

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.

www.christianmaturity.com

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Signs & Symptoms; Diagnoses & Remedy

By Ric Vargas



Our physical bodies were created in such a marvelous way that when there is a health issue, we begin to notice signs and symptoms of something that has gone wrong. If we choose to ignore these warnings the consequences could cause permanent damage and or even become life threatening. The wise thing to do is to seek out a physician that will be able to make a proper diagnosis with a treatment plan that will hopefully restore us to full health.

Our spiritual man has also been created to show signs and symptoms; warnings meant to cause us to turn to our Great Physician and allow Him to prescribe the remedy for our spiritual recovery. We are

told in Psalm 107:19 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and He saved them from their distress. 20 He sent out His word and healed them; He rescued them from the grave. (NIV) His Word is His remedy and His treatment plan.

In the book of Jeremiah, we see God's people have become very sick. For years they have ignored all of the obvious signs and symptoms that have been warning them of their spiritual condition. The 'physicians' that they turned to were the false prophets that gave them a false hope and sense of security declaring, "Peace, peace." Jeremiah reminded them that they had not hearkened to His Word that He so faithfully sent to them by His prophets rising up early and speaking to them. Israel's sickness had become so severe that only judgment or death now awaited Jerusalem and His people.

In Jeremiah chapter 6, there is a description of just how full and severe the coming judgement will be. But there is still an appeal being made from The Lord in verse 16, Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. (KJV) The Lord challenged them to ask for the "old paths" and the "good way," so that by walking in them, an obvious call to a

return to His Word and obedience to it, they would find rest or 'healing' for their souls. In Psalm 139:23-24, David is going to the Great Physician and asking for a diagnosis and remedy that he calls "the way everlasting." The word that is translated 'everlasting' in verse 24 is the same word translated 'old' in Jeremiah 6:16.

The call here is not to ask for a return to the good old days or to recover antiquated or obsolete systems, but to return to His Everlasting, Life-giving Word and ways. Jesus Himself seems to follow the pattern of Jeremiah 6, even quoting the end of verse 16. In Matthew chapter 11, after pronouncing judgment upon sick and diseased cities in Israel, He declares the uniqueness of His person and the uniqueness of His work in verse 27. He then proceeds to offer His remedy to the heavy-laden laborers, those who are 'sick and tired' as it were, which is a new relationship and walk with Him.

The Jews understand The Torah to be God's yoke for their lives. Through The Torah, Israel would be yoked to The Lord and become His obedient people. By Jesus offering them a new yoke, His yoke, He was declaring Himself to be God's Word. He indeed is the fulfillment of Psalm 107:20, the Word that God truly had sent to bring healing to sin-sick humanity. In Matthew 11:28-29, Jesus bids us to come to Him, take His yoke and learn of Him. The Great Physician has revealed His diagnosis and offered Himself as our remedy. We don't have to look very hard or very far to see signs and symptoms of a church that is also suffering from a serious illness. The time is too short to continue to listen to the false voices that would have us believe, "I'm ok, you're ok, we're all ok." They assure us, "Peace, peace," when there is no peace. May we like David in Psalm 139:23-24, humbly come to our Great Physician for His diagnosis and His remedy.Ω



Kenya Trip August 2018

Dear Brethren,
Ric Vargas and I recently returned from Kenya, East Africa. There was a seven year lapse since our last visit and although we wanted to return sooner we had to wait until the Lord opened the door. One thing that is important to learn is never try to open any door, don't lean, don't push. If it is the Lord He will make it clear

that this is the door He wants you to walk through. To the Glory of God, our trip was amazing and effective for the Kingdom.

