

THE ATTRIBUTE OF MERCY

1ST LESSON: LUKE 12:33-34

"Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth neither moth corrupteth.

For there your treasure is, there will your heart be "

2ND LESSON, MATTHEW 19:21

"Jesus said unto him, if thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven, and come and follow me."

GOLDEN TEXT: MATTHEW 25:34-36

"Then shall the king say unto them on his right hand, come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of world.

For I was a hungered, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in;

Naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me."

BROTHERHOOD AND THE BEATITUDES

"Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy." This is a common beatitude expatiated in the first two texts above. The act of mercy is necessitated as a result of the kingdom. Logically, you are advised to give alms to the poor that you may inherit the kingdom of God. Mercy, therefore, qualifies as one of the keys to the kingdom of God. (See Luke 12:33-34; Matthew 19:21 above).

The kingdom is not meant for fornicators, liars, murderers and all manner of sinners. Only those who are merciful are qualified to obtain the kingdom. If you have much money and build houses all over the world but lack mercy, you are not qualified to obtain the kingdom. If you bank your millions of pounds in Switzerland with the hope that it might help you, this is a deceit. It is a man that matters, for he has to arrange how that money has to be utilized and spent. So, the best thing to do is to be merciful that you may obtain mercy. As we all come to congregate here, you must ask yourself whether your name is included amongst the elects. The kingdom is meant for those who keep the injunctions of the Father. Those who are at the right handside of the lamb are those asked to pass in, because the kingdom had been prepared for them right from the beginning of the world. He would then remind them that: 'I was naked and you clothed me'.

It is at this point that the King Himself would remind the elects of their past

deeds as contained therein (See Matthew 25:34—35). Have you seen the names of millionaires, presidents, barristers, etc. there? All the pieces of advice given to us by the Father are in our interest. If you are a farmer who is completely occupied day-in day-out but your name is not recorded in the book of life, what then is the need for your labour?

If you are a governor, president, business tycoon, professor, etc. but your name is omitted from the book of life, what is your gain? But another person who is not even as rich as you are is able to share his little money with the poor! He shares groundnuts, banana, biscuits and other items that he has. That is the work of mercy. If he should obtain the kingdom, who is to blame?

Faith is the key to the kingdom of God. Not a tremendous faith, but a little faith coupled with charity. The charity can be expressed in the following manner:

- (a) expressing generosity to the poor and needy;
- (b) feeding the disabled, the afflicted and the destitute.

The details of charity are recorded in the following texts (Matthew 25:34—40 — See text above).

‘For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?’ (Mark 8:36)

Mercy is yet a controlling circuit that leads to the kingdom of God. It supercedes vision. It renders useless, prophecies. To be more explicit, vision and prophecies are not the prerequisites for entry into the kingdom. It is a decent thing to do, if you refrain from drinking, smoking, telling lies, fornication, adultery and anger. These are also essential steps towards obtaining the kingdom. The perfect and the final step is displayed in Mercy. Like our Lord Jesus Christ said to the lawyer, in Saint Mark’s gospel chapter ten verse seventeen to twenty-two:

And when he was gone forth into the way there came one running, and kneeleth unto him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

And Jesus said unto him, why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is God.

Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother And he answered and said unto him, Master all these have I observed from my youth and Jesus beholding him loved him and said unto him, one thing thou lackest; go thy way sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross and follow me.

And he was sad at that saying and went away grieved; for he had great possessions.’

TITHE

Tithe constitutes another source of attracting God’s blessings. By exercising it, you will obtain the kingdom of God. Tithe is the magic which endeared Abraham to Melchizedek. Hebrews 7:1—4:

‘For this Melchizedek, King of Salem, Priest of the most

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‘For this Melchizedek, King of Salem, Priest of the most

high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him:

To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also king of salem, which is, King of peace; Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life: but made like unto the son of God; abideth a priest continually.

Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.'

The four wisemen were blessed and they inherited the kingdom of God because of the gifts of gold, frankincense, myrrh etc. to our Lord Jesus Christ. These gifts were significant to His assignment. However, the fourth wise man did not get to his destination until the crucifixion. Accordingly, the gift with him signifies the blessings which the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ conveyed on the world. Mercy is the root of these blessings.

THE FOURTH WISE MAN

They all set out on a journey: they had seen the sign which depicted the birth of the Governor who will rule His people Israel. All the four promised to meet at a point, that they may follow the star to locate the birth place of the Lord. However, the fourth wiseman could not make that appointment. He was confronted on his way with a problem. He saw an Hebrew woman in pains and agony. His horse would not move any longer, consequently, he prostrated on the ground and 'telephoned' the God Almighty. He inquired whether to proceed on that journey or to apply first aid services to the dying Hebrew. The still small voice within him directed that he should render the services required by the Hebrew woman. He did so accordingly and rescued her.

He then continued his journey, it was a rough one! He got to the point of contact where he met a note reporting that the other three wisemen have departed after waiting for a considerable length of time. He sought after them and to locate king of kings. He arrived Bethlehem on the day of massacre. Behold, a lady with a child! The child was subject to massacre in accordance with the decree of Herod. However, he protected her with his apparels. For the woman and her child were hidden therein. There came these huge blood-thirsty villains. 'Why do you trod this path this day?' they quired. He replied, 'I had these gifts so I set to deliver them to you all. They got the gifts from him and then enquired about a woman whom they saw seek refuge somewhere near him. He denied ever seeing such a person. They were satisfied with that explanation. They desisted exploring that route for any-more child. Thus, the woman and her child were saved from the massacre.

The fourth wiseman continued his journey and the search for the prince of peace. He met several disadvantaged persons and destitutes, and to these lots he showed mercy, predominant among them was the Lady who was supposed to be killed as a result of her father's debt. The lady said to him: 'Your cap is similar to that of my departed father. I shall be killed, if I do not settle the debt I inherited from him. Do assist me with your hat that I may sell it and settle my father's debts.

My father was a priest like you. The request was granted. The fourth wiseman dropped his hat for her. She sold it and settled the debts. Meanwhile, the fourth wiseman continued to search for our Lord Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, he arrived Golgota thirty three years after the birth of the child (Christ), on the day of crucifixion. There, he gave his last and final gift to a woman. The heavy stone which broke out during our Lord Jesus Christ's last breath slung a tone which killed him. This event preceeded his death. He remained unconscious for sometime. In his subconscious mind, he heard the following messages and gave the replies that contained therein. (See Matthew 25: 34-40).

'Then shall the king say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? Or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

When saw we thee a stranger and took thee in? Or naked, and clothed thee?

Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

And the King shall answer and saying unto them Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.'

His breath went down gradually until he gave up the ghost. You have been in Brotherhood for some years now, do you believe that whatever you do to a person like you, you are doing it directly to God? Do not be perturbed about his nationality; whether he is a thief, a murderer, a physically handicapped, or whether he abused you. Whatever you do to him is directed to God. Those who treat their fellow human beings with mercy are the real owners of the Kingdom of God. If you live in this earth for a thousand years, if you are not merciful to a person, you have no eternal abode. If you happen to live in this world for just a day and you effectively utilise that only day to show mercy to your fellow man, you have secured eternal place of rest for yourself because your name will be recorded in the Book of Life.

Neither church denomination nor your place of birth is counted here. What is paramount is perfection through mercy. Suppose you have much money, with fleet of cars, estates of houses but without showing mercy to your fellow man, of what use are these things to you? If in every local and international bank, your account is heavily credited but in the Kingdom of God your name is conspicuously absent, of what benefit is such money to you?

Mercy is so important that nothing could be compared to it. It is the gateway to the Kingdom of God. No matter what you do, if you fail to put this gospel into practice then your whole effort is wasted. That is why everything here is complete-

ly free – baptism, healing, vision and every other thing you can think of, is obtained free of charge here in the Kingdom. What do you desire again that is greater than this Kingdom? You have seen the Kingdom physically, not in a vision, dream or trance. You have been told that mercy is the entrance. If you charge anyone for anything ranging from giving vision, healing, and baptism, then you must count yourself out of the Kingdom. Any person who charges fees for Godly services attracts destruction unto himself. Some persons are fond of charging money for whatever they do here. They place premium on singing, offering prayers, healing and giving visions. These culprits have their names dropped from the Book of Life.

