JANUARY, 1967.

BEARING FRUIT---GIVING GOD THE GLORY

THERE SEEMS TO BE A LOT OF MIS-UNDERSTANDING AS TO HOW A CHRISTIAN MAY BEAR FRUIT IN HIS PRIVATE EVERYDAY LIFE, AS WELL AS ON THE LORD'S DAY. SOME DO NOT SEEM TO UNDERSTAND THAT EVERY ACT WE PERFORM AS A CHRISTIAN, (IF OF COURSE IT IS DONE ACCORDING TO HIS WILL,) IS TO THE GLORY OF GOD THROUGH THE CHURCH, BECAUSE THE SAVED ARE ALL ADDED TO HIS CHURCH (ACTS 2:47). OF COURSE IF WE HIDE OUR LIGHT UNDER A BUSHAL (MATTH. 5:15-16) SO THAT NO ONE WILL SUSPECT WE ARE ACTING BY THE ORDERS OF CHRIST; THEN, INDEED, THE GOOD WE MIGHT DO WILL NOT BE TO THE GLORY OF GOD THROUGH THE CHURCH, BUT RATHER TO OUR GLORY. (COL. 3:17) HE SAYS, "WHATSOEVER YOU DO, IN WORD OR DEED, DO ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD." THIS CERTAINLY APPLIES TO INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIANS; AS WELL AS TO THE CHURCH ACTING AS A BODY. IN FACT WE ARE TOLD THAT IF EVERY MEMBER WORKS EFFECTUALLY IN HIS OWN MEASURE, THE CHURCH WILL GROW. (EPH. 4:16). WE ARE EVEN TOLD THAT EVEN EATING AND DRINKING IS TO BE DONE TO THE GLORY OF GOD. (1 COR. 10:31). THIS CERTAINLY APPLIES TO INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIANS; AS WELL AS TO THE CHURCH AS A BODY. HOW TO USE MONEY TO THE GLORY OF GOD SEEMS ESPECIALLY TO BOTHER SOME EARNEST CHRISTIANS. THEY ARE SURE THAT IF MONEY IS USED TO THE GLORY OF GOD, IT MUST BE DONE ONLY BY THE CHURCH AS A BODY; THAT THE INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIAN CANNOT POSSIBLY USE MONEY TO THE GLORY OF GOD EXCEPT THROUGH THE CONTRIBUTION, HANDLED BY THE CHURCH AS A BODY. I AM PERSUADED THAT THE WHOLE TROUBLE COMES THROUGH A MISTAKE IN RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH. I THINK A STUDY OF THIS SUBJECT WILL BE PROFITABLE TO ALL OF US. SPEAKING FOR MYSELF, I HAVE FOUND IT VERY PROFITABLE.

LET US READ ABOUT THE MONEY THAT IS TO BE HANDLED BY THE CHURCH AS A BODY; WE ONLY WANT WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS FOR OUR GUIDANCE IN EVERY THING WE DO. IN 1 COR. 16:1-2, PAUL SPECIFIES PLAINLY WHO THIS CONTRIBUTION IS FOR. NOTICE CAREFULLY: "NOW CONCERNING THE COLLECTION FOR THE SAINTS, AS I HAVE GIVEN ORDERS TO THE CHURCHES OF GALATIA, EVEN SO DO YE. UPON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK LET EVERY ONE OF YOU LAY BY HIM IN STORE, AS GOD HATH PROSPERED HIM, THAT THERE BE NO GATHERINGS WHEN I COME." THIS SCRIPTURE NEEDS NO COMMENT: IT IS THE CONTRIBUTION THAT WE LAY BY IN STORE EACH LORD'S DAY; AND PAUL DESIGNATES IT AS "COLLECTION FOR THE SAINTS." WE DO NOT QUARREL WITH AN APOSTLE WHEN HE GIVES US PLAIN INSTRUCTIONS, DO WE? SO WE WILL NOT ARGUE THAT PAUL MEANT FOR US TO TAKE THIS "COLLECTION FOR THE SAINTS," AND USE IT FOR SINNERS.

IN ROM. 15:25-32, PAUL SAYS, "BUT NOW I GO TO JERUSALEM TO MINISTER UNTO THE SAINTS. FOR IT HATH PLEASED THEM OF MACEDONIA AND ACHAIA TO MAKE CERTAIN CONTRIBUTION FOR THE POOR SAINTS AT JERUSALEM. - -- NOW I BESEECH YOU BRETHREN, FOR THE LORD JESUS CHRIST'S SAKE, AND FOR THE LOVE OF THE SPIRIT, THAT YE STRIVE TOGETHER WITH ME IN YOUR PRAYERS TO GOD FOR ME; THAT I MAY BE DELIVERED FROM THEM THAT DO NOT BELIEVE IN JUDEA; AND THAT MY SERVICE THAT I HAVE FOR JERUSALEM MAY BE ACCEPTED OF THE SAINTS." WE ARE ADDING TO THE WORD OF GOD TO ASSUME AND STATE THAT PART OF THIS MONEY WILL BE USED FOR SINNERS. PAUL SAYS SPECIFICALLY IT IS FOR THE SAINTS.

SPEAKING OF THE COLLECTION FOR THE SAINTS, PAUD SAYS IN 1 COR. 8: 4, "PRAYING US WITH MUCH ENTREATY THAT WE WOULD RECEIVE THE GIFT, AND TAKE UPON OURSELVES THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE MINISTERING TO THE SAINTS." AND IN 1 COR. 9:1, "FOR AS TOUCHING THE MINISTERING TO THE SAINTS, IT IS SUPERFLOUS FOR ME TO WRITE UNTO YOU." IF YOU WILL READ ALL OF THESE TWO CHAPTERS, YOU WILL NOT FIND A SINGLE REFERENCE MADE TO USEING THE CONTRIBUTION, "THE COLLECTION FOR THE SAINTS", FOR ANYBODY BUT A POOR SAINT. IN 1 TIM. 5:17-18, PAUL TELLS US THAT CERTAIN ELDERS ARE TO BE SUPPORTED, AN ELDER WOULD CERTAINLY BE A SAINT: "LET THE ELDERS THAT RULE WELL BE COUNTED WORTHY OF DOUBLE HONOR, ESPECIALLY THEY THAT LABOR IN WORD AND DOCTRINE. FOR THE SCRIPTURE SAITH, THOU SHALT NOT MUZZLE THE OX THAT TREADETH OUT THE CORN. AND THE LABORER IS WORTHY OF HIS REWARD."

