

# The Witness of Rome's Letter to Corinth



## **The Twenty-One Witnesses**

### **Books of Instruction**

The Witness of Two Ways of Life and Death

The Witness of Two Paths of Light and Darkness

The Witness of The Twelve Apostles

### **Book of Christ**

The Witness of Jesus

### **Books of Teaching**

The Witness of the Barren Woman

The Witness of Rome's Letter to Corinth

The Witness of the Jewish Scriptures

### **Books of Visions**

The Witness of the Four Visions

The Witness of the Shepherd

### **Books of Ignatius, Disciple of Apostles**

The Witness of Ignatius: Ephesus

The Witness of Ignatius: Magnesia

The Witness of Ignatius: Tralles

The Witness of Ignatius: Rome

The Witness of Ignatius: Philadelphia

The Witness of Ignatius: Smyrna

The Witness of Ignatius: Polycarp

### **Books of Polycarp, Disciple of Apostle John**

The Witness of Polycarp

The Witness of the State Execution of Polycarp

### **Books of Philosophers**

The Witness of Aristides (Greek)

The Witness of Quadratus (Greek)

The Witness of Justin (Samaritan)

# **THE WITNESS OF ROME'S LETTER TO CORINTH**

Compiled by  
Philip Holdway-Davis

Copyright © Philip Holdway-Davis 2025

The author asserts the moral right to be identified as the author of this work.

Paperback ISBN 978-1-0670386-8-7

All rights reserved.

*Commercial Use:* No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any electronic or mechanical means including photocopying, recording, information storage and retrieval systems, or otherwise, **without prior permission in writing from the author**, with the exception of a book reviewer, who may quote short excerpts in a review.

*Private, Personal and Not-for-Profit Use:* This book is free to use for private, personal and not-for-profit use, including reprinting, quoting and public speaking.

[www.thesoulsong.co.nz](http://www.thesoulsong.co.nz) created by Philip Holdway-Davis

Front cover image – Pixabay

Permissions have been obtained for all images where required. If there are any being used unwittingly without correct permissions, please contact the publisher so the situation can be rectified.

Published by Philip Holdway-Davis

PO Box 11-603, Ellerslie, Auckland 1542, New Zealand

# Scriptures of Unconditional Love

They are called Scriptures of Unconditional Love because GOD is Unconditional Love (1 John 4:16) and these Scriptures will help us to walk in the ways of Unconditional Love. We should live by Unconditional Love because Moses commanded it (Leviticus 19:18) and so did Jesus the Christ (Matthew 22:37-39). There are an initial thirty of these books to be published. Some are still in process but should be ready by the end of 2026. Once they are completed, more will be added.

The Twenty-One Witness books have been updated from their previous titles and translations using the South-London English that I grew up with. I also replaced the word “church” with “community of GOD’s people” and “Lord” with “RULER” as these are more accurate translations. These twenty-one were chosen because they do not contradict the Old or New Testaments in any way but rather provide us with a means to interpret the Holy Bible more accurately and with additional knowledge and understanding.

Nobody had ever told me what was going to happen when I submitted my life to Christ on a South-London Street in February 1974, aged 13. I had a physical Holy Spirit experience as an “atomic bomb of joy” exploded in my being. As I walked along the street, it was like I was floating three feet off the ground. That evening, a Spirit person visited me and wrote these words in my heart with light and fire, “Do not rebuke the church”. The end result of this encounter are these Scriptures of Unconditional Love.

## **The Four Gospels-In-Advance**

The Gospel of Isaiah

The Gospel of King David

The Gospel of Moses

The Gospel of The Prophets

These are the books of Written Miracles. Ancient prophecies and predictions scattered throughout the Holy Bible's Old Testament concerning the appearance of Christ. These prophecies were made hundreds, some over a thousand, years before Christ appeared. They were all miraculously fulfilled with pin-point accuracy by Jesus of Bethlehem and Nazareth. There are so many of them that they could only have been put there by Holy Spirit. Certain Jewish scholars, who did not want Jesus to be their Messiah or Christ, started deleting the more obvious prophecies. You can find some of them restored in the books of the twenty-one witnesses. It is best to read the Gospels of Isaiah and King David first as they will strengthen your faith so that your heart can be prepared to receive the teachings and testimonies of the twenty-one witnesses.

### **The Twenty-One Witnesses**

It is like we have twenty-one new witnesses presenting themselves before a court with new evidence and testimonies that GOD is real, and Christ is knowable. Some of these witnesses might have come forward from the era of 'Belonging to the Way' which was from AD 33 (Jesus's physical and spiritual resurrection from the dead) to AD 47 after which time those 'Belonging to the Way' were first called Christians. Most of the other witnesses belong to the pre-church era of the Original First Christians. This era spanned from AD 47 to AD 155 when Polycarp, the Disciple of John the Apostle, was executed for being a Christian by the Roman Empire. The Roman Church filled the vacuum with their own authority and 'brand' and were a powerful influence in starting the new 'church age'. Eventually, the twenty-one witnesses were banned from the New Testament in the fourth century by Emperor Constantine's Roman Church of Christendom, even though these scriptures were originally treasured by Christians of the first and second centuries. Fearing persecution, holders of the books managed to hide them and keep them safe. One thousand two hundred and fifty years later they began to be rediscovered again. Silence broken. Christianity unrestricted. Let them speak. Let us listen.

If they had been allowed to speak and were given their rightful place in the New Testament, they would have acted as salt and light to have a purifying effect on the religious authorities down the centuries. The world would not have experienced the abuses of zealous misguided religious powers. There would have been no crusades, no inquisitions, no witch hunts, no public burnings and no religious persecutions. There would have been no need for European colonialism either as the colonised nations would already be worshipping Christ, having destroyed their gods. The world would have been a better place as the unconditional love of Christ became the new currency that replaced cruelty. The Good Confession would have united the community of GOD's people and all the gods would have been annihilated. There would also have been no need for GOD to send the Qur'an. Having said that, the church has done a vital job in helping to get rid of many gods by either destroying or absorbing them. My hope is that these twenty-one witnesses will serve to destroy the remaining gods in the world leaving Devil Satan, who has won the right to remain here, as the sole survivor from the original sin rebellion. Hindus and similar, must abandon all their gods and worship Krishna alone. You can read the books of enlightenment when they have been published, to understand more about this. It is also now time for those churches that have absorbed pagan gods and practices, to get rid of them.

The church's shortcomings can be traced all the way back to AD 154 when Anicetus, Bishop of Rome, refused to accept the Nisan 14 Passover date that Polycarp, disciple of apostle John, and the other apostles observed, regardless of the day of the week it landed on. Anicetus instead kept to what we now know as the Easter dates which should be abandoned in favour of Nisan 14.

The twenty-one witnesses reveal to mankind that all the books of the Holy Bible should be read in the context of GOD versus the gods. In this war, each one of us finds ourselves at one of five stages.

**Stage One:** Individuals abandon their god(s). It is better to practice secular atheism than to worship demons.

**Stage Two:** Acknowledge GOD but don't agree with GOD. Presenting oneself regularly before GOD, either in a church or some other similar gathering will help your case with your Creator.

**Stage Three:** Agree with GOD but don't obey.

**Stage Four:** Try your best to obey GOD.

**Stage Five:** Full submission to GOD. This is perfection.

### **Books of Instruction**

The Witness of Two Ways of Life and Death

The Witness of Two Paths of Light and Darkness

The Witness of The Twelve Apostles

### **Book of Christ**

The Witness of Jesus

### **Books of Teaching**

The Witness of the Barren Woman

The Witness of Rome's Letter to Corinth

The Witness of the Jewish Scriptures

### **Books of Visions**

The Witness of the Four Visions

The Witness of the Shepherd

### **Books of Ignatius, Disciple of Apostles**

The Witness of Ignatius: Ephesus

The Witness of Ignatius: Magnesia

The Witness of Ignatius: Tralles

The Witness of Ignatius: Rome

The Witness of Ignatius: Philadelphia

The Witness of Ignatius: Smyrna

The Witness of Ignatius: Polycarp



### **Books of Polycarp, Disciple of Apostle John**

The Witness of Polycarp

The Witness of the State Execution of Polycarp

### **Books of Philosophers**

The Witness of Aristides (Greek)

The Witness of Quadratus (Greek)

The Witness of Justin (Samaritan)

### **The Twenty-Second Witness**

The Witness of The Qur'an

The Witness of The Qur'an was delivered between AD 609–632. It was delivered by Angel Gabriel to Muhammad because both the Jewish and Church systems and authorities had become corrupt. It's rather like GOD opened another front in the war to destroy GOD's enemies who were the gods. Many of the gods were fallen angels, demigods and demons being worshipped by mankind.

### **Books of Enlightenment**

Philip's Testimony

Enoch – Before Noah's Flood

The History of the Spirit World

Enlightenment

The books of enlightenment explain the war that has been, currently is and will be raging in heaven and on earth until it is won by Christ. They also provide a whole lot more information, which when combined with the knowledge of the twenty-one witnesses, helps the reader to understand life, the universe and everything a whole lot better.

