

The Clarion of Christ Ministerial Fellowship

-a non-denominational communion of ministries with the purpose of mutual encouragement, like minded fellowship and love toward one another.

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The Wedding At Cana Lou Pressman

"And on the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee....", John 2:1.

All of us are most likely familiar with the miracle at Cana in the Gospel of John chapter 2. During the wedding the Lord turns the water into wine. We know unlike the first three Gospels this was written later as John, who was an eyewitness and the last of the original apostles, was trying to counteract heresies and further establish the fact of who Jesus is. Let us also keep in mind this was our Lord's first miracle that John recorded in his gospel. With all this in mind I want us to explore not just this miracle but its great significance. Notice how the chapter and the event start off chapter 2:1 "And on the third day". So we must now look back to the previous two days to appreciate the third.

The first day, chapter 1:1 look at the first three words; "In the beginning". John's gospel starts off just like the book of Genesis. Jesus was there in the creation, the original Genesis. He was there in your personal Genesis, your new creation, your beginning, when you gave your heart to Jesus, when you became born again, that was our first day. As vs. 3 states; we "came into being by Him". Thus the first day, creation.

Then on the same day, vs. 28 "John was baptizing". We know that the act of water baptism is far more than a ritual. Its a cleansing, a spiritual purification. Relating to the new creation now working in us, washing, newness, the act of baptism is a declaration; I am new! Vs. 29 leads us into "The next day" or the second day John "saw Jesus coming to him". Remember, there were many people at the Jordan and they "saw Jesus coming to him" the phrase "coming to" means to be established. Jesus took His rightful place, not only witnessed by John but for all who are truly baptized. What else was being established? The establishing of the "Lamb of God", vs. 29 and also "...that He might be manifested to Israel", vs. 31. But as we know not only to Israel but to all those who truly see their need for Him. Let us also keep this in mind, at first John did not recognize Him, vs. 31. For only those whose hearts are being washed and

(Continued from page 1)

renewed will recognize Him. He wants to be continuously manifested to His people.

All this on the second day. When we get to vs. 35 "Again the next day". Still the second day because it is related to what just happened.

So it reads in vs. 35-37 Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked upon Jesus as He walked, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. In this particular instance Jesus does not say or ask to be followed but because of His word or the impact of His word they follow. Follow as in becoming disciples. As they follow Jesus wants His disciples, including us, to see the right motives of their heart and asks them "What do you seek", vs. 38a. In other words what are you looking for? What are you wanting? Searching for? Their response; "Rabbi (which translated means Teacher)", showing us that true disciples want to be taught by their Master.

***"Let us rejoice and be glad
and give the glory to Him, for
the marriage of the Lamb has
come and His bride has made
herself ready."***

Finally we get to chapter 2:1 "the third day" the wedding at Cana. Ephesians 5:31 "For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh". :32 "This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church". Marriage; two becoming one, a new life together and Lord willing bringing forth children, another new life. In the natural and the spiritual. In vs. 3 Scriptures tell us "the wine gave out". Wine in the OT was seen as the blessings of the fruit of the earth. It is also:

- Used at the Feast of the Passover, Mt. 26:27-29; Mark 14:23.

- Offered with sacrifices, Ex. 29:40; Lev. 23:13.
- Medicinal, recommended by Paul to Timothy, 1Tim. 5:23.
- Most importantly, symbolic of the blood of Jesus; 1 Corinthians 11:25.

At this wedding the actual and symbolic wine "gave out". The phrase "gave out" means lacking, destitute, deficient, falling short. Symptomatic of the end of the priesthood that was after the order of Aaron which was lacking, destitute, deficient, and falling short. For (1) there was going to be a new priesthood arising after the order of Melchizedek and (2) The wine gave out for a new covenant was about to be inaugurated, Hebrews 10:19, 20. Verse 6 Informs us that there were six stone waterpots for the custom of purification. Used to wash hands, feet, utensils, mostly ceremonially but they sat empty. As empty as their rituals, traditions and religion had become. John 2:7-9a Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the headwaiter." And they took it to him. And when the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew)....

