the earth, both of those awaiting resurrection and of demons held in chains; I say, every tongue of these will confess Him (Christ Jesus) to be Lord and God, even as did Thomas. All this will be to the glory of God the Father and to His praise forever.

I say again, let this mind or spirit be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.

## -EQUALITY-

I have been thinking that in my past articles you might have gotten the wrong impression when I used such terms as "Israel set aside" "The equality of Jew and Gentile in the Body" and other such expressions. It might be well to explain the position of Israel before and after Acts 28:28.

Up to Genesis 11, God was dealing with all men on the same level as far as any calling or hope was concerned. But man became so corrupt in his ways that God gave up trying any more to deal with the nations directly. So He called a man, Abram, out of Ur of the Chaldees to be the father of a nation which should be a go-between or a nation of priests. They were to receive God's laws and teach them by word and example to the other nations.

After many delays and failures, the nation was almost prepared. They received the covenant with an unanimous vote and kept it -- not quite 40 days (the time of probation).

This breaking of their part of the covenant disqualified them for their priesthood. In the Ark of the Covenant they had the tables to remind them of a broken covenant. The law was added because of the transgression. Their only hope was a Redeemer and a new covenant. They could never fulfill their mission until they had accepted a new covenant. Thus they remained in bondage to the law.

The Redeemer came. He sealed the new covenant with His blood. Potentially, this was the end of the law. But Israel rejected the Redeemer and the covenant. They killed the Prince of peace.

The Prince made a prayer on Calvary which obtained the forgiveness of Israel for their killing their Messiah. They were given another opportunity to receive the new covenant and their King. But as a nation, they again rebelled. That is the reason that the Jewish Christians were under the law during the Acts period of time. God was dealing with the nation. The individual could not be freed from

the law until the nation was freed.

This was illustrated by the case of Caleb and Joshua. They gave a good report at Kadesh-Barnea. They were ready to enter the land in faith. But the nation refused to enter in. So Caleb and Joshua had to spend the 39 years in the wilderness with rebellious Israel before they too could enter in.

This dealing with Israel as a separate nation gave them a higher hope than man had ever had before. Their hope was to be a kingdom of priests to the nations. If it was not immediate because of failure, then it would be future in a restoration in resurrection. This resurrection would then of necessity be at least 1,000 years earlier than that of the rest of the nations.

The history of Israel is just one failure after another. But God is long-suffering. His plans will finally be put into effect.

But at Acts 28:28, God set Israel aside. I mean by that expression that they were put back on a level with the other nations. No longer did they have a hope of the kingdom. No longer did they have a hope of the earlier resurrection. Since Acts 28:28 God has made no distinction whatsoever between Jew and Gentile.

But out of all these nations, Jews and Gentiles, God is making a new calling. This calling is for a different purpose. Israel was to be a nation of priests on the earth. This new calling, THE CHURCH OF THE MYSTERY, is to have an earlier resurrection than that which Israel hoped for. It is to have an office of mediation with the principalities and powers in the heavenly places.

This calling is given in grace, not by any promise or covenant. In this Body Jew and Gentile are equal because they are equal before they respond to the call. There is no difference between the unsaved Jew and the unsaved Gentile. There is no difference between the saved Jew and the saved Gentile. There is also no difference between a Jewish member of the Body and a Gentile member of the Body. Again God is dealing with all nations on the same basis as He did before Gen. 11.

### -THE GOSPEL IN ACTS-

1. The first gospel to be made known in Acts was the gospel of the kingdom. This gospel was to Jews only. To them was the promise of the coming Messiah. This was not a gospel concerning life, which could be had by any irrespective of nation by believing in God the Creator. It was a gospel concerning a kingdom to be set up here on the earth by the King or Messiah of Israel.

To enter into the hope of that kingdom, it was necessary to repent, or have a change of mind. Repentance was never preached as a requirement of eternal life. That is why John's gospel does not use the word REPENT. He spoke concerning life, not the hope of Israel. But later, when Gentiles began to be added, this gospel was called the gospel of the Circumcision. It was the only gospel that the 12 ever preached (with the one exception of Peter in the house of Cornelius).

2. The second gospel to be made known in Acts was the gospel of grace which was given to Paul for the Gentiles. It was a gospel of grace in that it was not of promise or covenant. It was the good news that Gentiles might take part in the blessings of Israel by faith and not by the works or observances of the Jewish law. These Gentiles were partakers of the hope of the kingdom here on earth. They were miraculously grafted into the body of Israel. As concerning the law, there were just 4 things they were to observe so as not to be in any way objectionable to the Jews who fellowshiped with them. This was the gospel of the Uncircumcision. Paul also preached the gospel of the Circumcision to the Jews just as did the 12.