# Contents

<i>Scriptures of Unconditional Love</i>	v
The Prayer of Jesus	1
The SoUL Song	2
LORD or RULER?	4
Introduction to: The Witness of Rome's Letter to Corinth	5
<b>THE WITNESS OF ROME'S LETTER TO CORINTH</b>	<b>9</b>
The Good Confession	61

# The Prayer of Jesus

*Come near and draw close to GOD and GOD will draw near to you (James 4:8)*

*The Spirit of Jesus is EHYEH ASHER EHYEH which is the Name GOD told Moses when asked (Exodus 3:14).*

Jesus told us to use these words when talking to GOD:

***“Our Father in Heaven,  
May your Name be kept Holy,  
Your Kingdom come,  
Your Will be done on earth as it is in heaven.***

***Give us enough bread to eat today.  
Forgive us our sin as we have forgiven those who  
have sinned against us.  
Do not allow us to be tempted, but deliver us from  
the Evil One.  
Yours is the power and the glory forever and ever.”***

The Witness of The Twelve Apostles.

# The SoUL Song



*EHYEH ASHER EHYEH*

*IHU KARAITI*

*EGO SUM QUI SUM*

*I AM WHO AM*

*EHYEH ASHER EHYEH*

*I AM THE WAY*

*I AM THE TRUTH*

*I AM THE LIFE*

*EHYEH ASHER EHYEH*

*I AM THE LIGHT*

*I AM THE DOOR*

*I AM THE GOOD*

*EHYEH ASHER EHYEH*

*I AM THE SHEPHERD*

*I AM THE BREAD*

*I AM THE VINE*

*EHYEH ASHER EHYEH*

*I AM THE RESURRECTION*

*I AM THE START*

*I AM THE END*

*EHYEH ASHER EHYEH*

*I AM THE ALPHA*

*I AM THE OMEGA*

*I AM WHO AM*

*EHYEH ASHER EHYEH*

*IHU KARAITI*

*EGO SUM QUI SUM*

*I AM WHO AM*

## LORD or RULER?

According to some dictionaries the word 'Lord' means a man of noble or high office, a nobleman. A female Lord is often referred to as 'Lady' which can give rise to a formal introduction such as, 'The Lord and Lady of Buckingham', etc. In fact, in the UK there is an entire 'House of Lords'.

In the Holy Bible's Old Testament, the third-person name of GOD was written as YHWH meaning 'He is to be' but no-one knew how to pronounce it, so they read it as 'Adonai' which translates as 'my Lord' in English. The word Lord in capitals is written over 6,500 times in the Holy Bible.

In the Twenty-One Witnesses books, along with all other Scriptures of Unconditional Love, I purposely distance our CREATOR GOD from man's use of the word lord, Lord or LORD. I refer to GOD as **RULER** instead.

# Introduction to: The Witness of Rome's Letter to Corinth

## When was it written?

AD 96. This book had been delayed because of persecution. Towards the end of Domitian's reign, the persecution began to ease because Domitian discovered that Christ's Kingdom was 'not of this world' and therefore posed no threat to him. When Domitian was assassinated, he was replaced by Nerva who pardoned and released all Christian prisoners.

## Where was it written?

Rome.

## Who wrote it?

The author is not named but many experts believe it was Clement. Eusebius identifies him as the writer. Some say that he was the third bishop after Peter, but this can't be true as there were only the two tiers of leadership at the time. The office of chief overseer/bishop had not yet been established in Rome, but he may have been the president of, or secretary to, the other overseers/elders. Origen believes he was the same Clement mentioned by Paul in *Philippians 4:3* but not many experts agree with him. There is a late tradition that states he was tied to a ship's anchor

and drowned in the Black Sea. The Apostolic Fathers call the book 1 Clement, however, since he is not named as the author and the letter is from the Roman community of God's people to the Corinthian community of God's people, here it has been renamed as *Rome's Letter to Corinth*.

### Why was it written?

The kind of sectarianism that the apostle Paul wrote about in his letter to the Corinthians had arisen again. This time though, it was much more serious because certain leaders had been deposed and replaced by younger men. Rome sends this letter condemning the rebellion and insisting on the reinstatement of the leaders.

### What authority does it have?

Some churches treated it as a part of the New Testament, especially in Egypt and Syria where it formed part of the New Testament Canon at some stage. The Ethiopian Orthodox Church includes it in their New Testament to this very day. Clement of Alexandria and Didymus the Blind both considered it as Scripture. The Corinthian community of God's people read it during their gatherings.

Church historian Eusebius wrote the following:

*'After Pothinus had his life gloriously completed as God's witness by being executed at Gaul aged ninety, Irenaeus became the chief overseer at Lyons. History tells us that*



*as a young man he had learned from Polycarp. In the third book of his writings Against Heresies he lists the succession of chief overseers down to Eleutherus, the period I am now mentioning, in which Irenaeus also wrote:*

*“After founding and building the community of God’s people, the blessed apostles committed Linus to the group of overseers. He is mentioned by Paul in his letters to Timothy. Anacletus succeeded him and after him Clement, in the third place after the apostles. He had seen the blessed apostles and talked with them. Their teaching was still resounding in his ears with their actions witnessed by his eyes. He was not the only one because there were a number of people still alive at that time that had been taught by the apostles.*

*In Clement’s time, a major argument broke out between the Christians at Corinth. The community of God’s people at Rome sent a powerful letter to the community of God’s people at Corinth. They encouraged them to reunite peacefully, restore their faith and live by the traditions handed down to them by the apostles ...”*

### How was it rediscovered?

It was unknown in the West until 1628 when a partial copy was rediscovered when the fifth-century *Codex Alexandrinus* reached England. In 1672, French scholar Jean Cotelier included it in his Apostolic Fathers volumes. In 1873, the eleventh-century *Jerusalem Codex* was discovered by Philotheos Byrennios who published it in 1875. This included a complete copy of the manuscript.

### Interesting points

- The letter had been delayed due to the persecution by Emperor Domitian.
- It has a positive view of the Roman Government and includes a lengthy prayer which contains a section on praying for government authorities.

# THE WITNESS OF ROME'S LETTER TO CORINTH

To the community of GOD's people who are temporarily staying in Corinth from the community of GOD's people who are temporarily staying in Rome. You are both called and made holy by the will of GOD through our RULER Jesus the Christ. May there be overflowing grace and peace to you from Almighty GOD through Jesus the Christ.

Dear brothers, in view of the sudden and consistent trials and troubles that we have had to face recently, we feel as though we have been slow to address the disputes that have risen up amongst you. Dear friends, we are of course referring to the offensive and ungodly schism which is so unusual and unknown to GOD's people. A few unruly and self-serving people have kindled matters to such a level of madness, that your good name which was once so well known, highly respected, and dearly loved by everyone has now fallen into disrepute.

Has anyone who has stayed with you not approved of your most virtuous and consistent faith?

Who has not admired your sober and sensible Christian godliness?

Who has not gone around telling everyone about your magnificent standard of hospitality?

Who did not rejoice over your perfect and sound knowledge?

You did everything without being biased for or against any person and walked obediently to GOD's commandments. You obeyed those in authority over you and gave due respect to your overseers. You taught the young to think sensible and virtuous thoughts. You taught the women to carry out their duties with a blameless pure conscience and to rightly love their husbands. You taught them to live by the rule of obedience and to run their homes with self-respect and responsibility.

You were all humble and free from arrogance being more willing to obey than to tell others what to do. You were happier to give than to receive and were content with GOD's provision for you. You listened eagerly to his words and were careful to store them up in your heart. You were continually mindful of his suffering. Because of all this, an overflowing and rich peace was granted to you along with an insatiable desire to do good. In addition to this, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon you and overflowed from you. Being full of godly advice, enthusiasm and confidence you reached towards GOD Almighty imploring him to be merciful in case you had committed any unintentional sin. You anxiously struggled in compassion and determination for all your brothers, day and night long, so that the full number of his special people would be saved. You were sincere, easy-going and forgave any differences between each other. Every

faction and schism was an abomination to you. You cried over your neighbours' sins and took their failing to be your own. You were never sorry about being kind and were always, *'Ready to do every good work'*. Clothed in virtue and commitment to GOD you carried out your duties reverently trusting GOD. The commandments and rules of the RULER were, *'Written on the tablets of your hearts'*.

You were granted growth in numbers with exceeding happiness and after that, the following Scripture became fulfilled, *"My loved one ate, drank, grew large, fat and began to kick."* After that flowed the jealousy, envy, trouble, rebellion, persecution, anarchy, war and internment.

Consequently:

- The dishonourable rose up against the honourable
- The infamous rose up against the reputable
- The foolish rose up against the wise
- The young rose up against their elders.

