

The Church of Jesus Christ The Message of Hope



Revelation 21:24 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.

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The Church of Jesus Christ

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Message of Hope

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What Does The Church of Jesus Christ Believe?


We believe that the Bible is the infallible Word of God and is the SOLE authority on every subject. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God. Rev. 1:8, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty." God put on the robe of flesh and walked here on earth for 33 years to fulfill prophecy for the New Testament Church, which is The Church of Jesus Christ. According to the Word, John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:14, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...." The Church of Jesus Christ believes that everyone must take His word seriously, John 8:24, "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye **believe not that I Am He** ye shall **die** in your **sins**."

We follow God's Plan of salvation. Acts 2:38, "...Repent, and be **baptized** every one of you in the **name of Jesus Christ** for the remission of sins, and ye **shall receive** the gift of the **Holy Ghost**." Baptism is by immersion in water only. The evidence of the infilling of the Holy Ghost is according to Acts 2:4, "And they were all **filled with the Holy Ghost**, and **began to speak with other tongues**, as the Spirit gave them utterance." John 3:5 states, "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be **born of water and of the Spirit**, he **cannot enter** into the **kingdom of God**." We must then live a clean, holy, and dedicated life to Jesus Christ thereafter taking diligent heed to the Word.

The Church of Jesus Christ must be found faithful to His Word. We must be partakers of Communion service. This service consists of the Lord's Supper and Foot Washing. 1 Cor. 11:24, 25, "And when he had given thanks, he brake it and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. (25) After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, "This cup is the New Testament in my blood: this do ye oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me." John 13:14, 15, "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. (15) For I have given you an example that ye should do as I have done to you."

Watch, pray, forsake not the assembling of yourselves together, give your tithes and offerings, so that YOU can be counted among the faithful when our one and only Savior, Jesus Christ, comes back in a "cloud with power and great glory!"





Praise the Lord Everyone.

We wanted to apologize for the lack of magazines that have been published lately. Things have been quite busy, and we ran into some troubles with the receipt of articles and the printing process as well. We are trying to prevent this from happening again in the future. So, to try and help ease the process we ask that you submit your articles by email to this address:

messageofhope@live.com

Or by mail to:

Message of Hope

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Disobedience or Obedience

God made man in his own image. In the image and likeness of God, man was made. Man was created in God's image and honor and given the authority over everything on earth to fellowship with God in obedience. Adam was placed in the Garden of Eden with the command from God that he should not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam had sweet fellowship with God his Creator who came down in the cool of the day to talk with him in the Garden of Eden; until the day the serpent (Satan) tempted Adam's wife, hearing and seeing that the fruit was good for food picked and ate it and gave a portion to Adam who also ate it disobeying the will of God. Sin came into the world and man was separated from God through disobedience. For the wages of sin is death. Adam was expelled from the Garden of Eden. He lost his innocence, for he knew then that he was naked and hid from God; the consequences of him disobeying God is hard work and death. In Proverbs 1:10 we read, "If sinners entice thee consent thou not." Another man who disobeyed God was King Saul, every action carries a reaction. The story is in 1st Samuel 15:8-22. "Behold to obey is better than sacrifice and to hearken than the fat of rams." Jonah also was disobedient. He was a prophet of Israel in the time of Jeroboam who was told to go to Nineveh, but instead fled into Tarshish from the presence of the Lord and we know the consequence he paid, asking forgiveness and praying out of the fish's belly. Let us as children of God be obedient to God's words and commandments living a Holy, Righteous life through the Grace of Jesus Christ who was obedient to His Father's Will even to the death of the cross. For He has redeemed us back to himself through the shedding of his blood.

Sis. D. Benjamin
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

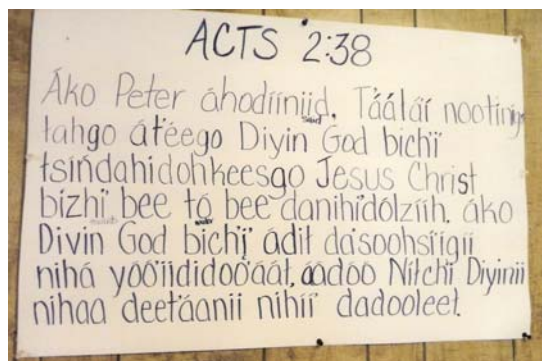
Missionary trip to Holbrook Arizona

Greetings to all the saints of our Great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. While on vacation this past March, Bishop Spence was visiting Monument Valley in Arizona, and had the privilege of meeting Brother Randy Stone, and some of the saints from Holbrook AZ.

