

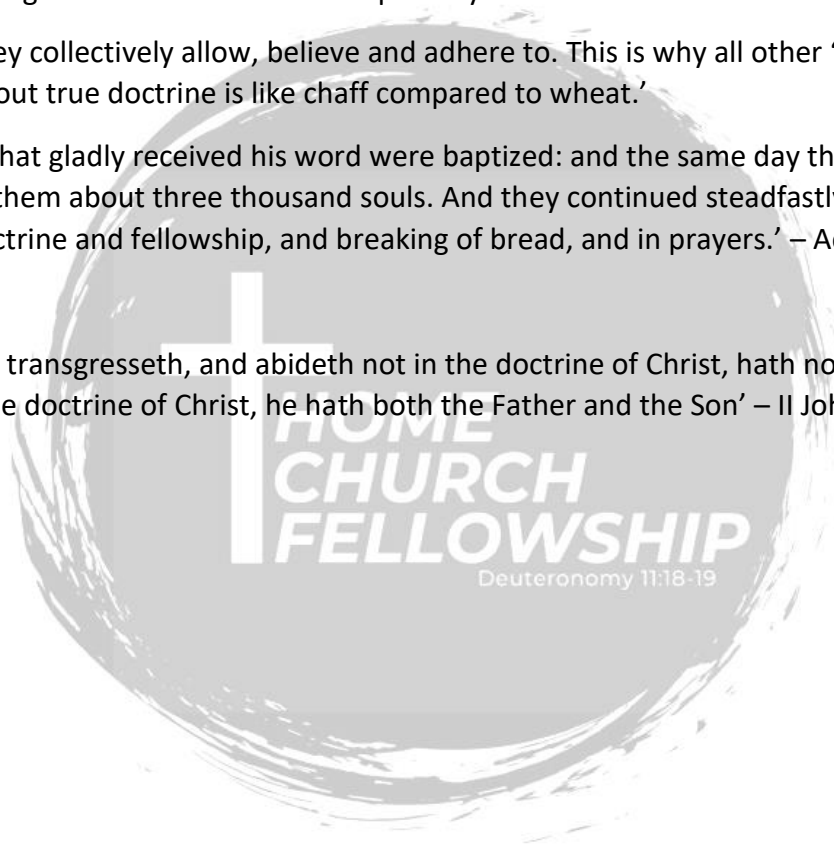
THE DOCTRINES WE BELIEVE AND TEACH

'This false concept that believers can gather together and truly worship the Lord in spirit and truth as a 'Church' without an understanding and devoted commitment to the doctrines of Christ is one of satan's greatest deception.

A disregard or neglect of Christ's doctrines in an attempt to curry Christian fellowship and love is satan's grandstand for false worship. Every Church stands or falls on the basis of the doctrines they collectively allow, believe and adhere to. This is why all other 'Church' activity without true doctrine is like chaff compared to wheat.'

'Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and breaking of bread, and in prayers.' – Acts 2:41, 42

'Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son' – II John 9



Dear Brethren,

The greatest privilege that God has accorded mankind is to have his sin's forgiven and enter into a holy relationship with Him. We must, however, not fail to realise that this relationship requires diligence on our path to understand and adhere to the fundamental teachings (doctrines) of Christ. True Christian fellowship is based on the doctrines of our Lord and Saviour.

Jesus Christ told the disciples in John 8:31 **'If you continue in my word then are you my disciples indeed'**. He clearly made it known to them that fellowship with Him is predicated on a wholehearted acceptance of the doctrines laid down by Him. Man's unfortunate attempt to achieve Christian fellowship and unity without Christ's doctrinal standards is both deceitful and inspired by none other than satan.

Those who refused to lovingly and reverently submit to the teachings of Christ had no fellowship with Him during His earthly ministry. As a result of their refusal to accept His teachings **'Many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him'** - (John 6:66). Jesus never became desperate for fellowship to discard His fundamental teachings.