For this reason, righteousness and peace have moved far away from you. Everyone has abandoned their fear of GOD and lost their faith in him. They have stopped following the rules of his commandments and have started to behave in an unworthy manner for a Christian. Instead, each person is following the lusts of their own hearts by taking up again the working of wicked and ungodly envy through which *'Death entered the world.'*

For the Scriptures say the following, *'And so it happened that Cain gave a sacrifice to GOD of fruits from the earth whilst Abel gave GOD the first-born of his sheep and their fat. GOD accepted Abel's sacrifice but not Cain's. Cain was deeply upset and went around moping about it. GOD said to Cain, "Why are you upset and why go around moping? If you offered correctly but did not share it properly, have you not sinned? Stop making a noise, you will have your sacrifice returned to you."* Then Cain said to Abel, *"Let us go into the plain,"* and while they were in the plain, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him. You see my brothers, how envy and jealousy resulted in the murder of a brother.

Because of Esau's jealousy, our father Jacob had to run away from his brother. Envy caused Joseph to be nearly persecuted to death and to be sold into slavery. Jealousy forced Moses to run away from Pharaoh, King of Egypt, when his fellow tribesmen asked him, *"Who made you judge and ruler over us? Are you planning to kill me just as you killed that Egyptian yesterday?"* Because of envy, Aaron and Miriam were banned from entry to the camp. Jealousy caused Dathan and Abiram to be cast down alive into Hades, because of the rebellion that they stirred up against GOD. Because of envy, David was not only hated by the Philistines but was also persecuted by Saul, King of Israel.

Let us now move on from those examples of old and consider heroes of our own time by taking the noble examples of our generation. Because of envy and jealousy,

the most righteous pillars were persecuted and put to death. We should concentrate our attention on the good apostles. Peter, because of unrighteous jealousy, endured suffering not just once or twice but many times over. When he had given his testimony he suffered execution as GOD's witness and went to the glorious place appointed for him. Because of envy, Paul also pointed out to us the reward for patient endurance. He had been a prisoner in chains seven times, exiled and stoned. After preaching the Good News in the East and West he won fame and glory for his faith. He taught righteousness to the whole world having reached the farthest boundaries of the West. Then, after giving his testimony before the rulers he suffered execution as GOD's witness. He left this world to go to the holy place having proven himself to be a great example of patient endurance.

To these men who lived such holy lives, a great number of GOD's special people were joined, who because of envy had suffered outrageous treatment and torture becoming courageous examples for us. Through jealousy, women were persecuted in a similar way as Danaids and Dircae. After they had suffered cruel and inhuman torture they safely reached their goal in the race of faith, and they won that noble prize even though they were physically weak.

Envy has caused wives to split from their husbands and altered the saying of our father Adam, *"This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh."* Jealousy and agitation has overthrown great cities and uprooted mighty nations.

We are writing these things dear friends, not only to remind you of your duties but also to serve as a reminder for us. We are in the same contest as you and will have to contend with the same conflict. We should therefore rid ourselves of vain and useless ideas and turn to the glorious teaching handed down to us. We should commit ourselves to doing what is good, pleasing and acceptable in the sight of him who created us. We should fix our eyes on the blood of Christ and learn how precious that blood is to his Father, for having been shed for our salvation it has won for the whole world the grace of repentance. We should think of every generation down through the ages and learn that from each generation to the other the RULER has given the opportunity of repentance to those who want to turn to him. Noah preached repentance and those who obeyed were saved. Jonah preached to the people of Ninevah that it would be destroyed. But they repented of their sins and were saved after petitioning GOD with their prayers, even though they were previously at odds with GOD.

The ministers of GOD's grace spoke about repentance through the Holy Spirit and the RULER of the universe has himself spoken about repentance with the following sworn declaration, *"As I live," says GOD, "I don't want any sinner to die but instead I want their repentance."* He also added this merciful declaration, *"Repent of your iniquity O House of Israel. Say to the sons of my people, 'Though your sins reach from earth to heaven and though they are redder than scarlet and blacker than sackcloth, yet if you turn to me with*



*your whole heart and say 'Father!' I will listen to you as if you were a holy people.'"* Elsewhere he also says the following:

*"Wash and be clean.*

*Get rid of the wickedness in your soul from before my sight. Stop your wickedness and learn to do what is right.*

*Search for justice. Defend the oppressed.*

*Support the rights of the orphan. Grant justice to the widow.*

*Then come let us reason together. Even though your sins are like crimson, I will make them as white as snow. If you are willing to obey me you will eat the good things of the earth, but if you are not willing and refuse to listen, a sword shall destroy you. This is the mouth of GOD that has spoken."*

Therefore, because he wanted all his loved ones to repent, he confirmed it by an act of his mighty will.

We should therefore obediently comply with his great and glorious will and earnestly present ourselves before his mercy and kindness. Let us turn to his compassion and give up these useless ways of trouble and jealousy that lead to death. Let us fix our eyes upon those who have perfectly served his magnificent glory. Consider Enoch, he was found

righteous in obedience and was taken up so that he never died. Noah proved faithful and preached a second birth to the world through his service to GOD. Through him, the RULER saved the living creatures that entered the ark in harmony with each other.

Abraham, who was called, *'The friend'*, was proved faithful because he obeyed the word of GOD. Obediently he left his country, his people and his father's house so that by leaving a small country, weak people, and an insignificant people, he could inherit the promises of GOD. For GOD told him, *"Leave your country, your people and your father's house then go into the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, bless you and make your name great. You shall indeed be blessed. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the tribes of the earth will be blessed through you."*

And again when he went his separate way from Lot, GOD said to him, *"Lift up your eyes and take a look around you towards the north, south, east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth. If anyone can number the dust of the earth then will your offspring be numbered."*

Again he says, *"GOD took Abraham out and told him, 'look up at the stars in the sky and try to count them. That's how many your offspring will be.' Abraham believed GOD and*

*because of this was deemed righteous."* Because of his faith and hospitality, a son was granted to him in his old age. Being obedient he offered to sacrifice his son to GOD on one of the mountains shown to him.

Because of his hospitality and godliness, Lot was saved from Sodom when the country around him was judged by fire and brimstone. The RULER made it clear for all to see that he never disappoints those who place their hope in him, but those who reject him he gives over to punishment and torment. His wife became an example of the latter because she changed her mind after leaving with him and was turned into a pillar of salt as a sign to this very day. This was done so that all who were double-minded and distrusted GOD's power were condemned and became a warning for future generations.

Because of her faith and hospitality, Rahab the harlot was saved. When Joshua, the son of Nun, sent spies to Jericho the king of the country discerned that their purpose was to spy on the land and sent men to capture and kill them when caught. But the hospitable Rahab took them in and hid them under some flax stalks in an upstairs room. When the king's men arrived they said, *"The king orders you to bring out the men who have come to spy on our country."* She replied, *"The two men you are looking for did come but didn't stay long and have gone."* Then she pointed them in the opposite direction. Then she said to the men, *"I know for certain that GOD has given you this city, for fear and terror*

*of you has fallen on all its inhabitants. Therefore, when you take it, save me and my father's house."* They replied, *"It will be just as you have said. As soon as you hear we are coming, bring all your family together under your roof and they will be saved. But anyone left outside your house will die."* Then they gave her a sign that she should hang something scarlet from her house. In this way, they made it clear in advance that salvation will come through the blood of the RULER to everyone who believes and hopes in GOD. You see, dear friends, that not only faith but prophesy as well was found in this woman.

Let us be humble then brothers, letting go of all arrogance, conceit, foolishness and anger. Let us do what the Scripture tells us to do. For the Holy Spirit says, *"The wise man must not boast in his wisdom, nor the strong man his strength, nor the rich man his riches, but the one who boasts should boast in GOD so that he will look for him, find him and do what is right and just."* Most of all let us remember the words spoken by the RULER, Jesus, to teach us gentleness and patient endurance, for he said,

*"Show mercy so that you will be shown mercy. Forgive so that you will be forgiven.*

*What you do to others will be done to you. As you give so will it be given to you.*

*As you judge so will you be judged.*

*As you show kindness so kindness will be shown to you.  
The measure you give will be the measure you receive.”*

We should make ourselves strong with these concepts and commandments in order to walk humbly in obedience to these holy words for the Holy Scripture says, *“On whom will I look except on him who is humble, gentle and trembles at my words?”*

Brothers, it is therefore right and correct that we should obey GOD rather than follow those who, because of their arrogance and rebellion, have become leaders in stirring up loathsome jealousy. For we will bring upon ourselves no minor injury but rather great danger if we recklessly give in to the purposes of men whose aim it is to create trouble and rebellion in order to lead us astray from doing the right thing. We should be kind to one another following the model of the kindness and compassion shown by our Creator. It is written, *“The kind will inhabit the land and the innocent remain in it. But sinners will be wiped from its face.”* Again he says, *“I saw him who had no care about GOD, exalted and lifted high up like the cedar trees of Lebanon. But when I passed by later, he was gone, and I couldn’t find him anywhere after searching hard for him. Keep your innocence and do what is right because a peaceful man will live on.”*

