

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

Headquarters: 2797 Bryant St. Portage, IN 46368

Phone 219-763-1049

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Message of Hope

Editors: Bro. John & Sis. Sandi Garza

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Please send all articles to:

Message of Hope

c/o John and Sandi Garza

2166 Stormy St. Portage, IN 46368

messageofhope@live.com

Articles and Pictures Due: A.S.A.P.

Bishop Board and Pastors

The Church of Jesus Christ

Bishop Jarret R. Spence, Presiding Bishop

2298 Fern Street

Portage, IN 46368

Phone 219-762-7492

The Church of Jesus Christ

Bishop Paul Rose, Secretary/Treasurer

P.O. Box 344

Cabin Creek, West Virginia 45035

Phone 304-595-5640

The Church of Jesus Christ

Bishop Calvin Blaine Pennington

P.O. Box 413 (Mailing Address)

12237 State Highway 576

Montpelier, OH 43543

Phone 419-485-4464

The Church of Jesus Christ

Bishop Harold Goodrich

36288 Valley Drive

Paw Paw, MI 49079

Phone 269-655-9093

The Church of Jesus Christ

Brother Troy D. Stafford

P.O. Box 201

Homosassa, FL 34487

Phone: 352- 228-2551

The Church of Jesus Christ

Dyersburg, TN 38080

Phone: 731 627-9221

The Church of Jesus Christ

Brother Randy Stone

200 2nd Street

Hobrook, AZ 86025

Phone 815-349-4487

The Church of Jesus Christ

Elder Humberto Loera

Iglesia De Jesucristo

(The Church of Jesus Christ)

138 Alejandrina Col. San Isidro

Matamoros, Tamps, Mexico

Phone 956-564-0911

The Church of Jesus Christ

Bishop Orville Rodney

199 Catherine Mount

Albion P.A.

Montego Bay, St. James, Jamaica, W.I.

Phone 879-952-6676

National Youth Leaders

Bro. Jarret & Sis. Caryn Spence

804 Pennsylvania Avenue

Laporte, IN 46350

Phone 219-325-3904

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!"

UPCOMING EVENTS



Youth Camp June 10th—14th

EVERYONE WELCOME!

GENERAL CONVOCATION

JULY 5TH—7TH

WEST VIRGINIA CONVOCATION

AUGUST 31ST—SEPTEMBER 1ST

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Please note that we have a new email address to send all articles to:

messageofhope@live.com

Or mail articles to:

Message of Hope

c/o John and Sandi Garza

2166 Stormy St.

Portage, IN 46368

We look forward to receiving your articles and testimonies to fill the next magazine.

A Servant of God in the Valleys

Praise the Lord in the Name of Jesus Christ. I always want to give Him praise for the countless times He has shown mercy unto me even though I do not deserve it. I also want to thank Him for the many times He has protected and guided me through the many valleys that I have walked struggled through.

Society believes that if one wants to be successful in this world then we must strive to be the CEO of a big name company or be some superstar on TV. And often times some will take this mentality into our local congregations where they try to be better then the next brother or sister in the Church. Doing what ever we can to be the best or climbing the corporate ladder, if you will. Satan has also deceived many into thinking that unless you are on the mountain top you must not be in the good graces with God, but I look into the Bible I find that many great things has happen while a servant of God was in the valley.

Names like Joshua, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and countless other could come to mind because while they were tested in their valleys they always came through with Gods' leadership and protection. The one that stands out for me the most would be a little shepherd boy named David.

In 1 Samuel chapter 17 we find the story of how David had gone out to the battlefield to give his brothers some food that his father had ordered him to give unto them. But upon his arrival he found something very strange. For there was no sounds of men fighting, no swords clanking together, no arrows being fired and no orders being given, for what he had found was that the great army of Israel just standing around upon the mountain top wondering what to do. David had also discovered that in the valley there was a giant defying the armies of Israel and challenging them to a one on one fight. In which none of these men of war or even King Saul was willing to accept. For the Bible tells us that in 1 Samuel 17:24 "And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid."

While the men of Israel was hiding upon the mountain top David understood what needed to be done and was up to the challenge for he said to some, "...Is there not a cause?"

Now we know how this story ends for we are taught from our earliest days in Sunday school how David goes down into the valley with his sling and five smooth stones but most importantly he went into the valley with his faith in the name of the Lord. On this day what Israel needed was a servant of God to go into the valley and bring back the victory.