Present day evangelism does not reflect the 'Great Commission' as laid down by Jesus Christ. A 'touch-and-go' approach to soul winning is not what the 'Great Commission' is about. In Matthew 28:19, the Lord clearly says: **'Go ye therefore and teach...'** and in the next verse He **repeats 'Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...'** Christ's command to the Church is to teach His doctrines to all who claim allegiance to Him. This is the basis of true and enduring Christian fellowship.

The early Church did not practise 'blind-fellowship'. In accordance with Christ's example, admittance into their midst was determined by the people's willingness to align with the Lord's teachings passed down to the Apostles. Instead of allowing fellowship to determine doctrine, it is the doctrine that determined their fellowship (Acts 2: 41, 42).

My sincere prayer for all members, workers and Pastors in this ministry is that you will carefully go through these fundamental teachings of Christ. Study them and allow the Holy Spirit to give you divine understanding.

By virtue of this pamphlet and as the pastor, I publicly affirm before our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ that the doctrines contained therein are what we believe and teach. Our fellowship in Christ is based on these doctrines. Yours in the Service of our King,

Justin Mwanambwa

THE HOLY BIBLE

We believe that the entire Holy Bible is inspired by God and is infallible. **‘All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works’** – (II Timothy 3:16, 17).

The word Inspiration" is a translation of Greek ‘theopneustos’ derived from two Greek words;

(1). theos = "God"

(2). pneo = "to blow, to breathe"

We believe that the Holy Bible is the only source of true revelation from God to mankind. The Holy Bible consists of 66 books in the Old and New Testaments. The Old Testament has 39 books and the New Testament has 27 books. They are namely;

OLD TESTAMENT:

(1.) Genesis (2.)Exodus (3.)Leviticus (4.)Numbers (5.)Deuteronomy (6.) Joshua (7.)Judges (8.) Ruth (9.) 1 Samuel (10.) 2 Samuel (11.) 1 Kings (12.) 2 Kings (13.) 1 Chronicles (14.) 2 Chronicles (15.) Ezra (16.) Nehemiah (17.) Esther (18.) Job (19.)Psalms (20.)Proverbs (21.) Ecclesiastes (22.) Song of Solomon (23.) Isaiah (24.)Jeremiah (25.) Lamentations(26.) Ezekiel (27.) Daniel(28.)Hosea (29.) Joel (30.) Amos (31.) Obadiah (32.) Jonah(33.) Micah (34.) Nahum (35.)Habakkuk (36.)Zephaniah (37.) Haggai (38.) Zechariah (39.) Malachi

NEW TESTAMENT:

(40.)Matthew (41.) Mark (42.) Luke (43.) John(44.)Acts(45.)Romans (46.)1 Corinthians (47.) 2 Corinthians (48.)Galatians (49.)Ephesians (50.)Philippians (51.)Colossians (52.)1 Thessalonians (53.) 2 Thessalonians (54.)1 Timothy(55.) 2 Timothy (56.) Titus(57.) Philemon (58.)Hebrews(59.) James (60.) 1 Peter (61.) 2 Peter (62.) 1 John (63.) 2 John (64.) 3 John (65.) Jude (66.) Revelation

We believe the above books represent the Canon of Scripture.

We do not accept the following books as Canon of Scripture:

- Tobit, Judith
- 1 and 2 Maccabees
- Ecclesiasticus (Sirach)
- Baruch
- Wisdom of Solomon Included by Roman Catholic in 1546

- The Book of Mormon
- The Book of Abraham Introduced by the Mormons
- The Doctrine and Covenants
- The Pearl of Great Price
- Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures – Introduced by Christian Science

‘For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.’ - (Revelation 22:18,19).

THE TRINITY (GODHEAD)

God is triune in nature consisting of three separate, distinct, personalities, yet perfectly united in one. We believe the Scripture is very clear that God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are different Persons in the Godhead and not just three names or manifestations for one Person.