You must have heard the story of the prodigal son. Do you always think that he went to his father demanding his own share of the wealth? That was not the case, rather, the story is all about placing premium on Godly services. For instance, for every services His Father required of him he will charge fetching of water, sweeping of floor and every other domestic chores were chargeable by the prodigal son. The money he charged were indirectly settled by God. Similarly, the sick person you charge for healing, you are indirectly charging God. By so doing, you have got your own share and you have no share whatever in this Kingdom. He who builds a house and starts fixing high rents on it inflicts that suffering on God, because the house is God's and the occupiers too belong to God. People keep on shouting the name of Jesus and God, do you know Jesus or God? The only effective means of being Christ acquaintance is through showing of mercy to your fellow human beings.

CHARGE NO FEES FOR GODLY SERVICES

One is sick, and at the same time is robbed of all his money in the name of healing! Of what consequence is this to you? A preacher charges money for preaching the word of God? you pray for people at the end of which you receive money you charge a premium for every service you render! What actually do you use this money for? It is said that whoever renders service purely on monetary terms is not a good shepherd but a hirling. A good shepherd gives his life as ransom for the sake of his flock. This is why I am prevailing upon you to desist from placing premium on Godly services.

This sermon should be an eye-opener to you. People say that members of Brotherhood of the Cross and Star do farm a lot. This is right and it is of necessity. From the proceeds of the farm, you will be able to feed and clothe your children and your extended family. When you have means of livelihood, the temptation to charge a fee for every service you render will be resisted. It is for that reason we should all be occupied in doing one thing or the other, in order to be able to cater for ourselves and others. If you are idle, you constitute a burden to the church. All those who are jobless are a burden unto the church. A person profess to have the motive of serving God when in actual fact he is idle. You may be fed and taken care of even with your children, but does this camouflage entitle you entry into the Kingdom of God? Those who have a share in this Kingdom are persons who are merciful to others; those who visit the sick, provide food for the hungry and those who provide clothes for the naked. The Kingdom of God belongs to the merciful. The gospel according to Saint Luke chapter three verse eleven stress this point. 'He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.' In other words, every-

body is expected to be his brother's keeper. Do not be at the receiving end only. If you do that, then your chances of acceptance into the kingdom is slim.

If you go to your brother's house and discover that he has no chair while you have more than one, you have to spare him one. You should not wait to be directed by a visioner before you show mercy to your fellow man. Whatever your occupation or trade you should use it to glorify your Father. That is, use the proceeds of your trade to advance the purpose of mercy. A local adage has it that, a bird that frequents the spring is prompted not only by the desire to quench its thirst but also to bath.

PRACTICAL MERCY

The reason we occupy ourselves in everyday activities like farming, trading or office work, is basically to cater for ourselves and those in need. Those in the farm provide for those in the market, while those in the market provide for those in the offices, and by doing so, no one is a burden to the other. If the entire world should practise this injunction, there would be profound peace and tranquility. There would be no poverty, no unemployment, idleness, violence, uprising arising from hunger, robbery and assassination. Mercy is marvelous; it is a child of beauty, it breeds love, peace and joy.

The entire world is blind and deaf, because until recently, it had no teacher. That is why this work is undertaken to reveal the work of mercy and its meanings. The Father has granted those who are merciful the power to superintend over everything. They have been entrusted with riches, power, love, humility and temperance in order to carry out the work of mercy.

THE REIGN OF MERCY

A question is asked that, who is that faithful servant who would give his master food at the appointed time! And that when his master will come he will be abundantly blessed and given the authority to superintend over all his property? You are that faithful servant, if you are merciful to the poor and the needy, because when your Father will come back He will widen the area of your authority and control. (See Matthew 24: 45).

Nigeria is abundantly blessed with food, minerals and natural resources. The setback in the nation is caused by selfishness, greed and dishonesty. Logically, there exist lack, poverty and hardship. Equally so, is the situation in the continent of Africa. Everything is abundant, but there is no good servant to superintend. The same condition is prevalent in oversea countries. Food, clothing and wealth are surplus, but the question is who controls these things to God's pleasure? If the entire mankind should practise God's injunctions, the blessings which God would bestow on us would be immeasurable. There is a lot of wealth in the world that, if shared equally to every individual, nobody would be in want. This is only possible when mercy shall reign. See the first lesson below:

FIRST LESSON: LUKE 12: 33-34

'Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth neither moth corrup-

teth. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.'

THE KING OF MERCY

In any country, organization, church where mercy is practised there is bound to be peace and tranquility. The reason people are seeking for our Lord Jesus Christ is because of His merciful traits. He is the King of mercy. He was persecuted because He showed mercy to the needy. The people of the world hated Him because those things which were their source of wealth were given freely. Consequently, today many are regretting their actions towards our Lord Jesus Christ. Brotherhood of the Cross and Star is the code of mercy. Herbalists and juju doctors are deprived of fat sums of money which they would have received from sick people because of the presence of Brotherhood. It is a generally accepted truth that lot of works of mercy are perpetuated in Brotherhood of the Cross and Star. Every sickness ranging from blindness, epilepsy, madness, to mention but a few, are treated here free of charge. Baptism, preaching, holy oil, and visions are administered gratis. If anybody charges even a kobo here for baptism, such a person is already condemned; I am not saying that he will be condemned, but I am emphatically saying that such a person is already lost! It is time to fish out the true children of God from the sons and daughters of perdition.

You must have heard the warning of our Lord Jesus Christ that, you should not resist an evil doer. If someone wants to charge you for anything, do not stop him from doing so but make sure you achieve your goal and allow him to have his due punishment. You should not even plead or challenge him. This instruction does not pertain to those in the world, but those in the kingdom. Accordingly, 'labour not for the meat which perisheth but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life which the son of man shall give unto: For him had God the Father sealed.' (John 6:27)

There is no church denomination that has ever fared the abysmal persecution meted against Brotherhood of the Cross and Star. No government, no marriage institution or body has ever tested this bitter pills. Yet the kingdom continues to wax stronger and stronger. More and more people flock into it daily. Mercy is that magic wand at work. For instance, in other churches, if a person is dead the family of the bereaved is made to pay certain amount of money, provide goats and yams before their minister and members would turn up for burial. But here in the kingdom, the burial is entirely the affairs of the members — it is done gratis.

If you denounce Brotherhood, you are a loser. The kingdom has nothing to lose by your absence, and has nothing to gain by your presence. It is rather in your interest that you need to continue in the fold. The blessings and protection you receive from Brotherhood of the Cross and Star is tremendous. Mere words cannot describe these benefits. Just as our Lord Christ rightly said to the Samaritan woman:

'Ye worship what ye know not; but we worship what we know because salvation cometh from the Jews.'

In the nominal churches, you have to contribute so much towards its building, in a week, it is opened only once for a very brief service of one hour or two; and it is closed again to be reopened the next Sunday. What then is your gain? Of what use is the building to you? Do they know what they worship? Here in Brotherhood, we worship God every day and night. People of all walks of life and endeavours sleep here as at when necessary. If human beings were not highly regarded by God

how would He have sent His only begotten Son to come and shed His precious blood for the atonement of their sins? Surprisingly, man is maltreated, robbed, abused, kicked and killed by his fellow man. Even the churches have no regard for man. Or how else can they explain their lock out method?

In Brotherhood of the Cross and Star kingdom, everything is open. Nothing is hidden. What is needed of you is to show mercy, help the poor and the needy. Provide accommodation for the mentally deranged and the destitute. The act of mercy should not stop only in this kingdom, it should be extended to the non-members. You are advised to sell your possessions and use the proceeds to feed the poor. The poor, in this context, is not restricted to members of your church, relative and co-workers. It extends to the generality of the public.

A certain young man was jobless and went in search of a job. At every office he went, he was told that there was no vacancy. As he was returning home, he met one old woman. The old woman begged him to give her ten kobo (10k). He did not hesitate to give her the money. As he gave the woman the money, the young man did not move further when people came calling him and offering him a job.

You have also heard about a person who drinks just one pot of wine for seven days; just a little pot of it lasts for seven days. He brought the wine in this little pot but uses it to serve all his visitors. This kindness beget kindness. One good turn, they say, deserves another. All those who partook in the drinking of the wine owed it a duty to serve him with drink in turn every morning for the next seven days. Some even took it as a responsibility to sponsor the education of his sons to the university level.

SOURCE OF OUR PROBLEM

What causes problem is lack of mercy. Whoever does not show mercy to others, will himself not obtain mercy. Who is merciful shall have the doors of mercy flung widely open for him. When this is done you are advised not to fling caution to the wind.

