



GRAN ALACANT TABERNACLE NEWS

JULY 2015
Issue 3

Greetings to all our brethren and friends of the Tabernacle in the name
of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

During these past few months we have had some visitors join us in worship during our services And would like to give thanks to all our brothers & sisters for their contribution towards the edification of the saints and for your gifts and prayers for the work here in Gran Alacant which is greatly appreciated.

We do experience some difficulty to cover the rental and running costs of the mission here, so Your prayers and any help you can provide is a blessing thank you.

We are still struggling in reaching out to the local community as we have been prohibited in giving out any tracts or information about the church from the local authorities, therefore are waiting upon the LORD to open up doors for the Gospel to be pronounced although we do all that is in our possibilities, one to one encounters with our neighbors and people we know. We ask you to join us in prayer for guidance and wisdom from the LORD to fulfill His will for the mission here in Gran Alacant to reach the lost with the saving grace of the Gospel of our Lord and savior Jesus.

We praise and thank the LORD for our Spanish speaking congregation that has given us the possibility to put our foot in the door within the Spanish locals and integrate, although they are only a small number at this time they have zeal in reaching out and have contributed spiritually with teachings during our meetings and also materially with their donations towards the mission here. To the Praise and Glory of our LORD!

Please also continue to pray for the Spanish speaking church and the furthering of the work in the Spanish community which is our focus at this time but also that by being here we are able to have the opportunity to share the Gospel with those who are on vacation here and those who have their second home here from the UK and other countries.

We ask for your prayers specifically in this area and trust that The LORD will guide us in the way forward.

We pray that the articles in this issue will also be an interest and blessing to you and that Our LORD God is honored and glorified.

Thank you for your continuing prayer & friendship
Pastor Pino Cinquemani

In the first 11 chapters of Romans, The apostle Paul has presented some deep understanding of truths about what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. In Chapter 12, Paul exhorts the Christians in Rome and to us, to apply these truths in a practical way in our everyday lives.

The foundation for all that Paul says in the rest of the chapters is based on what he says in Romans 12:1, 2. *"I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, [which is] your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."*

There are many who profess to be Christian, but their life style seems to put in question their claim. Even those of the world know that there are certain characteristics of behavior and attitudes that should mark the Christian.

The most common answer in defense of this claim is (God sees the heart) that is so true God does see the heart, but God also sees the behavior and attitude and the truth of that persons heart by his works in Christ Jesus by whether we are, following His will or our own will, whether we are observing everything that He has told us or not.

We live in a society in which tolerance of everything except the truth is normal and there is an attitude amongst modern Christianity to be in with the times, "modern virtue" there is many that would immediately say it is wrong for people to question a person's claim. But we see that in the scriptures the prophets and the apostle Paul were continually correcting and warning misleading and erroneous actions to those who claimed to be children of God.

In 2 Corinthians 13:5 we are challenged as Christians to *"Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you, unless indeed you fail the test."*

When a person becomes a Christian, there will be changes that will take place in that person's life. This does not mean that Christians will not stumble and sin or that individual Christians will not have struggles with certain sins. As Paul said in Romans 7 that even he struggled with his flesh and would find himself at times doing the very evil thing that he did not wish to do.

The Apostle John writes to Christians and tells them that *"if we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us."* He then adds, *"if we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us"*(1 John 1:8-10).

The issue here is not that the Christian is perfect and without sin, but that he will pursue holiness and no longer be characterized by sin. Instead, will struggle against sin and will use all that our merciful God has given us to pursue holiness in the struggles and battles that we are confronted with daily, physical and spiritual both.

Within a true Christian, there is a change, concerning self and sin this change is because of belief in our Lord and Savior Jesus and what His sacrifice means to us, which results in a change of attitude and action.

One of the most important elements in conversion is belief in Jesus Christ, and it is exactly that belief in Him that brings the change, belief is not only about acknowledging and even speaking of Him and confessing Him, But **"believing in Him"**, which means that now, if that claim is true, **He becomes our Lord and master, and we are to obey all that He has commanded us**, not only with

our thoughts, amen's and halleluiahs, **but with our actions.**

In chapter 6 of Romans Paul covered this reality, pointing out that faith in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ results in our old self being crucified with Him so that we should no longer be slaves of sin. We have been transferred from being dead in darkness of Satan's kingdom to being alive with Christ Jesus in His realm. This is not an analogy but it is real, our spirituality is not imaginary, it is a living practical spirituality that is manifested in our daily lives.