What was previously dry and empty is now full of the new wine. The new wine symbolizing the blessings of the fruit of the earth and most importantly the blood of Jesus which makes all this possible. The servants, the one's with the baptized and cleansed hearts, the true disciples, always in the know for they are the ones that draw the new wine.

The headwaiter states in vs.10 "you have kept the good wine until now"- meaning until that moment, at this very time. For whenever and wherever it is needed the good wine, the new wine, will always be made available at the perfect time, the time when it is needed! Exodus 7 tells us Moses, turned water into blood making it unclean, undrinkable, judgment.

Jesus our Messiah turns water into wine. Making one clean, going from judgment to grace.

The wedding at Cana happened on the third day. One more thought.

Luke 13:31b "Herod wants to kill You."

Luke 13:32 "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I reach My goal.'" The NLT says it this way, "and the third day I will accomplish my purpose."

His goal and purpose as seen in the beginning of John's Gospel.

- 1) The revealing of His deity, the Christ, the Messiah, John 1.
- 2) The Passover Lamb of God "who takes away the sin of the world". John 1:29.

3) The making of disciples. Those who know He is worthy to be followed, 1:37.

4) The manifesting of His power, turning water into wine and His revelation as the Inaugurator of the new covenant.

5) The revealing of His ultimate purpose; the wedding feast.

"And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband." Revelation 21:2.

"coming down"- descending. Just like our God and Savior.

"He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things." Ephesians 4:10.

We who have been filled and refilled with God's Holy Spirit, we who have tasted the heavenly things, we who have ascended, *"and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus"*, Ephesians 2:6.

We are also those who have ascended and descended, living on this earth to show others the possibilities of a resurrected, ascended Spirit-filled life! *"Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."* Revelation 19:7. *"And he said to me, 'Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'"* And he said to me, *"These are true words of God."* Revelation 19:9.

"And on the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee...." John 2:1.

In our everyday encounters of life may we always be mindful that we are the bride of Christ!Ω

The Birthright of the Firstborn

By Steve Battles

Hebrews 12:15-17 says, *"Looking diligently lest any man fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. For you know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears."*

This is probably one of the saddest accounts in the Bible. One who did not value his birthright, more than a one-time meal at Jacob's table. It was truly a deception that he fell into that cost him the blessings of his father, Isaac.

The first born was always entitled to double what the other children received. The responsibility that came with the blessing was authority to take care of what the father had when he was gone. We could call it a buyout of royalty. We could relate it to so many today who have sold out to a cheap, bloodless, crossless, and power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ message, for a compromising spirit of prosperity and self-esteem; a message to gain the whole world and lose their own soul.

We hardly realize the price of being the children of the firstborn. When

The CMF Fall Gathering

Wed., Nov. 1-Fri., Nov. 3

Tuscarora Inn & Conference Center,
Mt. Bethel, PA. The registration
deadline is October 10.

For more information call Mark Waters
570-888-1055

Pastors and workers are welcome.

Our web site

www.christianmaturity.com

is currently under construction.

Meanwhile if you need information don't hesitate to call Bert Ghilardi at (607) 754-3709, or email Mark Waters at CMF7001@gmail.com

by mail write:

Christ Ministerial Fellowship

c/o Pastor Mark Waters

25 Warren Street

Sayre PA 18840-2925

Keep our youth in prayer!

July 16-20 35 of our youth will descend upon Refreshing Mountain Camp in Stephenville, PA. For almost 2 decades Emmanuel Fellowship Church, has sponsored a youth camp in the summer. Michelle Goodman of EFC will again take the lead in this important ministry to the youth. Times of worship, prayer, receiving divine impartation through the word are incorporated with activities to engage the youth on their level.

we see Jesus, born of a virgin, a first born child of the Father God, he truly came as one to bring we of Adams' race into a place of being heirs and joint heirs with him. **Rom. 8:16** says, *"The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ, if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."*

The identity of such a relationship is as costly as it was for him who brought us into the family of God. **Col. 1:12-15** says, *"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and has translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature."* He was then called, **in vs. 18**, *"The Head of the Church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead."* The almighty Father God had to have one who would be a firstborn Son to come into the world to bring an end to the nature of Adam, and the transgression of sin, by becoming the shame of sin; and then, as that firstborn son died on the cross, shed his innocent blood, and put to death in his body the curse of Adam's nature, He redeemed us from the power of death.