1 TIM. 5:3-6 & 9-10, TELLS OF ANOTHER PERSON THE CHURCH AS A BODY IS TO SUPPORT, PROVIDED SHE MEETS THE SPECIFICATIONS: "HONOR WIDOWS THAT ARE WIDOWS INDEED. BUT IF ANY WIDOW HAVE CHILDREN OR NEPHEWS, LET THEM LEARN FIRST TO SHOWPIETY AT HOME, AND TO REQUITE THEIR PARENTS: FOR THAT IS GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE TO GOD. NOW SHE THAT IS A WIDOW INDEED, AND DESOLATE, TRUSTETH IN GOD, AND CONTINUETH IN SUPPLICATIONS AND PRAYERS NIGHT AND DAY. BUT SHE THAT LIVETH IN PLEASURE IS DEAD WHILE SHE LIVETH.--- LET NOT A WIDOW BE TAKEN INTO THE NUMBER UNDER THREE SCORE YEARS OLD,

HAVING BEEN THE WIFE OF ONE MAN,WELL REPORTED OF FOR GOOD WORKS;IF SHE HAVE BROUGHT UP CHILDREN,IF SHE HAVE LODGED STRANGERS,IF SHE HAVE WASHED THE SAINTS' FEET,IF SHE HAVE RELIEVED THE AFFLICTED,IF SHE HAVE DILIGENTLY FOLLOWED EVERY GOOD WORK".THESE WIDOWS WERE CERTAINLY SAINTS. SAINTS WHO WERE BEING CONSIDERED FOR SUPPORT BY THE CHURCH AS A BODY. BUT NOTICE THE LIST OF GOOD WORKS THAT SHE MUST HAVE DEVOTED HER CHRISTIAN LIFE TO,IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR THIS HONOR."BROUGHT UP CHILDREN, LODGED STRANGES,WASHED THE SAINTS' FEET,RELIEVED THE AFFLICTED,DILIGENTLY FOLLOWED EVERY GOOD WORK";THESE ARE EVERYONE PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL WORKS; AND MOST OF THEM CERTAINLY INVOLVE SPENDING MONEY.DO YOU CONTEND THAT SHE HAD TO ASK THE CHURCH TO SUPPLY THE MONEY NEEDED TO LODGE THE STRANGERS AND TO RELIEVE THE AFFLICTED,IN ORDER FOR GOD TO GET THE GLORY? WE WILL COME BACK TO THIS WIDOW,BUT LET US CONTINUE WITH THE STUDY OF THE SCRIPTURAL USE OF THE CONTRIBUTION,WHICH PAUL CALLS "THE COLLECTION FOR THE SAINTS".LET US GO BACK TO THE FIRST WE READ OF A COLLECTION FOR THE SAINTS.

ACTS 6:1-4,"AND IN THOSE DAYS,WHEN THE NUMBEROF DISCIPLES WAS MULTIPLIED,THERE AROSE A MURMURING OF THE GRECIANS AGAINST THE HEBREWS, BECAUSE THEIR WIDOWS WERE NEGLECTED IN THE DAILY MINISTRATION.THEN THE TWELVE CALLED THE MULTITUDE OF THE DISCIPLES UNTO THEM,AND SAID,IT IS NOT REASON THAT WE SHOULD LEAVE THE WORD OF GOD,AND SERVE TABLES.WHEREFORE,BRETHREN,LOOK YE OUT AMONG YOU SEVEN MEN OF HONEST REPORT,FULL OF THE HOLY GHOST AND WISDOM,WHOM WE MAY APPOINT OVER THIS BUSINESS.BUT WE WILL GIVE OURSELVES CONTINUALLY TO PRAYER,AND TO THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD." THESE WERE CHRISTIAN WIDOWS:BEING CARED FOR BY THE CHURCH AT JERUSALEM;WHERE MANY OF THEM HAD SOLD ALL THEIR POSSESSIONS TO GIVE TO THE POOR,AND HAD ALL THINGS IN COMMON.WE HAVE TO ASSUME IT TO SAY "THE COLLECTION FOR THE SAINTS" WAS USED FOR SINNERS AFTER THE WIDOWS WERE FED.

THEN IN ACTS 11:27-30,"AND IN THOSE DAYS CAME PROPHETS FROM JERUSALEM TO ANTIOCH.AND THERE STOOD UP ONE OF THEM NAMED AGABUS,AND SIGNIFIED BY THE SPIRIT THAT THERE SHOULD BE A GREAT DROUTH THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE WORLD:WHICH CAME TO PASS IN THE DAYS OF CLAUDIUS CAESER." NOW NOTICE,WE ALL KNOW THAT IN A DROUTH THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE WORLD,THERE WOULD BE A LOT OF UNBELIEVERS IN WANT AS WELL AS CHRISTIANS.BUT NOTICE TO WHOM THE DISCIPLES DECIDE TO SEND RELIEF. "THEN THE DISCIPLES,EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS ABILITY,DETEMINED TO SEND RELIEF TO THE BRETHREN WHICH WERE IN JUDEA. "NOTICE HERE THE CHURCH MONEY WENT TO "THE BRETHREN".WE HAVE TO ADD TO WHAT IS WRITTEN TO STATE OR SUPPOSE THAT AFTER THE BRETHREN THE WORLD WOULD BE GIVEN WHAT WAS "A COLLECTION FOR THE SAINTS." WE ARE ALSO TOLD IN THIS SCRIPTURE WHO HANDLED THIS CHURCH MONEY: "WHICH THEY DID,AND SENT IT TO THE ELDERS BY THE HANDS OF BARNABAS AND SAUL."

WHAT ABOUT SUPPORTING PREACHERS? A PREACHER IS,OR SHOULD BE A SAINT,AND IF HE IS A POOR SAINT,THEN HE CERTAINLY QUALIFIES TO BE MINISTERED TO.

IN PHIL.1:3-10,PAUL IS THANKING GOD FOR THE SUPPORT OR FELLOWSHIP OF THE PHILIPPIAN CHURCH:"I THANK MY GOD UPON EVERY REMEMBRANCE OF YOU,ALWAYS IN EVERY PRAYER OF MINE FOR YOU ALL MAKING REQEST WITH JOY,FOR YOUR FELLOWSHIP IN THE GOSPEL FROM THE FIRST DAY UNTIL NOW;---INASMUCH AS BOTH IN MY BONDS,AND IN THE DEFENSE AND CONFIRMATION OF THE GOSPEL,YE ARE ALL PARTAKERS OF MY GRACE. ----AND THIS I PRAY, THAT YOUR LOVE MAY ABOUND MORE AND MORE IN KNOWLEDGE AND IN ALL JUDGEMENT;THAT YE MAY APPROVE THINGS THAT ARE EXCELLENT." SO EVEN IN SUPPORTING PREACHERS,WHEN THEY ARE POOR SAINTS,PAUL CAUTIONS THE PHILIPPIANS TO USE JUDGEMENT IN THESE THINGS.APPROVING AND CHOOSING THINGS THAT ARE EXCELLENT.THEY CERTAINLY WOULD NOT SUPPORT A PREACHER WHO WAS PREACHING A FALSE DOCTRINE;OR ONE WHO WAS BETTER OFF FINANCIALLY THAN THEY WERE.IF HE POSSES AS MUCH OR MORE THAN THEY DO;HE CANNOT POSSIBLY BE TO THEM A POOR SAINT.

HEB.6:10-11,SAYS,"FOR GOD IS NOT UNRGHTEOUS TO FORGET YOUR WORK AND LABOR OF LOVE,WHICH YE HAVE SHOWED TOWARD HIS NAME,IN THAT YE HAVE MINISTERED TO THE SAINTS,AND DO MINISTER.AND WE DESIRE THAT EVERY ONE OF YOU DO SHOW THE SAME DILIGENCE TO THE FULL ASSURANCE OF HOPE UNTO THE END."