Even though thousands of years have past from that faithful day the challenge is still being called out. The giant of our valleys are still defying the children of God just daring them to come and get their deliverance but just like the army of Israel did back then we too find much the same thing happening today, many fleeing and hiding upon the mountain top (or our churches) and wondering what to do.

As the book of Joel reads in chapter 3 verse 14 "Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision."

I ask this question, if the day of the LORD is near the valley of decision, will God have any that will be willing to accept the challenge and enter into the valley? Is there any that understands that there is a cause worth fighting for? If you are looking for your victory then you must not be afraid to walk through the valleys of this life. For a child of God will always be victories in the valleys.

I often say, "That it doesn't matter how many times you are on the mountain top or in the valley low, it's what you do there that really counts."

Take a look at the next two verses.

Psalms 23:3 He restoreth my soul: **he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness** for his name's sake.

Psalms 23:4 Yea, **though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil**: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Learn what David understood in this that the path of righteousness must go through the valley of death. If any claims that they are righteous and are not willing to walk through the valley, then they deceive themselves and will be lost upon a mountain top (or in a church) somewhere. We worship God upon the mountain tops and serve Him in the valleys.

May God bless those SERVANTS that walk in the Valleys.

Bro. Jon. Leslie
Portage, Indiana

Praying Always

Testimony

Thank you Lord for taking care of me in every situation. In times of trouble when people come against me, in times when I need to trust in him and not a doctor. For Jesus Christ is always there. I thank the Lord for his wonderful word that comforts me each day and encourages and strengthens me. I may not be able to remember Gods word, word for word, but through experience serving God and living for Jesus Christ. I have his word hid in my heart. The Holy Ghost helps me to know what's written and what's not truth. The Lord is so great and greatly to be praised in the highest of praise above the heavens Jesus Christ has always been here for me through good days and bad. I look to him and I can truly say I don't have what you call a bad day really. Because I know Gods in control and his perfect will will be done. I am so very grateful for the precious Holy Ghost his spirit in me that is everything I need. I am rich in his great mercy and grace. I love the Lord and truly praise and magnify his great Holy name. His name is Jesus Christ.

Sis Paula Lewis

The Church of Jesus Christ

Portage, IN

What a Mighty God We Serve

It's hard for us to comprehend just how big and powerful our God is. Man has been trying for centuries to find the end of the universe. Much to his dismay there's no end in sight. Sept. 5, 1977 NASA launched Voyager1, which has been traveling 35 years at 39000mph and is 7.8 billion miles from earth with no end in sight. Sirius is the brightest star in the earth's sky and is 4.3 light years for 9.3 trillion miles away from earth. Yet God can be in our service at your house or by your side "in an instant". Not only that but he can be everywhere in the world at the same time. Know anybody else that can do that? Genesis 1 tells us God created heaven and earth and everything that is therein. Do you still think there's anything in your life God can't handle? Many times the problem is we won't let God work and often times our lifestyle and or disobedience hinders the blessings that God has in store for us. 1Corinthians 2:9 says- Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. God is bigger and more powerful than we can even imagine, yet more tender and loving than we deserve. What a Mighty God We Serve!!

Bro. Clarence Rogers
The Church of Jesus Christ
Portage, IN



White River Apache

In the year 2012 I became friends with the Pastor at White River Arizona, home of the White River Apache. The Reservation is called Fort Apache. I was invited to preach one Sunday morning and I agreed. I knew that to get the truth to the pastor and his church I would have to gain his respect and trust and become his friend.

Now that it has been some months later and our relationship has grown into a trusted friendship.

The pastor called late last night and asked me to preach Sunday morning and I was very happy to say yes and amen. So it looks as though I will be teaching/preaching on Thursday nights and some Sunday mornings. I believe the Apache at White River are ready for a move of the Holy Ghost. Everything this great nation of Native Americans has gone through their hardships and being kicked down on every side. They still are open to the gospel from a white preacher.

God is Good! Thank God for a chance to make a difference in someone's life. Please pray for us in Holbrook and for the Navajo church I have here.

This preacher was busy, but now I am VERY busy. Praise God!

