

## **JESUS IDENTIFIES HIS MISSION & THE APOSTLES' MISSION**

There was wide spread excitement in the first century that the Messiah (the anointed one) would soon appear. There were numerous persons claiming to be the Messiah prior to and after Jesus. Only Jesus had the credentials to prove He was the Messiah.

"The next day he (John the Baptizer, Jesus' cousin) saw Jesus coming to him, and said, Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is He on behalf of whom I said, after me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for he existed before me. And I did not recognize Him but in order that He might be manifested to Israel. I came baptizing in water." And John bore witness saying, "I have beheld the Spirit descending as a dove out of Heaven; and He remained upon Him. And I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the one who baptizes in the Holy Spirit. And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God" (John 1:29-34).

Jesus' message came from the Father to Jesus, it was validated and guaranteed by the the Holy Spirit, it was passed from Jesus to the Apostles, and from the Apostles to the world!

John 3:35 – "The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into his hand."

John 4:32 – "I have food to eat that you do not know about."

John. 5:19 – "Truly, truly, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. I can do nothing on my own initiative."

John. 5:30 – "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."

John 5:36 – "But the witness which I have is greater than that of John; for the work which the Father has given Me to accomplish, the very works that I do, bear witness of Me that the Father has sent Me."

John 6:38 – "For I have come down from heaven not to do My own will but the will of Him who sent me."

John 8:28 – "When you lift up the son of Man then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on my own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught me."

**BEFORE HIS DEATH JESUS PRAYED IN BEHALF OF HIS APOSTLES:**

John 17:8, 14, 17 – "The words which thou gavest Me, I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from Thee and they believed that thou didst send Me. I have given them Thy word...Sanctify them in thy truth; Thy word is truth."

## FOLLOWING HIS RESURRECTION HE SAID TO HIS APOSTLES:

Matt. 28:19-20 – “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Question! Did the Apostles obey Jesus? If they did then all of their teaching must have come from the Lord. In fact, we could print most of the content from Acts through Revelation in red! If any should say Jesus was not physically on earth any longer when Acts through Revelation were written, that would be true. Some by so saying believe that the four gospels are really the words of the lord, while the rest of the New Testament contain the words of the Apostles. However, if the Apostles and other inspired persons guided by the Holy Spirit wrote in Acts through Revelation the very things Jesus had taught them to say, how is that different when the physical Jesus was no longer here, and the Holy Spirit guided them as they wrote Matthew, Mark, Luke and John? Christ came to the earth with the task of building His church. Peter and the rest of the Apostles were to be given the charge of being the ones through which He would teach the binding and loosing of the ways in which His church would be established and fulfill its mission on the earth (Matt. 18:16:18:15-20). As we shall see later, Jesus in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John information about His Kingdom, His church.

Jesus lived with his disciples and taught them for more than three years. The Apostles were to have the task of building Christ's church on the earth. He promised to give them the Holy Spirit (Helper) to guarantee they would recall and teach perfectly the message of Jesus (no more and no less). These words of the Kingdom planned in the eternity before all creation, now were to pass through the Apostles to all of the world.

John 14:16-18, “I will ask the Father and He will give you another Helper that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth....I will not leave you as orphans.”

John 14:26 – “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”

John 15:26 – “When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me.”

John 16:13- But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth; He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.”

Owen Olbricht gives a good summation of the above... He would “(1) teach them all things, (2) bring to their minds all Jesus had said to them, (3) guide them into all truth, and (4) shows them things to come” (The Holy Spirit: Person & Work, Gospel Light, p. 61).

1 Cor. 2:9-16 - “But just as it is written, Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him. For ]\to us God revealed them through the

Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him?

Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God that we might know the things freely given unto us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words...For who has known the mind of the Lord, that He should instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ."

2 Tim. 3:16-17 – "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

1 Corinthians 4:6 – "Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that in us you might learn not to exceed what is written, in order that no one of you might become arrogant in behalf of one against the other. "

Jude 3 – "Beloved while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

Acts 20:20, 27 – Paul to Ephesian Elders: "I did not shrink from declaring to you any-thing that was profitable...I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God."

Paul, having written to Timothy about male/female roles in the church, and appointment of elders and deacons, states: "I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; but in case I am delayed, I write so that you may know how one ought to conduct him-self in the household of God which is the church of the living God the pillar and support of the truth" 1Tim. 3:14-15.

He also told Timothy, "And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" 2 Timothy 2:2. Peter says Paul's writing was "scripture" 2 Peter 3:13-18.

Paul wrote: "We also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God's message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God which also performs its work in you who believe" (1 Thes. 2:13). He also wrote: "I have sent to you Timothy who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ just as I teach everywhere in every church" (1 Cor. 4:17). CM