IN PHIL.4:14-18,WE HAVE MORE SCRIPTURE RELATIVE TO PREACHERS:" NOTWITHSTANDING YE HAVE DONE WELL,THAT YE DID COMMUNICATE WITH MY AFFLICTION.NOW YE PHILIPPIANS KNOW ALSO,THAT IN THE BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL,WHEN I DEPARTED FROM MACEDONIA,NO CHURCH COMMUNICATED WITH ME AS CONCERNING GIVING AND RECEIVING BUT YE ONLY.FOR EVEN IN THESSALONICA YE

SENT ONCE AND AGAIN TO MY NECESSITY. NOT THAT I DESIRE A GIFT:BUT I DESIRE FRUIT THAT MAY ABOUND TO YOUR ACCOUNT. BUT I HAVE ALL,AND ABOUND: I AM FULL,HAVING RECEIVED OF EPAPHRODITUS THE THINGS WHICH WERE SENT FROM YOU,AN ODOR OF A SWEET SMELL,A SACRIFICE ACCEPTABLE,WELL PLEASING TO GOD."

HOW ABOUT MONEY FOR THE CHURCH HOUSE? ISN'T THIS FOR THE USE OF THE SAINTS,IN THEIR WORK AND WORSHIP? HOW ABOUT MONEY TO PURCHASE ~~XXXX~~ GRAPE JUICE;SONG BOOKS,ETC.? AREN'T THESE THINGS FOR THE USE OF THE SAINTS,PRIMARIALY?

2 COR.9:13,IS SOMETIMES QUOTED AS AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE CONTRIBUTION FOR OUTSIDERS.BUT WE KNOW THERE IS NO ~~CONTRIBUTION~~ collection IN THE BIBLE.AND IF WE ~~XXXXXXXXX~~ INTERPRETET THIS VERSE TO MEAN OUTSIDERS,WE DO VIOLENCE TO THE SCRIPTURES.FOR PAUL SAID THIS IS THE "COLLECTION FOR THE SAINTS." WITH THIS IN MIND,LET US READ THIS VERSE AND SEE WHAT IT REALLY SAYS.FIRST I WILL QUOTE 1 COR.9:1,"FOR AS TOUCHING THE MINISTERING TO THE SAINTS, IT IS SUPERFLOUS FOR ME TO WRITE UNTO YOU." HE GOES ON DOWN THROUGH THE CHAPTER WITHOUT A CHANGE OF SUBJECT,INSTRUCTING ABOUT GIVING,BUT NOT MENTIONING ANY ONE BUT SAINTS.NOW STARTING WITH THE 11TH VERSE:"BEING ENRICHED IN EVERYTHING TO ALL BOUNTIFULLNESS,WHICH CAUSETH THROUGH US THANKSGIVING TO GOD."(NOW WHO WOULD BE EXPECTED TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR RELIEF GIVEN THROUGH THE CHURCH,OR ANY OTHER WAY A CHRISTIAN,OF COURSE.HE DOES OR SHOULD GIVE THANKS FOR EVERYTHING IN HIS LIFE.AND EVEN IF A SINNER DID PRAY AND GIVE THANKS;WOULD GOD HEAR HIM?) 12TH VERSE,"FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THIS SERVICE NOT ONLY SUPPLIETH THE WANT OF THE SAINTS,BUT IS ABUNDANT ALSO BY MANY THANKSGIVINGS UNTO GOD." THIS VERSE PLAINLY STATES THAT SAINTS ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION,AND THAT THEY GIVE THANKS UNTO GOD. 13TH VERSE,"WHILE BY THE EXPERIMENT OF THIS MINISTRATION THEY GLORIFY GOD FOR YOUR PROFESSED SUBJECTION TO THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST, AND FOR YOUR LIBERAL DISTRIBUTION UNTO THEM,AND UNTO ALL MEN." NOW REMEMBERING THAT THIS IS DONE WITH THE COLLECTION FOR THE SAINTS,WHO ARE THE ALL MEN REFERRED TO? KNOWING THAT THE BIBLE NEVER CONTRADICTS ITSELF,COLLECTION FOR THE SAINTS WOULD BE USED FOR SAINTS,THEN THE ALL MEN REFERRED TO CAN ONLY MEAN OTHER SAINTS OF OTHER LOCALLITIES.FOR INSTANCE THERE IS A FLOOD AT CORPUS CHRISTS TEXAS CAUSEING MUCH DAMAGE.THERE IS A TORNADO AT CHICAGO ILL NOIS;THE CHURCH WHERE YOU WORSHIP SENDS RELIEF TO CORPUS CHRISTI,MENTIONING THAT YOU ARE ALSO HELPING THE NEEDY SAINTS IN CHICAGO.THE CHURCH SENDS RELIEF TO CHICAGO,MENTIONING YOU ARE ALSO HELPING THE SAINTS IN CORPUS CHRISTI.THE SAINTS IN CHICAGO,GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR THEIR RELIEF,AND FOR THE RELIEF OF ALL MEN:MEANING HERE THE SAINTS IN CORPUS CHRISTI.THE SAINTS IN CORPUS CHRISTI ARE ALSO GIVING THANKS TO GOD,NOT ONLY FOR ~~XXXX~~ THEIR RELIEF;BUT ALSO FOR THE RELIEF OF ALL MEN:MEANING HERE THE SAINTS IN CHICAGO.THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THE ALL MEN ARE CHRISTIAN PEOPLE FOR HE ~~XXX~~ CONTINUES,"AND BY THEIR PRAYER FOR YOU,WHICH LONG AFTER YOU,FOR THE EXCEEDING GRACE OF GOD IN YOU.THANKS BE TO GOD FOR THIS UNSPEAKABLE GIFT." ~~XX~~ SO WE HAVEN'T FOUND A SINGLE SCRIPTURE FOR THE GIVING OF THE COLLECTION FOR THE SAINTS TO THE UNBELIEVER.WE ARE EVEN TO USE PRUDENCE IN GIVING IT TO THE SAINTS.

THERE ARE A COUPLE OF SCRIPTURES FOUND IN THE 2ND AND 4TH CHAPTERS OF ACTS,WE WILL NOTICE IN ORDER TO THOROUGHLY COVER THE GROUND REGARDING SAINTS.

BUT FIRST LET US GO TO MARK 10:17-23,"AND WHEN HE WAS GONE FORTH INTO THE WAY,THERE CAME ONE RUNNING,AND KNEELED TO HIM,AND ASKED HIM, GOOD MASTER,WHAT I DO THAT I MAY INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE? AND JESUS SAID UNTO HIM,WHY CALLEST THOU ME GOOD? THERE IS NONE GOOD BUT ONE,THAT IS GOD.THOU KNOWEST THE COMMANDMENTS,DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY,DO NOT KILL, DO NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS,DEFRAUD NOT,HONOR THY FATHER AND MOTHER.AND HE ANSWERED AND SAID UNTO HIM,MASTER,ALL THESE THINGS HAVE I OBSERVED FROM MY YOUTH.AND JESUS BEHOLDING HIM LOVED HIM,AND SAID UNTO HIM,ONE THING THOU LACKEST:GO THY WAY,SELL WHATSOEVER THOU HAST,AND GIVE IT TO THE POOR,AND THOU SHALT HAVE TREASURE IN HEAVEN:AND COME,TAKE UP THE CROSS,AND FOLLOW ME.AND HE WAS SAD AT THAT SAYING,AND WENT AWAY GRIEVED:FOR HE HAD GREAT POSSESSIONS.AND JESUS LOOKED ROUND ABOUT,AND SAITH UNTO HIS DISCIPLES,HOW HARDLY SHALL THEY THAT HAVE RICHES ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD." WE KNOW THIS SCRIPTURE WAS WRITTEN BEFORE THE CHURCH WAS IN EXISTANCE.BUT STUDYING IT WILL HELP US TO UNDERSTAND SOME OF THE EARLY CHRISTIANS IN JERUSALEM.NOTICE THIS MAN ASKED WHAT HE MUST DO TO INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE.CHRIST GAVE HIM THE COMMANDMENTS UNDER WHICH THEY WERE THEN LIVING.BUT THE YOUNG MAN THOUGHT HE WANTED TO DO MORE THAN THIS,AND IN HIS ZEAL HE STATED HE KNEW THESE ALREADY AND KEPT THEM.THEN CHRIST TELLS HIM HOW HE MAY SACRIFICE ALL AND ATTAIN PERFECTION."GO THY

.WAY,SELL WHATSOEVER THOU HAST,AND GIVE IT TO THE POOR,AND THOU SHALT HAVE TREASURE IN HEAVEN:AND COME,TAKE UPTHE CROSS AND FOLLOW ME." BUT THE YOUNG MAN DIDN'T WANT TO SACRIFICE;HE DIDN'T LOVE THIS MUCH.BUT SOME OF THE EARLY CHRISTIANS DID.

ACTS 2:44-47,"AND ALL THAT BELIEVED WERE TOGETHER,AND HAD ALL THINGS COMMON."(NOTICE HE IS SPEAKING OF BELIEVERS,HERE)."AND SOLD THEIR POSSESSIONS AND GOODS,AND PARTED THEM TO ALL MEN,AS EVERY MAN HAD NEED." WERE ANY OF THE MEN MENTIONED HERE SINNERS? EVIDENTLY NOT;FOR READ THE NEXT VERSE,"AND THEY,CONTINUING DAILY WITH ONE ACCORD IN THE TEMPLE,AND BREAKING BREAD FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE,DID EAT THEIR MEAT WITH GLADNESS AND SINGLENESS OF HEART." NO QUESTION ABOUT IT,THESE WERE SAINTS,CHRISTIANS.

ACTS 4:32-35,NOTICE CLOSELY THE READING OF THIS PASSAGE,AND SEE IF ANY OUTSIDERS ARE MENTIONED:"AND THE MULTITUDE OF THEM THAT BELIEVED WERE OF ONE HEART AND ONE SOUL:NEITHER SAID ANY OF THEM THAT AUGHT OF THE THINGS WHICH HE POSSESSED WAS HIS OWN;BUT THEY HAD ALL THINGS COMMON.AND WITH GREAT POWER GAVE THE APOSTLES WITNESS OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS:AND GREAT GRACE WAS UPON THEM ALL.NEITHER WAS THERE ANY AMONG THEM THAT LACKED:FOR AS MANY AS WERE POSSORS OF LANDS OR HOUSES SOLD THEM,AND BROUGHT THE PRICE OF THE THINGS THAT WERE SOLD,AND LAID THEM DOWN AT THE APOSTLES' FEET:AND DISTRIBUTION WAS MADE TO EVERY MAN AS HE HAD NEED." NOTICE THAT NO ONE AMONG THEM (THE SAINTS) LACKED ANYTHING;BECAUSE DISTRIBUTION WAS MADE TO EVERY MAN AS HE HAD NEED.SO HE IS STRICTLY SPEAKING OF THE MEN AMONG THEM.CHRISTIAN MEN.SAINTS.YOU HAVE TO ADD TO WHAT IS WRITTEN TO SAY SINNERS WERE INCLUDED.THE LORD DID NOT REQUIRE OF THE RICH YOUNG MAN THAT HE SACRIFICE THIS MUCH.BUT WHEN HE WANTED TO DO MORE FOR THE LORD,HE TOLD HIM HE MIGHT SACRIFICE ALL AND BE PERFECT.NEITHER IS IT WRITTEN ANYWHERE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT THAT WE MUST DO AS THOSE FIRST CHRISTIANS AT JERUSALEM DID,AND SACRIFICE ALL.IN FACT WE ARE TOLD IN THE 5TH CHAPTER OF ACTS OF A COUPLE WHO SOLD THEIR POSSESSIONS,THEY WANTED TO GIVE ONLY A PART OF IT INTO THE CHURCH TREASURY;BUT AT THE SAME TIME THEY WANTED CREDIT FOR GIVING ALL. SO WE ARE TOLD THAT THEY CONSPIRED TOGETHER TO LIE ABOUT THE MATTER.WHEN ANANIAS BROUGHT THE PART HE AND HIS WIFE HAD AGREED TO GIVE,WHILE PRETENDING TO THE CHURCH THAT IT WAS THE WHOLE PRICE,PETER SAID:"ANANIAS, WHY HATH SATAN FILLED THINE HEART TO LIE TO THE HOLY GHOST,AND TO KEEP BACK PART OF THE PRICE OF THE LAND? WHILE IT REMAINED,WAS IT NOT THINE OWN? AND AFTER IT WAS SOLD WAS IT NOT IN THINE OWN POWER? WHY HAST THOU CONCEIVED THIS THING IN THINE HEART? THOU HAST NOT LIED UNTO MEN,BUT UNTO GOD." SO ANANIAS DIED,BECAUSE HE LIED.THE PROPERTY WAS HIS. HE WAS NOT REQUIRED TO SELL IT.AFTER IT WAS SOLD,IT WAS STILL HIS.HE WAS NOT REQUIRED TO GIVE BEYOND WHAT HE WAS PROSPERED,AND HAD PURPOSED IN HIS HEART,EVEN AS WE TODAY.(1 COR.16:2 & 2 COR.9:7).HIS SIN WAS THAT HE LIED,NOT THAT HE REFRAIMED FROM GIVING ALL.HIS WIFE COMMING IN LATER,TOLD THE SAME LIE,AND MET THE SAME FATE,DEATH,

NONE OF THESE SCRIPTURES HAVE SAID ANYTHING ABOUT USEING THE COLLECTION FOR THE SAINTS,TO HELP THE NEEDY OF THE WORLD.BUT WHAT ABOUT THESE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WITH WHOM WE COME IN CONTACT,WHO NEED HELP? DOSEN'T THE LORD TEACH THAT THE NEEDY IS OUR NEIGHBOR? WHAT ABOUT LITTLE CHILDREN WE SEE WHO ARE HUNGRY AND NAKED? SURELY IT WOULD BE WRONG TO IGNORE THEIR SUFFERING.BUT WHAT CAN WE DO? THE CONTRIBUTION ON LORD' S DAY IS CALLED BY THE APOSTLE THE COLLECTION FOR THE SAINTS.

IN JNO.15:16,THE SAVIOUR SAID,"YE HAVE NOT CHOSEN ME,BUT I HAVE CHOSEN YOU,AND ORDAINED YOU,THAT YE SHOULD GO AND BRING FORTH FRUIT."

IN JNO.15:8,HE SAYS;"HEREIN IS MY FATHER GLORIFIED.THAT YE BEAR MUCH FRUIT;SO SHALL YE BE MY DISCIPLES."

WE KNOW THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS:"LOVE,JOY,PEACE,LONGSUFFERING,GENTLENESS,GOODNESS,FAITH,MEEKNESS,TEMPERANCE."GAL.5:22-23. HOW CAN EACH OF US AS CHRISTIANS BEAR THESE FRUITS AND IGNORE THE POOR AND NEEDY? OF COURSE WE KNOW WE CANNOT.

COL.1:10,SAYS;"THAT YE MIGHT WALK WORTHY OF THE LORD UNTO ALL PLEASING,BEING FRUITFUL IN EVERY GOOD WORK,AND INCREASING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD." SO THE FATHER IS GLORIFIED WHEN WE,AS DISCIPLES,CHRISTIANS,BEAR MUCH FRUIT;WHEN WE ARE FRUITFUL IN EVERY GOOD WORK.

JAS.1:27,SAYS;"PURE RELIGION AND UNDEFILED BEFORE GOD AND THE FATHER IS THIS,TO VISIT THE FATHERLESS AND WIDOWS IN THEIR AFFLICTION, AND TO KEEP HIMSELF UNSPOTTED FROM THE WORLD." CERTAINLY PURE AND UNDEFILED RELIGION GLORIFIES THE FATHER.BUT HOW COULD YOU VISIT THE FATHERLESS AND WIDOWS IN THEIR AFFLICTION,UNLESS YOU FURNISHED THE THINGS THEY

1 JNO 1:27 2:14,18 3:17,18 DAN 4:10 MAT 5:42-48 MAT 6:1-4 7:6,12 LK 6:37-38 MAT 25:35-40 ROM 12:20 LK 10:25-37

NEED? WHETHER IT BE CLOTHES? FOOD,OR OTHER SERVICE???? AND NOTICE HE IS TALKING TO INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIANS HERE;BECAUSE IN THE SAME SENTENCE HE SAYS,"AND KEEP HIMSELF UNSPOTTED FROM THE WORLD." "HIMSELF" IS SINGULAR.

1 TIM.5:16,"IF ANY MAN OR WOMAN THAT BELIEVETH HAVE WIDOWS,LET THEM RELIEVE THEM,AND LET NOT THE CHURCH BE CHARGED;THAT IT MAY RELIEVE THEM THAT ARE WIDOWS INDEED." THIS TOO,IS PRIVATE WORK;INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIAN FRUIT THAT GLORIFIES THE FATHER.

LET US NOTICE IN DETAIL SOME OF THE GOOD WORKS (FRUITS) THE LORD EXPECTS OF WOMEN: 1 TIM.5:10,"WELL REPORTED OF FOR GOOD WORKS;IF SHE HAVE BROUGHT UP CHILDREN,IF SHE HAVE WASHED THE SAINTS' FEET,IF SHE HAVE RELIEVED THE AFFLICTED,IF SHE HAVE DILIGENTLY FOLLOWED EVERY GOOD WORK." ONE OF THE DEFINATIONS OF AFFLICTIONS IS,"TO SUFFER HARDSHIP."SO IN THE COURSE OF DOING THESE GOOD WORKS (BEARING FRUIT TO THE GLORY OF GOD),SHE UNDOUBTEDLY MUST SPEND MONEY;IT COSTS MONEY TO FEED THE STRANGERS SHE LODGED.IT COSTS MONEY TO RELIEVE THE AFFLICTED:WHETHER IT IS A LITTLE CHILD WHO NEEDS CLOTHING;SOMEONE NEEDING MEDICINE;OR EVEN TRANSPORTATION TO THE DOCTOR.THESE ARE GOOD WORKS SHE IS REQUIRED TO PERFORM.THE LORD SAID THE FATHER IS GLORIFIED IF WE BEAR MUCH FRUIT;AND BY THE HOLY GHOST WOMEN ARE COMMANDED TO BEAR THESE FRUITS THAT AT TIMES REQUIRE MONEY BEING SPENT.REMEMBER THIS IS ALSO PART OF PURE RELIGION AND UNDEFILED BEFORE GOD THE FATHER;SO IT IS REQUIRED OF CHRISTIAN MEN ALSO.BUT THESE ARE GOOD WORKS DONE BY THE INDIVIDUAL AS A MEMBER OF THE BODY OF CHRIST.THIS IS AN "EFFECTUAL WORK WITHIN OUR MEASURE"(EPH.4:16).THUS EVERY MEMBER (MAN OR WOMAN) "SETSHIS LIGHT ON THE CANDLESTICK WHERE ALL MAY SEE;THUS LETTING THEIR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE MEN,SO THEY WILL SEE THEIR GOOD WORKS AND GLORIFY GOD."MATTH.5:15-16. THIS IS PUTTING INTO PRACTICE THAT "PURE AND UNDEFILED RELIGION BEFORE GOD THE FATHER," TO VISIT THE FATHERLESS AND THE WIDOWS IN THEIRR AFFLICTIONS."JAS.1:27.JAS.2:15-16,TELLS US IT ISN'T ENOUGH TO JUST SAY, "DEPART IN PEACE AND BE YE WARMED AND FED,NEVERTHELESS YOU GIVE THEM NOT THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE NEEDFUL FOR THE BODY." NO,TO LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE TO THE GLORY OF YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN,YOU MUST,PROFESSING YOUR SUBJECTION TO CHRIST,AS A SERVANT OF HIS BLOOD BOUGHT CHURCH,GIVE THE NEEDY ONE (AFFLICTED ONE) THE THINGS HE NEEDS.

WHILE LETTING OUR LIGHT SHINE TO THE GLORY OF GOD,WE MIGHT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF ENTERTAINING AN ANGEL UNAWARES (HEB.13:2).WE MUST BE GIVEN TO HOSPITALITY (ROM.12:13).AND THIS COSTS MONEY OUT OF YOUR POCKET TO THE GLORY OF GOD.BECAUSE "HEREBY IS THE FATHER GLORIFIED,THAT YE BEAR MUCH FRUIT"(JNO.15:8).

BUT YOU MIGHT SAY,YOU CAN'T AFFORD IT,YOU HAVE PUT ALL YOU COULD AFFORD TO GIVE INTO THE CONTRIBUTION.BUT HOW WILL THIS EXCUSE SOUND TO THE LORD WHEN YOU HAVE "TWO COATS",MORE CLOTHES THAN YOU REALLY NEED? HOW WILL IT SOUND AS AN EXCUSE TO LET SOMEONE GO HUNGRY,WHEN YOU HAVE PLENTY OF FOOD TO AT LEAST HAVE SHARED A MEAL WITH HIM? HOW WILL IT SOUND TO THE LORD,THAT YOU COULDN'T BUY THIS NEEDY CHILD SHOES OR CLOTHING,EVEN AT A GOOD WILL STORE? WHEN AT THE SAME TIME,YOU CAN AFFORD,AND DO AFFORD TO PREPARE GOOD MEALS FOR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES, WHEN THEY ARE NOT IN NEED.YOU BUY GIFTS FOR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES WHO ARE NOT IN NEED.YOU BUY LOVELY THINGS FOR YOURSELF AND YOUR HOME THAT ARE NOT REALLY NECESSARY;BUT YOU CANNOT SHARE WITH THIS NEEDY ONE.

REV.22:17,SAYS,"THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE SAY COME;AND LET HIM THAT HEARETH SAY COME." NOTICE THE SPIRIT SAYS COME,THROUGH THE BIBLE. THE BRIDE SAYS COME,AS A BODY,THROUGH THE PULPIT.BUT YOU WHO HEARETH ARE ALSO OBLIGATED TO SAY,"COME," WHAT BETTER TIME THAN WHEN YOU ARE LODGING THE STRANGER OVER NIGHT? OR SHARING A MEAL WITH HIM? YOU CAN AND SHOULD TALK TO HIM OF CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH,OF WHICH YOU ARE A SERVANT:THEREFORE YOU ARE "GIVEN TO HOSPITALITY."

WHEN YOU ARE MINISTERING TO THE NEEDY SICK;YOU CAN AND SHOULD SPEAK TO HIM OF THE GREAT PHYSICIAN WHO "PURCHASED HIS CHURCH WITH HIS BLOOD;"(ACTS 20:28).THIS CHURCH OF WHICH YOU ARE A SERVANT:THEREFORE YOU MINISTER TO THE SICK.

YOU CAN TALK TO THE FAMILY TO WHOM YOU GIVE FOOD AND CLOTHING, ABOUT THEIR SOUL'S SALVATION.YOU CAN INVITE THEM TO THE SERVICES OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST OF WHICH YOU ARE A MEMBER AND A SERVANT:THEREFORE YOU MINISTER TO THEIR AFFLICTION.YOU CAN AND SHOULD CONTINUE YOUR CONTACTS WITH THESE PEOPLE,MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO TEACH THEM THE TRUTH,LETTING YOUR LIGHT SHINE TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

THE LORD TELLS US THAT IN CONTRIBUTING ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK;WE ARE TO DO IT ACCORDING AS WE ARE PROSPERED.ACCORDING AS A MAN HATH,NOT AS HE HATH NOT.AS A MAN PURPOSETH IN HIS HEART,SO LET HIM GIVE.

BUT WE ARE WARNED THAT IF WE SOW SPARINGLY,WE SHALL REAP SPARINGLY;IF WE SOW BOUNTIFULLY,WE SHALL ALSO REAP BOUNTIFULLY.(1 COR.16:1; 2 COR. 8:12; AND 2 COR.9:16).JUST FOR CUROSITY'S SAKE,HAVE YOU EVER COMPARED YOUR EXPENSE FOR SPIRITUAL THINGS WITH WHAT YOU SPEND FOR TEMPORAL THINGS OVER AND ABOVE YOUR ABSOLUTE NEED? THE LORD SEES AND CONSIDERS ALL THESE THINGS.REMEMBER THE INVESTMENT IN SPIRITUAL THINGS IS FOR ALL ETERNITY;WHILE THE TEMPORAL THINGS YOU INVEST IN ARE FOR THE SHORT SOJOURN HERE,ONLY.AND REMEMBER THE LORD SAID,"FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS THERE WILL YOUR HEART BE ALSO"(MATTH.6:21). 1 PET.4: 10-11,SAYS OF OUR MINISTERING AS INDIVIDUAL SERVANTS OF CHRIST:"AS EVERY MAN HATH RECEIVED THE GIFT,EVEN SO MINISTER THE SAME ONE TO ANOTHER,AS GOOD STEWARDS OF THE MANIFOLD GRACE OF GOD.IF ANY MAN SPEAK,LET HIM SPEAK AS THE ORACLES OF GOD;IF ANY MAN MINISTER LET HIM DO IT AS OF THE ABILITY WHICH GOD GIVETH:THAT GOD IN ALL THINGS MAY BE GLORIFIED THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, TO WHOM BE PRAISE AND DOMINION FOREVER.AMEN." THE EXPRESSION "ANY MAN" IS SINGULAR;REFERRING TO INDIVIDUAL MEN,AND HE TELLS THEM,"DO IT ONE TO ANOTHER." PETER SAYS IF THEY "MINISTER ACCORDING TO THE ABILITY WHICH GOD GIVETH",THIS GOOD WORK WILL BE TO THE GLORY OF GOD.LETTING YOUR LIGHT SHINE AS A CHRISTIAN,A SERVANT OF THE CHURCH.

GAL.6:10,"AS WE HAVE OPPORTUNITY,LET US DO GOOD UNTO ALL MEN, ESPECIALLY UNTO THEM WHO ARE OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH."IF YOU WILL CAREFULLY READ BOTH THE 5TH AND 6TH CHAPTERS OF GALATIANS,YOU WILL FIND THE APOSTLE IS HERE DEALING WITH THE EVERYDAY GOOD FRUITS THAT WE AS CHRISTIANS ARE TO BEAR TO THE GLORY OF GOD.THERE IS NO INTIMATION HERE OF THE COLLECTION FOR THE SAINTS IS BEING SPOKEN OF,OR BEING USED IN THIS INSTANCE.AND SINCE PAUL,GUIDED BY THE SPIRIT,WOULD NOT CONTRADICT HIMSELF;WE KNOW HE DID NOT WRITE IN ONE PLACE THAT THE CONTRIBUTION LAID BY IN STORE ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK WAS THE COLLECTION FOR THE SAINTS;AND IN ANOTHER PLACE SAY USE FOR THE SINNERS,IF SAINTS DO NOT NEED IT AT THIS TIME.IF IT IS FOR SAINTS,YOU HAVE TO ADD TO,TO SAY IT IS FOR SINNERS ALSO.BUT THERE IS NO CONTRIDICTION IN THE SCRIPTURES WHEN THEY ARE RIGHTLY DIVIDED.SO IN THIS SCRIPTURE THE PHRASE "TO ALL MEN ESPECIALLY TO THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH" IS SIMPLY EXERCISING THE "PURE RELIGION AND UNDEFILED BEFORE GOD AND THE FATHER; IN RELIEVING THE AFFLICTED;"BUT GIVING PREFERENCE "TO THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH."

PRO.3:28,"SAY NOT UNTO THY NEIGHBOR,GO,AND COME AGAIN,AND TOMORROW I WILL GIVE;WHEN THOU HAST IT BY THEE." REMEMBER IN THE 17TH CHAPTER OF 1 KINGS WHEN THE WIDOW SHARED WITH THE PROPHET ELIJAH THE LAST FOOD SHE HAD IN HER HOUSE,DURING A GREAT FAMINE.GOD BLESSED HER. IN 2 COR.9:8,PAUL TELLS US,"AND GOD IS ABLE TO MAKE ALL GRACE ABOUND TOWARD YOU;THAT YE,ALWAYS HAVING ALL SUFFICIENCY IN ALL THINGS;MAY ABOUND UNTO EVERY GOOD WORK." IF THE LORD WERE ON EARTH TODAY,HE MIGHT STILL CRY TO MANY OF US,"O YE OF LITTLE FAITH."(MATTH;6:30; & 8:26; & 14:31; & 16:8; &MARK 4:40,WHERE HE SAYS,"HOW IS IT YOU HAVE NO FAITH?" REMEMBER ALSO THAT,"WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD;"HEB. 11:6.

LUKE 10:29-37,"BUT HE WILLING TO JUSTIFY HIMSELF,SAID UNTO JESUS AND WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR? AND JESUS SAID,A CERTAIN MAN WENT DOWN FROM JERUSALEM TO JERICO,AND FELL AMONG THIEVES,WHICH STRIPPED HIM OF HIS RAIMENT,AND WOUNDED HIM,AND DEPARTED,LEAVING HIM HALF DEAD.AND BY CHANCE THERE CAME DOWN A CERTAIN PRIEST THAT WAY:AND WHEN HE SAW HIM,HE PASSED BY ON THE OTHER SIDE.AND LIKEWISE A LEVITE,WHEN HE WAS AT THE PLACE, CAME AND LOOKED ON HIM,AND PASSED BY ON THE OTHER SIDE.BUT A CERTAIN SAMARITAN,AS HE JOURNEYED,CAME WHERE HE WAS:AND WHEN HE SAW HIM,HE HAD COMPASSION ON HIM,AND WENT TO HIM,AND BOUND UP HIS WOUNDS,POURING IN OIL AND WINE,AND SET HIM ON HIS OWN BEAST,AND BROUGHT HIM TO AN INN,AND TOOK CARE OF HIM.AND ON THE MORROW WHEN HE DEPARTED,HE TOOK OUT TWO PENCE,AND GAVE THEM TO THE HOST,AND SAID UNTO HIM;TAKE CARE OF HIM;AND WHATSOEVER THOU SPENDEST MORE,WHEN I COME AGAIN,I WILL REPAY THEE. WHICH OF THESE THREE,THINKEST THOU,WAS NEIGHBOR TO HIM THAT FELL AMONG THIEVES? AND HE SAID,HE THAT SHOWED MERCY ON HIM.THEN JESUS SAID UNTO HIM,GO,AND DO THOU LIKEWISE." OF COURSE THIS WAS BEFORE THE CHURCH WAS ESTABLISHED.BUT CHRIST'S DEFINATION AS TO WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR STILL STANDS.THIS THE SAMARITAN DID,IS TRULY LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR AS OURSELF. AND 1 JNO.3:18,SAYS,"MY LITTLE CHILDREN,LET US NOT LOVE IN WORD,NEITHER IN TONGUE;BUT IN DEED AND IN TRUTH." SO LOVE WITHOUT WORKS,LIKE FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD.JAS ALSO MAKES THIS PLAIN,WHEN HE TELLS US IT IS USELESS TO SAY,"DEPART IN PEACE,BE YE WARMED AND FILLED;NOTWITHSTANDING YE GIVE THEM NOT THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE NEEDFUL FOR THE BODY;WHAT DOETH IT PROFIT?"(JAS.2:16). HE WAS SPEAKING OF A NEEDY BROTHER HERE;BUT IF WE LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR AS OURSELVES;IT WILL APPLY TO HIM ASLO.AND WE ARE

COMMANDED TO DO THIS.ROM.13:8-10,"OWE NO MAN ANYTHING,BUT TO LOVE ONE-ANOTHER:------ THOU SHALT LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF.LOVE WORKETH NO ILL TO HIS NEIGHBOR:THEREFORE LOVE IS THE FULFILLING THE LAW." LUKE 10:27,"AND HE ANSWERING SAID,THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THY HEART,AND WITH ALL THY SOUL,AND WITH ALL THY STRENGTH,AND WITH ALL THY MIND;AND THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF." SINCE CHRIST HAS TOLD US WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR,AND WE KNOW WHO IS OUR BROTHER:DO WE AS CHRISTIANS,SERVANTS OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST,ADMINISTER TO THEIR AFFLICTIONS AS "OF THE ABILITY WHICH GOD GIVETH"? REMEMBER THAT,"EVERY GOOD GIFT AND EVERY PERFECT GIFT COMETH DOWN FROM GOD THE FATHER OF LIGHTS;"JAS.1:17. AND WE LET OUR LIGHT SHINE TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY MINISTERING THIS GIFT WE "HAVE RECEIVED" AS "OF THE ABILITY WHICH GOD GIVETH."

JNO.15:16,"I AM THE TRUE VINE,AND MY FATHER IS THE HUSBANDMAN. EVERY BRANCH IN ME THAT BEARETH NOT FRUIT HE TAKETH AWAY:AND EVERY BRANCE THAT BEARETH FRUIT,HE PURGETH IT THAT IT MAY BRING FORTH MORE FRUIT.NOW YE ARE CLEAN THROUGH THE WORD WHICH I HAVE SPOKEN UNTO YOU. ABIDE IN ME,AND I IN YOU.AS THE BRANCH CANNOT BEAR FRUIT OF ITSELF, EXCEPT IT ABIDE IN THE VINE;NO MORE CAN YE,EXCEPT YE ABIDE IN ME.I AM THE VINE,YE ARE THE BRANCHES:HE THAT ABIDETH IN ME,AND I IN HIM,THE SAME BRINGETH FORTH MUCH FRUIT:FOR WITHOUT ME YE CAN DO NOTHING.IF A MAN ABIDE NOT IN ME,HE IS CAST FORTH AS A BRANCH,AND IS WITHERED;AND MEN GATHER THEM,AND CAST THEN INTO THE FIRE." THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT HERE HE IS SPEAKING TO INDIVIDUAL BELIEVERSTHEY MUST ABIDE IN HIM.HE SAYS "ANY MAN",NOT "ANY CHURCH." IF WE REMAIN CHRISTIANS,WE WILL ABIDE IN HIM;EVERYTHING WE DO WILL BE AS HIS DISCIPLE;AS A SERVANT OF HIS CHURCH;AT ALL TIMES AND BEFORE EVERYBODY "PROFESSING OUR SUBJECTION TO CHRIST",GIVING HIM ALWAYS THE GLORY.

IN MATTH.25:31-46,IS PICTURED THE COMING JUDGEMENT SCENE.THE SHEEP WILL BE PLACED ON HIS RIGHT,AND THE GOATS ON HIS LEFT.AND I WANT YOU TO NOTICETHAT THE THINGS THEY WERE JUDGED ON,THE THINGS BY WHICH THEY STOOD OR FELL,WERE THINGS THE CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE DOING AS AN INDIVIDUAL OR MEMBER IN HIS EVERYDAY LIFE AS A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST; A CHRISTIAN; A MEMBER OR SERVANT OF THE CHURCH;AND AS "OF THE ABILITY WHICH GOD GIVETH,"THEREBY GLORIFYING GOD,1 PET.4:10-11.

TO THE SHEEP THE LORD SAID,"COME YE BLESSED OF MY FATHER,INHERIT THE KINGDOM PREPARED FOR YOU FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD:FOR I WAS AN HUNGERED,AND YE GAVE ME MEAT:I WAS THIRSTY,AND YE GAVE ME DRINK: I WAS A STRANGER AND YE TOOK ME IN:NAKED AND YE CLOTHED ME:I WAS IN PRISON,AND YE CAME UNTO ME.THEN SHALL THE RIGHTEOUS ANSWER HIM,SAYING, LORD,WHEN SAW WE THEE AN HUNGERED,AND FED THEE? OR THIRSTY,AND GAVE THEE DRINK? WHEN SAW WE THEE A STRANGER,AND TOOK THEE IN? OR NAKED AND CLOTHED THEE? OR WHEN SAW WE THEE SICK,OR IN PRISON,AND CAME UNTO THEE? AND THE KING SHALL ANSWER AND SAY UNTO THEM,VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU,INASMUCH AS YE DID IT UNTO ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE MY BRETHREN, YE DID IT UNTO ME." THEN HE TELLS THOSE ON HIS LEFT TO DEPART INTO EVERLASTING FIRE PREPARED FOR THE DEVIL AND HIS ANGELS,BECAUSE THEY DID NOT SERVE IN THESE THINGS,HE SAID THEY DID IT NOT UNTO HIM. HE IS SPEAKING OF OUR CHRISTIAN NEIGHBORS,HERE;BUT ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES WE ARE STUDYING THE SAME TYPE OF WORKS ARE TO BE DONE TO BOTH TYPES OF NEIGHBORS,REMEMBERING ONLY,"ESPECIALLY UNTO THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH."

SO AS HE WASN'T SPEAKING OF THE CHURCH AS A BODY;BUT RATHER AS MEMBERS IN THE PARABLE OF THE VINE AND ITS BRANCHES.NEITHER IS HE SPEAKING OF THE CHURCH AS A BODY IN THE JUDGEMENT SCENE;BUT RATHER AS MEMBERS JUDGED ACCORDING TO THEIR WORKS.WE KNOW THIS WILL BE BY THE INDIVIDUAL.REV.20:11-15,"AND I SAW A GREAT WHITE THRONE,AND HIM THAT SAT ON IT,FROM WHOSE FACE EARTH AND HEAVEN FLED AWAY;AND THERE WAS NO PLACE FOUND FOR THEM.AND I SAW THE DEAD,SMALL AND GREAT,STAND BEFORE GOD;AND THE BOOKS WERE OPENED:AND ANOTHER BOOK WAS OPENED,WHICH IS THE BOOK OF LIFE:AND THE DEAD WERE JUDGED OUT OF THOSE THINGS WHICH WERE WRITTEN IN THE BOOKS,ACCORDING TO THEIR WORKS.AND THE SEA GAVE UP THE DEAD WHICH WERE IN IT;AND DEATH AND HELL DELIVERED UP THE DEAD WHICH WERE IN THEM:AND THEY WERE JUDGED EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO THEIR WORKS. AND DEATH AND HELL WERE CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE.THIS IS THE SECOND DEATH.AND WHOSOEVER WAS NOT FOUND WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE WAS CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE."

MATTH.10:42,"AND WHOSOEVER SHALL GIVE TO DRINK UNTO ONE OF THESE LITTLE ONES A CUP OF COLD WTER ONLY IN THE NAME OF A DISCIPLE,VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU,HE SHALL IN NO WISE LOSE HIS REWARD." IF A CUP OF COLD

WATER,OR A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT IS ALL WE HAVE TO GIVE,OR SHARE;GIVE IT,OR SHARE IT.THE LORD KNOWS WHAT HE HAS GIVEN TO YOU;HE KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT YOUR ABILITY IS,AND DOES NOT EXPECT YOU TO GIVE WHAT YOU DO NOT HAVE.BUT WE WILL ANSWER FOR HOW WE USE WHAT THE LORD HAS GIVEN TO US. AND HE SAYS WE WILL IN NO WISE LOSE OUR REWARD IF WE DO THIS AS HIS DISCIPLE.A DISCIPLE IS A CHRISTIAN TODAY,AND A MEMBER OF THE BLOOD BOUGHT CHURCH,THROUGH WHICH CHRIST IS GLORIFIED.

ROM.16:1-2,"I COMMEND UNTO YOU PHEBE OUR SISTER,WHICH IS SERVANT OF THE CHURCH WHICH IS AT CENCHREA:THAT YE RECEIVE HER IN THE LORD AS BECOMETH SAINTS,AND THAT YE ASSIST HER IN WHATSOEVER BUSINESS SHE HATH NEED OF YOU:FOR SHE HATH BEEN THE SUCCORER OF MANY,AND OF MYSELF ALSO." THIS SERVANT OF THE CHURCH WAS A DISCIPLE,A CHRISTIAN,A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH,WHO LET HER LIGHT SHINE TO THE GLORY OF GOD;SHE DID IT BY SPENDING HER MONEY IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO SUCCOR MANY;INCLUDING THE APOSTLE PAUL,HIMSELF.THUS BEARING FRUIT TO THE GLORY OF GOD IN HER DAILY LIFE.PAUL COMMENDED HER FOR THIS GOOD WORK.

EPH.3:21,"UNTO HIM BE GLORY IN THE CHURCH BY JESUS CHRIST THROUGHOUT ALL AGES,WORLD WITHOUT END." NO AMOUNT OF GOOD YOU MIGHT DO THROUGH YOUR OWN NAME,OR SOME HUMAN INSTITUTION WILL BE TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY JESUS CHRIST. GOOD WORKS DONE THUS WILL PROFIT YOU NOTHING IN THE END.NO INDEED.GOD IS ONLY GLORIFIED THROUGH THE CHURCH,BY JESUS CHRIST.AND FAITHFUL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH,AS DEVOTED CHRISTIANS,PROFESSING THEIR SUBJECTION TO HIM AS LORD AND MASTER;SERVANTS OF THE CHURCH; DISCIPLES OF CHRIST,BY HIS AUTHORITY,AND TO HIS GLORY,PRACTICE "PURE RELIGION AND UNDEFILED BEFORE GOD THE FATHER." BY VISITING THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS IN THEIR AFFLICTIONS,THEIR HARDSHIPS.THEY LOVE THEIR NEIGHBOR AS THEIR SELVES BY MINISTERING TO ANY SICK OR NEEDY ~~WITH~~ THEY COME IN CONTACT;IF IT IS ONLY TO SHARE A CUP OF COLD WATER.REMEMBER WE WILL BE JUDGED BY OUR WORKS,EVERY DAY,EVERYWHERE,AS WELL AS AT THE ASSEMBLY.

THE SAVED ARE ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH.ACTS 2:47,"AND THE LORD ADDED TO THE CHURCH DAILY SUCH AS SHOULD BE SAVED." ACTS 11:26, "AND THE DISCIPLES WERE CALLED CHRISTIANS FIRST AT ANTIOCH." 1 PET.4:16, "YET IF ANY MAN SUFFER AS A CHRISTIAN,LET HIM NOT BE ASHAMED;BUT LET HIM GLORIFY GOD ON THIS BEHALF." SO WE CERTAINLY CAN GLORIFY GOD AS A DISCIPLE,A CHRISTIAN,A SERVANT,A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST.SINCE WE ARE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH,GOD IS GLORIFIED THROUGH THE CHURCH BY JESUS CHRIST WHEN WE DO GOOD WORKS IN HIS NAME,PROFESSING OUR SUBJECTION TO HIM,THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH.

IN FACT OUR ENTIRE LIFE IS TO BE LIVED TO THE GLORY OF GOD. AND HE IS GLORIFIED THROUGH THE CHURCH BY JESUS CHRIST.1 COR.10:31, "WHETHER YE EAT,OR DRINK,OR WHATSOEVER YOU DO,DO ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD."IF YOU ARE LIVING ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF GOD;YOU CAN EAT AND DRINK AND DO WHATSOEVER YOU DO THE THE GLORY OF GOD;EVEN SPEND MONEY ON YOUR NEEDY BROTHER OR NEIGHBOR,RELIEVING THE AFFLICTED;AND HE PROMISES US WE WILL IN NO WISE LOSE OUR REWARD.

1 COR.6:20,"FOR YE ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE:THEREFORE GLORIFY GOD WITH YOUR BODY,AND IN YOUR SPIRIT WHICH ARE GOD'S."AND REMEMBER GOD IS GLORIFIED THROUGH THE CHURCH BY JESUS CHRIST. WE GLORIFY GOD BY LIVING ACCORDING TO HIS WILL,AND "BEARING MUCH FRUIT" AS A DISCIPLE; A CHRISTIAN; A SERVANT; A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST.IF WE ALL AND EACH DO OUR DUTY HERE;THERE WILL BE MORE MONEY IN THE COLLECTION FOR THE SAINTS TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL WHERE CHRIST IS NOT NAMED.THERE MIGHT EVEN BE MONEY THERE FOR THE SUPPORT OF WIDOWS THAT ARE WIDOWS INDEED; OR TO HONOR A WORTHY AND NEEDY ELDER.

YOURS FOR THE TRUTH,THE WHOLE TRUTH,AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH,

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