There is a change of masters. We no longer have to obey the evil master of this world, but we are now to obey God through Jesus. The one that refuses to obey and continues to follow Satan without any repentance only demonstrates that there has not been a change of masters.

Being a living sacrifice means that our life is no longer lived for us, but for God and His glory. We are crucified with Christ and no longer live, but Christ lives in us and through us. Being a living sacrifice is the only reasonable response that the Christian can have to all that God has done for us in the person and work of Jesus Christ. And we must thank God continually and ask for His forgiveness and repent for the many times that we fail at this.

This is what the apostle Paul is explaining from chapter 12 onwards in this book, the practical side of being a living sacrifice.

We also must understand that we are to be humble as in verse 3, and not *"think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think."* That is because we are part of a larger group that makes up the body of Christ, and as part of that body, we recognize that every other part of the body is important for the whole to function properly.

Humility and surrender to God and living for Him, and serving Him, is not optional if one claims that they are born again of the Spirit, through the mercy of God through Jesus. We have been redeemed and made us alive together with Jesus and adopted us as His children, and have become part of the Body, therefore being part of the Body of Christ is not optional, we are either part of the body or not.

So if we are then part of the Body of Christ then we:

Become aliens to this world, we are made into new creatures, we develop new desires, attitudes and actions, as our minds are renewed (Rom. 12:2).

And by this Grace we have communion with the father the son and the Holy Spirit and with all the saints our brethren, the church, The Body.

At this point God does not leave each believer to go their own way and to do as they please, that would be, breaking the fundamental principles of being part of the body, and is egoistic, selfishness and prideful, which in the long term could bring separation from the body and isolation, serving God just to obtain personal benefit and blessings is not God's way for us to serve Him, this would take us far from God and eventually back towards the world and its ways.

God equips each individual true believer with gifts for a purpose, to serve Him, from within the body, and to prepare the Body for the coming marriage, when Jesus comes for His bride.

For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen".

To be continued next issue

As we continue our look at the Beatitudes, we come to the third blessing: "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth". (Mat. 5:5) The passage is simple, but this promised blessing has been misunderstood and misinterpreted by many in what it mean to be truly meek and how this differs from the one who is "poor in spirit," many accept the world's definition of what it means to be meek and miss out on what Jesus is really saying!

When first reading of this beatitude, some may think the word meek as if it is of someone that is weak or simple, but it does not mean weakness, tolerance or compromising. Jesus, who said of Himself that He was meek or gentle and lowly (Matt. 11:29), drove out the moneychangers with a whip from the temple (John 2:15). Jesus was not weak, yet He was meek and gentle.

Our first focus regarding meekness is towards God, submission to his will through obedience to his Word, which is manifested in our daily lives by every faithful disciple; it is something demanded by God it is not an option.

The apostle Paul wrote, "*And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all*" (2nd Tim. 2:24); Also in his exhortation to the Romans, "*If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men*" (Rom. 12:18), this requires meekness not weakness this also requires us to be strong yet gentle!

Meekness is also accepting our place and doing all we can, with what the Lord has given us, by simply accepting whatever comes in our way in life, and accepting wherever we may be in life, and by doing all we can in the circumstances we find ourselves in.

There is no service to God that is too small, sometimes, we have a desire to do more or to do some great thing for the Lord to please Him, but are unwilling to accept that it just may not be our place. Meekness is the humble willingness to accept the role that the Lord has given us in our life without complaint, and the willingness to do all we can whatever that role or place may be.

When we lack meekness, when others come to us to correct us in edification by God's word, we will not be willing to listen, but think we have no need of correction or instruction; because of pride which produces rebellion. Meekness will cause us to consider that we may be wrong, that we should investigate and that we do not always have all the answers and that we are in need of guidance and correction.