We should unite with those who are devoted to peace and godliness, but not to those who just pretend they really

want it. The Scripture says somewhere, *'This people honour me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.'* And again, *'They bless with their mouth, but they curse with their heart.'* And again it says, *'They loved him with their mouths but lied to him with their tongues and their hearts were not right with him. Neither did they stick to his covenant.'* Therefore, *'May the deceitful lips of those who say bad things against the righteous be struck dumb.'* And again, *'May GOD destroy all the lying lips and proud tongues of those who say, 'We will praise our tongue, our lips belong to us and who is RULER over us?' "Because the poor have been oppressed and the needy have been groaning, I will now arise,"* says the RULER, *"I will put him in a safe place and act boldly on his behalf."*

For Christ belongs with those who are humble and not with those who exalt themselves over his people. GOD's royal authority, the RULER Jesus the Christ, did not come in pompous arrogance and pride even though he could have done. He came as a humble person just as the Holy Spirit told us he would. The Scripture says, *'GOD, who has believed what we have said? And to whom has the arm of GOD been revealed? In his presence, we announced that he was like a child, and like a root in the soil that needs watering. He has no attractiveness or glory. We saw him and he had neither attractiveness nor beauty, instead his appearance was unattractive and inferior to that of other men. He was a man marred by whip lacerations and suffering, familiar with bearing pain. He was rejected, despised and dishonoured.'*

*He took upon himself our sins and suffered pain for us. We saw that he was exposed to hard labour, whip lacerations and affliction. Yet it was for our sins that he was wounded and for our iniquities that he was afflicted. The punishment that fell upon him brought us peace for by his whip lacerations we are healed. Like sheep we have gone astray, every person in their own way. And GOD delivered him up for our sins. Yet, whilst suffering he did not open his mouth. Like a sheep being led to the slaughter and as a lamb is quiet before the shearer, so he did not open his mouth. Whilst being humiliated he was denied justice. Who will talk about his descendants now that his life has been taken away? He was sent to his death for the sins of my people. I will give the wicked as a sacrifice for his burial and the rich for his death. For he committed no sin, and neither was there any deceit found to come from his mouth. It pleases GOD to purify him by his whip lacerations. If you make an offering for sin, your soul will see your descendants go forward for many generations. And GOD will be pleased to take away the affliction of his soul to show him light and mould him with understanding in order to justify the Just One who is the Good Servant to many. He himself will carry their sins. For this reason, he will have many offspring and shall share the spoils of the strong because his life was handed over to death and he was reckoned to be one of the sinners. He carried the sins of many and because of their sins was delivered up.’ The RULER says, “I am a worm and not a man, an outcast from men and despised by the people. Everyone*

*who saw me laughed at me. They attacked me verbally and shook their heads saying, 'He hoped in GOD, let him rescue him, let him save him since he is so pleased with him!'"* You see, dear friends, the example that has been set before us? For if the RULER humbled himself in this way, how should we behave who have come under his yoke and grace?

We should be imitators of those who went around in goatskins and sheepskins proclaiming the future coming of Christ. I am referring to the prophets Elijah, Elisha and Ezekiel among other heroes of old. Abraham was particularly well known and was called, *'The friend of GOD'*, yet when he stared into GOD's glory he humbly declared, *"I am mere dust and ashes."* This is also written about Job, *'Job was a righteous man, blameless, truthful, committed to GOD and was careful to avoid all evil,'* yet even he accused himself saying, *"No man is free from the stain of sin even if he lives only one day."* Moses was called faithful in all GOD's house, and GOD used him to judge Egypt with plagues and torments. Yet even he, while greatly honoured, never boasted but said, after the divine Word was spoken to him from the bush, *"Who am I that you should send me? I speak too feebly and too slowly."* Again he says, *"I am only a steam from the pot."*

But what shall we say about the famous David of whom GOD said, *"I have found a man after my own heart, David the son of Jesse. I have anointed him with everlasting mercy."* Yet he also says to GOD, *"Have mercy on me Great GOD according*



*to your great mercy, and in accordance with your great compassion, wash me clean of my sin for I acknowledge my iniquity, and I am always mindful of my sin. Against you alone have I sinned and done evil before your eyes. You speak what is right and no criticism against you is justified. You see, I was conceived in iniquity and was sinful as my mother carried me during pregnancy. You love the truth and have revealed to me hidden and secret wisdom. You will sprinkle me with hyssop, and I will be made clean. You will wash me, and I will become whiter than snow. You will cause me to listen to the sound of joy and gladness. My humbled bones will rejoice. Turn my face away from all my iniquities and wipe out my sins. Great GOD, create a pure heart in me and renew a right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence and do not take your Holy Spirit away from me. Restore the joy of salvation to me and make me stand upright with your Counsellor Spirit. I will teach your ways to sinners and those without GOD will turn to you. Great GOD of my salvation, save me from the guilt of spilling another person's blood. My tongue will rejoice in your righteousness. GOD, you will open my mouth, and my lips will proclaim praises to you. I would have given sacrifices to you if you had wanted them from me, but you don't like receiving burnt offerings. The sacrifice you want is a spirit that has been truly and willingly humbled. GOD will not turn away from a humble heart."*

Such humility and obedient submission of these great and famous men has not only made us better people but also

bettered our forefathers who went before us along with everyone else who has received his oracles in reverent trust and truth. Seeing then, that we have so many great and glorious deeds placed in front of us, let us quickly return to practising peace which was the standard set for us right at the very beginning. We should fix our eyes upon the Father and Creator of the universe and grip tightly his magnificent and excellent gifts of peace and kindness for us. We should think deeply about him and let the eyes of our soul gaze upon his ever-patient will. We must take note of how free from anger he is towards all his creation.

The heavens move at his command and peacefully obey him. Day and night run the course set for them without getting in each other's way. The sun, moon and the company of stars all dance harmoniously at his instruction and keep within their defined boundaries without wandering off. By his will, the earth bears fruit according to the season and produces abundant food for men, animals and all living creatures without hesitation and without changing any of the laws he has put in place. The unreachable places of the bottomless pit and the indescribable judgements of the underworld are subject to the same laws. He has gathered the vast immeasurable seas into various basins that do not overflow past the boundaries surrounding them, just as he has commanded them not to. He said, *"You will come no further, and your waves will break within you."* The oceans, which men cannot pass through, are governed by the laws enacted by the RULER along with the worlds that lie beyond

them. The seasons of spring, summer, autumn and winter peacefully give way to one another. From their quarters, the winds perform their duties at the proper time without any problems. Springs of water, created for both health and enjoyment, never cease to provide life to men from their ever-flowing breasts. Even the tiniest life forms come together in peace and harmony. The Great Creator and RULER ordered all these things to live together in peace and harmony whilst doing good to all things at the same time, but most especially to us who have taken refuge in his compassion and mercy through Jesus the Christ our RULER, to whom be glory and majesty forever and ever. Let it be.

Take care loved ones, in case his many benefits turn into condemnation on us should we not live worthily of him and together in unity do things which are good and pleasing to him. For he says somewhere, *"The Spirit of GOD is a lamp searching the closed areas of the heart."* Let us consider how near he is and that none of the thoughts or plans that we have are hidden from him. It is right for us not to become deserters of his will. Instead of offending GOD let us offend foolish and stupid people, who lift themselves up high and boast in the arrogance of their prideful words. We should fear the RULER Jesus the Christ whose blood was given to us. We must greatly respect our leaders and honour our elders. Let us teach our young people things that lead to the fear of GOD. We should direct our women towards that which is good and let them show the purity that wins our admiration. Let them show us their genuine love of

gentleness. Let them display their control of their tongues by their quiet moderation of speech. Let them show their love by not having favourites, and by treating everyone who fears GOD with equal affection. Let our children receive instruction in Christ. Let them learn of the value that GOD places on humbleness. What power has pure love with GOD! How great it is to fear him! Everybody who walks in these ways with a pure heart and holy mind will be saved. He searches out our thoughts and desires. His breath is in us and when he wants to, he will take it away.

All these things are confirmed by faith in Christ, for Christ himself addresses us through his Holy Spirit, *"Come, my children, listen to me and I will teach you the fear of GOD. Who is the man who wants to live and see their days filled with good things? Keep your tongue from saying evil and your lips from speaking deceit. Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace and pursue it. GOD's eyes look upon the righteous and his ears listen for their prayers. GOD's face is turned against those who do evil, to cut the memory of them from all the earth. The righteous man cried out and GOD heard him then delivered him from all his troubles."* The wicked have many troubles, but mercy surrounds those who hope in the RULER.