Now we can live in the nature of the firstborn...sons and daughters by his sacrifice. I do not have enough paper to write down all of the scriptures that speak of Jesus as our redeemer-kinsman. He pleased the Father to bring many sons unto glory. **Hebrews 2:10** says, *"For it was fitting for him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation, complete through sufferings."*

Many in our day have been led to believe in a *different* Jesus, a more modern and updated gospel. The average church service is designed to keep the crowds coming with a seeker-friendly message, and music, song, and dance, which has taken the place of real worship, in Spirit and in Truth.

The firstborn, Christ, has been removed, and we have buildings instead of the Church of the firstborn. We call it a grace gospel, but no holiness unto the Lord. We have thrown the altars out and substituted them with a lot of programs, but no repentance to turn back to the only One who can and will build the *real* church, the Bride of Christ.

He has reserved for us, as sons of the firstborn, a heavenly place to make us as those who can be in authority, bearing the responsibility of heirs to reign and rule with Him now and forever. **Eph. 1:5** says, *"Even when we were dead in sins, hath made us alive together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved) and hath raised us up together and made us to 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 toward us in Christ Jesus."*

When Esau sold his birth right, he lost all of the blessings that could have been his. The bible says that he even wept, and did everything he could to get it back, but it was no longer available.

Some are turned over to a reprobate mind. The desire for worldliness and going the wrong way becomes such an obsession, that there is no more hope. The choice to sell out to the flesh, the world, and the devil, has been so severe, that God says they have crossed the line of no return. **Romans 1:28** says, *"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not fitting."*

The following verses, **Romans 1:29-32**, tells you what they were filled with, that replaced being filled with the Spirit of God and righteousness.

Sometimes the Father's blessing was placed upon the next son in line, because the firstborn could not handle the responsibility. Jacob had several sons, but the son Joseph was the first born of Rachel, and he was a favorite of his father. The jealousy of the blessing was so great, that the other brothers wanted to kill him, but God spared him so that he could save a whole nation from starvation. As long as Joseph was alive, the blessings of the firstborn were upon him and his family.

We have unearned (but by grace and mercy) blessings through the death of the testator, the firstborn, Jesus Christ. Just as Joseph's brothers received, as a result of Joseph finding favor with Pharaoh, through much suffering, we also have favor with God through the suffering of Christ, the firstborn.

Christ being the firstborn among the dead, is likened to Joseph, who was considered dead, but was alive. **Col. 1-18**

Hebrews 2:10 says, *"For it was fitting for him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation, complete through sufferings."*

says, "And he is the head of the body, the Church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead: that in all things he might have the pre-eminence."

We see Jesus as the only one who could give us the birthright of our inheritance. We cannot substitute by our own name or ability, to receive the inheritance of the Kingdom of God, and the eternal riches reserved for the children of God. **Heb. 9:15,16** says, "And for this cause he is the mediator of the new covenant, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first covenant, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance: For where a testament is, there must also of necessity, be the death of the testator."

When people reject the gospel of the preaching of the Cross of redemption, and the shed blood of Christ, they sell out for a mess of pottage.

When we want a popular and more acceptable way, we will always avoid speaking and listening to the message of the Cross. **I Cor. 1:18** says, "For the message of the Cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved, it is the power of God." From the Cross, we see Jesus and the power that moves us into the full inheritance of the will of the Father. We know who we are, and we know what we have inherited; not always a place of earthly material goods, but a place of blessings and favor with our heavenly Father."

We have an eternal inheritance that will last forever. **Col. 3:1-4** says, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, and not on earthly things. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."

Don't allow the enemy to steal and seduce you from the birthright of the Son. God gave his sons the Spirit of God in their heart. This is the seal of your inheritance as children. **Gal. 4:6, 7**

Says, "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying," Abba Father".

Wherefore, thou art no more a servant, but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."

