LITTLE LOVE LETTER

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EDIFIED CHURCH IN LOVE

Our Dear, Beloved, Brethren:

We may not be here much longer; so I, for one, if I follow in the footsteps of Christ my Saviour, "must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work". I must be writing a letter of warning to all my brothers in the Church of Christ, young and older ones, too. Ti.2.

All through all the Old Testament and the New Testament we read of the pull and tug of temptations of error; it is a warfare. Read Ro. 7: 4--25. From my earliest memories I have seen the struggles and efforts of Christ's Church to keep alive.

These days, aren't we about as "lukewarm" as the Laodiceans, or even as the Church in Sardis, "dead"?

Just last Lord's Day I was given one's opinion, that the churches do not want to grow, or words close. Seems that-a-way, doesn't it? But Christ told the 7, even early Congregations of Asia: "few-hold fast-repent-overcome". I must be careful & watchful, so as not to be harmful, or cause to fall; but I must write; be faithful to death.

We read and clearly understand that the Jews, God's chosen people Israel, as long as they were careful and watchful and did God's Will, prospered. But time and again they did wrong, and would suffer.

Ezekiel prophesied (was to say, and teach them) "-unto them that prophesy out of their own hearts, Hear ye the word of the Lord". The Lord God said they were foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing. (Another translation: "-that walk after their own spirit, and things which they have not seen."; Ezekiel 13: 1-4.

Then is given the significant figure, vs. 5-11: "Ye have not gone up into the gaps ("breaches"), "neither made up the hedge" ("repaired the sheep-fold") "for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord". They had seduced by lying. One built, and - others "daubed it with untempered mortar". "-they shall not be in the assembly of my people, neither shall they be written in the writing of the house of Israel, neither shall they enter into the land of Israel; and ye shall know that I am the Lord God".

THE JEWS, God's chosen people Israel, became worse and worse--even unto Jerusalem; Mat.ch.23. Do read all those words of Christ Jesus, OUR LORD. Their leaders, "blind guides", led them to condemnation. Verse 37: "O Jerusalem, JERUSALEM--"how often would I have gathered thy children together---"and ye would not!". "He taketh away the first, that He may establish the second. By the which will we are sactified throughthe offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all".

The prophet Isaiah, concerning Christ's Kingdom, said(Is.2:2-3):"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established(prepared, readied)in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.-'Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem". "O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord".(v.5). (Re:Mat.23?"-and ye would not!").

From Is.2:v.6, read to see what really happens to "-the house of Jacob-". And read, at least two verses: "-and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day". Again Is.35:3 and 8:"Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees". "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness".

EXALTED GOD, CHRIST, AND HIS CHURCH

To EXALT is to raise up, to elevate, to raise high, and to honor and glorify. From the beginning God is. He is Creator of all things. He is our Father. Christ IS GOD"S SON, and He has exalted HIM. "-Christ is the head of the Church: and He is the saviour of the body.---"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself for it;---"That He might sanctify and cleanse it-that He might present it to Himself a glorious Church-". No spot, no wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be HOLY AND WITHOUT BLEMISH. Eph.5:23-27.

"A GLORIOUS CHURCH-
"IT SHOULD BE HOLY AND WITHOUT BLEMISH"

There is only one Church: singular, Eph.5:23-7, each verse 23-27, and more; "the church", "it", and "--that it should be holy and without blemish". Verse 23, "--Christ is the head of the church: and He is the saviour of the body".

Jesus asked His disciples (See Mat. 16:13-18) "But whom say ye that I am? "And Simon Peter answered and said, 'Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God'. "And Jesus answered AND said unto him, 'Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven'.- 'and upon this rock'(or fact, sentence. See the Greek words for "answer" "revealed" "sentence". Christ Jesus is "the chief corner stone".) "-and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it".

"-Christ is the head of the church: and He is the (He is the) saviour of the body". "And" (God--Eph.1:17 for vs.22-23): "And hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is His body, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all".

"LET US therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another". ("faith comes by hearing the Word of God"). "LET ALL THINGS be done unto edifying". "AND He gave some--for the edifying of the body of Christ--". See all Eph.4:13-16; "the whole BODY edifying-self in LOVE". "UNTO HIM be glory in the Church and IN CHRIST JESUS to all generations, for ever and ever. A-MEN"...