The All Merciful Father who is ready to do good has compassion on those who fear him. With kindness and gentleness he pours out his favour upon those who approach him with a determined mind. We should not allow

ourselves to be in two minds, and neither should we allow our souls to accept wrong ideas about his wonderful and glorious gifts. This Scripture should be far removed from us: *“Miserable are those who are in two minds and doubt in their hearts saying, ‘We have heard about these things in our fathers’ time, and now we have grown old and none of them have happened to us.’”* You foolish people! Go and compare yourselves to a tree. Take the vine for instance; first of all, it sheds its leaves, after that it buds, next, it grows new leaves, then it flowers, after that it produces a sour grape and finally we get the ripe bunch of grapes. Notice how fruit matures on a tree in a very short time. Be assured of the truth that his purposes will be fulfilled quickly and suddenly with the Scripture bearing witness saying, *‘He will come quickly and not wait around,’* and *‘GOD will suddenly arrive at his temple, the very same Holy One that you are looking for.’*

Dear friends, we should consider how the RULER continually shows us that there will be a future resurrection. He made the RULER Jesus the Christ the first fruits of this when he raised him from the dead. We should note the resurrections that are taking place all the time. Day and night declares a resurrection to us as night goes to sleep and the day awakes. The day leaves and the night returns. We should also look at the crops and note how they are seeded. The sower scatters seed into the earth. The seed, being dry and bare, then dissolves. Then by the mighty power of the RULER’s

providence, the RULER resurrects them, and from one seed they grow and bear fruit.

Let's think about the amazing sign that takes place in the East, which is Arabia. There is a bird called the Phoenix. It is the only one of its kind and lives five hundred years. When the time comes for its departure and death, it builds itself a coffin made of frankincense, myrrh, and other spices, then enters it when the time is up and dies. A worm is made out of its decomposing flesh which is then nourished by the juices and grows wings. When strong enough, it then takes the nest of the bones of its parent and carries it away from Arabia to the City of the Sun in Egypt. In broad daylight, it deposits them at the altar of the sun then flies back. The priests look up their archives of the dates and find it has come to the end of the five hundredth year.

Why should anyone think that it is a great and marvellous thing for the Creator of the universe to resurrect those who have served him in holiness with assurance of a good faith when he uses a bird to show us his fantastic power to keep his promises? For he says somewhere, *"And you will raise me up and I will give thanks to you."* And again, *"I lay down and slept, and then I woke up because you are with me."* Likewise, Job says, *"You will raise this flesh of mine which has suffered these things."*

Owning this hope, we should bind our souls to him who faithfully keeps his promises and is just in making

judgements. For he who commanded us not to lie is hardly going to lie himself, because nothing is impossible for GOD to do except to lie. Let us re-kindle the faith within us again and bear in mind that nothing is beyond his ability. By his majestic word, he established the universe and with a word he could destroy it. Who shall say to him, *“What have you ever done?”* or *“Who can resist your mighty strength?”* He will do what he wants when he wants, and nothing can stop what he has already decided. Everything is transparent before him, and nothing can avoid his advice. *“The heavens declare the glory of GOD and the sky the works of his hands. Day speaks during the day and night declares knowledge during the night. There are no words or speeches for no audible voice is heard.”*

In view of the fact he sees and hears everything, we should fear him and rid ourselves of doing the evil that results from our sinful lusts. By doing this, we will be protected by his mercy from the coming judgements. After all, how can any of us escape from his mighty hand? What world is there that will take those who run away from him? The Scripture says somewhere, *“Where will I go? And where can I hide from you? If I go to heaven you are there, if I leave for the furthest place on earth your right hand is already there, and if I retire to the deepest points on earth I find your Spirit there.”* Where then, can anyone go or where can anyone escape to, if they want to get away from him who holds the universe in his arms?

We should move close towards him with spiritual holiness, lifting up pure and undefiled hands to him, loving our gentle and compassionate Father who has made us his special people. The following is written, *‘When the Most High divided up the nations, when he scattered the sons of Adam, he set the boundaries corresponding to the number of GOD’s angels. His people Jacob became GOD’s and Israel the lot that fell to him.’* In another place it says, *“Look, GOD takes for himself a people out of all peoples like a man taking the first fruits of his threshing floor. The Holy of Holies will come from those people.”*

Because of the fact that we are the special people of the Holy GOD, we should do everything in line with being holy.

We must:

- Not say anything evil
- Abstain from disgusting and impure embraces
- Not get drunk
- Not cause trouble
- Not hate
- Not commit adultery (which is detestable)
- Keep ourselves from arrogant self-importance.

The Scripture says, *‘GOD resists the proud but treats the humble gracefully.’*



We should:

- Stick closely by those whom GOD has given grace to
- Dress ourselves in peace, humility and self-control
- Keep ourselves far away from harmful gossip and slander
- Make sure we are justified by our actions and not by mere words.

*For he says, “He who talks a lot will get a long reply! Does the talkative person think they are in the right? Blessed is the person who is born of a woman and lives only a short time. Make sure you don’t talk too much!”*

We should let GOD praise us and not praise ourselves for GOD hates those who praise themselves. Let others witness our good deeds and tell people about them as was the case with our righteous forefathers. Pushiness, arrogance and audacity are traits of those who are cursed by GOD, but consideration, humility and gentleness are the traits of those who are blessed by GOD.

We should stick closely to his blessing and also search hard to find out what else leads to his blessing. Let us examine the things that took place from the very start. Why was our father Abraham blessed? Wasn’t it because he acted in righteousness and truth through his faith? Isaac, knowing what was going to happen later on, happily became a willing sacrifice. Jacob, in humility, left his homeland because of his

brother and went to serve under Laban. To him was given the royal authority of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Should anyone look deeply into these particular examples, they will then realise the magnificent gifts that GOD gives. From Jacob came all the priests and Levites who ministered at GOD's altar. The RULER Jesus the Christ was also physically descended from him as were the kings, rulers and governors of Judah. His other tribes are also held in no small honour because GOD had promised, *"Your seed will be like the stars of heaven."* They were all glorified and honoured, but not because of their own doing or their own righteousness, but instead it was because of his will. Likewise, we also having been called in Jesus the Christ by his will, are not justified by:

- Ourselves
- Our wisdom
- Our insight
- Our religious devotion
- Our holy actions done from the heart.

Instead, it is by our faith through which Almighty GOD has justified every person from the very beginning. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

What are we to do then brothers? Are we to stop doing good and cease giving out love? GOD forbid that this should happen to us at the very least. Instead, we should be ready

to carry out every good work quickly and with enthusiasm. The Creator and RULER of the universe himself rejoices in doing his work. By his infinitely great power he established the heavens and by his unfathomable wisdom ordered them into place. He separated the water from the earth surrounding it and set it in place on the indestructible foundation of his will. By his order, he brought into existence all the living creatures that walk upon it. In a similar way, having created the sea and all the living creatures in it, he fixed them within the boundaries according to his will. To crown it all, by his holy, intelligent, and pure hands he created man and impressed upon man his own image. This is what GOD said, *“Let us make man in our image and after our likeness.” So GOD made man, male and female he created them. When he had finished doing all these things he blessed them and said, ‘Go increase and multiply.’”* We should see how all righteous people have been clothed in good actions. Even the RULER himself rejoiced after clothing himself with good actions. Since we have this good example then, we should fall in line with his will and work hard with all our strength to act righteously.

The good worker receives the bread of his earnings with his head held high but the lazy and careless cannot look their employer in the eye. We must work hard at doing good for everything comes from him. He warns us in advance, *“Look, GOD is coming, and he brings with him a reward for each person according to what they have done.”* He strongly encourages us, who believe in him with all our hearts, not

to be lazy or careless about doing good. Our boasting and confidence should be in him, and we should submit to his will. Let us take note of the multitude of angels standing ready to serve his will. The Scripture says, *‘Ten thousand times ten thousand stood around him and thousands upon thousands served him crying out, “Holy, holy, holy is GOD of Hosts, all creation is full of his glory.”’* We should also gather together to worship him with peace of heart, and sincerely cry out to him with one voice so that we will share in his great and glorious promises. For he says, *“No eye has seen, and no ear has heard, and no man’s heart has ever entertained the things prepared for those who wait patiently for him.”*

How blessed and marvellous are GOD’s gifts, dear friends:

- Immortality with Life!
- Splendour with righteousness!
- Truth with confidence!
- Self-control with holiness!

All these things we can grasp and understand. What then do you think are those things that are being prepared for those who patiently wait for him? The Creator and Father of the Ages, the Most Holy One alone knows their number and how wonderful they are. We should therefore make every effort to make sure we belong to that particular group of people who wait for him so that we will share in his promised gifts. How shall this come about dear friends?

- If our minds are faithfully fixed on GOD
- If we search hard for those things which make him happy and please him
- If we do things in line with his pure will
- If we follow the way of truth
- If we cut off from ourselves all:
  - Wickedness
  - Evil
  - Riotous behaviour
  - Craving for what belongs to others
  - Hate
  - Malicious gossip
  - Slander
  - Hatred of GOD
  - Arrogance
  - Lies
  - Self-importance
  - Inhospitality.