The Father is called God in I Corinthians 8:6, The Son (Jesus Christ) is called God in John 20: 27 – 29 and Hebrews 1:6 – 9 (Who the angels also worship), the Holy Spirit is called God in Acts 5: 3, 4.

God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are described as different personalities yet one God in both Matthew 28:19 and II Corinthians 13:14. Scripture also says in Deuteronomy 6:4, **‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord:’** Scripture is very clear that all three (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) have the attributes of God.

THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF JESUS

Jesus was born of a virgin as prophesied in the book of Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 7:14). This cardinal doctrine is very important because it points to the Deity of Jesus Christ. The only way Jesus Christ, being God, could come into this world was by incarnation and that through the virgin birth. The virgin birth is the only means by which the Holy One could come into the world spotless without the inherited depravity of Adam. It is this unique nature of Jesus Christ that ‘qualifies’ Him to be the spotless Lamb of God as prophesied in Scripture.

God the Father was the first to herald the virgin birth of Jesus Christ in Genesis 3:15 **'And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed (notice not the seed of a man); it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.'**

If Jesus Christ was not born of a virgin, He would have inherited man's iniquitous nature and this would have automatically disqualified Him as the Saviour. It is not possible for sinners to be saved by another 'man' born of the same sinful nature.

In Galatians 4:4 we are told: **'But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,'**. Notice it says **'made of a woman'** and not of a man, this is a similar statement to the one God made in Genesis 3:15. This simply points to the truth that Jesus Christ's birth was without the involvement of man's seed, but rather, the seed of God (the Holy Spirit).

'Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God (not the son of Joseph).' – Luke 1:34, 35

A denial of the virgin birth of Jesus Christ also repudiates His pre-existence. If Jesus Christ was not born of a virgin then it means His existence only began when He was conceived in the womb (invariably meaning He is not God). Such an assertion does not align with truth as we are told otherwise in Micah 5:2 that the Lord pre-existed from everlasting past.

REPENTANCE

Repentance is a 'sincere turning away of heart and mind from sin'. Repentance produces such deep sorrow for one's past sinful life that it leads to a change of attitude towards sin. It is not possible to manifest genuine faith for salvation without repentance. The Lord Jesus Christ said: 'Repent ye, and believe the gospel' (Mark 1: 15). John the Baptist said: 'Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand' (Matthew 3:2).

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, on the day of Pentecost told his audience to repent (Acts 2:38). Paul the Apostle said the message of repentance was fundamental throughout his missionary journeys and Church planting.

'And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, REPENTANCE toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.'—Acts 20: 20, 21

The central mission of Jesus Christ is not to heal, deliver or bless indiscriminately but to call sinners to repentance (Matthew 9:13) in order to have them ready for the coming Kingdom. There are many people in the Bible Jesus condemned for not repenting even though they received miracles from Him (Matthew 11:20 – 24). It is repentance that causes angels to rejoice in the presence of God the Father.

‘Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth’- Luke 15:10. God demands a complete turning of heart away from all sins in order to truly manifest saving faith in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The last message Christ gave the Church was ‘Repent’: **‘As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.’** – Revelation 3:19.

Solomon by the inspiration of God, underscored the importance of repentance: **‘He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy’** (Proverbs 28:13).

RESTITUTION

Most sins are committed not only against God but against our fellowmen too. Consequently, as we reconcile with God through genuine repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, God demands that we make amends for offences committed to our fellowmen. Restitution includes restoring stolen items to their rightful owner, paying back that which was fraudulently acquired, apologising to those who, by our actions, have been hurt.

We cannot truly shine the light of Christ if our wrong doings to others have not been addressed. It is therefore essential that after one has settled with God, offences towards man are also addressed lest the doctrine of God be blasphemed. The truly repentant is told to restore that which he has stolen in Ezekiel 33:14-16. The word of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ says likewise:

‘Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift’ – Matthew 5:23, 24. The Bible admonishes, through Paul the apostle to always have a conscience void of offence towards God and man - Acts 24:16.

JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

Justification is a divine act of God, whereby He declares the believer to be righteous and just before Him. The believer’s union with Christ is the basis for God’s declaration of our justness and righteousness in His sight. We are justified by faith because God sees the believer through the ‘lenses’ of Christ’s own righteousness who lived a sinless life and died as a substitute for our own sins. Romans 4:25 says: **‘Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.’**

Having been forgiven, washed and regenerated we now stand before God as though we had never sinned because of Christ's own righteousness transferred to our account. This righteousness is spotless and has never been tainted with sin, being the righteousness of Christ. It is through the righteousness of Christ that all who believe receive justification.

'Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.' - Romans 5:18

Man can never be justified by his own works, for all our self-made righteousness is like filthy rags before Him (Isaiah 64:6). The only righteousness that God accepts is that of Jesus Christ. This righteousness has been transferred to our own account and is to be received by faith! This is why Jesus Christ is called **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**' (Jeremiah 23:6).

'Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.' – Galatians 2:16.

WATER BAPTISM

Water Baptism is an important ordinance commanded by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It is a public declaration of an inward experience encountered at salvation. At Water Baptism, one affirms his or her union with Christ as well as disunion with the ways of the flesh, world and satan. Water Baptism is 'symbolic' of what the believer has already experienced inwardly at salvation.

We are meant to be **baptised into Christ first** before being baptised into water. The essence of spiritual baptism (union with Christ) is underscored in Romans 6: 3, 4: **'Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life'**

As laid down by our Saviour, Water Baptism is by immersion and not by sprinkling. "Baptism" is a Greek word which means to be 'fully wet' Baptizo, (bap-tid-zo) make whelmed (i.e. fully wet). Scripture says: 'And when He (Jesus) was baptized, went up straightway out of the water:...' – Matthew 3:16. Infant baptism is nowhere subscribed to in Scripture, as infants do not have the ability to repent nor believe in the Lord Jesus Christ (two important pre-requisites for salvation). Mark 16:16 says: **'He that believeth (infants cannot believe) and is baptised shall be saved'**. According to Matthew 28:19, Water baptism is done in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is the only other ordinance instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ. Believers are commanded to partake of the **Lord's 'body' and 'blood' and 'show the Lord's death till He comes'**.

The Passover, in the Old Testament, was a foreshadow of the Lord's Supper (Exodus 12:1-6, 15,19, 26, 27 and Exodus 13:6,7). The emblems used, as commanded by God, are unleavened bread and the juice of the 'fruit of the vine' (Matthew 26:29).

It is important that those who partake in the Lord's table do so with reverence and are not living in sin or disobedience. Taking the Lord's Supper indiscriminately is considered by God as a very grievous disregard for the Lord's body and blood. We are told that such disregard attracts dire consequences.

'Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep (are dead)'. I Corinthians: 11:27 - 30.

SANCTIFICATION

Sanctification is a divine act of God's grace that purifies the believer's heart and sets him or her apart for God's service. Jesus Christ specifically prayed for the believers' sanctification in John 17:17, He said: **'Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth'**. Sanctification gives the believer a divine release that enables him to love the Lord with all the heart, mind, soul and strength.

This is what God was referring to in **Deuteronomy 30:6 'And the Lord thy God will circumcise thy heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.'**

Sanctification supernaturally draws the believer into greater likeness of Christ. The will of God is that His children are transformed into the image of His dear Son. This is only achieved through the believer's sanctification; **'For both he (Jesus) that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren.'** – Hebrews 2:11

Sanctification opens the floodgates of 'divine love' for God, His Church, His creatures and even our enemies. Sanctification is an experience that leads the believer to total submission to the perfect will of God. All earthly concerns in the heart of the sanctified are easily displaced for heavenly pursuits. Scripture confirms that sanctification is God's will; **'For this is the will of God even your sanctification...'** – I Thessalonians 4:3.