There are people with doctrines, and they are doctrines of devils, to seduce you as Jacob did Esau, to steal the blessing of the Covenant from you. **Rom. 16, 17, 18** says, "Now I beseech you brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which you have learned, and avoid them." For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly: and by smooth words and flattering speeches deceive the hearts of the innocent.

Today, we have so-called ministers and teachers building churches on doctrines of men, and they are deceivers sent by the enemy to steal your birthright, given by the first-born Son of God, Jesus Christ. Also, **Timothy 4:12** says, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter

times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron."

The complete end-time warning starts with "Beware of false prophets." In **Matt. 24:4, 5**, Jesus spoke to his disciples and said "Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, "I am Christ", and shall deceive many."

Jacob was a deceiver, and he was able to take Esau's birthright away from him. Beware of false brethren that creep in among the gathering of believers. **Jude 4** says, "For there are certain men crept in unnoticed, who were long ago ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into licentiousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ." We must be well informed by the scriptures to expose and not be deceived by their seduction.

This year alone will be a time of increasing deception, but we must be steadfast and keep strong in the faith, to resist and overcome, in order to receive the fullness of our inheritance of the first born.

I will close with this scripture: **I Timothy 4:16**...."Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee" Ω

Amen & Amen.

Dwelling in Glorious Oneness

by Keith Carroll

Between the 14th and 17th chapters of John, Jesus spoke much about his leaving so he could prepare a place for each of us in our heavenly Father's house. He was getting ready to leave the limitations of human life, to reveal more intently that we can experience a one-on-one fellowship with the presence of God during this life.

In My Father's house [household] are many dwelling places...I go to prepare a place for you...I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also (John 14:2-3).

Jesus spoke of the Father's household as dwelling places. These places speak of levels of fellowship; our interactions with the presence of God. Our fellowship with God brings us into additional levels of agreement with our heavenly Father.

Where was Jesus when he said, "be where I am"? He was still living a physical life on the earth. As a human being, Jesus was one with his Father because his fellowship with God kept him aware of what the Father was saying and doing. He sought to say what he sensed God desired to say, and do as God directed.

For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak (John 12:49).

Jesus answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner" (John 5:19).

Actively Dwelling in Oneness

The dwelling of God's Spirit with us and among us provides many opportunities for us to interact. There is an active place for all who desire to partake. Jesus spoke of this spiritual interaction as becoming one with our Father's loving heart and purpose.

His exit from life on earth enabled Jesus to once again function as the logos; God's expression. As the voice of God, Jesus is able to reveal and facilitate spirit-to-Spirit fellowship with God's presence simultaneously all around the globe.

The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me...Father, I desire that they...be with Me where I am (John 17:23-24).

Clearly, the glorious oneness Jesus spoke of was his agreement with the heart of God. So how do we agree with the heart of God and be one with the Father and the Son? Notice the bonding factor in this foundational declaration of Jesus: And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 22:37-40).

The Law and the Prophets in that day was a phrase used to identify all written Scripture. These two relational instructions are really one, with two supportive functions. Our love for God and our respectful love for one another is

Clearly, the glorious oneness Jesus spoke of was his agreement with the heart of God.

the foundational value that supports everything God says and does. Jesus demonstrated this concept during his life and death.

Expressing God's Love in Fellowship

Our dwelling in the Father's household must be based on our love; our ability to care and show concern. Our love for God is not fully experienced without us becoming expressions of that love. It must flow from us toward one another before it can be fully established in us.

Some tend to want to qualify our fellowship on the basis of what we believe. One verse is commonly used to justify the idea: Can two walk together, except they be agreed (KJV)? This verse does not really support the idea. The NASB is a more accurate translation: *Do two men walk together unless they have made an appointment?* (Amos 3:3) Amos said our fellowship only works if we agree to walk together in spite of our differences. In other words, we must agree to walk together or we won't. Think about it, do any two people totally believe alike? Even a marriage relationship only works well if we agree to love one another and appreciate each other's differences.