GOD hates people doing these things, and not only those that do them but also those who approve of them. The Scripture says, *'But GOD said to the sinner, "Why did you talk about my commands and take my covenant on your lips? You hated my instruction and turned your back on my words. If you saw a thief you went along with them and also joined in with the adulterers. Your mouth spoke a lot of evil and your tongue spread deceit. You sat there and slandered your*

*brother then caused your mother's son to trip up. You thought I would be like you because I kept silent when you did these things, you wicked person. But I will convict you and make you see yourself face to face. Think deeply about these things then you who forget GOD, in case he tears you to pieces like a lion and there is nobody around who can save you. The sacrifice of praise will glorify me and that is a way by which I can show him GOD's salvation."*

Dear friends, this is the way in which we find our saviour Jesus the Christ, the High Priest of our Offerings, our Protector and Helper of our Weaknesses.

- Through him, we can look into the very heights of heaven.
- Through him, we see the mirror image of GOD's faultless and perfect face.
- Through him, our heart's eyes have been opened.
- Through him, our foolish and darkened understanding is renewed towards his marvellous light.
- Through him, the RULER has willed that we should taste immortal knowledge.

He, *'Who being the bright light of his majesty, is by just as much superior to the angels as the title he is called by is greater than theirs.'* It is written, *'He makes his angels winds and his ministers flames of fire,'* but of his Son the RULER said, *"You are my Son, today I have begotten you. Ask me*

*and I will give you the nations for your inheritance and the ends of the earth for your personal property.”* He also says to him, *“Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a stool for your feet.”* But who, then, are his enemies? All the wicked and those who set themselves up against GOD’s will.

Brothers, we should serve as soldiers under his perfect commands. We should look around us at those who serve as officers and see how submissively, accurately and readily they carry out the orders given to them. Not all of them are colonels, majors, captains or lieutenants etc., but each one of them within each of their own ranks, carries out the orders of the emperor and his generals. The great cannot live without the lesser and neither can the least live without the great. There is a mixing together that gives rise to mutual benefit. Take our bodies as an example, the head is useless without the feet and the feet are useless without the head. The very smallest members of our body are needed and are useful to the whole body. All work in harmony together and unite as one obedient unit to keep the body whole.

Therefore, we should make sure our whole body is saved in Jesus the Christ. Each of us should be submissive to his neighbour in accordance with his spiritual gift. The strong must look after the weak and the weak must respect the strong. The rich must provide the needs of the poor and the poor must thank GOD for it because he has provided for them someone who can supply their needs. The wise should

show their wisdom through good deeds and not by words. The humble must not boast to others about themselves but leave it for others to do that. The person who has kept himself pure physically, must not become full of pride and boast about it. Rather, he should acknowledge that someone else has given this self-control to him. We should think about what we were made of and the kind of creatures we were when we entered this world. We should also think from what grave and darkness he had fashioned and created us, to then bring us into this world having already prepared his wonderful gifts for us in advance before sending us here. Because we have received all these things from him, we should thank him for everything. To him is the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Foolish, stupid, ignorant and unwise people jeer and mock us being eager to exalt themselves in their dreams. But what power does a mere mortal man have? What can anybody who was made out of earth do? It is written, *"There was no form that I could see. I only heard breathing and a voice."* What then? Can a mortal man be pure in the eyes of the RULER, or can a man be blameless in what he does seeing that he doesn't trust his servants and has found fault with his angels? Not even heaven is pure in his sight let alone those who live in houses made of earth – the very same earth from which they are made! He killed them like moths and when daylight came they were not seen. They perished because they could not help themselves. They died when he breathed upon them because they had no wisdom. Go on,



call out and see if anyone will respond to you or if you will see one of his holy angels. Wrath destroys the foolish man and envy kills him who has gone astray. I have seen fools put down roots, but their homes were suddenly destroyed. Their sons will be far from safety, and they will be despised at the doors of their inferiors. No-one will be able to deliver them. They will not be delivered from evil, and the righteous will eat what they have prepared for themselves.

Since these things are now clear to us and we have looked into the depths of divine knowledge, we ought to do everything that the RULER has commanded us to do at the appropriate time. He wanted services and sacrifices to be carried out for him at the designated times and seasons, and not carried out in a careless or disorderly manner. His supreme will has already determined where he wants them performed and by whom so that all things will be done in a holy way according to his good pleasure and made acceptable to his will. Those who make their sacrifices at the appointed times are accepted and blessed, for they follow the Master's instructions and can't go wrong. The high priest has been assigned special duties and the priests have been assigned a proper office, while the Levites have been appointed to their particular ministry. The laypeople are likewise bound to the laypeople's laws.

Each one of you must thank GOD from his own position with a clear conscience, and without going beyond the rule of the ministry laid down for you. The continual daily sacrifices,

peace offerings, sin and trespass offerings are not carried out in any place but in Jerusalem only. Even there they are not offered just anywhere, but only at the altar in the temple after the offering has first been inspected by the previously mentioned ministers. Those, therefore, who do anything different to his will are punished by death. You see then brothers, that the greater the knowledge entrusted to us, the greater the danger we are exposed to.

The apostle's received from the RULER Jesus the Christ the Good News, and Jesus the Christ was sent by GOD. Therefore, Christ is from GOD and the apostles from Christ. Both came from GOD in an orderly way according to GOD's will. And so the apostles, having received their orders and being:

- Fully assured of the resurrection of our RULER Jesus the Christ
- Full of faith in the Word of GOD
- Fully confident in the Holy Spirit,

went out to proclaim the Good News that the Kingdom of GOD was about to come. They preached in the country and the towns and appointed their first fruits to be overseers and assistant overseers of the future believers, having first tested them by the Holy Spirit. This was nothing new as Scripture had already mentioned overseers and assistant overseers long ago, *"I will appoint their overseers in righteousness and their assistant overseers in faith."*

And is it any wonder if those in Christ who had been trusted with such a ministry by GOD should appoint these officers mentioned? After all, the blessed Moses who was, '*A faithful servant in all of his house*' wrote down in the sacred books all the instructions given to him followed afterwards by the other prophets, together bearing witness with him to the laws that he had enacted. Now, when jealousy arose about the priesthood and there was quarrelling amongst the tribes as to which of them should be honoured with this great privilege, he commanded the chiefs of each of the tribes to bring their rods with the name of their tribe inscribed upon it. He took them, tied them together, sealed them with the rings of the tribal chiefs and laid them on GOD's table in the tent of testimony. Having shut the tent he sealed the keys along with the doors just as he had done with the rods. He then told them, "*Brothers, the tribe whose rod has budded is the one GOD has chosen for the priesthood and who is to minister to him.*"

When morning came he assembled all six hundred thousand of the men of Israel and showed the seals to the tribal chiefs. He opened the tent of testimony and brought out the rods. Aaron's rod was found not only to have budded but also to be bearing fruit. What do you think about this, dear friends? Didn't Moses know in advance that this was going to happen? Absolutely he knew it! But he went through this process to prevent any disorder in Israel and also to cause the Name of the true, one and only GOD to be glorified. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The apostles knew through our RULER Jesus the Christ that there would be trouble over the office of chief overseer. For this reason and also having received an accurate knowledge of what was going to happen in the future, they appointed the ministers already mentioned. Afterwards, they gave the instruction that should they fall asleep, other approved men should succeed them in their ministry. Those who were appointed by them, or afterwards by other men of a good reputation with the agreement of the community of GOD's people, and who have ministered to the flock of Christ blamelessly, humbly, peacefully and unselfishly, having been spoken well of by everyone over a long period of time, cannot be justly removed from their ministry. We will have committed no small sin if we throw out those who have offered the gifts of the chief overseer's office, in a blameless and holy way.

Happy indeed are those overseers who have already passed on seeing that their departure was fruitful and mature because they do not live with the fear that anyone else is going to remove them from their appointed position. But we see that you have removed certain people even though their conduct was good, and their ministry was carried out with honour and integrity.

You should instead be conscientious and jealous for things that result in salvation. You have studied the Scriptures which are the truth and have been given to us by the Holy Spirit. You understand that there is nothing incorrect or

fraudulent written in them. You will not find in them where righteous men have been thrown out by holy men. The righteous have certainly been persecuted but by wicked people only. They were certainly thrown in prison, but it was the godless that did it. They were certainly stoned, but it was the sinners who did it. They were also killed by those who had conceived a detestable and unholy jealousy. Yet, whilst they were exposed to these sufferings they endured them gloriously. What shall we say then, brothers? Was Daniel thrown into the lions' den by those who feared GOD? Were Ananias, Azarias and Mishael shut inside the fiery furnace by men devoted to the great and glorious worship of the Most High? Of course not! Who then was it that did such things? It was done by hateful men, completely and utterly wicked who stirred themselves up to such a level of fury that they cruelly tortured those who served GOD with an innocent and holy heart. They failed to recognise the fact that the Most High is the Defender and Protector of those who worship his excellent Name with a pure conscience. To him is the glory forever and ever. Amen. But those who confidently endured these things inherited glory and honour. They were exalted and GOD recorded them in his memory forever and ever. Amen.