Meekness does not seek revenge, it is opposed to anger, and we are to not be quickly provoked in our spirit, even if we have the power to take action against others who have wronged us or insulted us. Joseph is an example of this in the book of Genesis, a young man that had been sold into slavery by his brothers, later after many years, he comes face to face with them, but this time he is a prince in Egypt and he has much power, but he does not use his power for revenge but for correction with love for his brothers.

The meek consider that we will all stand before the Judge whom we have wronged for we are all sinners, that we will have to answer for our deeds, whether good or evil, and that we are in need of God's mercy, which in turn helps us to also show mercy and be forgiving and longsuffering to others.

Inheriting the Earth.

Psalm 37: 1-11

*Do not fret because of evildoers,
Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity.*

*2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass,
And wither as the green herb.*

*3 Trust in the Lord, and do good;
Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.*

*4 Delight yourself also in the Lord,
And He shall give you the desires of your heart.*

*5 Commit your way to the Lord,
Trust also in Him,
And He shall bring it to pass.*

*6 He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light,
And your justice as the noonday.*

*7 Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him;
Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way,
Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.*

*8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath;
Do not fret—it only causes harm.*

*9 For evildoers shall be cut off;
But those who wait on the Lord,
They shall inherit the earth.*

*10 For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more;
Indeed, you will look carefully for his place,
But it shall be no more.*

*11 But the meek shall inherit the earth,
And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.*

Revelation 1:4-5

Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.

The meek shall inherit the earth, but those who rebel against God, His will and His word, are proud and the opposite to the meek and find themselves in a sad condition, there is no place for them to inherit but darkness and isolation from God, hell and the lake of fire, for they will not inherit either earth or heaven. It is the meek that shall inherit the earth.

Regarding this blessing of inheriting the earth by the meek is one that has some differing interpretations.

Jesus the Messiah is going to come back to earth and establish a kingdom on earth to reign for a literal 1000 years and the saints will inherit the earth and will be reigning with Jesus at that time.

Adam lost his title to the earth and to heaven when he fell; and until we are reconciled to God through Jesus His son, we do not qualify to either heaven or earth. The saints hold their right to the earth in through Jesus, who is 'the prince of the kings of the earth (Revelation 1:5).

Also in the scriptures, this blessing by Jesus, is a direct quote from Psalm 37, where the psalmist writes of how one should behave in the midst of trials and in the midst of a wicked world, and concludes that one should place our trust in God because the evildoers will be cut off and those who wait on the Lord and those who are meek *"shall inherit the earth"* (Psa. 37:1-11).

This statement may literally have meant the land, especially when speaking of the Promised Land of Canaan to the children of Israel which was promised and God will fulfill His promises in His plans for Israel's future. But also does mean the greatest of blessings, for meekness has a great reward for those in Christ Jesus, the meaning of this blessing exceeds any earthly possession, for the blessing of which Jesus spoke for the meek referred to something of infinite value: Eternal Life.

John reminds us, *"And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life"* (1st John 2:25), and Jesus said, *"And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life"* (Matt. 19:29). The greatest blessing of all for the faithful disciple is not some earthly possession, but eternal life! As Peter tells us; (1st Pet. 1:3, 4).

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you"

The greatest blessing we can expect to receive is that of eternal life! As we meditate on this beatitude, let us each take the time to seriously consider the things Jesus said, and that we each examine our selves to see if we have these characteristics.

I believe we would all like to say we are blessed by God, but the blessings do not come without conditions. Today, we have seen another condition for being blessed; let us now seek to meet God's approval and learn to be meek in spirit and in the life we live before God and men, that He may be glorified.

Freedom in Christ Jesus does not make us immune from certain practices that does not bring Glory or pleases the Lord , so many times we may think that what we do is ok , we may think that the Lord will over look if I dress in a certain way or participate in certain worldly entertainment that may look innocent within a worldly perspective or even certain man made traditions and celebrations that may all seem innocent , but in reality it does not matter what we think or what the norm of the world thinks or what certain religious organizations may think of certain practices , if we want to please the Lord and serve Him according to His will and not ours than we have to take on board all the principles , teachings and examples that come from His Holy word and not what man may think is ok and harmless , because what we may think that is innocent and harmless may be evil and a stumbling block to others and an abomination to the Lord.