Additionally, most of what we believe tends to change as we go through different seasons in life. We think and relate differently; as a teenager, as a young adult, as a parent, and as a grandparent. Our growth from infancy into maturity keeps changing our perspective of what we believe to be true. Although our current season affects who we typically hang with, parents with young children verses those with older children, a balanced life involves some interaction with people in each season. Remember, in God's household, love is the bonding factor. The quality of our love should remain a constant.

Love AND Light

While Scripture references walking in the Light to experience fellowship, our fellowship should be based primarily on our love, rather than the light we are able to perceive. Our ability to see and appreciate the "Light of our Life" tends to improve as we mature spiritually. Light can be a factor in our fellowship, however, love is the foundational factor. *God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all...if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another...If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us (1 John 1:5-10).*

Each of us can and do err, not only in what we do but in what we think and believe. Not one of us "is" the Light, we all walk "in" the Light. No one's walk is without error for no one can fully know the heart and mind of God. We are His children. Godly fellowship with one another is based on "who" we believe in rather than "what" we believe. It is in the interaction of fellowship that we become a godly influence.

Our Father's house is a place of fellowship where we learn of His heart. We become one with our Father only to the degree that we come into agreement with His heart of love.

Everyone is invited to actively dwell in glorious oneness in the same relational place in the Father's heart. When we approach God as a son, as Jesus did, we are able to better experience God as Father, draw on His loving character and learn of His ways of behavior. As we actively live and abide in the love and attitude of Jesus, we learn to live more fully as disciplined children of God.



Keith dedicated his life to our heavenly Father in his pre-teen years and became a strong student of Scripture. For more than forty years he has ministered in various capacities including that of senior pastor. He is the author of two books on relationship.



Longing for a Lasting Work

Don Doyle

2Sa 7:5 *Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the LORD, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in?*

David endeavored to bring the Ark from Kirjathjearim. David envisioned a permanent house rather than a Transient Tent. He longed for the Lord and his Presence to dwell among his people in Jerusalem. David realizes this is necessary to keep the Lords people unified and from going astray. His Kingdom would be different from Saul's reign. David is also quite human.

1Ch 13:3 *And let us bring again the ark of our God to us: for we enquired not at it in the days of Saul.*

1Ch 13:4 *And all the congregation said that they would do so: for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people.*

2Sa 6:2 *And David arose, and went with all the people that were with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the LORD of hosts that dwelleth between the cherubims.*

2Sa 6:3 *And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drave the new cart.*

2Sa 6:6 *And when they came to Nachon's threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it.*

2Sa 6:7 *And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God.*

2Sa 6:8 *And David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzzah: and he called the name of the place Perezuzzah to this day.*

2Sa 6:9 *And David was afraid of the LORD that day, and said, How shall the ark of the LORD come to me?*

2Sa 7:18 *Then went king David in, and sat before the LORD, and he said, Who am I, O Lord GOD? and what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?*

2Sa 7:19 *And this was yet a small thing in thy sight, O Lord GOD; but thou hast spoken also of thy servant's house for a great while to come. And is this the manner of man, O Lord GOD?*

2Sa 7:20 *And what can David say more unto thee? for thou, Lord GOD, knowest thy servant.*

David's intention is good. However, the Lord Almighty works wondrously under his own terms.

I have been a home owner for about 11 Years. During that time I often examine and maintain as any responsible owner does their best. My Wife and I try to keep everything Functioning and Together. Human

Prayer Requests

Health and Healing:



Steve Wilber



Joe and Gloria Nieves

effort comes so natural to us. I often wonder how much of our own natural talents interrupt the hands of our creator. I observe the present church disintegrating almost as quickly as it is assembled! Why is this?

Gen 11:6 *And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.*

Gen 11:8 *So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.*

It is important that the Spirit of God Brings Life. We Highlight the Drawing Power of the Lord upon lives in

Revivals and Movements. I Believe the Lord's Burden is not only the Building of God's House. I Believe the Lord wants to bind us with Cords (sinews) that cannot be easily broken as in times past.

Eze 37:4 Again he said to me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say to them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.

Eze 37:5 Thus saith the Lord GOD to these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:

Eze 37:6 And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

Eze 37:7 So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.