I don't believe this was just a chance meeting, I believe God brought them together, as he sent Philip to the desert to preach to the Ethiopian, as he brought Aquila and Priscilla to expound unto Apollo's a more perfect way. They exchanged phone numbers and had many conversations about the church and the doctrine, of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Bishop Spence called and said Bro. Stone would like to know more about the name of Jesus Christ, on the place of worship. He invited us to come visit his church and preach. Bro. Stone has a home mission church where he has been preaching the Gospel to the Native Americans (Navaho Nation). He is starting on his third year. He visited several years ago and was able to witness to the people, about baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ, according to Acts 2:38 as Peter preached on the day of Pentecost. He saw the need for the Gospel to be preached there, he told me that he felt like Abraham, when God spoke to him and told him to go to a land that I'll show you, and thou shall be a blessing. I thank God for men like Bro. Stone, willing to leave his home in Illinois and go by faith to help lost souls find salvation through the name of Jesus Christ.

Acts 2:38 in Navaho



Bishop Spence and I left from WV on the 14th of August and arrived in Holbrook Arizona on the 16th. We called Bro. Stone and he asked us to come over to his home and the church to get better acquainted. We found Bro. Stone and his family very hospitable, as they fed us a wonderful meal. But the fellowship in the word of God was truly a blessing as we found Bro. Stone to be very receptive to the doctrine of The Name of Jesus Christ. Bro. Stone has always believed in baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ, but never was taught the importance of the name on the building. The more we discussed the scriptures, the more he saw what we were saying about not saying and using the term Jesus name which isn't biblical. We have many oneness people today that has made a doctrine out of that term, and put everything on their place of worship except his wonderful name. Isaiah 9:6 and Colossians 3:17. The scriptures teach us that the church is his body and he is the head of the body. Ephesians 1:22-23 and Colossians 1:18-24. My pastor Harvey H. Perry, preached this message for 50 years and had a wonderful illustration of this through, he would use his own body and head to prove this point about the church being called by the name of Jesus Christ, he would say if I Stick my head through the door and you knew who I am you would say I know who that is , that's Harvey Perry, it would be ridiculous to call my body by some other name

than the name of my head. This may seem silly to some people, but in 1 Corinthians 1:27 Paul wrote that God chose the foolish things of the world to confound the wise. Chapter 2:14 he writeth but the natural man receiveth not it things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him, neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Also in Romans 1:20 he wrote For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse. Bro. Stone had a special service Friday night and we got to meet some of the Saints, they were mostly Native Americans, and they were very friendly and received us well. We had a wonderful and God was certainly in our midst. We had a great meal and fellowship afterwards.

Friday Bro. Stone took us up into the White Mountains to Fort Apache, and the Apache Reservation. It was a beautiful day and we got to see a church on the Reservation and as we were standing outside one of the natives came and asked us to pray for him and then a car pulled into the parking lot and the two ladies asked us to pray for them. Matthew 9:37 & 38 The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labors are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest. John 4:35 Say not ye, there are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold I say unto you Lift up your eyes and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.



Sunday service was wonderful, had a full house. Bishop Spence preached, "Crying to God!" A lot of people are crying to a god that cannot hear and cannot save. (1Kings 18:21-40) After the service the sisters prepared us a great meal of Navaho tacos, they made fried bread for the tacos, it was delicious.



I believe God is bringing his people together in these last days. Acts 15:14-17; Simeon hath declared how God at first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, After this I will return and build again the tabernacle of David which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.

I want to say how grateful I am, for Bishop Spence having the vision of going out and declaring the gospel wherever he gets the opportunity. The Native Americans of the Southwest are a wonderful people and I believe there is going to be a great harvest of souls for the Kingdom of God, they are quick to receive the words of the Lord. Like the Jews on the day of Pentecost, in Acts 2:37 as Peter was preaching they said unto Peter and the rest of the apostle's men and bretheren what shall we do? They didn't get upset and mad at the preacher, remember the word pricked their heart, they were convicted of their sin, they wanted to be saved, they wanted salvation. Peter told them what they needed to do. Acts 2:38- Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. This is the message of the church Jesus Christ said in Matthew 16:18 he was going to build. Thank the Lord it is still the message today, Paul said in Galatians 1:8- though we or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached let him be accursed.

I want to say how thankful I am for Bro. Stone, for the burden and vision he has for the Navaho people. I also saw the love and respect the people have for him. Bro. Stone now has a new sign on the place of worship that he has placed on the home mission it reads: The Church of Jesus Christ.



This is the name that is above every name, that's ever been named, not only in this world but the world that is to come. (Ephesians 1:21, Philippians 2:9) The scriptures teach us that the church is his wife 2nd Corinthians 11:2- Paul writes: I am jealous over you with godly jealousy, for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. In Ephesians 5:22-32 Paul related a husband and wife to Christ and the church.