A certain white man who lived at Port Harcourt, Rivers State, established a fishing company. He could not make a good catch. The indigenes of that area asked him to pay as a fine a cow, some jars of wine and animals that would be used for ritual, because he had offended their god. This white man laughed them to scorn. What did he do? He brought out some cartons of iced fish and invited the people to come. When they met him, he presented these cartons of fish to them. Each and everyone who went there got his or her share. So the next day when the man went to fish, he discovered that his trawl was filled with an impressive catch. From that day onwards, each time he went on fishing, his trawl was always filled with fish. Do you have such knoweldge? The blessing derivable by showing mercy is simply tremendous. If you are merciful, you are enriched, you have life, no sickness, no poverty and no problem. It is mandatory that you extend mercy to all and sundry. Mercy is a routine in the kingdom.

Patience, humility and honesty are all very impressive virtues, but mercy perfect them all. Accordingly, you have to sell all that you have to feed the poor, that you may acquired a lasting wealth in the kingdom of God. See second lesson below:

SECOND LESSON: MATTHEW 19:21

'Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.'

From the above passage, the people of the world would argue that the portion is only proverbial and not a reality. They try to interpret it to suit their view and desires. It is in fact referring to the real wealth you possess. For instance, most nominal churches have fabulous bank account, yet they cannot help their members who are in financial mess. Instead, they even go to the extent of making fund raising and asking a poor old woman in the village to contribute to a fixed levy. If she cannot afford to pay such an amount, at the time of her transition, the church will surely boycott her burial, unless every kobo she owed is paid. What a religious policy?

The whites and blacks too, find it difficult to come and inherit the kingdom of God because of the cause which says, 'go and sell all that thou hast and give to the poor....' There is so much wealth on earth than can go round all the inhabitants of the earth with a comfortable surplus. The problem is lack of mercy. That is what is lacking in the world. No one is merciful unto the poor. No one takes care of the orphans and the widows. Brotherhood is mercy. It is embodiment of all things. Good health is derivable from mercy; and so are beauty, poverty, love and all the things you can think of.

LEARN OF ME

Christ said, 'take my yoke upon you and learn of me....' He came down and offered His life for the sake of all the creation of God, and this He did without a charge. We did not even deserve such. Freely does Christ feed us, heal us, clothe us, open our eyes and does everything to man. What have we done in return? We ought therefore to emulate Him and reciprocate His merciful acts by being merciful to all men.

WEALTH IS NOT EVIL

We are not saying that it is evil to be wealthy. It is not evil, as long as the rich is merciful unto the poor and needy. Any richman who is merciful unto the poor is the richest man. It is equally advantageous that such a rich man becomes the controller of all things because you will be blessed with all the good things. Mercy sums up the kingdom of God. Very soon, Nigeria would be conducting elections. If there is any person who is kind and merciful in a community such a person would not even need to contest election, let alone to campaign. He would not need to canvass for votes or rig elections because his acts of mercy are sufficient to return him unopposed. Every person judging him from his past records would be convinced that if given the mandate, he would continue with works of mercy.

Recall when Christ said, 'I and my Father are one' and the Jews took up stones to stone Him. Jesus answered them saying, 'Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? The Jews answered him saying, For a good work we stone thee not, but for blasphemy; and because that thou being a man makest thyself God'. (John 10:30-33) Christ said to one of

them, is it because you were blind and I opened your eyes? He replied no. To another He said, You were lame, is it that I made you to talk that ye desire to stone me? The one replied, no, far from it. Yet to another he said you were dead; is it because I caused you to be raised from the dead? He replied, not at all. At this were they all ashamed and dispersed for they were the ones that Christ took pity on and showed mercy that came after Him to kill.

The kingdom of God is mercy. The sceptre and law by which the world is to be ruled is mercy. The poor are innumerable; so are the faithless, the afflicted and the oppressed. Without mercy, how will they be salvaged.

THE HEALTH OF THE WORLD

In this kingdom, there is money, employment, enough wealth and to spare; but the kind of person wanted is an honest and merciful man. There is in abundance various mineral and material resources. Where is the merciful. This explains why the people in authority cart away the people's wealth and loot the treasury. This behaviour accounts for the present problems and hardship in the world. In another instance, one is elected a Governor, he gets his private company registered and keeps good watch over the flow of funds to ensure that a kobo does not pass by to another person. He awards all the contracts to his company and those of his relations, yet he is paid fabulously from the public treasury. What do you think of such a governor? How then do you think that crimes and corruption shall cease in the society?

Any one that desires entry into the kingdom of God should be given to the works of mercy. Sell all that you have and give alms to the poor and needy. If you are unable to practise this sermon, do forget about the kingdom of God, for you will not find entrance into it till dooms day. From today, let all the inhabitants of the world put this word of God to test. If you do not remember the poor and needy lament for yourself for yours is eternal damnation. To put up a Cathedral, be called a reverend father or mother or bishop and so on avails you nothing. Who-soever is merciful, him shall be given the authority to superintend and rule over all the inhabitants of the earth. Such a person shall use mercy, peace, love, meekness and temperance to rule over God's creation. It is on account of this that it is said that there shall be no more stealings, sickness, division, sorrow, mourning, crying and death, for the former things shall pass away. Once you are merciful one to another, the problems of the world will disappear. A spiritual chorus has it that 'Jesus is preparing a place for us in heaven where He shall take us to on completion' That place is the kingdom of God, and that kingdom is mercy.

At another instance Christ advised. See John 14:1-3: 'Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.' It is this act of mercy, this kingdom of mercy, which He spoke of. This constitutes the most important work or service to God in this kingdom.

OUR CHOICE

We have not chosen hell, but the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is above every other thing. Once we gain entrance into the kingdom, then would we achieve our goal in life. It is for this reason that we count money, food, shelter and clothing at nought. Those who are counted worthy to inherit the kingdom, are those who are merciful, kind and charitable to the poor and needy. See the golden text below:

GOLDEN TEXT: MATT. 25: 34-36

'Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was ahungered, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.'

Which of these acts enumerated have you ever done? When you see a naked person you laugh at him and say that it is the punishment of God that is upon him for his sinfulness. You will then go into your house and get well dressed. Here you are with a bucket of water and somebody comes to you requesting for only a cup of water to drink and you refuse him. Do you not know that, it is the Lord you have refused the water? You have boxes full of dresses, have given out one old dress to the naked? A stranger comes to you for help and instead of listening to his plight, you turn him away claiming that he is not your relation or friend. Have you not rejected God? You suspect almost everybody and refuse to render the needed help, how will you enter the kingdom. Every day I plead with you to visit the sick in the hospitals, the prisoners in prison, the destitutes on the road side, and so on. Have you done that? Yet those are works of mercy?

When you are charged to undertake house to house ministry, the mission is not for you to go out there and snatch people's wives, husbands or food. The purpose behind ministry work is to enable you promote the works of mercy to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give the thirsty water to drink and so on.

Consider the whole length of this sermon which area you specialised in? Many visitors flood into Brotherhood of the Cross and Star headquarters which of them have you ever served and attended to? When you go out to other Bethels, the members there take very good care of you and make you comfortable; but when they come to your Bethel you ignore them. How many brethren have you ever given water to drink?

CARE FOR THE REFUGEES

I admonish you to care for the refugees worldwide. The Liberians are facing crisis presently, extend merciful acts to them. Care also for the twins for God has so made them. Many people take delight in human destruction instead of engaging in the works of mercy. You engage in telling lies, killing, causing division, stealing and gossiping. It was the work of mercy that saved Moses from destruction. Who do you think was responsible for the miracle? Remember it is said, 'Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy' (Matt. 5:7).

In the kingdom of God, there is no poor, no rich, no weak, no strong, no blind, no free. All are the same. There is therefore no need for anyone to struggle for anything or claim ownership of anything. All you have to struggle for, is the kingdom of God. The gates of heaven are wide open unto those who practise the work of mercy. Those who are merciful have already entered into the kingdom of God.

May God bless His Holy Words. Amen

Thank you Father.

SALVATION COMES TO THE WORLD THROUGH THE ELECTS OF GOD

FIRST LESSON: 2ND PETER 2:9

"The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgement to be punished "

SECOND LESSON: ST. MATHEW 24:21-22

"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

GOLDEN TEXT: ST. LUKE 17:17-19

"And Jesus answering said, were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole."

Having heard what is read to you, have you now realised why we should fear God. The first lesson says that "the Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations..." A great many of us give thanks to God because he has given us money, wife, and children, but refuse to thank him for having delivered us out of great and difficult temptations.

