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A SPIRITUAL KINGDOM

By Loyd Treat

Matthew 16:18: "Upon this rock, I will build my Church, and the Gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." Most people read this and think, "Oh well, that means that all Churches are His." But He said that the gates of Hell shall not prevail against "IT". "IT" is a pronoun and refers to "Church," which is singular, and thus fully establishes what Jeremiah said in Jeremiah 32:39, "I will give my people one heart and one way." One way, meaning Christ. John 14:6, Ephesians 4:4, One Church, Colossians 1:18, Ephesians 5: 22-24. Since we have one Lord, (Christ), then He preached one way, and that way is the way of holiness. Isaiah 35: 8-9 and that way is the Church, which is subject to Christ. Ephesians 5:24, and if subject to Christ, then it must follow in His steps. I. Peter 2:21. If they follow in His steps, then they live not by bread alone, but by every word of God. Luke 4:4, and they have been translated out of the power of darkness into the kingdom of His dear Son, Colossians 1:13, and are not of the world as He is not of the world. John 17:14. For His kingdom is not of the world, John 18:36, and has been appointed, or given, to the people. Luke 12:32, Luke 22:29, and they must give an account to Him, who is ready to judge the quick and the dead. I. Peter 1:17, Romans 14:10, Acts 17:31, and not be ignorant and worship idols, or in man-made churches, or have the doctrines and commandments of men. Matthew 15:9. For judgment must begin at us, I. Peter 4:17 and what will be the end of other churches, of men or their doctrine-- For since there is salvation in no other, Acts 4:12, how can we be saved in any other? All the promises of God are in Him. II. Corinthians 1:20, and the promise of God is eternal life. I. John 2:25, and hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts be-fore Him. I. John 3:19, and if of the truth, then of

the word, John 17:17. I. Peter 1:23, and shall endure forever. I. Peter 1:25, and thus fulfill Daniel 4:3, for His kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom. Does it last forever, here on earth? NO, for this earth shall be burned up, II. Peter 3:10, but the Kingdom shall be received unto Himself and be where He is, John 14:1-4. So beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing: that one day with the Lord is as a thousand years, and He is not slack, concerning his promises, but will come again to judge the people, and punish the wicked, II. Thess. 1:8-9.

Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it: Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.-- Psalms 127:1.

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WARNING

By W. E. Daniels

When we look at the title which I have given this article; it may or may not seen very important, but there are quite a number of warnings, throughout the teachings of Christ and His Apostles, hence I consider it a very important thought, and should be given careful consideration.

First, I want to direct our attention to the Words of Christ, Himself, in Matthew 7:15. "Beware of false prophets which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. You shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so, every good tree, bringeth forth good fruit, but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit, is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." Let us notice the thoughts produced from the above scriptures.

First, there would come false prophets, pretending to teach the truth, but were in reality, teaching a falsehood. Verse 16 said that we would know them by their fruits. In other words, if we cannot read their teaching in the scriptures, they are a false prophet. Verse 17 and 18 shows the impossibility of a good tree, bringing forth both evil and good fruit. In other words, a tree can bear only one kind of fruit. Verses 19 and 20 show the end of the tree that bringeth forth not good fruit, and just how we shall know them.

If we cannot read in God's Word what is taught, then it is false regardless of who teaches it, we know it is a false prophet. But, one might say, in regards to the above scripture: "Jesus was talking to His Disciples." Correct, but let us follow the Disciples and see what they had to say in the matter. Paul in Acts 20:29, "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock." Paul's statement agrees perfectly with that

of Jesus in Matthew 7:15, but in Acts 20:30 Paul makes it clear. Let us read. "Also of your own selves shall men arise speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them." Here it is in unmistakable language. In verse 31 he warns us. "Therefore watch and remember that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears." If we do not read it in God's word, they are grievous wolves. We have the warning, what are we doing with it? Paul tells us in the 32nd verse what he had done about it. Let us hear him. "And now Brother I commend you to God, and to the grace which is able to build you up, and to give you and inheritance among all them which are sanctified." In that statement, Paul has given us the warning and the remedy. Stay with the word of God.