P.S. The Church of Jesus Christ in Holbrook, AZ wants to give a very special shout out to Bishop Spence for all his support. Thanks to all the churches that have sent clothes and for those who made contacts for me to receive bibles for the Native Americans. But most of all, for those who lift us up in prayer. Oh how we desire your prayers.

Yours in His Service,
Brother and Sister Stone
The Church of Jesus Christ
Holbrook, AZ

The Gospel of Jesus Christ

Paul wrote to the church in Galatia:

Galatians 1:6-8

- (6) I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:
- (7) Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.
- (8) But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

The word gospel means “Good Message”. As universal as the Gospel of Jesus Christ sounds, many people take it for granted that they know what it means. To really understand what the gospel (what the good message is), it is best to see its inception by Jesus Christ and its verification by the apostles. The first appearance of the good message had a different implementation than the apostles’ doctrine because it was preached before the rise of Jesus Christ’s ministry. John, who was the forerunner of Christ, preached repentance and remission of sins, and baptized in water “unto repentance” (Mar 1:4 John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins). The gospel that John preached and the baptisms that he performed were the basis for the gospel that Jesus Christ imparted to his disciples. The ideas of repentance and baptism for the remission of sins were extended to include the name of Jesus Christ. There are several conversations recorded where Jesus Christ, after he rose from the grave, gave his disciples instructions concerning the gospel.

Mark 16:15-17

- (15) And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**
- (16) **He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.**
- (17) **And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;**

Jesus Christ told his disciples to preach the gospel. Although He did not say what the gospel was, He did tell them that as a result of preaching the Gospel, people would believe and be baptized.

Luke 24:45-49

- (45) Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,
- (46) And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:
- (47) And that **repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name** among all nations, **beginning at Jerusalem.**
- (48) And ye are witnesses of these things.
- (49) And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Here Jesus Christ has told his disciples what they should preach, which is the Gospel. Repentance and remission of sins are core parts of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, just like the gospel preached by John. The difference is that Jesus Christ told His disciples to preach the message in His name, which is the name of Jesus Christ. Additionally, He told His disciples that the first message of the Gospel would be preached in Jerusalem, and that they should wait there for God’s power. In Acts 2, the disciples (now Apostles) and those with them tarried and received that power. The opportunity arose for Peter to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the first time in Jerusalem.

Act 2:36-40

- (36) Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.
- (37) Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, **Men and brethren, what**

shall we do?

- (38) Then Peter said unto them, **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.
- (39) For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.
- (40) And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

Peter included all the elements of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, except belief. He did not need to preach belief because through his preaching these people believed and asked “What shall we do?”. Peter preached:

Repentance
Baptism for the remission of sins
In the name of Jesus Christ

As Paul stated, if the message is not what was originally preached in Jerusalem, then it is not the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Now let’s take a look at the preacher Phillip, preaching in the city of Samaria:

Act 8:12-17

- (12) But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.
- (13) Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.
- (14) Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:
- (15) Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:
- (16) (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)
- (17) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

Here, Phillip preached the same Gospel as evidenced by the actions of the believers. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved (Mark 16:16). Phillip must have preached repentance and remission of sins in the name of Jesus Christ because the Samaritans believed the preaching and the name of Jesus Christ, so they were baptized in the name of the Lord, Jesus, which is Jesus Christ. They had received the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and then later, according to the promise, they received the Holy Ghost.

It is clear that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is repentance and remission of sins in the name of Jesus Christ. Remission is through water baptism in the name of Jesus Christ. If you do not hear repentance and remission of sins in the name of Jesus Christ as the message of salvation, then that message is another gospel, which is not The Gospel.

Bishop Harold Goodrich
Decatur, MI



Being Perfect in Gods eyes

Hebrews 6:1-3 "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works..." When talking about perfection,, or being perfect before God, many people get the wrong idea of what this means. Many will say, "There's only one perfect man and that's Jesus Christ. Nobody can be perfect!" while this is true it's not an excuse to live any way we want to! People say, you are not saved by grace". Or, "we are in the grace dispensation."