If we observe closely the trend of events from the beginning of this twentieth century (from 1901 to date) we will realise that very spectacular events have occurred here on earth, and but for the elect's sake, this world would have ceased to exist for long. Abinitio, if it were not for the elect's sake, the world would have been no more. The grace and glory of God which we are enjoying now, is it not through Abraham's faith?

GOD'S PEOPLE ARE NEVER DEFEATED

When the Assyrian king wanted to wage war with king Hezekiah he boasted via a letter that he was going to crush Hezekiah and his armies. King Hezekiah placed the letter from the Assyrian king before God's Altar and prayed. What was God's reply to him? God said that for my sake and for the sake of my obedient servant, David, he (the king of Assyria) shall not set his foot on your land." It is said that as it was through the sin of one man, even those who did not commit sins suffer, so shall it be through the righteousness of our lord Jesus Christ, all those who believe in him shall have everlasting life. It is said, "For their sake I sanctified myself unto thee, so that I may sanctify them through the truth unto thee."

CHRIST MAKES INTERCESSIONS ON OUR BEHALF

At times you find a robber singing, dancing and making merry. If you ask him why he has done so he will tell you to get away from him because he has heard so much about the end of the world but such has not come. He will abuse you for proclaiming the name of God; and will disapprove of God's existence. Such a robber is not aware of the fact that it is because of the sacrifices of the children of God (which he claims they are demented) that salvation has come unto the whole world. When God sent two angels to go and destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, the angels met with Abraham who asked with pleadings, if there are one hundred righteous people, will the cities be destroyed? The angels said no. He asked about sixty, forty and twenty righteous people and the angels confirmed that they will not destroy; but he did not ask about one righteous man, whether if he is found the two cities shall not be destroyed.

In the same token our Lord Jesus Christ has taught you to "love your enemies and pray fervently for those who hate and despitefully use you; that you may resemble your father which is in heaven; for he maketh his sun to shine upon the good and the evil; and sendeth rain upon the just and the unjust. That is why he said, it is not all those who call me Lord! Lord! who will enter into the kingdom of my Father, but those who keepeth the will of my Father who is in heaven. The word of God has it that any nation without a prophet perishes. That is why it is said that through the wife the husband is saved; through the husband the wife is saved; through the child the father is saved; through one person a family or city, or nation is saved; just as it is through the righteousness of our Lord Jesus Christ the whole world is saved. Our Lord Jesus Christ is the one who makes supplications and intercessions on our behalf; he does it in the morning, afternoon and at dusk; and all the time he makes supplications on behalf of all the inhabitants of the world.

BECAUSE OF GOD'S ELECTS THE TRIBULATIONS OF MEN ARE TAKEN AWAY

Whether or not you go to church, whether or not you curse and abuse God and claim that a tree is your god; whether you drink or kill, it is our Lord Jesus Christ who makes supplications to God on your behalf. It is through his supplications and intercessions that God forgives the sins of man.

It is said that 'the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are opened to their prayers, but God turns his back against the evil.' The scripture says that the things of the world are less profitable; but and the fear of God is not without profit in this life and in the life to come. The fact that we are able to survive and tread upon this earth as we like is through the righteousness of God's elects. Those whom people give less regards to in the society, God uses them to avert so many great tribulations and other miserable things which should have come unto the world. He has also withheld most of the woes he promised to visit upon the inhabitants of the world because of his elects. That confirms a local adage which says that "whatever happens to the eyes will affect the nose."

As the heavens are higher than the earth so also is God's wisdom more important and recondite than that of man. If you complain about the pains you suffer for having an eye problem, does that mean that you will not still suffer the same pains if your nose, ears, tongue, and other members of your body are affected. If you say, far be evil from me; where is the place you expect evil things to go and

dwel? Are people not living there? If something happens in America, is that thing not happening here as well? I want you to tell me where you expect evil things to prevail. Do you wish that they should prevail in hades or Atlantis world? What about the people there? Are they not your people?

THE CAUSE OF OUR FAILURES

Why do we meet with disappointment in our lives. The reason is not far-fetched. If somebody has to borrow ₦5,000 (five thousand naira) from you and promises to give you at the end of the month; and as it stands may be somebody else had also borrowed from your debtor the sum of ₦5,000 (five thousand Naira) and promised to pay him at the end of the month. Your debtor intends that at the end of the month when he gets his money from his debtor he will pay him at the end of the month. May be there is another person who must have owed your debtor's debtor and also promised to pay at the end of the month. If it happens that he fails his creditor, his creditor will fail the person he owed. That man will further disappoint you; and you will disappoint your creditor; and the whole thing will end at fiasco.

If we were to be imbued with his wisdom you would not have ridiculed or treated any person with derision when he is faced with difficulties; you would neither kill nor go to steal somebody's property. May be the owner of that property had intended to give out his property to somebody and in a rotary manner that thing would have lastly settled in your hands; but since you have gone to steal it, where will the owner get it again to give out?

WE ARE ONE INDIVISIBLE WHOLE

If something happens now in America is it not happening here? Similarly, if anything happens here, such is happening in Amercia and other parts of the world. This is for you to understand that we are one indivisible entity. Let all of us part our hands together for the sake of our brothers. That is why, God, for his sake, and for the sake of his people and them that fear Him, when things almost go bad, He, out of mercy gives succour to mankind. All inhuman acts, such as declaring people redundant, imprisonment, killing and cursing of people derive from your ignorance and foolishness. What did Christ say to Peter? He said, "put back thy sword into its place for all they that take up the sword shall perish by the sword." How will you kill somebody and expect to escape death from the hands of another man? How will you steal what belongs to another person and then somebody will not steal your property? If you commit sins realise that these sins will find you out. Because God is Omniscient God, He cannot stab his thigh with a dagger. We are his "thigh". Do you know that we are his "thigh?" You are one with your wife; and Whoever does not love his wife does not love himself. If you love yourself it is irrefutable that you will love your wife. You are one with your children; you and I are one; all of us are one; the totality of the people in the world are one. If you do not love me or any other person it means you do not love yourself and vice verse, hence the suffering we undergo till today.

It is said, concerning the word of God we are his (God's) enemies, but concerning salvation we are saved by grace. I do not want to take you far, our first lesson will now be read.

“The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgement to be punished.”

GOD SHALL NEVER DISAPPOINT US

If God destroys the world today where will Christ rule over, and what about the promise he made to those who followed after him? How will such promise be fulfilled and where will they be? This explains why we are advised to fear God. Do not listen to any man. God does not disappoint and he shall never disappoint us. It may be through your sacrifices alone he saves the whole world. If you sacrifice yourself and serve God throughout your life and he promises to give you eternal life and other good things; if He decides to destroy all sinners, what shall become of your life? Because of you he allows such evil persons to exist. Hence they brag and boast that God does not exist, that if God were to exist they would not still enjoy the good things of life after killing so many people. Therefore, whenever God saves you out of any temptation realise that it is not because you have celebrated feast; but it is through the sacrifices of his elects.

Do not look unto any person nor lend ears to any man; whether somebody curses you do not mind him. Once God has call you realise that you are his sacrificial lamb and believe that it is through the elects of God salvation has come unto you. God is not like man; He does not disappoint us and shall not disappoint us for ever.

Unlike ourselves, if we go to somebody's house and he speaks disdainfully against Brotherhood, we always wish that thunder storm should smash the person's head, else you will not be satisfied, and when such a thing does not occur you think of strangulating the person God is not like that.

ONE MAN'S PROBLEM SHOULD BE EVERYBODY'S PROBLEM

If you trace the genealogy of man to Adam you will realise that we all are one. When something is good or bad with somebody realise that the same thing applies in your case. That is why it is said that we should rejoice with those who are rejoicing and be sorrowful with those who are sorrowful. Don't you recall one secular highlife music which says that “when somebody is faced with problems do not jeer at him for nobody exists without problems.” But now when you hear that one thing or the other has happened to somebody you laugh and ridicule claiming that nemesis has caught up with that person. The Christ Students' Natural Choir has one anthem which pin-points on this. Sometimes while you are jeering at somebody faced with problems you say he is the cause; What has been the cause of your problems too? At times when you hear that something had happened to somebody you start rejoicing and getting happy about it. What indeed do you derive from such an indecent act? Will you continue to wallow in ignorance for ever? If one person does one good thing to you it means that you should do good to as many people as possible; even though one person recognises you, do good to all and sundry. But in your own case you do not accept such a thing and are not ready to seek for the well-being of those who do not recognise you.