Bro. Lou Pressman

A testimony from one of the villages in Kenya: *Greetings to you Ric Vargas and Brother Lou, I am David Orondo from Maili nne. I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for accepting the invitation to come and minister to the church leaders in my home at Maili nne. Many have been so grateful to God for your coming and saying how their lives and ministry have been radically changed through the word and the Holy Spirit. My wife's eye got healed and she is no longer using specks (eyeglasses). Thank you and may the Lord continue to bless you and increase you more and more in His Grace. May He strengthen you and give you good health as you continue in this mission to Kenya.*
David Orondo Ω

The Kingdom of God

Dan Beaulieu

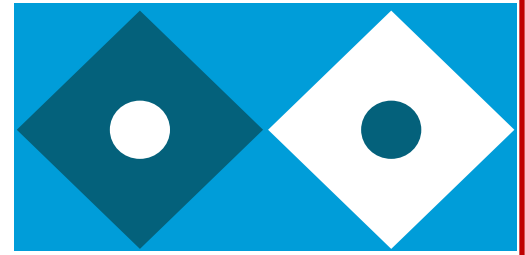


John the baptizer was a “herald”, a voice crying in the wilderness, declaring, “Prepare the way of the Lord” and “Repent, the Kingdom of God is at hand.”

John was also a “witness”. He beheld the Spirit descend like a dove upon the One that he just baptized. This same Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness to be tested. After Jesus was victorious over Satan’s attempt to allure him away from doing the will of the Father, John saw him and declared, “Behold the Lamb, who takes away the sin of the world.”

John became a “disillusioned prisoner”. Being in prison must have been a mystery to John. There must be something hidden from him regarding this kingdom that he talked about.” There was. A new truth about the kingdom of God that was not revealed in the Old Testament is being brought forth in the life of our Lord. In the Old Testament, the coming of God’s Kingdom is viewed as a single event; a mighty manifestation of God’s power which would sweep away the wicked kingdoms of human sovereignty and would fill the earth with righteousness. The Prophet Daniel interpreted a dream amount an image of gold, silver, bronze, iron and clay. The various materials in the image represented kingdoms that would rule in the earth. Daniel 2:44 ESV – “And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever.” The Ancient of Days gave to the Son of Man dominion, and glory and a kingdom that all peoples, nations and languages should serve him...and his kingdom shall not be destroyed. (Daniel 7:14)

In Matthew 11:1-6 we read that John sent messengers to Jesus to ask if he really was the “Coming One”. John’s problem was created by the fact that Jesus was not acting like the Messiah whom he announced. His problem lied in his effort to understand and inter-



The CMF Fall Gathering

**Wednesday, October 31—
Friday, November 2, 2018**

Still a place for you!
Tuscarora Inn & Conference
Center, Mt. Bethel, PA.

For more information call
Mark Waters 570-888-1055
or CMF7001@gmail.com

*Pastors and workers are
welcome.
If scholarship is needed
please, let Mark know.

Save this date!! CMF Women’s Retreat

June 7, 8 of 2019

***Watch for an email with the
registration attached. The
location is to be determined.
Cost is \$30.***

pret Jesus' person and ministry. How could Jesus be the bearer of the Kingdom while sin and sinful institutions remained unpunished? Jesus answered, "Blessed is he who takes no offense at me". What Jesus meant was: The Kingdom of God is here but instead of destroying human sovereignty, He is going after the "kingpin", Satan himself; instead of making changes in the external, political order of things, it is making changes in the spiritual order in the lives of men and women. This new revelation is that the very Kingdom of God has NOW come to work among men but in an utterly unexpected way. It is NOT NOW destroying human rule; it is NOT NOW abolishing sin from the earth; it is NOT NOW bringing the baptism of fire that John announced. It has come quietly, unobtrusively, secretly.

In Matthew 11:4-5 Jesus answered the questions of the messenger by saying, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear and the dead are raised up and the poor have good news preached to them..."

In the spiritual realm, the kingdom NOW offers to men the blessings of God's rule, delivering them from the power of Satan and sin. The Kingdom of God is an offer, a gift which may be accepted or rejected. The Kingdom is now here with persuasion rather than irresistible power. God will not compel us to bow before Him. We must respond to His Kingdom from a willing heart and a submissive will.

We as ministers of the Gospel and leaders in the Body of Christ must speak as representatives of God. We should not use His word with authoritative compulsion or lording over God's people. We plead and do not demand. We persuade and do not drive. We implore men and women to open their hearts that the word of His Kingdom may have fruit in their lives.