We should closely follow these examples for it is written, *'Stick closely to GOD's special people because those who follow them will become special people themselves.'* Elsewhere it also says, *'With the innocent you will be innocent, with the special people you will be a special*

*person, and with the crooked you will become crooked.'* We should therefore stick close to the innocent and righteous because they are GOD's special people.

Why is there trouble, anger, schism and division among you?

Don't we all have one GOD, one Christ and one Spirit of Grace that was poured out on us?

Isn't there just one calling in Christ?

Why do we divide Christ's members, tear them to pieces and rebel against our own body?

Have we reached such a level of insanity that we have forgotten we belong to each other?

Remember the words of our RULER Jesus the Christ who said, *"It will be disastrous for that man! It would have been better for him if he had not been born than to cause one of my special people to sin. Yes, it would be better for him if a millstone was tied around his neck and he was then thrown into the sea, than that he should pervert one of my special people."* Your schism has perverted many, discouraged many, caused many to doubt and caused sadness to us all. Yet your rebellion carries on!

Have a look at the letter of the blessed apostle Paul. What was the very first thing he wrote to you when the Good News was first being declared? To tell you the truth, whilst

under the influence of the Spirit he wrote to you about himself, Cephas, and Apollos, because even back then you had started to split into cliques. But back then, your sin was much less than now because your favouritism was shown to highly reputed apostles and a man of whom they approved. In contrast, now consider those who have perverted you and lessened the glory of that famous love you have for your brothers. It is diabolical, utterly diabolical and unworthy of your Christian conduct that it should become known that the rock-solid and ancient community of GOD's people at Corinth is rebelling against its overseers because of one or two people. This report has not only reached us but also others who do not belong to us, with the result that because of your stupidity, the Name of the RULER is blasphemed whilst at the same time bringing danger upon yourselves also.

We must quickly put an end to this. We should fall down before the RULER and pray to him with tears, asking that he would be merciful and reconcile with us and restore us to the previous proper and holy practice of brotherly love. This is a gate of righteousness that opens into life for it is written, *"Open the gates of righteousness for me so that I will go through them and praise the RULER. This is the gate of the RULER, and the righteous will enter through it."* While there are many gates open to us, the gate of righteousness is Christ's gate through which everyone who enters is blessed, as they have chosen the way of righteousness and holiness doing everything without disorder.

A man should be faithful.

A man should explain deep knowledge.

A man should be wise in judging between those who argue.

A man should always behave in purity.

Yet, the more superior he seems to be to others the more humble-minded he should be, seeking the common good of all over preference to himself.

The person who has the love of Christ must keep the commandments of Christ. Who knows the bond of GOD's love?

Who has the ability to describe its awesome beauty? Love goes to indescribable heights.

Love makes us one with GOD. Love covers a multitude of sins. Love puts up with all things.

Love is patient in every circumstance.

Love is not rude.

Love is not arrogant.

Love has nothing to do with schisms or rebellions. Love does everything in harmony.



Because of love, all of GOD's special people have been made perfect. Without love, nothing can please GOD.

Because of love, the RULER accepted us.

Because of the love he had for us, Jesus the Christ gave his blood for us in accordance with GOD's will; His flesh for our flesh and his life for our lives.

You see, dear friends, how great and wonderful love is and how it is perfect beyond description? Who is worthy enough to possess it except those whom GOD has considered worthy of it? Therefore we should pray hard asking for his mercy to live our lives in blameless love, rising above the prejudice and partiality of man. All the generations from Adam and up until now have passed away, but those who have been made perfect in love by the grace of GOD live in the place where the Jesus the Christ people live, and they will be revealed when the kingdom of Christ comes. For it is written, *"Stay in the inner rooms for a little while until my anger and fury pass away, and I will remember a good day and will raise you up out of your graves."* We will be so happy dear friends, if we keep GOD's commandments in the unity of love so that our sins may be forgiven because of this love. It is also written, *'Happy are those whose iniquities are forgiven and whose sins are covered. Happy is the man whose sins GOD does not count against him and from whose lips there is no deceit spoken.'* This announcement of blessedness comes upon those who have been chosen by

GOD through Jesus the Christ our RULER. To him is the glory forever and ever. Amen.

We should therefore ask for the forgiveness of all our iniquities and whatever other wrongs we have done through the cunning prompting of the Adversary. Those who have been leaders of the rebellion and the disunity should have respect for the common hope. For those who walk in reverent trust and love would prefer that they themselves encountered suffering rather than their neighbours. They would prefer to take the blame upon their own shoulders rather than allow the unity that has been handed down in righteousness and holiness, to suffer. It is best for a man to confess his sins rather than harden his heart as the hearts of those were hardened when they stirred up rebellion against Moses, the servant of GOD. Their condemnation was made crystal clear as they went down into Hades alive for, *'Death will be their shepherd.'* Pharaoh, his army, his rulers, and all his chariots with their riders were engulfed in the Red Sea and died for no other reason than their foolish hearts were hardened. This happened to them after a large number of signs and wonders were carried out by Moses, the servant of GOD, in the land of Egypt.

The RULER, brothers, is not in need of anything at all. He wants nothing from any of us except that we make a confession to him. The special person David said, *"I will make a confession to GOD and that will please him more*

*than a young calf with horns and hooves. Let the poor see it and rejoice.” Again he says, “Sacrifice to GOD a sacrifice of praise and pay your vows to the Most High. Then call upon me when you are in trouble and I will come and rescue you, then you will glorify me,” for “GOD wants the sacrifice of a humbled spirit.”*

You know the Holy Scriptures dear friends, and you understand them very well. You have looked closely at the oracles of GOD. We are writing these things merely as a reminder to you. When Moses had gone up into the mountain and spent 40 days fasting and in humiliation, the RULER said to him, *“Moses, Moses, go down quickly from here for your people whom you brought out of Egypt have committed sins. They have quickly turned away from the way in which you commanded them to walk. They have cast idols for themselves.”* Then the RULER said to him, *“I have spoken to you about this more than once saying, ‘I have seen these people, and they are obstinate. Let me destroy them and I will wipe out their name from under heaven. I will make you into a great and wonderful nation, much bigger than this one.’”* But Moses said, *“Don’t do that, RULER, forgive this people’s sin otherwise wipe me out from the book of the living.”* What marvellous love! What unequalled perfection! The servant speaks boldly before his RULER and asks forgiveness for the people or demands that he is wiped out from them.

Who then is noble among you? Who is compassionate? Who is full of love? Let him make the following statement, *“If it’s my fault there is rebellion, division and schism, I will leave and go away to wherever you want me to go and will do as the community commands, only let Christ’s flock be at peace with the overseers appointed over them.”* The one who does this will win for himself a great reputation and he will be welcomed everywhere he goes, for the earth and everything on it belongs to the RULER. This is the way of those who are citizens of the Kingdom of GOD. They have never regretted living this way and they never will.

Let us now take some examples from among those who belong to this world. During times of pestilence, many kings and rulers willingly let themselves die after being instructed by an oracle. They did this to rescue their subjects by giving up their own blood. Many have left their own cities in order to stop rebellions. We know of many from our own community who have allowed themselves to be imprisoned as a ransom for others. Many have sold themselves into slavery and have fed others with the money they got for it. Many women have been strengthened by the grace of GOD to perform manly deeds. When her city was under siege, the blessed Judith asked the elders to allow her to go into the enemy’s camp. Exposing herself to danger she went out because of the love she had for her country and besieged people. The RULER then delivered Holophernes into the hands of a woman. Being perfect in faith, Esther also exposed herself to no less danger in order to deliver the

twelve tribes of Israel when they were on the verge of being destroyed. For by her fasting and humiliation, she entreated the all-seeing GOD, and having seen the humility of her spirit, he rescued the people for whose sake she had faced danger.

We should also pray for anyone who has fallen into any sin, that consideration and humility will be given to them so they can submit, not to us, but to the will of GOD. In this way, they will be remembered by us in a sympathetic, fruitful and perfect way, both in our prayers to GOD and our mentioning of them amongst GOD's special people. We should all accept correction dear friends, and not be offended by it.

The warnings we give to each other are both good and useful for they unite us to the will of GOD. For the Holy Word says, *"GOD has severely disciplined me but has not handed me over to death. For GOD loves those he disciplines and punishes every son that he calls his."* It also says, *"The righteous will discipline me in mercy and caution me, but don't let sinners' oil be poured over my head."* In addition, he says, *"Happy is the man whom GOD cautions. Do not reject the warnings of the Almighty. He causes sorrow and then makes everything all right again. He wounds and his hands heal. He will rescue you from trouble six times and on the seventh evil will not touch you. He will rescue you from death during famine and in war he will deliver you from the power of the sword. He will hide you from a scolding tongue*

*and you will not be afraid when evil comes your way. You will laugh at the unrighteous and the wicked and you will not be afraid of killer beasts. Killer beasts will be at peace with you. Then you will know that your house will be at peace and the tent in which you live will remain in one piece. You will know that you will have many offspring, and your children will be like the grass of the field. You will go to your death like ripe corn ready for harvest or gathered together in a heap on the threshing floor at the proper time of the season.”* You see, dear friends, the RULER carefully protects those whom he disciplines. Being a good father, he disciplines us so that we will receive mercy because of his holy discipline.