Eze 37:15 The word of the LORD came again to me, saying,

Eze 37:16 Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions:

Eze 37:17 And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thy hand.

I wonder if the Lord wants to lay some ground work found in the Previous Chapter...

Eze 36:26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.

Eze 36:27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

I believe as a church we are meant to be Joined together with a semblance of permanency, likened to Pillar's that remain in the house of the Lord. It is then our lord can write upon us with something that separates us from the common. There is the gift of salvation .Then there is the outworking of his glorious gift in us through the Holy Spirit. By his hand we become epistles read of all men (2Co 3:2). The lord does not always require activity. He needs Stillness and willingness to write heavenly things upon us. When Jesus writes upon us, I am persuaded this work shall not be erased. Hallelujah!

Rev 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

Rev 3:13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Isa 45:9 Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherd of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?

May the Grace of God deliver us from works that do not profit! May his Holy Spirit produce a willingness to receive his Word afresh (Pro 1:23).

I have been a Christian Member and Laborer for many years. I have been so blessed to be a part of the building up together of the Church and House I Pray that Jesus himself is Building

Mat 16:18 And I say also to thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church: and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.



Despite the many setbacks, let us wait on the New Jerusalem: the Church that proceeds from the outworking from above. Let us stand on the word of our Savior, the greater David, to accomplish *the work of his hands.*

Heb 13:14 For here have we no continuing (Lasting) city, but we seek one to come.

Amen Ω

Don Doyle received the Lord Jesus into his heart Halloween Night in 1985. Since then he has attended Bethany Fellowship pastored by Ric Vargas for over thirty Years! He has helped the Church there in many capacities. Don is married to his wife Diane and has 3 step-children and 3 step-grandchildren.

CMF Men's Retreat

It was a blessing to gather March 32 to April 1 at Lighthouse Fellowship, West Pittston, PA for an encouraging time of fellowship and teaching. It was wonderful to meet pastors and workers from Luzerne County teaming up with our own brothers. The topic selected was Spiritual Fatherhood. Host pastor Shane Nichols spoke on Fathers, Young Men and Children from 1 and 2 John Friday night. The word he spoke was an encouraging word for the men to grow into the role of Father in the church, Family and in our communities. Shane taught that for us to achieve this we must seek for the life and fellowship that Jesus had with His Father and His disciples.

On Saturday Andy Wales, a teacher from Bethany Fellowship of Athens, PA taught on the seven stages in Moses' life that brought him to spiritual Fatherhood. This message was very practical and could inspire any one that is pursuing the call of God.

Gary Rose, a pastor and worship leader from Montrose Christian Fellowship taught on spiritual growth by knowing the Love of God which would be able to make us teachable, hungry and willing to change. Following Gary Roses' message we had a move of the Spirit through prayer and prophecy. The burden was strong for a lost generation of youth to return to the Lord. We thank once again The Lighthouse Fellowship and Pastor Shane Nichols for their love and sacrifice that made this retreat a blessing to many.

The Spring Ministers and Workers Retreat 2017

It was a blessing to gather for the second time at Tuscarora Inn and Conference Center in Mt. Bethel, PA. The food, lodging and warm Christian atmosphere made it an enjoyable experience for all. The speakers were Mark Waters, Gary Rose, Lou Pressman and Bert Ghilardi. All messages had a prophetic touch and were greatly received by a unified, hungry audience. The messages varied in themes such as the love for the brethren, a fresh cry of intercession, and the Lord cleansing the inner chambers of the church. Our spiritual emcee for each meeting was Ric Vargas. He confirmed each message that went forth and moved in a prophetic stream with the help of others to encourage and build up several believers.

It was a wonderful atmosphere of worship and brotherly love. These meetings are always a challenge to lay down our own self-centered personal view points and agendas to be blended into God's corporate viewpoint. May the Lord use these gatherings in the future to take us beyond speaking and just hearing messages to fresh joinings among the brethren. We hope to see many of you who are being drawn by the

MISSION TRIP

Bolivia and Peru: July 20– August 10
Pray for Lou and Ric as the return to Bolivia and open up new ground in

Peru. From Lou: "Dear Brethren, Ric Vargas and I leave in less than two weeks for Bolivia and Peru. We have been to Bolivia several times before and we are thankful God keeps widening the door He opened up for us. However, this will be our first time to Peru, our dear brother and translator in Bolivia, Marcos Molina, has contacts in Lima.