ONE GOOD TURN DESERVES ANOTHER

Recall the two malefactors who were crucified on the cross by either side of our Lord Jesus Christ. One of the malefactors said, if you are the Son of God save yourself and save us. But the other malefactor rebuked him and said, we suffer as sinners but this man has not committed any sin. He said to Christ, remember me Lord in thy kingdom. And Christ said, "today, ye shall abide with me in paradise." Do you know why that incident occurred? Our first lesson confirms that event. It says: "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgement to be punished." It can be through a little thing you do God saves you. That malefactor whom he (Christ) told him that he shall abide with him (Christ) in paradise, was the person whom the soldiers met returning from Egypt (when Herod first gave orders for the massacre of babies); and upon the first attempt made to exterminate our Lord Jesus Christ, the malefactor met Joseph and Mary with "little" our Lord Jesus Christ, when he was coming from Egypt. On the way the malefactor met the soldiers heading towards that direction. When the soldiers asked whether he has seen anybody along that road, he said no, thereby discouraging the soldiers who were all out to kill Christ. By that act the malefactor saved the life of Christ. And that was why Christ in turn saved his life. After hearing this, may be in your foolishness you will go to steal believing that you shall be saved like that malefactor on the cross.

Sometimes you complain that for any good thing you do to somebody he pays you back with the wrong coin. That is not true. Realise that good things bring to you such things that are good and edifying; while to you, evil things shall continue to attract evil. Brethren, I do not intend to overload you because today is a day of joy and thanksgiving to God. The second lesson will now be read.

SECOND LESSON: ST. MATTHEW 24:21-22

"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

SALVATION IS OUT OF GRACE

Apart from our Lord Jesus Christ from where will the world get salvation? It is only Christ alone who gives salvation to mankind. We brag and boast because of him; and all those who believe in him are saved. When you get home re-read that portion of the Bible (2nd lesson) with understanding. It is said "...And except those day should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." He did not say for the sake of the government, or president or juju, fetish, apparition or man; but he anchored his reason on the elects of God, for whose sake those days shall be shortened for the salvation of man.

Salvation does not come to us through the whites, blacks, bishops, governors, etc. but salvation comes to us through the elects of God (those chosen already from inception of the world) unto us. It is through them that we receive the grace of

God. I have told you that the 6 am to 6 pm fasting has its own blessing to those who observe it. Abstinence from eating meat and fish is not without blessing; knocking one's head on the ground, kneeling down, giving alms to the poor and other things we do attract a reward from God. But our salvation is out of grace and is given to us gratis. A great many people here preach to others that if they do not come to Brotherhood and if they do not refrain from eating meat and fish, they will perish. If you are the only person who does not eat meat and fish does that mean others who continue to eat fish and meat will perish? and should they perish what will be your gain? Do you think God is as foolish as you are?

If somebody offends in any way and he is forgiven by God, you will feel so embittered about it. At times you maintain that if you were God you would have destroyed all the armed robbers. If that is to be done then you have to kill yourself first, because you are arch-sinner. And if that is done who will remain in the world?

MAN IS UNGRATEFUL TO GOD

There is nobody in the whole wide world who knows the thoughts of God neither is there anybody who walks in the path of God. Do the governments of this world celebrate feast to thank God for what has happened or what they have witnessed in the world? Do the muslims throughout the world stage a feast to thank God for the salvation he has brought to the world. What about the churches and other s who claim to worship the Sun, Moon and Stars as God and eventhose who claim to be pagans, do they thank God? What about those who say they are of satan, do they care to give God thanks for what He has done in the world? Has satan given thanks to God for what God has done? Satan has been caught like somebody catches a chick. When you claim that satan is so powerful, have you not heard what is said in Revelation of John the divine chapter 20: 1-3. One angel has been sent to lay hold on satan, bound him and cast him into the bottomless pit and shut him up.

When Cain killed his brother (Abel) God commanded that he should not be killed, but that he should be sealed. God knows that we are fools and that he knows all things and has the sole prerogative to do all things. He is capable of doing all things; that is why I do not budge.

SERVICE TO GOD ATTRACTS GREAT REWARD

Remember when God directed prophet Isaiah to tell King Hezekiah to prepare his houe for he was going to die; King Hezekiah, facing the wall wept bitterly to God to remember how he served God while a youth. And God remembered his works and commanded prophet Isaiah to go back and inform him that he (God) has added fifteen more years to his life time. Does any man possess this type of wisdom? Man lacks a thankful heart. Unlike man, God does not forget what you may regard as a little thing, and through that little thing he saves you. But in the case of man, if you give somebody food today and tomorrow, the next day the person will ask why you choose to give him food every time he comes to you.

A certain whiteman in his country was a governor, and when he was removed from office without benefits he lamented that if he had served God for those years, that God would have rewarded him; but for serving the government he went home empty handed. I want you to realise that services to man attract no reward, instead, you are cursed, abused and punished. Man lacks a thankful heart. Even though you

are a prime minister, governor or president, if you mismanage or siphon the government funds you will be detained and made to suffer for it. That is why you find that even in our society today people are detained, tried and jailed because of this type of misdemeanour. Nobody will ever remember your good deeds but your misdeeds will always ring bell.

DIVORCE NOT YOUR SPOUSE FOR FRIVOLOUS OFFENCE EXCEPT ON GROUNDS OF ADULTERY

Take the case of a man and woman (couple); God has made their union to be so firm that upon no other reason except on commission of adultery should a man or woman divorce his wife or husband. Whether your wife steals, curses you or does other things detrimental to your well-being should not cause you to divorce her, except if she commits adultery. What are you doing now? Any slightest mistake a woman does the husband capitalises on that and beats up his wife without compassion; he may even drive her away from the house. Such is what you can do.

Let us come back home. Are you not told by the scriptures not to impute sins to people? Whether somebody steals, kills, commits fornication, prepares charms and juju, do not be angry with him. Do not impute sins to people.

No matter what somebody does to you the little error he commits against you will exacerbate you to such an extent that you will even look for somebody to give you his head; you curse, abuse and accuse him falsely.

Imagine what God has done for us through the whites. We (African)s were walking naked years ago; we lived a wild life and were barbaric. But today when they must have come to make us civilised, you claim now that the whites are not good. Who has taught you to become wise today? Who is your father and mother? In spite of the fact that you were colonized by the whites, today one wonders why an average black man should treat a fellow white man with disdain and ignominy.

Have you now realised why God has directed that we should respect and give regards to woman for they are frail in nature. If you would not give regards to a woman for no other reason, what about bearing of children? Recall what she (a woman) passes through during the nine months (period of pregnancy) and most importantly the travails during delivery and the post-natal occurrences; could that not cause you to respect a woman? Could that not cause you to love and minister unto her? It is rather regrettable to find somebody declaring publicly that a woman is nothing. Are you sure of what you are saying? If that is true (according to you), from where do you emanate into this world. That she is the channel through which everybody comes to the world calls for her to be respected. At times a woman stays with you a good number of years cooking for you, washing your clothes and handling other domestic chores (which you know how tasking it is to do such things) but regrettably you divorce her on grounds that she has not given you any child; by that act alone can one believe that you are not sick in the head? If you would not recall anything, whatsoever, what about her own contribution to the growth of your family which she made it primary in her scheme of things. Are you well at all to bring into your house a damsel to insult, deride and disgrace her?

THANK YOU FATHER FOR SAVING THE WORLD FROM DESTRUCTION

If we can recount the blessings of God and his grace which is sufficiently bestowed on us it will therefore behoves us to do to others as God has done for us. For the love God has shown to us we have to love every person and forgive all and sundry. God does not impute sins to any of us. If I may ask, from this place to where the Gulf war is waging (Iraq and Kuwait) how many miles are there? Have you ever been there? Do you know any person at that place? But for the occasion we have in hand today (celebration of feast of appreciation to the Holy Spirit for averting the Gulf war), is it not a wonderful and spectacular thing to all of you.

Why did God not reveal this thing (the feast) to somebody in America, Rome, Egypt, Iraq or Kuwait? But he has chosen to reveal it to somebody here (in Calabar, Cross River State of Nigeria). Have you seen how magnanimous God is? And because of this singular act freedom has been restored to the oppressed (Kuwait and other nations), it is for the elect's sake he has shortened those days. God has saved the world and therefore we have to be grateful to the Father.