Therefore, you who started this rebellion must submit to the overseers and accept the discipline that leads to repentance by humbling your hearts. You must learn to be obedient, laying aside the proud and arrogant stubbornness of your tongues. It is better for you to hold a lowly position in the flock of Christ than to have a huge reputation but be excluded from the hope of his people in Christ. Perfect Wisdom speaks to us and says, *“I will speak to you words from my Spirit and teach you my Word. Since I called and you did not obey, poured out my words and you did not listen, gave you advice which you disregarded and discipline which you rejected, I will laugh at your destruction, rejoice when ruin comes upon you, when confusion suddenly overtakes you or when catastrophe strikes you like a tornado. It will be just like that when you call upon me*

*because I will not hear you. Evil people will then look for me but won't be able to find me because they hated wisdom and did not choose to fear GOD. Because you disregarded my advice and rejected my discipline you will eat the fruit of your own way and become filled with your own ungodliness."*

Because they harmed young children they will be killed and after examination, the ungodly will be destroyed. But the person who hears me will live safely trusting in hope. They will live a quiet life and have no fear of any evil. Therefore we should obey his most holy and glorious Name, escaping the threats made by Wisdom long ago against the disobedient. This is so we will live peacefully, having confidence in the most holy and majestic Name. Accept our advice and you will never regret it. For as GOD lives and the RULER Jesus lives, and the Holy Spirit, who are the faith and hope of those special people, the person who is humble and always gentle and has carried out GOD's commands without any regret, will be enlisted and included amongst the ranks of those who are saved through Jesus the Christ. Through him is the glory of GOD forever and ever. Amen.

However, if certain people should disobey what GOD has told them through us, they must realise that they will entangle themselves in sin and no small danger. We, however, will not be guilty of such sin.

*We will ask with urgency of prayer and humble request that the Creator of the universe will protect the full number of his special people all around the world through his dearly loved Son Jesus the Christ. He called us out of darkness and into light through him, from ignorance to full knowledge of his glorious Name, so that we will put our hope in your Name which started all creation. Open our heart's eyes so that we will know you as the One and Only, Highest in the Highest and Holy in the Holy.*

- *You dash the pride of the arrogant and destroy the plans of the nations.*
- *You rise up the humble and you bring down the lofty to the depths.*
- *You make rich and you make poor.*
- *You kill and you make alive.*
- *You alone are the protector of all spirits and GOD of all flesh.*
- *You look into the deepest places and examine people's actions.*
- *You help those in danger and save those in despair.*
- *You are the Creator and Protector of every spirit.*
- *You multiply the nations of the earth and from out of every one of them you have chosen people who*



*love you through Jesus the Christ your dearly loved Son.*

*Through him you have taught us, made us holy and honoured us. We ask you, RULER and Master to:*

- *Help us and defend us*
- *Rescue those of us who are in trouble*
- *Have mercy on the humble and rise up those who have fallen*
- *Help those who are in need and heal those who are sick*
- *Change the direction of those people of yours who have wandered away from you*
- *Feed the hungry*
- *Release our prisoners*
- *Strengthen the weak*
- *Encourage those who are downhearted.*

*Let all the nations know that you are the one and only true GOD, that Jesus the Christ is your Son and that we are your people and the sheep in your pasture. Your work brought into existence the everlasting structure of the world. The earth was made by you, RULER. You are faithful down through the generations, you judge righteously, and you are awesome in strength and majesty. You are wise in creation and prudent in its*

*maintenance. You show your goodness in the things we can see and are faithful, merciful and compassionate to those who trust you. Forgive us our sins, iniquities, unrighteousness and shortcomings. Don't take into account every sin of your servants and handmaidens but cleanse us with the cleansing of your truth. Guide our steps to walk in holiness and righteousness, doing that which is good and pleasing to you and in the sight of our rulers. Yes, RULER, let your face shine upon us in peace for our good, so that we will be shielded by your powerful hand and saved from every sin by your uplifted arm. Deliver us from those who hate us for no good reason. Give to us and everyone else who lives on earth, unity and peace, just as you did for our fathers when they called upon you in faith, truth and holiness so that we will be saved. May we show obedience to your almighty and glorious Name.*

*May we also show obedience to our rulers and governors on the earth. You, RULER, gave them sovereign power through your majestic and indescribable might, so that we, by recognising it was you who gave them this glory and honour, might obey them and therefore not resist your will in any way. Grant health, peace, harmony and stability to them, RULER, in order for them to administer the government which you have given to them, in a blameless way. For you, heavenly Master and King of the Ages, give to the sons of men glory, honour, power and authority over*

*everything that is on earth. Direct their plans according to what is good and pleasing in your sight, RULER, so that they may carry out in a godly way their administration of the authority you have given them in peace and gentleness so that they may obtain your favour.*

*You alone are able to do these things and also things of far greater good than these for us. We praise you through the High Priest and Protector of our souls, Jesus the Christ. Through him is the glory and majesty to you, now and for all generations forever and ever. Amen.*

We have written enough about the proper conduct in our religion dear brothers, and about what is helpful for those who want to live a righteous, virtuous and holy life. We have briefly dealt with every subject:

- Faith
- Repentance
- Love that is true
- Self-control
- Sobriety
- Patience.

We have reminded you that you must please Almighty GOD in:

- Righteousness

- Truth
- Endurance
- Holiness.

You must lay aside all grudges and pursue unity with love and peace in true gentleness. In the same way, our fathers, of whom we have mentioned previously, pleased him because of their humble attitude towards their Father GOD the Creator and towards all people. We have been very happy to remind you of all these things because we knew that we were writing to people who were faithful and highly esteemed and had conscientiously studied the oracles of GOD's teaching. Therefore, the right thing for us to do is to submit to the leaders of our souls and adopt an attitude of obedience, especially having studied so many and so great examples. By giving up this foolish rebellion we will reach the goal that lies ahead of us in a blameless way. You will bring us great joy and happiness if you obey the things written by us through the Holy Spirit and follow our appeal in this letter for peace and unity whilst ridding yourselves of any wickedness and jealousy.

We have also sent trustworthy and prudent men to you who have walked blamelessly amongst us from their youth to their old age. They will be a witness and mediate between us. This has been done so that you will know that our only concern is, and always has been, that peace should be restored to you immediately.

I will end with this:

*May the GOD who sees all things and is RULER of all Spirits and RULER of all Flesh, who chose the RULER Jesus the Christ and us through him to be his own special people, grant to every soul over whom his glorious and holy Name has been invoked:*

- *Faith*
- *Respect and reverence*
- *Peace*
- *Patience*
- *Endurance*
- *Self-control*
- *Purity*
- *Sobriety,*

so that they may be pleasing to our High Priest and Protector, Jesus the Christ. Through him is glory, majesty, power and honour now and forever more. Amen.

Quickly send our messengers back to us in peace and joy, namely: Claudius Ephebus, Valerius Bito and Fortunatus. In that way, we will hear the news that peace and unity, which we have prayed and longed for, has been restored and we in turn will rejoice all the sooner over your return to good order.

*The grace of our RULER Jesus the Christ is with you and with all people in all places who have been called by GOD through him. Through him is glory, honour, power, greatness and eternal dominion to GOD from the ages past and forever and ever. Let it be.*

# The Good Confession

We agree with the apostles and believe that there is only one Healer who is made of both flesh and spirit, born and unborn, GOD in the flesh, true life surrounded by death, son of Mary and Son of GOD, initially experiencing suffering then afterwards beyond suffering – Jesus the Christ our RULER.

For our GOD, Jesus the Christ:

- Was conceived in Mary's womb according to the pre-planning of GOD and by the Holy Spirit
- Is physically descended from the line of David according to ancestry
- Is the Son of GOD according to the will and power of GOD
- Was born the son of Mary when she was still a virgin
- Ate and drank among us, both before being killed and after being raised up to life again
- Was baptised by John in order that all righteousness might be fulfilled by him
- Was nailed and crucified for us in his physical body under Pontius Pilate and Herod the Tetrarch
- Died in full sight of persons in heaven, on earth, and under the earth

- Was physically and spiritually raised from the dead when his Father raised him up
- Was touched and handled by his disciples after his resurrection. His disciples then saw that he was composed of flesh while being spiritually united with the Father at the same time. For this reason, his disciples also treated death with the same contempt.

He suffered all these things for our sakes so that we might be saved and likewise be raised up from the dead by the Father if we exercise trust in Jesus the Christ.

He has raised up a standard for all ages through his resurrection, to rally together his holy and faithful people whether among Jews or non-Jews, in the one body of the Community of GOD's people.