As many of you know our main outreach is to pastors and leaders. They are the ones on the front line and our ministry to them through conferences and fellowship has been very successful, the Lord has been very gracious to us. These brethren need to be uplifted and receive a fresh impartation. We will also be speaking in some of their churches and ministering to their flocks as well.

Please pray, as the Lord leads, for this trip. Your prayers and support are a real encouragement to us. Sort of like a cup of cold water in His name. We leave July 20 and return August 10. May God richly bless you for your faithfulness."

The CMF Clarion

The Clarion will be published on line on a quarterly basis.

Articles will be solicited by the editors and selected among authors of public domain. It is primarily a vehicle of expression for the members of Christ Ministerial Fellowship.

Prayer requests, photographs, and announcements may be sent in no later than September 25th for the next edition, to: Bert & Arlene Ghilardi—aghilardi@stny.rr.com

Lord to our fall conference November 1-3, 2017 at Mt. Bethel, PA. Information for this is found in the Clarion and will be sent to each of you in the fall registration form.

Bert Ghilardi

The Wisdom of Creation

by Ronald E. Moore, Jr.

A great darkness and deafness blankets this world and the hearts of men, but God is in the business of revealing Himself to humanity. God is wisdom. And being an all-wise God, He created everything with foresight, intelligence and wisdom.

*“O LORD, how **manifold** are thy works! **In wisdom** hast thou made them all” (Psalms 104:24 KJV)*

He designed His creation to show us something about Himself and “set eternity in our hearts” to cause us to search for Him. What child hasn’t asked, “Who made everything?” Job gave the answer when he responded to Zophar.

*“**Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this, in whose hand is the life of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind?**” (Job 12:9, 10 NASB)*

David believed everyone has seen and heard God’s voice.

*“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. **There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.**” (Psalm 19:1-3 NKJV)*

God is calling to humanity through His workmanship. The apostle Paul claimed God, through His creation, has shown us what can be known of Him.

*“Because **that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.**” (Romans 1:19, 20 KJV)*

Creation reveals the invisible things of God, His eternal power and Godhead. Power is easy to see in the size and energy found in the earth, wind and sea, but what about His Godhead? Some Bible versions translate Godhead as “attributes” or “Divine nature” of God. One of those many attributes is wisdom. So, is it possible to discern the Wisdom of God in His creation? According to scripture, yes.

Wisdom may be less blatant than power, but it’s still there to see. Like the many faces of a carved jewel, His manifold wisdom shines from every part of creation. It’s found in the miracle of life inside a seed, the birth of a child and the precise fury of a hummingbird’s wings. One of my favorites is the tender plant breaking through concrete to reach the life-giving sun.

Yet, with all these revelations, much about God remains a mystery. Job replied to his friend:

*“Lo, these are but **the outskirts of his ways: And how small a whisper do we hear of him! But the thunder of His power who can understand?**” (Job 26:14 ASV)* This verse grips me. Job is saying creation’s tremendous examples of God’s great power and wisdom only give a glimpse of who God really is. All the mighty acts he saw and understood were literally a “whisper of a word,” a single word barely spoken. We see the mere fringes, the extreme boundaries. We hear but a small portion, a faint whisper. In other words, they only scratch the surface of God’s ways.

If we are so impressed with the faint mention of his greatness and glory, surely we would be overwhelmed if He shouted of His power. The fact is, we could not understand or endure the full-toned thunder of His majesty. Scripture also mentions a second creation, a spiritual one, when Paul said to the Corinthians, *“If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation.”* As believers, we’re born into a new world, a new walk, a new life, but there’s a significant difference between the two creations.

At the first creation, God simply spoke and the universe leapt into existence. The second creation required the death of His Son. God’s first creation cost very little, but the second cost Him everything. The work of the cross is the mightiest and most expensive work ever performed, and His redemption far eclipses all the other wonderful works of the natural creation.