The Apostle Peter warns us in II. Peter 2:1, "But there were false prophets among the people, even as there shall be false prophets among you." We have been warned by the two great Apostles, Peter and Paul, that there would be false prophets, false teachers, and we need to be on the watch. Heed the warnings. We can know them by their fruits. We have the material to give them the test. If they will not stand the acid test of God's word; they are false teachers. All we need to do is to turn the pages of God's holy word, and if the doctrine is not there, it is a falsehood. At this point, I would like for us to consult the Apostle John. I. John 4:1, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God, because many false prophets are gone out into the world." Paul warns us again in Galations 1:8, "But though we or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you, let him be accursed. In II. John 10:11, "If any come unto you and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him Godspeed, for him that biddeth him Godspeed is a partaker of his evil deeds."

It is unmistakable that there are false teachers and false doctrines in the world today, and we are fully warned of such. Yet, people are being deceived by the millions, and led astray. Jesus told the Jews in John 5:39, "Search the scriptures, for in them ye think ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of Me." We have a record in Acts 17, of the Jews raising trouble against Paul at Thessalonica, and leaving there, he came over to Berea, and speaking of the Jews at Berea, in Acts 17:11 he says: "These were more noble than those of Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily whether these things were so." Brethren, and to all, who ever you be, or where ever you be: Are you searching the scriptures to see whether the things you hear preached are so? There are hundreds of doctrines, being preached all over the

world, all different to each other, making them conflicting doctrines. Let me persuade you to search the scriptures, whether they be so. We have been warned. Are you heeding the warning, to search the scriptures, whether they be so?

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A THIRD ELEMENT IN THE COMMUNION?

By Tom Broadway, 5564 Clover Lawn Drive, Grants Pass, Ore.

Strongly opposed in general by man BUT authorized by Christ the King of Kings!

It is not difficult for a great number of us to understand alike concerning the loaf of unleavened bread used in the communion. Also, most of us understand alike the necessity of the juice of the grape in the communion. But then we come to an apparent blind spot. Many cannot understand the integral part of the communion that is as much a part of the communion as the loaf of unleavened bread or the juice of the grape.

Those who seek wisdom and truth will want to know more about this and will read on with an open mind. The Lord willing, we will proceed to explain by the Bible that the single drinking vessel in the communion is of far greater significance than simply a necessary convenience to hold the juice of the grape.

In Luke 22:19 Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them saying, "This is my body.....". Very few people, if any, will try and tell Jesus that what HE said, "Is my body," is something else. But many will try to instruct Jesus in the very next verse. Jesus said, "This CUP IS the New Testament.....". But many today say, "not so Lord," this cup "IS your Blood".

The writer of the Hebrew letter refers frequently to the Old Law to help clarify points of the New Testament.

In Hebrews 9:19-20 he recalls the ratification or sealing of the Old Law by Moses. "For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, saying "This IS the BLOOD of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you." You can see that the Blood was sprinkled on the Book or Testament, and in no way or manner could we say the Blood and the Book are the same thing! Please read again..... Notice the Blood was one element used and the Book or Testament was another element.

We read in Hebrew, chapter 9, that the WILL or TESTAMENT is not of force until a person dies. By this we see that the New Testament would never have been in effect if the author of the New Testament, Jesus Christ, had not died and shed His blood. We can clearly see also that His death on the cross would not have helped the human race if there had been no Will or Testament

(Gospel) given by which we can be saved. He would have been simply an innocent one put to death. Yet by the shedding of His BLOOD, giving us a Testment which is the Power of GOD unto SALVATION," we have both the Perfect Law of Libery , the ALL-Powerful Seal it took to ratify it, (that put it in force), The Blood of CHRIST!

