

“THE GATES OF HELL WILL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST THE CHURCH”

Now the above scripture infers and rightly so that the church is in hell and has the devil as its head. Is that a shock to you??? We will now take a good look at the outer "gates of hell" and the inner "gates of hell". For by now most of you are aware that the kingdom of God is within us. You are also aware that the outer and the inner work hand in hand most of the time.

If we have not overcome death and hell we have no business leading or teaching God's people. If you have not been in a battle with the Pharaoh (our government) you have not overcome hell; for our capitalistic Pharaoh stands at the gates of hell (known as the church age) making sure nobody leaves unless humbled and changed. By the time Pharaoh finished dealing with the children of Israel, they were prepared to go on a journey of “never turning back”.

Let me add that our freedom from our government is not the ultimate in freedom. If it were we could all go to war and overthrow the government. We all know that is not the answer. Our only true freedom is through Christ — a complete metamorphosis — a new creation. This metamorphosis is the story of mankind written in mystery in the Bible — our road map back to God. Only the Holy Spirit can lead and guide one on this journey.

Isaiah 48:1 — Hear this... which swear by the name of the Lord and make mention of the God of Israel, but not in truth, nor in righteousness.

The word righteousness means this: purity of heart and rectitude of life; conformity of heart and life to the divine law. It includes all we call justice, honesty and virtue with holy affections of heart. In short, it is true religion.

1. We are to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. Notice that although the kingdom of God is “joy, peace, and righteousness in the Holy Ghost”, we are to seek after righteousness for it is the only one of the three facets of the kingdom that is not for the individual, but it is a plumbline that will bring deliverance to the world.

One day I made a call to a friend whom I met in the Charismatic days. She was a leader, a prophetess, well known among the charismatics. We had absolutely no fellowship. As a matter of fact, the fellowship with the world was more fulfilling. I knew she thought we were off in error. The light of the kingdom was a foreign language to her. I felt the pain Paul felt when he had to leave his fellow Jewish people and go to another people who had hearts not taught any Christianity.

Then that same verse calls the unrighteous “unbelievers” and children of “darkness”, even though they were baptized in the Spirit. You will notice in the book of Acts the believers were all of one mind, lived as a community, and had all things in common. People think they own their lives. May I ask, did you decide when you would be born or do you choose what hour you will die??? Now keep on reading verse fifteen. He calls the born again Christians who have not come into the kingdom, children of Belial and temples filled with idols instead of God. Does that put a little fear in your heart or do you just yawn at words like this and think they are for your neighbor??

Romans 5:17 says that grace **reigns through righteousness**. The scripture also says, “He gives grace to the humble.” Do you have crooked places in your heart that would keep grace from reigning??? The old wives’ tale that says the church is under grace is just that — B.S. The church is dead, not under grace. We should all pray that grace will be given to us as we come before the throne of judgment known as “the coming of the Lord”.

Psalms 132:9 tells us, **the priests are to be clothed in righteousness**. Now you, of course, know we are the

new priesthood. You know also that righteousness is a facet of the resurrection so we, my dear friend, must come through the veil of our own righteousness, our own filthy grave clothes and leave behind all idolatry to be clothed with God if we are to see the true church come in all her glory. Wow! Wow!! And double Wow!!!

2. Ezekiel 15:20 says **we deliver our own souls by righteousness.**

3. 1 John 2:29 — **Everyone that doeth righteousness is born of God and does not sin.**

4. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness. Not after any of the fruits of the spirit but after righteousness. Nor after wealth as many ministries do, nor the saving of souls, nor anything we can do for God, but we are blessed if we seek after righteousness.

Isaiah warns us that **our righteousness is as a filthy rag.** It clothes us and keeps our sin hidden from our eyes. Self righteousness covers our iniquities. We can do many wonderful things in His name and do them in our own righteousness. Self righteousness is a grave clothes taken from us little by little by those around us who are members of our community. Notice Lazarus' clothes were taken from him in the resurrection by those who were part of his fellowship.

Corinthians 1 15:34 — **Awaken unto righteousness and sin not.** If we are yet self righteous we are considered sinners even though we have given our hearts to Christ, been a prophet, taught God's people, evangelized the world. Now that infers if you are still a sinner, you are still asleep in the grave even though you have met Christ and been baptized in the Spirit. If our righteousness is asleep we are yet sinners. Do you get this? Don't give me the old song and dance that Christ took away our sin when we met Him. I fear you are dull of hearing. Now we know that heaven is joy, peace, and righteousness in the Holy Spirit so if you are asleep unto righteousness, you certainly have not finished the race and have fallen short of the glory of God. Shame on you for letting the very devil use the scripture to deceive you. And shame on you for leading a righteous life and calling that the example for the people to follow instead of **giving up your life as the example.**

2 Corinthians 6:14 says **there is no fellowship with unrighteousness** so if you are walking in God's righteousness you have no fellowship with those who are walking in their own righteousness even though they are Christians. If you cannot fellowship with Piecemakers, one of us is walking in our own righteousness.

Below is a list of other scriptures. Please read, study, and let the word go down deep and bring to pass that which it is sent out to do.

Proverbs 10:2 — "Righteousness delivereth from death."

Proverbs 11:19 — "Righteousness leadeth to life."

There are many Scriptures on, "He judgeth the world with righteousness". If we are to judge the world we must be clothed in His righteousness.

Ecclesiastes 3:16 — "In the place of righteousness, iniquity was there."

Remember, Jesus is saying this in response to the Charismatic hotshots, "Get thee hence, I never knew you, you doers of iniquity." All we did as Charismatics is dead works and must be laid down. All we did as Christians in the church age must be laid down. It is all dead works. Tough truth to take, but take it we must if we are to be counted as those who "endure until the end to be saved" or those "counted worthy to enter the kingdom".

Jeremiah 33:16 says the body of Christ will be known as **the Lord our righteousness.** You will not know joy and peace until you are right with your iniquities removed — no more hidden sin.

There are many more scriptures on "righteousness". Let us end with one of the most profound, **Malachi 4:2. The Sun of Righteousness will arise with healing in His wings.** The Sun of righteousness is a light which will make men's hearts faint because of their own iniquity. He will make every crooked place straight. He will expose every thought, every evil motive. He will bring down all mountains, bring up all valleys and unite us into one new man, and then, dear ones called to be saints, we will be healed.



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