There must be a willingness to consecrate and wholly set ourselves apart to God, if He, in return, is to sanctify us. The Lord has promised to sanctify those who desire and believe Him for the experience; **'And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.'** – I Thessalonians 5:23

HOLY GHOST BAPTISM AND THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

The Holy Ghost baptism is a gift given by God to believers. This gift is also called **‘the promise of the Father’** (Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4, Acts 2:33). This experience is subsequent to salvation. You will notice that those who were baptised in the upper room in Acts Chapter 2 were already believers. The Lord promised the Spirit’s baptism to all true believers. The Holy Ghost baptism is promised severally in Scripture such as Joel 2:28, 29, John 7:37–39 and Luke 24: 49.

The purpose of the Holy Spirit’s Baptism is to equip the believer with power and supernatural abilities for Kingdom service. This is the reason why God told the believers to tarry until they were endued with power from on high. The work of the Gospel cannot be achieved in the strength of man.

MARRIAGE

On the authority of the Word of God, none has the right to divorce and re-marry while the first spouse is still alive, such an action will be a direct transgression of God's word. In spite of modern day views about divorce and re-marriage, Jesus Christ the Lord has made very clear what constitutes as adultery in the eyes of the eternal God:

‘And he saith unto them, whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery’ – Mark 10: 11, 12

God sees both couples as **‘one flesh’** at the point of marriage. God no longer sees them as two different individuals. God, who is the Author of marriage, designed marriage to be two people becoming **‘one flesh’** through a holy matrimony. Once marriage has taken place God no longer sees two separate people but **‘one indivisible flesh’**. **‘And they twain shall be one flesh; so then they are no more twain, but one flesh’** – Mark 10: 8. You can only separate what is two or more but not one.

Many frivolously take the marriage oath as a mere ceremonial activity, but fail to realise that both couples are entering into a life-long contract with not only human beings as witnesses but also God and the host of heaven. An ordinary piece of paper from a civil court, conjured by human government in order to satisfy man’s rebellion, cannot dissolve nor disannul what the eternal God is a witness to!

The Bible categorically confirms in Romans 7: 2, 3 that marriage is binding for life and remarriage is only allowed if one spouse dies:

‘For a woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.’

God hates putting away (Malachi 2:14 – 16) and will bring severe judgement on all adulterers and adulteresses. The sin of adultery is a **'present continuous'** sin for as long as the person(s) concerned live in it. **'Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers GOD WILL JUDGE.** – Hebrews 13: 4.

RAPTURE

The Bible teaches that there will be a sudden **'catching away'** of both the living and dead saints, to be with the Lord forever. This is known as the 'Rapture'. The rapture is taught right from the beginning of the Bible in Genesis. We are told Enoch **'was not; for God took him'**. This means that God caught him away, without dying (Gen. 5:24).

In II Kings 2:11, Elijah had a similar experience. Both experiences serve as a witness and foretaste of what God is going to do on a grander scale when all His saints will be raptured at once.

The rapture of all the saints will take place before the Great Tribulation. Jesus likened His second coming to the days of Noah and Lot. In both cases, Noah and Lot were taking out of the impending destruction before the wrath of God was released. The time of the Great Tribulation is known as 'the wrath of God' and we are told in I Thessalonians 5:9 'For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ'

The rapture will happen suddenly at the twinkling of an eye (I Corinthians 15:51, 52). **'For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord'** – I Thessalonians 4:16, 17. Believers should ensure that they are at all times living right before the Lord.

RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

Both the Old and New Testaments confirm the doctrine of resurrection. **'Resurrection is the action of God whereby those who have died physically have their body restored from whatever state of decay it may have endured since the time of their physical death. Upon the completion of the reassembling process, which is practically instantaneous, the original soul that inhabited that particular body, and which had departed at the point of physical death, is permanently reunited with the resurrected body.'** - John Allen

Scriptures such as Psalm 17:15, Hosea 13:14, Daniel 12:2, Isaiah 26:19, John 5:28, 29 and Matthew 12:42 point to a future resurrection when all who ever lived will be raised. While some will be raised to honour and glory, others will be raised to everlasting shame and contempt.

'Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation' (John 5:28, 29).

Resurrection will not happen to everyone at the same time. The different timings and groups that will be raised are as follows:

Christ's Resurrection I Corinthians 15:20

Resurrection of the Believers (Rapture) - I Thessalonians 4: 13 – 18

Resurrection of the Martyred Tribulation Saints. These are those who missed the Rapture. They will be raised to partake in the millennial reign - Revelation 20: 4, 5

Resurrection of the unjust and unbelievers for the final judgement –

Revelation 20: 5, 12-15

THE GREAT TRIBULATION

The rapture of the saint will usher in the wrath of God called **The Great Tribulation**. It will be a time of unprecedented wrath upon the face of the earth. The Great Tribulation will be a time of global horror and untold suffering at the hands of the one called the anti-Christ. This period is also referred to as the time of Jacob's trouble (Jeremiah 30:7).

Although the terror will centre on Israel, its devastation and doom would be of universal impact. The Great Tribulation serves as God's vengeance against man's wilful rebellion and refusal to willingly submit to His righteousness.

'And the kings of the earth, and great men, and rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?'—Revelation (6:15–17).

Deuteronomy 11:18-19

Other scriptures that speaks about the Great Tribulation are (Matthew 24: 21, 22), (II Thessalonians 2:3-12) and (Daniel 8:23-25).

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST AND HIS MILLENNIAL REIGN

Just as the first coming of Christ was literal so also will His second coming be (there are more prophesies about His second coming than the first!). His first coming was to reach out in love and save mankind from the destruction of sin. His second coming however will be to establish His reign and execute judgement upon the ungodly and those who Christ's Resurrection I Corinthians 15:20 Resurrection of the Believers (Rapture) - I Thessalonians 4: 13 - 18 Resurrection of the Martyred Tribulation Saints. These are those who missed the Rapture. They will be raised to partake in the millennial reign - Revelation 20: 4, 5 Resurrection of the unjust and unbelievers for the final judgement - Revelation 20: 5, 12-15 obey not the gospel (Jude 14, 15). At His second coming, Christ will reign for a thousand years on this present earth and will rule from Jerusalem.

This is in accordance to the prophesy given to David in II Samuel 7:12, **13 'And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his Kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom forever.'**

The millennial reign will be a reign of peace. The whole earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord (Isaiah 11:6-9) during this time. For the period of the millennial reign, satan will be bound for a 1,000 years (Revelation 20: 1 – 3).

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT

The final judgement carried out by God Himself against all sinners that ever lived will take place at The Great White Throne Judgement. Scripture confirms that all sinners will be judged that day according to their works:

'And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things that were written in the books, according to their works.' (Revelation 20:11,12).

Those who rejected the mercy of God offered through Jesus Christ and obeyed not the gospel will be cast into Hell. The devil and his angels will also be cast into hell. - Daniel 12: 2, 3.

HELL

The lake of fire (Hell) is the final abode for all sinners. Those who reject the offer of God's mercy given through Jesus Christ and die in their sins will suffer for eternity. These people do not have their names written in the book of life. **'And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire'** - (Revelation) 20:15.

Hell is the final destination for the rebellious and all who practiced and died in unrighteousness.

Hell was originally prepared for the devil, but the Bible says that all who neglect God's offer of salvation will be included there (Matthew 25:41). Hell was not prepared for mankind but it is mankind that is preparing himself for it. The story about the rich man and Lazarus as told by Jesus is not a parable (parables do not mention real names!) but a reality of what the eternal abode of those who die in their sins will be (Luke 16: 19 – 31).

THE NEW HEAVEN AND THE NEW EARTH

After the Great White Throne Judgement the present earth will pass away and a new Heaven and a new Earth 'where righteousness dwells', made by God will be ushered in.