And think of it, some deny that we have the New Testament in the communion!

We will honor by criticism, the "silly-isms" that some writers are trying to peddle, but trust that those who seek wisdom and truth will see them and their doctrines for what they are. Bogus gods and false.

In Luke 22:20 Jesus said, "This CUP IS the New Testament in my blood.....". In the Weymouth translation it is even more clearly stated in English as we use today. "This CUP", He said, IS the New Covenant ratified by my BLOOD.....".

We can see how our soul's salvation depends on the Testament to guide us and on His shed BLOOD to guarantee its promises!

Romans 11:33 says, "O the depth of the riches both of Wisdon and Knowledge of GOD! How unsearchable are His judgements, and His ways past finding out!

In our Sunday services in the communion we have certain elements that correspond to His body, His blood, and His testament.

Please take note of this simple equation;

HIS BODY: LOAF OF UNLEAVENED BREAD
HIS BLOOD: THE JUICE OF THE GRAPE
HIS TESTAMENT: THE CUP Luke 22:20

The Scriptures tell us that it is THE WORD that draws us to God! Please let it find the door of YOUR heart open!

Submitted in Christian Love

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LETTERS

W. E. Daniels, Stillwell, Oklahoma

It has been some time since I have written, but will attempt to write a few lines of news. We are well here and hope that all brethren everywhere are as well. I was in Kansas in October with the church there two Lord's Days. This little congregation meets in a community building on Ridge Road, west of Wichata. One member lives in Wichata and the others live in Rt. 1, Valley Center, Kansas.

Last Lord's Day, November 6, I was with the Tiner Oklahoma Congregation east of Broken Bow, Oklahoma. Both of these are small congregations, but strong in the faith. I am sending an article and some support for the paper.

Yours in Christ.

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Harry Wegley, Grants Pass, Oregon

I thought I would take this opportunity to write

the news from here. We have moved our meeting place from Cave Junction, Oregon, to Grants Pass, Oregon. It makes it a little closer for some of our members to drive. Our new address is 714 S.W. J. Street, Grants Pass, Oregon.

We now have Brother and Sister Tom Broadway and family meeting with us. They moved up here in April. We are so glad to have them.

Brother and Sister Kellams have moved up here from northern California. They live in Rogue River and are attending services with us. We welcome them gratefully to our small but growing congregation.

Brother Estelle Buckner and his sister Mrs. Eddie Evans and her husband and new baby are with us.

Brother and Sister Reed Thompson and son Harry Lee Thompson and family--Sister Mabel Bumgardner and Brother and Sister Dick Henney and family are still faithfully driving from Medsford each Lord's Day to worship. We thank God for each and every one of them.

My oldest son, Harry, was baptized in August. Needless to say our hearts were full of thanks to God. He was married shortly afterward. They are living in Corvalis, where he attends college.

Brother and Sister Rex Mickey have moved from Cave Junction to Grants Pass. Their son, Dallas, is stationed in Hawaii.

Brother and Sister Dick Henney's son, Keith, is stationed in Colorado. Let us all remember these young folks in our prayers for guidance in their lives.

We send our prayers to all the Brotherhood, for continued faith in our Lord and the strength to do only His will in this short walk on earth.

With Christian Love.

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Laura E. Willis, Carlsbad, New Mexico

I hope every one there is well. We've had some throat and chest colds in the congregation recently, but I believe we are all feeling better. I am sorry I have not been as prompt with my contributions and news as I was for awhile, but I have been having more unavoidable expenses the last year or so than I had heretofore.

I received the 2 issues of the Christian Courier today, and was really happy to receive them. I have read both from cover to cover.

I must tell every one of my happy experience last week. Sister Scott came and spent the week with me. We really had a wonderful visit. We visited Sister Effie Nelson, the third little girl. She is 82 years old and Sister Scott and I are 81. So we felt that the good Lord had been very kind to us to let us be together once more in this life. We also visited the Bruce family and Brother and Sister Bouchman.