At the end of Matthew 11 we see our Lord thanking the Father that the truth of the Kingdom was hidden from the wise and understanding and revealed to little children. The wise and understanding could refer to the religious leaders of the day who imposed their rule on God's people, setting many requirements for the sinner if they were going to come into their presence. When I look at the ministry of our Lord, the "little children" are those that He sought out and saved. He now closes this chapter with an invitation. "Come unto me, all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke (His Kingdom, willingly) upon you and learn of me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke (His Kingdom) is easy and my burden is light.

May we never lose heart when this world becomes darker, full of chaos, betrayal, hostility and self-centeredness. This is the time when we can experience His Kingdom manifesting in our behavior, motives, attitudes and character NOW. He will come with power at the end of the age to put all things in order. Maranatha!Ω

What Jesus meant was: The Kingdom of God is here but instead of destroying human sovereignty, He is going after the "kingpin", Satan himself; instead of making changes in the external, political order of things, it is making changes in the spiritual order in the lives of men and women.

Christ Ministerial Fellowship Website

Is Up and Running

www.christianmaturity.com

The website is up and running. You will find lots of information about CMF, our last few newsletters, downloadable books, and audio messages. Check it out and spread the word.

Prayer Requests

In need of healing:

- *Steve Wilber-long time mentor, friend, prophetic teacher*
- *Joan and Walter Muench*
- *Phyllis Fischer-precious sister from Wisconsin, long time friend of CMF*

Missions Prayer Requests

- *Pray for laborers to be available to go to the harvest*
- *Pray for a suitable meeting place for Transformando El Mundo Church in Cali, Colombia.*
- *Pray for wisdom that there will be open hearts and open doors in the nations for our message.*

Other Requests

Stream of God International School of Ministry.

- *Recording sessions*
 - *Teachers*
 - *Translators*
 - *Video production assistance*
- Contact Ralph Cotterill
(785) 324-0444,
ralphcotterill@gmail.com*

CMF Men's Retreat 2018

September 28 and 29 a small group of men from CMF joined with a group of men from Valley Alliance church in West Pittston, PA. We had a time of encouraging the men who attended. There was good fellowship and open testimonies given by men concerning their recent victories in Christ.

Lou Pressman from Montrose Christian Fellowship spoke a good message on David's mighty men on the Friday night. Lou's message brought vision and faith about David's kingdom and how it applies to our walk with the Lord in this day. Saturday morning the pastor from Valley Alliance, Shane Nichols, spoke a timely word entitled, "Hearing the Voice of the Shepherd." These two messages inspired a round table discussion in two groups. There was open sharing in the groups. Questions were addressed and all who participated were built up and edified in their walk with the Lord.

Thank you to our gracious hosts: the people of Valley Alliance who made us all feel welcomed and who provided us with tremendous meals. We were blessed to have been there.

Bert Ghilardi

On Line Bible Classes open to all

On Tuesday, August 21 on line Bible classes were started by House of Bread Fellowship Church in Endwell, NY.

The classes are bi-lingual English/Spanish and are held via the application Zoom. People from Canada, US, Colombia and Surinam all join in at 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on Tuesday nights. The first 5 classes were given by Bert Ghilardi on the subject of the Christian worker. Classes on the Pastoral Epistles are now in progress beginning with the book of First Timothy. They are being team taught; Bert and Arlene taking turns in dividing each chapter into two parts. Interpretation into Spanish is provided by Maria Paula Londono from Pereira, Colombia.

The messages are geared toward developing ministry but would be edifying and encouraging to all who seek a closer walk with the Lord. The classes are offered free of charge. All that is needed is to obtain a Zoom ID by going on the Zoom.us website. Once you have it, email it to arleneghilardi@gmail.com and you will receive an invitation between 7:30 and 8:00 p.m. most Tuesday nights. After a short break we resume classes October 30th. Welcome all who are interested to study the wonderful Word of God with us. Arlene Ghilardi