Apostle Peter confirms this truth: **'Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness'** II Peter 3:13. Nothing unclean or sinful will be there. Also, there will be no curse, pain or sorrow in the new heavens and earth (Revelation 21:1-7; 22:1-5). May the Lord find us faithful to be there in Jesus name – Amen.

EASTER AND CHRISTMAS: PAGAN CEREMONIES

We do not join the world and the institutionalised Church to celebrate 'christened' pagan festivals called **'Easter'** and **'Christmas'**. A very simple and sincere look into the origin and history of both festivals reveal deep rooted paganism, such that should be of great concern to all lovers of Christ and His pure Church.

Easter is a widely known pagan ceremony in honour of the 'Queen of Heaven' that existed hundreds of years ago. 'Easter, as we know it, comes from the ancient pagan festival of Astarte. Also known as Ishtar (pronounced "Easter"). This festival has always been held late in the month of April. It was, in its original form, a celebration of the earth "regenerating" itself after the winter season. The festival involved a celebration of reproduction. For this reason the common symbols of Easter festivities were the rabbit (the same symbol as "Playboy" magazine), and the egg. Both are known for their reproductive abilities.

At the center of attention was Astarte, the female deity. She is known in the Bible as the "queen of heaven" (Jeremiah 7:18; 44:17-25). She is the mother of Tammuz (Ezekiel 8:14) who was also her husband! These perverted rituals would take place at sunrise on Easter morning (Ezekiel 8:13-16). From the references in Jeremiah and Ezekiel, we can see that the true Easter has never had any association with Jesus Christ¹.

Just like Easter the pagan celebrations of Christmas existed hundreds of years before Christ was ever born (Christmas is just a recycled pagan festival with a new name!) In fact, long before Christ was born, December 25th was the most widely recognized and celebrated holiday of ancient times among the idolatrous nations.

'This day was universally recognized and celebrated as the birthday of the sun god, Mithra, who also was known by other names in different parts of the world. **The birthday of other sun gods such as Osiris, Horus, Hercules, Bacchus, Adonis, Jupiter, Tammuz, Saturn, etc., was celebrated on December 25th also.**

Christmas originated with pagan sun worship! Most of our current Christmas customs, such as decorated evergreen trees, lights, holly and mistletoe, exchanging presents, parties and revelry, all were essential elements of this pagan winter solstice'. ²

A High Priestess of a Wiccan coven in Cheshire, Kate West, once said about Christmas:

"We celebrate the rebirth of the **sun, not the son.**"

'Notice! Christianity took over the birthday of the sun god, the cult of the sun, and transformed it into CHRISTMAS DAY, the "birthday" of Yeshua the Messiah! It was in reality the birth day of the pagan sun god, worshipped by millions throughout the Roman Empire. That which was distinctly and definitely pagan now was "baptized," and by some act of "magic" was transformed into something "Christian"! 3

These pagan ceremonies have nothing to do with the Church of Christ. They were never commanded by Christ or His Apostles. Instead of destroying paganism, 'Christianity' adopted it! Both festivals have many overt and covert pagan symbols.

The decoration of the Christmas tree has its origin from Babylon (representing the resurrection of Nimrod!). This was then adopted by the Egyptians, the Romans, the Germans and unfortunately the unsuspecting 'Church'. Yet the Lord says explicitly:

'Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe.

They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne,

1 Dr. Samuel C. Gipp, The Answer Book (1989).

2Dr. Russell K. Tardo, The Shocking Truth About Christmas. p. 3

3 Edited by John D. Keyser, Hope of Israel Ministries

because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good'. – Jeremiah 10: 2 – 5

In as much as we do not judge those outside, we have every duty to ensure that such pagan ceremonies are not in the slightest way allowed into the ministry or among the brethren due to wholesale ignorance!

However, there are some who know this truth, but unfortunately, the hold of tradition and the opinions of men is too strong for them to act in light of the truth they know:

'Thus have you made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, this people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips: but their heart is far from me. But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandment of men.'(Matthew 15:6-9).

Laston Mwamba