YOUR REQUEST STANDS GRANTED ON BELIEVING IN CHRIST'S NAME

When Lazarus died the people began to ask rhetorical questions; some asked, can the person who cause the blind to see not also raise the dead? Christ directed that the sepulchre should be opened. The brothers of Lazarus told Christ that the corpse was exuding obnoxious odour (having remained for four days). And Christ asked them, did I not tell you that if ye believe in me the dead shall rise? When the sepulchre was opened he lifted up his eyes to the heavens and gave thanks to God saying, I thank thee Father for you have always heard my voice all the time, but for the sake of the multitude, that they may bear witness, Lazarus, wake up from sleep. Did Lazarus not resurrect? That is why we are directed to believe in the name of his Son; because whosoever believes in the name of His Son will receive whatever he asks for. For believing in his Son's name he will grant your request.

There is a sin which somebody commits and receives punishment instantaneously; and there is also some evils which you commit and they live after you. It is just like reaping the goodness of your good act on the spot; however, there may be other good things you do and the reward will come later. Any good thing you do which does not bring to you any good on the spot will yield blessings in the long run for your own good.

God made a promise to his Son that if he goes to shed his precious and stainless blood he will not impute sins to any person any longer. He further assured Christ that whatever thing any person shall ask in his (Christ's) name shall be accomplished. The golden text will now be read.

GOLDEN TEXT: ST. LUKE 17:17-19

"And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?"

There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole."

GOD'S PROMISE MADE FULFILLED

Have you heard that? Is that not what has occurred today? We are not here today to celebrate feast in thankfulness to God so that he should avert the Gulf war, but we are giving him thanks for having averted the war already for the sake of his elects. It is for the elect's sake he has shortened those days. He has taken away all sufferings, shame, afflictions and tribulations for the world and himself. He is the one who has celebrated the feast for himself to uplift his glory. Unlike you who promises God heaven and earth if he does one thing or the other for you. Does that mean God is a pauper? What should cause that type of insult on him? Instead of us to thank God and plead for forgiveness, we go after machine-guns, bombs, swords, juju doctors, necromancers, soothsayers; we use abusive words on others, we defile others, and oppress the rest; beat people up and do other violent acts. Is there any wisdom in all these unwarranted acts we put up? His words are made manifest. He said: 'this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days: I will write my laws into their hearts; a neighbour shall not teach a neighbour nor shall a brother teach his brother saying, know ye the Lord: for, from the least to the greatest shall know me; because I shall be merciful unto their unrighteousness, and their sins and iniquities, shall I remember no more'. Has that promise not been fulfilled today? Since that promise is fulfilled today that is why we give thanks to the Father for revealing himself in Brotherhood in this end of time (here in Nigeria, Africa). It means his people are here. Our reverence, humility, sacrifices, and know-tow for him is not for nought. He uses us to save the whole world.

GOD IS THE CAUSE AND EFFECT OF ALL THINGS

This gospel will go a long way to reveal to the people of the world that God does not take advice from Man. After all, what can He (God) not do? He makes and unmake. But do not forget his promise which he says in the scriptures that "... for the elect's sake, those days shall be shortened." And when you hear that war and other upheavals have ceased would you claim that it is ammunitions, the whites, juju, gossips, knowledge or anything that has caused the Gulf war and other wars to cease? Either of these things is not the cause of peace that has come to the world. The Father is the one who does all things therefore, if indigenes refuse to thank him, if strangers should show gratefulness to him he will receive same.

We do not disturb God in anyway and He has not disturbed us also. He can cause this daylight to become night; he can change us to whatever form he pleases. He could as well do anything he pleases, hence he has no problem. God saves us out of grace because of his promise. That is why we have no other assignment than to ceaselessly bestow thanks to him in the morning, afternoon, at dusk and at all times. Do not request for anything from the hands of God. What is it that you want to request from Him? Do you know what is good for yourself? Do you know that which will not be good for you? All what you request for amount to intransigence, insolence and sinfulness before God.

DO NOT REQUEST FOR ANYTHING FROM GOD BUT THANK HIM ALWAYS

Remember that eventful day when the cup of woes of the inhabitants of the world descended from above (spiritually) and it was meant for Christ to receive and drink. Christ saw it but said, Father if thou wilt, let this cup pass away from me, not as I will, but let thy will be done. If it were you, that would have been the real

opportunity to tempt God. You would say, if you do not take this cup away from me it means you are not the Almighty God. By so doing He would have taken away the cup from you. But would the world not perish? Do not request from the hands of God anything but always give thanks to him as Job did. Kowtow and roll on the floor, give praises and thanks to God always. Recall that Job said "... naked came I into the world, naked will I return, Lord, you have never committed any error, may thanks be to thee. That is what you are directed to say at all times.

It is said that "all things walketh together for good to them that love God, and even those who believe in him according to his promise." There is nothing evil. God is good; He is perfect. There is no dissimilarity in his operation. He does everything. We are expected to do nothing else than to give thanks to Him. If God were to look unto our misdeeds and evil acts none of us would survive till today. Summarily, the world would not be in existence. The world of today, is much more corruptible and sinful than the generations of Lot and Noah and other generations of old. Irrespective of these shortcomings of man God does not decide to destroy the world because of his elects. Let us not put up our foolish behaviour any longer. A local adage says: 'if you do not eat the food because of the plate why not eat it because of the spoon?'

FORGIVE A FELLOW NATION

When you set out to wage war with another nation do you give that issue a second thought that your friend who had saved you from some pressing problems years ago is in that nation? If for no other reason for the sake of that your friend living there, you should forgive that nation. If a hundred people should speak disdainfully against you, what about the two hundred people who have spoken well of you? Is that not okay for you? If the world does not love you, are you not satisfied with the love of God? Could that not be a yardstick for you to love the other people?

If you were to take cognizance of God's love which is sufficient unto us, none of us would be angry over very trivial matters. Upon the numerous sins we have committed, we do not fear nor reverence him, we do not honour him; nobody in this world does any good thing, but why has he not disgraced us? His love is sufficient unto all creations.

NO MORE WARS

We are thankful to him for thanking himself; for revealing himself to the world; and for the wonderous works he is doing throughout the world. If he does not reveal anything nobody can reveal it. In like manner we celebrated a feast of appreciation to the Holy Spirit for averting the Liberian civil war. Has that war not ended? What about the war that almost erupted between Nigeria and Camerouns few years ago? The Father made pronouncement and it came to an end. What about the Nigerian civil war (in 1967)? The Father spoke and the war ended. Whenever he speaks, whether uproar, chaos, riot, war, of any sort will come to an end. Now with this feast of appreciation does that not mark the end of the Gulf war (which would have escalated into a third world war)?

Recall the crises that erupted between the people of Ukwa Ibom and Achara, Agwaguna and Adim; Ugep and Mkpani all in Cross River State; did the Father not stretch forth his hands and after that there was a mass celebration of feast in

respect of each of the crisis? Till today there is no disunity and bloodbath in these communities any longer. The Father had said that there shall be no more wars and this shall come to pass.

THE FATHER HAS CONQUERED

Isaac was the son of Abraham, likewise Ishmael. I want you to tell me the difference between the three people. Isaac was God's son, Ishmael was God's son and Abraham was God's son too. Where lies the division. The Father has fought and conquered; that is why it is said that faith without work is death. This act of thankfulness must continue for ever. Whenever there is an occurrence, I have to call for a feast of appreciation in thankfulness to the Father. It does not call for praying endlessly and fasting till your belly becomes flat; God saves us out of grace for the sake of his elects.

Brethren, one stroke of the cane is sufficient to the wise. I do not intend to take you any further. He that has ears let him hear. May God bless His holy words.

AMEN

THANK YOU FATHER!

PERFECTION IS ULTIMATE

TEXT: MATTHEW 5:1-48

GOD'S KINGDOM IS FOR PERFECTION

The kingdom of God can only be inherited through perfection. That is why the people of old found it possible to come to terms with God. You cannot inherit this kingdom if you are materialistic. You must shun vanity and strive hard to live a perfect life, because God's kingdom can only be inherited through perfection (Read Hebrews 4:1-10)

"Let us therefore fear, lest a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.

And in this place again, if they shall enter into my rest.

Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, Today, after so long a time; as it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works as God did from his.'

The kingdom of God is for those who are righteous. Therefore, churches will not inherit on their numerical strength. The proliferation of churches is not an answer to this issue. Neither can miracles which are performed by many a church bring the kingdom of God near any church or its members for that matter. (Read I Corinthians 9:24-27):

"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: less that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."