I do hope you can keep the Courier coming from now on. We do need a paper to keep us in touch. Brother

Snoderly, if I have taken up too much space with my report, just omit some of it.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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WILL YOU TRADE YOUR SOUL?

Today, as in ages past, so many of our young people are trading their souls for a husband or a wife. They choose and fall in love with someone who is not interested in church or their souls salvation. They choose one who cares only for the world and the things in it. When one falls in love, so many times he or she thinks as the world does that it entitles them to trample under foot everything held dear to God--Christianity, parents, morals and everything else. While in this frame of mind or state of insanity, I know not which, they often tell us frankly, "I'm in love and will marry him no matter what you say or think. OH! I'll convert him after we are married. I'm going to be different from the others. Furthermore, it isn't any of your business what I do." Isn't it? Whose business is it then what our children do with their lives. If it is their business or choice alone to do what they wish, to trade their soul for any mate of their choice, then it is indeed a poor business. No! I say it is others business also. Theirs, the young people, of course, but also their parents and the church. Not that we should make their decisions for them, but it is our business or our purpose in life to train and guide in the right paths.

To teach them to make the right choice. To make all their decisions with their spiritual future as well as their physical future in mind. This is what Joshua spoke of in Joshua 24:15, when he told the people that they must make their choice between Satan and God. A decision--this is what we face today on this and other subjects as well, for one can trade his soul for other things also. The right choice-- How do we know when we have made the right choice? This question always enters my mind when I am tempted to do wrong. But this answer always comes to me. What would Jesus tell me or have me to do. The scriptures tell me, they tell you, young people also, what we must do to save our souls. <u>IF</u> there is doubt then it is wrong. <u>It is sin</u> for the scriptures teach us that "that which is not of faith is sin." Romans 14:23.

What can I say now? Only this: be sure you are not trading your souls for a husband or a wife or for that matter for anything that the world has to offer. <u>BE SURE</u>!

Roy

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Claude Peregin, Bellflower, California

We're sorry to hear of Brother Roy's father passing away. Brother Roy went back to be with him during his illness and later his funeral. He brought his mother

home with him for a visit with him and his family. We were glad to have her with us in our services many times while she was here.

We had a good meeting here with Brother W. A. Nelson. I believe he does better each time we hear him. We had visitors from Lakeside, Pomona, La Habra, Modesto, and Waterford, California, congregations. Also, from Grants Pass, Oregon, and Yakima, Washington.

The last Sunday of our meeting many of those present went to the hospital to visit Sister Stringham of La Habra. We sang for her and others confined with her there and Brother Roy spoke for us. Brother Nelson spoke a few words of love and encouragement to her and Brother Hunt led us in prayer. She is home now and improving.

BrotherTaylor has been very sick for some weeks, with the flu, but is now able to attend services. Many others here have had their second round with the flu this winter but not so long or bad.

Brother Bill Taylor has been home on leave from the Air Force this past week and he spoke for us Sunday night, November 27th.

Sister Cadwell of Modesto was with us for morning services the same day as was Sister Betty Peregin's mother, Sister Nell and Brother and Sister Meadows grandchildren. Brother and Sister Earl Broadway were up one week end from Yuma, Arizona for a visit. Bro. Earl brought the message for our morning services. We have enjoyed having each of these our visitors being with us and invite them back. Of course, everyone is welcome. Come and see us.

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Attention:

Brethren, we still need good constructive articles for publication, in this the paper. Any constructive, thought-provoking article will be given space in this paper, whether the editor agrees one hundred per cent with the writer or not, but we do not solicit articles that are written for the purpose of slander, or those that gender to strife, wrath, and envy. We want our teaching to be done in a positive way, in the same spirit of love and meekness, that is becoming a Christian. Remember: "A friend gained is better than an enemy punished." Let us have articles on subjects that we all need to study.-----

Editor

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