Romans 5:20" ... But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." Again without God's grace, we would all be hurting. And the bible does say, "by grace we are saved". But people refuse to look at the other scriptures that give us a better understanding of what was meant. Take for example Romans chapter 5, where it's talking about faith and grace, and that grace abounds over sin. People love those verses, but refuse to read chapter 6! Immediately in verses 1 and 2 of chapter 6, the Apostle Paul makes sure his readers don't misunderstand what he was saying in chapter 5. Verse 1- "what shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Verse 2-"God forbid How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?: And the rest of the chapter helps to give us a better understanding that we cannot use grace as an excuse to live in sin! Genesis 6:9 describes Noah as being perfect. "... Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God." Genesis 17:1 says, "And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect." James 1:4 "But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." Jesus Christ himself said to his disciples in Matthew 5:48 "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." In Matthew 19:21 He told the rich young ruler..." ...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." God would not tell us to do something if we were not capable of it! He would not command and expect the impossible out of His people! That would just set us up for failure! What we think of as being perfect is not the same as what God considers perfect. He told Abraham to be perfect, Noah was a perfect man, and the Bible describes King David as "a man after God's own heart." But we find where these men made mistakes! Making a mistake and living in sin are two different things. 1Chronicles 28:9 "And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou

seek him, he will be found of thee: but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off forever." Psalm 101:2 "I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart." God can see way down inside of us, and knows the thoughts and intents of our heart. To strive for perfection, to put forth an effort everyday not to sin and to keep ourselves unspotted from the world, and to see remorse and shame out of us when we do make a mistake, then turn from that sin, is what God is looking for. Even the definition of a "Christian: is "to be Christ like". If we want to be like Jesus Christ, then there will be a desire to live a sin free life! And when we obey His Commandments and our heart is right in His eyes, we can then get to the place where we are perfect before Him!!!

Bro. Jason Rogers

The Church of Jesus Christ

Portage, IN



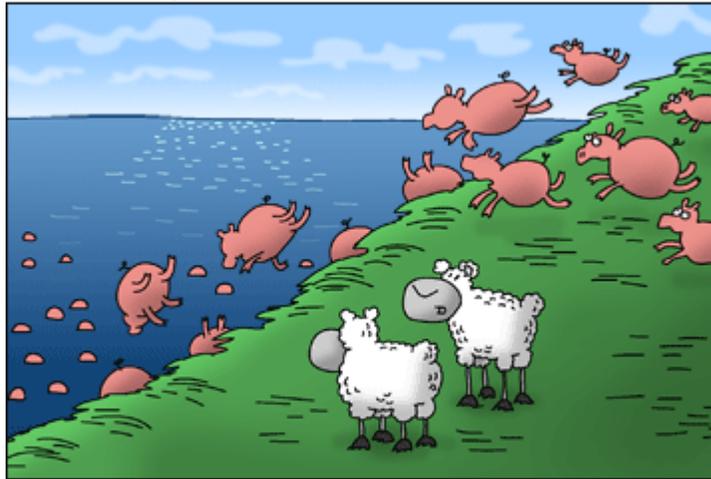
We must evangelize the world! Our age is coming to a close, and the unreached masses who kneel before millions or man-made gods have neither heard the voice of nor seen the lowly Man from Galilee. How can we reach the world that is before us without the demonstration of the Spirit and power which enabled the first Christians to turn their world upside down? Consider this twelve , unlearned... fishermen for the most part did turn their world upside down! They shook the Roman Empire from center to circumference with the story of a man called Jesus Christ! That Palatine Hill was not immune to its effects!

How did they do it? They had a burning desire, they believed completely, and the Spirit of the Lord worked with them everywhere confirming the Word with signs and wonders! We must have it! We cannot survive without it! Our world is fast reverting to paganism. Communism has enslaved its millions. Buddha overshadows other millions with cold lifeless smile eyes that see not, ears that hear not, India has millions of gods!

I know only One that lives, walks, talks, sees, and hears among us. Place Him beside the millions that have been made, make all that can be made, and yet, He will have no equal, for the Lord, He is God!!!

Let us pray, let us seek, let us knock, let us believe, and the door will open wide ushering us into an age where the Gifts of the Spirit present Him alive among us in the demonstration of the Spirit and power of the only true God Jesus Christ!

-Brother Brandon Green, Ohley WV



Thanks to Josh Lucas (See Mark 5:1-19)

01-04-2013

I'D SAY IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS THAT GOD
PREFERS SHEEP

The Church of Jesus Christ
2797 Bryant Street
Portage, Indiana 46368
(219) 762-7492

www.JESUSCHRISTISGOD.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUIRED

