

## Greetings Family & Friends,

Suzan and I certainly pray that you and your family are enjoying the New Year and <u>all</u> of God's blessings that He has in store for you (us). With all my heart I do believe that God has a lot in-store for His children this year. This all begins with His pouring forth of revelation that brings us to a greater understanding of who we are in Him and who He is in us.

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

Hebrews 8:10

So many things that are going on in the world today (that sound ever so good) that the enemy uses these opportunities to cause us to stop and ask, "Well am I correct in believing in this way, or do I have it wrong"? This is a question that led to the teaching in this month's newsletter. We pray that it will enlighten you and bless you.

God Bless you. Your friends, Mickey & Suzan

## "How Do I Know That I am Right.... and They are Wrong"

My granddaughter who is a christian has been attending church and recently confessed that she had some questions that have been troubling her. One of the questions she asked was "How do I know that what I believe about God is right and what my friends, who go to a different church, believe about God is not right? It really struck a chord with me because at the age of fourteen, I asked myself the same question. As I began to ponder this, the Spirit spoke to me that if you are asking this question, you are on the wrong track. That seemed to be a very "way out there" statement. But, here is what God began to reveal to me. In *Genesis 2:17* God says that in the day that you eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you will surely die. Adam and Eve did not die physically at the time that they are of it, but they became separated from God. God did not intend for our walk with him to be based on the knowledge of good and evil [fault finding] because it can not bring anything but death. You will never become close to God in this way. God instead wants our knowledge base to be centered on knowing Him and loving others as He loved us because that is the kind of knowledge that will bring life.

For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings. **Hosea 6:6** 

And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. **John 17:3** 

The Word says that in order to walk in the fullness of everything that God has provided for you through Jesus, not only do you need to know God, but you need to know that you must see yourself in the same light that God sees you.

## How Do I Know That I am Right.... and They are Wrong?

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 2 Peter 1:3

God is not sin conscious. He is not looking at us with a pointed finger just waiting to point out all of our faults, and the faults of those around us. *John 3:16-17* He came to set us free from the bondage that knowing our faults brings us because we can't do anything about them. He took care of the issue.

For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. **Hebrews 10:14** 

And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. *Hebrews 10:17* 

Religion has made the gospel a sin-centered Gospel. It has become a "fault-finding" gospel that is centered on its followers correcting everything that is wrong with themselves and others. This has caused much frustration within the body of Christ because it is an issue that can't seem to be resolved. This is the same approach that the Pharisees had in the days of Jesus. They brought accusations like, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath day?" or "Why don't the disciples was their hands when they eat bread?" They compared themselves with one another. They had a zeal for God, but it was not according to the correct knowledge base. They were sin conscious and not God conscious.

For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. Romans 10:2

For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. **Romans 10:3** 

Why has religion taken this turn, and why is it so hard to stay God centered rather than sin centered?

2 Corinthians 11 sheds some light on this.

For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works. **2 Corinthians 11:13-15 KJV** 

Satan poses as an angel of light (He makes his deception look like the truth) making us believe that the gospel is about what we do rather than about what God has done for us. He causes the focus to be shifted from God to man. He deceived Adam and Eve in the same way saying, "If you partake of the knowledge of good and evil [if your focus becomes self centered] you will be like God."

Because of this, religion has grabbed hold of the deception, believing that it is the truth. Paul said, "It must be cut off because it is not the same gospel!"

But what I do, I will continue to do, [for I am determined to maintain this independence] in order to cut off the claim of those who would like to claim that in their boasted [mission] they work on the same terms that we do.

2 Corinthians 11:12 (Amplified Version)

If the focus of your religion has caused you to look critically at yourself and those around you, then you have missed the point!

When your focus becomes centered on "knowing God" and "loving others as God has loved you," then you will begin to experience "eternal life."

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