STRIVE HARDER FOR GOD'S KINGDOM:

I have been telling you that, it is a waste of time to remain a member of a church and yet, you cannot practise the words of God. Just as the people of old did not inherit this kingdom because of their unwholesomeness, in a relative manner, you cannot get nearer it without perfection. Perfection cannot be achieved through beauty, money, neither can wives nor children guarantee inheritance of this kingdom. Those who will take over the rulership of the world must be perfect. The kingdom of God cannot be given to thieves or fornicators or deprived men to man. There is no condonation of unwholesomeness in God's kingdom.

Just like the politicians sacrifice their time and energy to win election, to be in government, so also should christians strive harder in order to attain perfection to be qualified for the kingdom of God. There is no need parading streets, proclaiming to be a prophet, apostle or claiming to be Olumba Olumba Obu, when you are not actually devoted to the work of God.

OTHERS ARE APING B.C.S.

Brotherhood of the Cross and Star is not a church or a society but a kingdom of God. It is meant for those who are perfect. And perfection is not anybody's making but from the Father. It is foolishness to fight for position in Brotherhood of the Cross and Star, rather you should strive to be perfect, which is a condition for rulership in the new kingdom. If you are devoted to the work of God, then you should forget about appointment as a reward for your devotion. This is because your devotion to the work of God is a means to pave way for you to the God's kingdom. One should be perfect in all aspects of life before one gets into the kingdom.

This kingdom is known to the western world and they are striving very hard in deeds to get into it. Having realized what Brotherhood of the Cross and Star is, the whites are reluctant to reveal it to others. That is why they put in their best in order to get into it. Many churches are aping our doctrines, all in the name of getting into the kingdom of God.

Many a member in Brotherhood of the Cross and Star makes claim and counter claim that he has met with God face to face and that he is filled with the Holy Spirit. In spite of this claim, many a man is wallowing in fornication and perpetuate other vices. Be it known to you that, those who have not proclaimed God publicly but have refrained from sins will get into this kingdom. But you who have played sychophancy will miss it. It is hypocritical to claim to be Brotherhood member, yet you do not part ways with sins. No one can get into God's kingdom through money

or education but through abstention from every manner of sinfulness.

“And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.” (Matthew 11:12)

HOLD FAST TO THE TRUTH:

People are so numerous on earth and all want the same kingdom. Think about yourself that partial perfection will not guarantee your entry into the kingdom. Without refraining from sins, you can never be accepted into the new kingdom.

Sister Akwang who came back from Cotonou, with two people, who volunteered to come to Nigeria physically to confirm the allegation that Leader Olumba Olumba Obu has a dual nature: the features of a man and that of a fish. Many a man speculate that the Leader was dead. Others say, He is an illiterate. Yet many others believe He is a vampire. At the end of it all, the campaign of calumny and blasphemy only helped to bring more converts to the fold. Because, when people come to discover the truth here, they would always want to hold fast to the kingdom.

TESTIMONIES FROM PEOPLE COLLABORATE

Whatever you can do to God, do it perfectly well. If you are a member, you should do everything in conformity with the Brotherhood doctrines. Remember the Father preaches against eating of fish and meat. As a member of Brotherhood of the Cross and Star, you should practise His injunctions, else those who are not members but are righteous may get the kingdom while you missed it. (Read Matthew 21: 30—46).

It is because of fornication, greed for wealth and earthly position which debar you from getting into the kingdom of God. if this is your hindrance, you are to be blamed. The Indians are claiming that Jesus did not die rather he migrated to their territory. Ipso facto, the kingdom of God originated from India, they claim. The Chinese, Russians among others, have one claim or the other to make concerning their relationship with Christ. All nations of the world are struggling towards getting into this kingdom. If you really know what is happening, you could not come to Brotherhood of the Cross and Star to look for money or women among other frivolous things. Those who indulge in these vain practices are wasting their time. The testimony of that Brother from Cameroon vindicates the fact that, this is indeed, the kingdom of God which you must work towards achieving

IRRESISTIBLE CALL

The testimony given by the sister from Liberia was wonderful. Before now, she was an active member of Catholic church and she is cousin to late President Samuel Doe. Prior to this time, she was not in the known about Brotherhood of the Cross and Star even at Liberia. One day, the Holy Father appeared to her and directed her to come to His kingdom. This she hesitated but had to give in on the third day. During Father's appearance, she was given the address of Brotherhood of the Cross

and Star at Calabar and this was the same address another sister gave to her, which she said was sent to her by a certain man.

This Sister (from Liberia) had to make her journey to Nigeria. On arrival at Lagos, she was received by her brother who worked with the Liberian Embassy in Lagos. Here, she told the brother her mission to Nigeria, visiting the Father at Calabar. Her brother looking at the address discouraged her from visiting the Father at Calabar. This was because the Father killed people and drank human blood and is very callous generally. The brother then opted to direct her to Father Elele for prayers.

However, the curiosity in her still hunted her. In a trance, the Holy Mother in red soutane appeared to her and warned her not to change her mind from visiting the Holy Father as was directed. The following morning, she demanded a car from her brother to enable her travel to Calabar. The brother refused to give out a car to her and did not exchange dollars which she brought to Nigeria. She then decided to use public transport from Lagos to Calabar.

THE CHILD OF GOD

On their way, armed bandits attacked the vehicle she was travelling with and the driver of the car was murdered and the car snatched. She was stranded on the alien road. After sometime a car approached but refused to pick up the body of the driver on the sister's request. The driver of the car refused to pick up the body because, he feared being implicated by the police. Because of the lady's concern and pleading, the driver then decided to carry the dead body with the sister from Liberia to the University of Benin Teaching Hospital for preservation. The incident was then reported to the Police and the Sister headed to 34, Ambo Street, Calabar.

On arriving Brotherhood of the Cross and Star's gate, the driver stopped and instead of receiving the taxi fare from the sister, he (the driver) had to give this Sister thirty Naira (₦30.00) and drove away. What the Sister passed through vindicated the fact that, she was a true child of this kingdom. Many people are coming within and outside Nigeria to inherit the kingdom of God.

That Sister from Liberia is my child. Initially, she was baffled to be called my child. It is dawned her now and she is among my children.

BE SERIOUS WITH GOD'S WORK

You seem not to be serious with the word of God, probably because you do not understand that, this is the kingdom of God. Rather, you preoccupy yourself with frivolities. The kingdom of God is for everybody. And this was revealed to Nebuchadnezzar that there would come many kingdoms but a particular one would encompass all others (Dan. 2: 44) Let it be known to you that, this is the revealed kingdom, which you must strive to inherit.

"And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." (Revelation 21:22-27)

You say you are waiting for the new heaven and the new earth, but you are still living in sins – fornication, stealing and lying among others. The nagging question is, how can you inherit the new world with your shortcomings?

"Nevertheless, we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Wherefore, beloved seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless." (2 Peter 3:13-14)

ERA OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

God does not want your beauty, knowledge or money. What He wants you to do is to be righteous just like He is. Do not steal, lie, among others. The age of sin had passed. If you stay in your house without belonging to any particular church but practise the word of God and keep God's injunctions, you can be accepted in God's kingdom. So, what that Sister from Liberia did was the work of God. The brother from Cameroun is the child of money. Those from western countries are serious with the work of God. The brother from Liverpool who works with a University was allowed six days to stay in Nigeria but he stayed for about a month. The children of God are coming daily. This is the real kingdom of God, which must rule the world. It encompasses everything on earth. You should shun eating of meat and fish. Discontinue drinking wine like a fish. Will you continue in sins to be qualified to rule other creatures?

THE WORD OF GOD

The evolved kingdom of God does not condone evils and it is not discriminative. And now is the reign of God. Everybody has equal rights. And the Father is the Father of all. You should not kill animals, fishes, ants among others. If you temper with the lives of these creatures, you are inadvertently making an attempt on the life of the Father. And if you spare them, you are sparing the life of the Father. Your benevolence to anybody is to the Father. If you steal someone's property or usurp it, the action is directed to God.

You claim that, I am a human being, native of Biakpan in Cross River State of

Nigeria; an African. But have you seen me exhibiting the character of Nigerians or Africans? Am I behaving as a human being? I know you are yet to come to the full awareness of yourself. This explains why I continue to bring realities of life to you in order to inherit the kingdom of God. See Matthew 19:27–30:

“Then answered Peter and said unto him, behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?”

And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, that ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life. But many that are first be last; and the last shall be first.”

This is the word of God. Are you not joking with the kingdom?