Now, if God’s power and wisdom are seen each day in the natural creation, shouldn’t they be visible in the

At the first creation, God simply spoke and the universe leapt into existence. The second creation required the death of His Son. God’s first creation cost very little, but the second cost Him everything.

spiritual creation? And if the whispered revelation is so stupendous, how much more glorious must the revealing of God's Wisdom in His greater creation be? This is exactly what we find in the New Covenant, from the mystery of the new birth to the inner working of His Spirit in the lives of every believer.

Paul's message of wisdom was spoken "in a mystery" and only "among the mature." It was "once hidden," but is "destined for our glory." God's wisdom was showcased in the greatest battle of all when He turned the tables on the enemy and brought about salvation for mankind.

"...which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written: 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit..." (1 Corinthians 2:8-10a NKJV)

God's wisdom in the second creation is manifold, with a myriad of examples like the principles of marriage and guidelines for society to growing in faith by overcoming trials and persecutions. They vary from the dynamics of relationships to obeying His commandments and experiencing fullness of joy and fulfilled purpose. Not only do we as believers find them in the second creation and His Word, God is also demonstrating His wisdom to others. Just as Israel was meant to provoke the nations around her to turn to God, we are meant to do the same. But it doesn't end there.

The entire history of humanity is a revelation of who He is. Of course, the greatest revelation is found in the person of Jesus Christ, "who is our wisdom." Yet, there is a further unveiling to be accomplished.

God's desire and plan is to demonstrate the fullness of His multi-faceted wisdom in a blinding display to us, others and to spiritual beings. And He has chosen to accomplish this in and through His church.

And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery... to the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: (Ephesians 3:9-11 KJV)

There are two things I find interesting. First, this "making known" is happening now, not in some distant time and place. Second, He has chosen to do so in His church. I do not fully understand this eternal plan or why God would choose to demonstrate His wisdom by the church. Why would he use people who can be unreliable, error-prone and sluggish? One thing I know, God uses the "foolish things to confound the wise," and the nobodies to "bring to nought the things that are." Although we are weak, He says "we are His workmanship," created to glorify the Father. And if the expression of His wisdom in the first creation was a whisper, I believe the making known of the same in His church will be a full thunder.Ω

To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen. (Jude 1:25 KJV)



Ron is a Pinecrest graduate and has pastored churches in Kansas and New York. He and his wife Lorraine assist local churches on Long Island and are committed to seeing individuals in the churches learn to exercise their gifts, function in their callings and grow into maturity. Ron is also the author of a soon to be released book about the life and prophetic ministry of his grandfather, C. L. Moore.

The 2017 Women's Retreat

On June 2nd and 3rd 35 women gathered from 11 churches and 6 states to worship the Lord, study His word and worship together. We prepared our hearts to glean hidden treasures from Romans 8: Living and Walking in the Spirit. This year's retreat was held in Binghamton at Trinity Memorial Church. Men and youth from House of Bread Fellowship Church, Bethany Christian Fellowship and Montrose Christian Fellowship volunteered to serve the meals and clean up. They too enjoyed having fellowship together as they worked and took time to eat together and pray for one another. The ladies from New Jersey supplied the delicious desserts and the ladies of Bethany Christian Fellowship decorated the tables and prepared the beautiful and scrumptious repast that was enjoyed after the Friday night meeting. Our speakers were Joann Laws, Dana Rose, Nancy Sulzynski, Mary Ann Kittle, Theresa Pressman and Joy Waters. They gave wonderful messages on the Romans 8 passages mixed with personal testimony of how they live and walk in the Spirit on a daily basis. Wendee Peake and Gloria Wallace led us in precious times of worship. Ministry took place one for the other in a time of prayer as the group was split up into smaller groups of 5 or 6. Fellowship was enjoyed by all around the meal times and when it was time to go on Saturday evening we lingered together as long as we could before having to make the journey home. We took with us the joy of being together and the challenge to press in to the Lord even more fervently to live and walk in total dependence upon the Spirit of God. All praise and glory to the Lord for such a blessed time in His Presence.Ω