We may have freedom in Christ Jesus but we have to understand that this freedom does not give us the go ahead to do as we please there are principles, guidelines and conditions that must be met in order to be pleasing to God. Many have stumbled into sin through the manner in which they have interpreted and practiced their freedom in Christ Jesus.

Man made religions have turned freedom in Christ into license to sin.

Legalism is an enemy of the gospel but the greater danger of the gospel is antinomianism or cheap grace (*The word antinomianism comes from two Greek words, anti, meaning "against"; and nomos, meaning "law." Antinomianism means "against the law." Theologically, antinomianism is the belief that there are no moral laws God expects Christians to obey. Antinomianism takes a biblical teaching to an unbiblical conclusion*).

The apostle Paul is aware of this problem as he explains in Romans 6 dealing with this very issue. Romans 6:15:

What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? God forbid!

Shall we keep on sinning because we are under grace, because grace abounds? The answer is, **“certainly not”**

How can we define true Christian freedom? First we need to understand from what the good news of the gospel has set us free from, and then we can also understand what Christian freedom is not. In Galatians 5: 13 Paul tells the church and us that Christ has set us free and we must not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh.

13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

What is the freedom we have in Christ? Christ has set us free from all condemnation. In Romans 8:1, Paul says: *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.* This is because, in Christ Jesus, we have been set free from the curse of the law. Christ has set us free from the condemnation of the law, but we are not exempt of the law.

In John 3 16–18 we read (*16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God)*

Jesus has set us free from the fear of death. This death is the wages of sin, which is spiritual death of which we are judged and condemned. There is a wonderful statement concerning this

in Hebrews 2:14–15:

4 In as much then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Every human being is born a slave to the fear of the wages of sin. Jesus came to set us free from this fear of death. This was accomplished by His life, His death, and His resurrection.

Christ set us free from our slavery to sin.

The words of Jesus in John 8:32–36 make this clear *“...Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?” Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. 35 And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. 36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.*

Jesus was not talking about political freedom or about human rights; He was talking about mankind’s slavery to sin.

Christ has set us free from the slavery to sin. In Romans 6:18 and 22, Paul tells us that, because we are in Christ, we are justified believers have been set free from sin, we now have a way of holy living and the end result is: eternal life in heaven with God!

We have been set free from sin and have become **slaves to righteousness**. But now that we have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, we are to abide in the principles and commandments that God has set out for us in the scriptures, to pursue holiness, just as He is Holy. So freedom in Christ means that we are no longer condemned under law but are now slaves of righteousness and pursue to please God by following His commandments , not as a requirement of salvation but because we have already been saved.

The Example of Christ: *Jesus emptied Himself and took on the form of a bond-servant and was made into the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross (Phil. 2:5–8).*

Jesus sought to please the Father by taking upon Himself the wrath of God that we deserve, it means that He paid the price in our place, by His obedience to the father even death on the cross. This is also true for us and it is why that Jesus warned in John 15:19 *“If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”*

Jesus did not seek to please Himself. He sought to please His Father. In John 4:34 Jesus said, *“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work.”* In John 5:30 Jesus said, *“I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”*

What was true of Jesus is also to be true of us. Our lives are not about fulfilling our wills and building our kingdoms. God created us and saved us from our sins so that we might fulfill His will for His glory and His Kingdom.

As we grow in Christ Jesus, we are being changed from selfish self centred people seeking to please ourselves into being godly people seeking to please God. Our LORD has been gracious and merciful towards us he has freed us from sin through the sacrifice of His son Jesus who shed His blood for us, let us not abuse this freedom but respond to it by surrendering our will to the will of our father God and by presenting our bodies as living and Holy sacrifice that pleases and brings Glory to our LORD God, Just as Jesus was obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross, for us to have this freedom.

Blessings from Gran Alacant

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The Church at Gran Alacant, give thanks to all our brothers and sisters, that have come to visit us during the past months, thank you for your time of worship together, also we thank the Lord for your generosity, prayers and edification and pray that we also by the guidance of God through the Holy Spirit have been a blessing to you, also that God willing we may enjoy fellowship together in the near future.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

*May the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you.*

*May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.*

Please continue to pray for us that the Lord will guide us into
His will for the church mission here in
Gran Alacant.

Blessings in the name Jesus.