3. The third gospel to be made known in Acts was the gospel of eternal life. It was preached to the raw idolatrous heathen. Paul was the only one that preached this gospel and then on only two occasions, at Lystra and Athens. Compare this gospel with the everlasting gospel of Rev. 14:6,7. It has no special hope or calling.

### -SOME TRUTH FOR TODAY-

How can you still fear evil spirits? The Father Himself has delivered you from the kingdom of darkness. He has transplanted you into the kingdom of His dear Son. The Son has victoriously ascended to heaven. There He shares the divine might of His Father. With Him He now works in man. He, by His sufferings has united you with the Father. He has freed you from all the powers of darkness. He exhibits these powers as captives in His triumphal pomp. He shows their impotence to harm His kingdom established among men.

How can you still let the doubts and fears of your conscience bring you into slavery to superstition? Christ has nailed to His cross, and blotted out the record of guilt which testified against you in your conscience. He has assured to you the forgiveness of all your sins.

How can you fear to be polluted by outward things? How can you suffer yourselves to be in captivity to outward ordinances? You have died with Christ to all earthly things. You are risen with Christ. You live (according to your true, inward life) with Christ in heaven. Your faith must be fixed on things above, where Christ is, at the right hand of God. Your life is hid with Christ in God. It belongs no more to earth.

-- Adapted from a paraphrase of Col. 2:8 to 3:4 by Neander and quoted by Coneybeare & Howson.

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### -CORRECTION-

On pages 3 and 4 of No. 18 of TRUTH FOR TODAY, make the following corrections;

In Matt. 28:19 "name" is ONOMA.

In Eph. 2:19 "Strangers" is XENOI.

In 2 Tim. 1:12 "committed" is PARATHEKE.

In Heb. 11:1 "substance" in the A V or "assurance" in the R V is HUIPOSTASIS. "Evidence" is ELENCHOS.

I copied these in my Bible at a time when I had no way of checking them and handed them on to you as I had gotten them. Sorry.

Add to this; In 2 Tim. 2:19 "nameth" is ONOMAZO.

-THE EDITOR'S DESK-

TRUTH FOR TODAY; a Bible class which meets at my home (if the lane is navigable) each Tue. night at 7:45. You are invited to come.

TRUTH FOR TODAY; a radio Bible class over station WRSW FM each Tue. night at 7. Tune to 107.3 on the FM dial.

TRUTH FOR TODAY; a monthly paper for your help and encouragement. It is free. Have it sent to your friends and relatives.

Receipts for Feb. are; A30 \$23. A31 \$10., A32 \$1., A33 \$3.10, A34 \$1., A35 \$5., A36 \$26. I certainly appreciate your help and fellowship in this ministry.

Due to the coal war, we have spent some time cutting and hauling wood. The furnace eats it up quite fast. The drag saw on the tractor comes in handy these days.

Did not receive a single comment about the questions put in the last issue. So I am leaving them out this time. I must have done the wrong thing again.

Thanks for all the fine letters I have received lately. Not only have they come from this country, but from England, Australia, New Zealand, South America, and British West Africa. I do not have them all answered yet, but I keep working on them.

Another pure bred Brown Swiss heifer calf arrived Mar. 10. We call her Janet. Her mother's name is Jane.

Mr. A. O. Bowser of Bremen and I drove to the conference, using his car. This was one of the best conferences I ever attended. The speakers were; Mr. Bowser of Bremen, Mr. Hazekamp of Grand Rapids, Mr. Robinson of Gila, and myself. Mr. Julien was the host. The three evening sessions were held in Rockford, Milwaukee, and Evanston. The round table discussions were quite profitable -- for me at least. Mrs. Baker took over the farm while I was gone, Feb. 28 to Mar. 3.

Some more anonymous gifts were received. Thanks a lot.

The hardest part about getting out this paper is finding the time. First I make up a dummy copy as I write the articles, then type the stencils, run off the copies on a 1908 model 8-F Rotary Neostyle mimeograph machine, staple the sheets together, write the addresses, lick the stamps, fold, sort and tie into bundles, and take it to the postoffice. This, along with getting out a weekly radio study and material for the classes here at home must be done in my spare time left from farming 79 and 1/3 acres. I make this explanation so that when you find my work not so perfect, you will not criticize it too severely.

We have added about 40 new members to our TRUTH FOR TODAY family in the last month. I am sure they are welcome, and pray that they will learn to know the love of Christ.

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