Revelation 19:7, John writes: Let us be glad and rejoice and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come and his wife hath made herself ready. Every wife should carry her

husband's name. Genesis 5:2 Male and female created he them; and blessed them and called their name Adam, in the day they were created. Genesis 2:21-24 God performed the first marriage, and called them by the same name, when I married my wife she took on my name. We know the day we live in people co inhabit, don't want to make a commitment to each other, Paul called these days perilous times, men would be lovers of their own selves, unthankful, unholy, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God 2nd Timothy 3:1-4

We here at The Church of Jesus Christ of Ohley, WV. Want to thank our Lord for the many blessings, his goodness and his great mercy. I thank him for the revelation of Jesus Christ and his Glorious Church. God Bless.

Bishop Paul Rose

The Church of Jesus Christ

Ohley, West Virginia



I would like to thank the Lord for healing my body this summer. I have had a lump on my back for the last couple of years and the doctor said to keep an eye on it. This spring it had started to grow so I went back to the doctor. He said that it was nothing serious but the only way to get rid of it would be surgery. I didn't even want to think about that option. It kept growing until it was intolerable to even touch my back on anything. I kept going up for prayer because I knew that God could take care of it without having surgery, and when God heals, there is no recovery time. Right before convocation it started shrinking and within a couple of weeks it had become completely flat again. I promised God that I would write an article for the magazine when he healed me so I am keeping my promise. Don't ever give up if you go up for prayer once or twice and nothing happens. God may be testing your faith.

Bro. Mark Savarese

Pastor: Bis. Spence

The Church of Jesus Christ

Portage, IN



Leave the Landmarks Alone!

"Thou shalt not remove thy neighbour's landmark, which they of old time have set in thine inheritance, which thou shalt inherit in the land that the Lord thy God giveth thee to possess it" (Deut. 19:14).

A "landmark" is a mark that designates where your land ends and your neighbor's land begins. Modern surveyors drive a metal rod into the ground to separate and distinguish property, but ancient landmarks often consisted of a stone that could be removed by someone wishing to encroach upon his neighbor's land. God pronounced a "curse" upon any man who would dare to so mistreat his fellow-Hebrew (Deut. 27:17). This was because after God divided up the Promised Land amongst the children of Israel in the Book of Joshua, He commanded them that it not be sold (Lev. 25:23; Num. 36:7). This is why Naboth refused to sell his land to Ahab (I Kings 21:1-3). Naboth wasn't being *stubborn* or *disrespectful* to his king, he was being *faithful* to the Law of his God (cf. Ezek. 46:18).

Landmarks to this day continue to mark where your land ends and your neighbor's land begins. However, today we also have certain *societal* landmarks that God has given to help us distinguish between right and wrong. For instance, for thousands of years, mankind clearly understood where to draw the line between right and wrong when it came to the subject of *abortion*. Then in 1973, our Supreme Court removed the landmark when they legalized abortion, and we have been living with the holo-caustic consequences of this "landmark decision" ever since. Now societal surveyors are taking aim at yet another God-given landmark, the definition of marriage that limits it to the bond that can only exist between a man and a woman in the eyes of God. Such landmarks also exist in the spiritual realm of Bible doctrine. The historic fundamentals of the faith that define Christianity have for centuries helped God's people determine where truth ends and error begins. These spiritual landmarks are always under attack, and the day in which we live is no exception. To counter this trend that was present even in his own day, the Apostle Paul challenged young Timothy:

"Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus" (II Tim. 1:13).

While we should always be open to receiving new understanding from God's Word "with all readiness of mind" (Acts 17:10,11), we must "prove all things" and "hold fast" *only* "that which is good" (I Thes. 5:21). We have a rich "inheritance" in Christ (Eph. 1:11,14) that these landmark doctrines serve to protect. Let's work together to preserve them!

Pastor: Bis. Jarret R. Spence

The Church of Jesus Christ.

Portage In. 46368



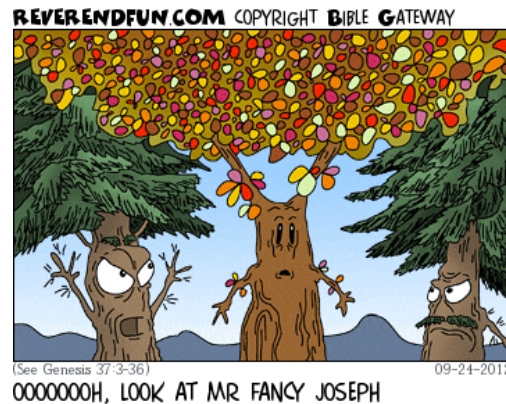
Be Ye Holy

Each and every one of us has a responsibility to keep our body holy, (Eph 1:4, 1Pet 1:16), a living sacrifice (Rom 12:1), so that Christ may present us holy, unblameable, and unproveable, (Col 1:22). After all we are the temple of God and His spirit dwells within us, (1Cor 1:16,17, 1Cor 6:19,20), so keep your body clean and holy. Watch where you go, because you are taking the temple of God with you. Take care in how you dress, act, and speak, after all you are representing God and his temple. 1Pet 1:15 tells us, Bus as we which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation (conduct). Let others see Jesus Christ in you. God didn't give us just any spirit, he gave us "His Holy Spirit"!