The British Americans are all Britons, who were of the former British Empire. The British empire succeeded from the Roman Empire. Similarly, the kingdom of God is one. And all the break-away factions are struggling to attain perfection. These people broke out because they wanted a chance to serve their God religiously. The Americans were thinking of ‘owning’ Christ when he comes back. As such, they repaired roads and other things to receive Him, but to their greatest surprise, that was not the case. They were disappointed.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD HAS EVERYTHING

They used money, scientific knowledge to win the favour of Christ. Little did they know that righteousness is the gateway to the kingdom. Unlike the Africans, the Americans do not attach much importance to money. But they want to make a name for themselves or the State. That is why, when they come to this kingdom, they can afford to give any amount of money to the development of the Father's kingdom. But that is not the case with the blacks. As a result of poverty which plagues the developing countries, if someone gets baptised, he or she brings his or her bags and baggages to stay in the kingdom and will claim to live with the Father. In actuality, he or she depends solely on the Father for his or her daily needs. If this kingdom were at America or London, the problem of money would not have arisen. That was why they had requested me to come and live there, but I refused. However, the whites are coming here and all their money will be used for the development of this kingdom.

The kingdom of God is not interested in money. Rather, the Father wants repentance from you. The lamentation by some members for money in order to serve God in this kingdom does not hold water. Because this kingdom does not lack money. As such, no body is asked to contribute to its upkeep. Everything is here:

money, power, doctors, police, soldiers and what you can think of.

ALL-EMBRACING KINGDOM

In Brotherhood of the Cross and Star you can stay for hundred years without feeling hungry. That is one of the reasons people conjecture that there must be a power other than that of God in Brotherhood of the Cross and Star. When you are in good health and prosperity, people of the world would misconceive the source of these good things and attribute your good fortunes to satan. In Brotherhood of the Cross and Star, there are enough food, wealth and good health. As such, there is no need for hospitals, courts, because the doctors here are well equipped and there are policemen to maintain peace. It also has incorruptible judges to handle all judgements. Managers are also assigned to manage the affairs of members effectively. Every aspect of life has been taken care of by Angels. This is vindicated in the scripture that

“The earth is the Lord’s and the fulness thereof, the world, and they that dwell therein.

For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.

Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in his Holy place?

He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall be bless from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation.” (Psalm 24: 1–5)

The major thing on earth is to change mankind for the better. If people are not made to repent, the world will continue to have problems, as a result their unwholesome acts. There is no need looking for money, husband or wife, worldly knowledge among others. Rather look for God, because, he has come to help you to eternal life. There is nothing working in the governments, churches, secret societies. Everything seems to be stagnated. But the kingdom of God waxes stronger. See Revelation 11: 15–19

“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever.

And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

Saying, we give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and has reigned.

And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldst give reward unto thy servants

the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great: and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail."

DO NOT DEFRAUD OTHERS

Most people are prone to unwholesome lives. Some do not pay tithes. If only people should know the importance of tithe, they would not have waited to be told, because the Father does not starve you of your needs. Similarly, if you understand where you are, you would have got no problem. You are still hunted by your old ways of life. Here, perfection is the watch-word in the kingdom of God the ultimate. The chorus down is the vindication of this assertion:

CHORUS: "Sell all what you have and follow the Lord (3ce)"

If you come to Brotherhood of the Cross and Star to acquire money and other frivolities, you will not get into the kingdom of God. Except you sell all your belongings and follow God, you cannot inherit this kingdom. I have instructed you not to charge money for the services you render: Visioners keep on defrauding others through visions. They refer to vision as 'x-ray' to enable them charge money. Note, it is better to give than to take.

THE BANE OF THE WORLD

The whole world worship money and they develop mania for it. Everybody seems to enslave himself in order to get money. The urge to expand business or to get chain of degrees is to get more money. Because of money, many people do a lot of atrocious things. People indulge in many unwholesome acts to get money. The nagging question is, do people get this money they struggle for?

I have sympathy for you, because the Father is the owner of all things and you have not cared to seek for the Father. That is why the angels at times snatch these things from you. You never worked hard enough to acquire these things. There are money and work opportunities in Brotherhood of the Cross and Star. We only need honest people to manage these inexhaustible resources.

MANY PEOPLE DRESS IN A BORROWED ROBE

Of all things, what people struggle for most is money, and yet it is very scarce. Yet, nobody can afford any reasonable amount. Many rich people are so insolvent that if one should pawn their property, their debts cannot be offset. Many of these so-called influential and powerful people in the society use their positions to obtain loans from banks without collateral. With the Bank loan, they become flamboyant and live ostentatious life which people see and think. that you have money. I do not know why somebody who has no money on him or her should

think of embarking on a project which is not within his financial capability. These people can hardly succeed. The loans collected are often misused and their business bankrupt. Read what the scripture has:

"From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?"

Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet have not, because ye ask not.

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." (James 4:1-3)

Money is the root cause of the wars, carnage, program and genocide we have the world over. Some want to make money by fair and foul means. And some who have money are selfish. If you have the lust for money, you are not yet a member of Brotherhood of the Cross and Star. We need good treasurers, storekeepers and stewards who are ready to serve God; not those who will sponge on others.

GOD OWNS EVERYTHING

The Father needs no money, but everybody wants God to give him or her money. He brings God's kingdom to mankind yet, some people are not ready and many others are not interested for it. Can the government who print money give it to people without the people serving the government? Government gives money to her citizens which is not commensurate with their contributions. The government pays its employees this paltry sum because it (government) does not have money. And they are oblivious of the fact that God is the owner of everything. To get the wealth is no problem, but:

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33)

"All other things" as used in this context refer to: clothes, knowledge, money, among other material things. This is why in Brotherhood of the Cross and Star, the Father is referred to as "Everything". But the injunction is:

"Flee also youthful lusts; but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart." (2 Timothy 2:22)

LOVE IS ULTIMATE

Money has nothing to do with goodness. The ultimate is love, honesty and righteousness. If you develop phobia for earthly things but crave for the kingdom of God, the glory of God will be yours. And He will use you for His services and you will not be in penury. Shun dispute and infighting. Anybody who crave and

craze for money is courting death. But anyone who needs God courts everlasting life.

Shun materialism and crave for goodness. Read 1st Timothy 6:17-19:

“Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, not trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life”.

That is the word of God about money. You should crave for love, mercy, faithfulness, patience and righteousness. There is no one who practices what the scripture states above.

CHRIST ATONED FOR OUR SINS

It should dawn on you that money cannot give peace, everlasting life or power. Money cannot do everything for you. Neither can it heal you nor give you protection. For instance, armed bandits visited a certain rich man at Lagos, but his wife offered them money which they refused. All they wanted was the man's life. The wife told them to mention anything they wanted, but they refused and went on to kill the man. The rate at which rich men die these days is amazing. Especially those who acquire money through foul means. The time is quite near. So, search for the truth and righteousness.

Jesus did not charge money for His services to people. He did not die for clothes, money or any other material wealth; but he died because of the kingdom of God. I am interested in man's repentance from sins. You should strive to attain righteousness. You continue to perpetuate ignoble acts oblivious of the deity in your midst. However, those who are ready for the Father's work are coming in great number.

Jesus came and died for this kingdom and resurrected. He became the Leader or the commander of 'war'. As a result, people would not believe Olumba Olumba Obu. Because He does not dress flamboyantly and does not live in magnificent building or drive in a flashy car. Many do not believe He is the one. But He is clothed in godliness.

ALL THINGS ARE BROTHERHOOD

Everything is brotherhood. There is no discrimination or class distinction in Brotherhood of the Cross and Star. The moment one gets baptized, he automatically becomes a full fledged member and has equal right. One ceases to belong to any particular nationality in Brotherhood of the Cross and Star. The kingdom becomes your family.

Any member of Brotherhood of the Cross and Star who takes ill is not a true member. No Brotherhood of the Cross and Star member will work for the govern-

ment, unless he is there as a representative of the kingdom. About forty years ago, Muslims were not recognised. Christians were everything in the society. It was them who formed government. Muslims were despised at and were treated as rebels. The whites did not include them in the scheme of things. But now, they are dominating almost all aspects of government. They even control money. That is what will happen to Brotherhood of the Cross and Star in the near future. At this time, the righteous will rule while their's will be brought down. God does not cheat anyone. The moment God takes control, everything will be in perfect places. Brotherhood of the Cross and Star is not only for the human beings, it embraces animals and fishes among other things. If you kill a lizard, you have killed a human being.

“And he that over cometh and keepeth my works unto end, to him will I give power over the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

And I will give him the morning star.” (Revelation 2:26–28)

May peace abide with the entire world. AMEN!