Bro. Clarence Rogers

The Church of Jesus Christ

Portage, IN



"...When you passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee; When thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. (Isaiah 43:2)

No matter what we go through in life, The Lord is there with us walking by our side. He will not let the waters of life overwhelm us. He will not let the fiery trials burn us and consume us. Though we may feel as though we are overwhelmed and drowning, He will uphold us. We so often cannot see the way out when we're in the midst of the storm. This is why we need to keep close to him. This is the hope we have in the Lord that He is always with us every moment of the day. He already knows what we will face. We can completely trust Him to walk us through and to be there when we come out the other side. We *will* get through it, as long as we keep our eyes on Jesus Christ. He is the source of our comfort, and our hope and is totally dependable.

Sis. Judy Spence

The Church of Jesus Christ

Portage, IN

Fear and Missed Opportunities

Praise the Lord everyone! God is great and greatly to be praised! I am so thankful for the Convocation this year. It was uplifting and encouraging. I got a lot of good things out of it. I'm so thankful for all the ministers that got ordained--that's a big commitment. However I was thinking about how many people that was there and missed out on the opportunity to make a start for the Lord. I think sometimes people are afraid to make a start. Fear will keep you from serving God. Fear will keep you from letting go and praising the Lord. It will keep you from testifying about how good God is. It will keep you from raising your hands or going to the altar to pray, or sing, etc. But don't let fear keep you from serving God. I have a little story about fear. This year at youth camp there was a tree limb that hung down over the volleyball field and every time someone would hit the ball it would hit the limb. So I told the caretaker that if he would get me a saw that I would cut it down (What was I thinking!). The limb was about 20 feet off the ground. Now the ladder the caregiver gave me to use was too short so we had to find another one. We sent Bro. Stallion to get another one. We finally figured this one out. You had to loosen a few bolts and twist a lever to extend the ladder then twist the lever back and tighten the bolts back. I wasn't sure we had done it right so I didn't fully trust the ladder. I'm not usually afraid of heights but under the circumstances I was not feeling too confident. I got Bro. Jarret and Bro. Stallion to hold the ladder and I started to climb. I knew they could tell I was scared because I was climbing slowly. I finally got to the top of the ladder and had another problem. The saw the caretaker gave me was way too big for this kind of job. I was cutting limbs not the whole tree! The saw was so heavy I couldn't pick it up and saw with one hand. So I had to let go with both hands and try to hold on with my legs then cut the limbs off. I will tell the truth--I would have never limbed the ladder, but I had two good brothers holding the ladder for me. The moral to this story is don't be scared to let go with both hands and serve the Lord because there will be some good brothers and sisters holding up that spiritual ladder for you and won't let you fall.

Bro. Pete Putman

The Church of Jesus Christ

Dyersburg, TN



Praise the Lord! We have some wonderful announcements!

We want to welcome The Church of Jesus Christ in Homosassa Florida to our organization. We look forward to all the wonderful preaching, teaching, fellowship, and songs of praise from Bro. Troy Stafford and the Church from down in the sunshine state! We all truly enjoyed having Bro. Troy up for Convocation this past July and can't wait to see him and everyone else on March 16th and 17th for the Florida Convocation!

We also would like to announce that Bro. Pete Putman has accepted his calling into the ministry. God is blessing the Church in Dyersburg, Tennessee! Remember him, his family, and the Church in prayer as he begins his journey to reach out and preach the truth. We love, appreciate, and thank God for you all!

Praise the Lord!

I wanted to report that we had a great convocation this past July. It was good to be in fellowship with those we hadn't seen in a while. Thank the Lord for all the wonderful services!

Romans 2:14-16 let's us know that our conscience bears us witness to either accuse or excuse even our thoughts and secrets according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God's word changes not and if we know to do good and do it not to him it is sin. So let's all do good by God through his word and our conscience and let God be God!

Looking forward to seeing everyone again, in the meantime, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Pastor Troy D. Stafford

The Church of Jesus Christ

Homosassa, FL





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