

The Christian Witness

Matthew 28:18-20 [NIV] *“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”*

The mission given to the Christian Church is to declare, proclaim and witness to certain great truths which she has received from God, which the world could **not** possibly know unless the Christian Church tells it.

The Church is to teach and the world is to listen.

All who received the witness of the Church are to be baptised and then taught further the mysteries of the Kingdom of God.

This is a spiritual job of work and can only be accomplished by the supernatural spiritual power.

Acts 2:1-4 [NIV] *“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”*

This is how the Christian Church’s witness began and this is how it must continue.

Our part as Christians is to allow the Holy Spirit to fulfil His work in and through us. [**John 16:5-15**]

We confess our sins, ask for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ to cleanse us of the death penalty that our sins have earned us. Then request in faith that some of the righteousness of Jesus Christ our Saviour to be credited to us thus making us acceptable vehicles in the hands of the Holy Spirit.

Then, as we submit to Jesus Christ and seek to obey His words ask for the active indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

[Within this website you will find articles that will clarify each of the above steps.]

We can only fulfil our part in this witness, and overcome the influence of Satan in the lives of people in this world if God is “*real*” through a personal experience in our lives.

Revelation 12:9-11 [NIV] *“The great dragon was hurled down, that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: ‘Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.’”*

Our dedication to this witness is to be so strong that we are willing to face death rather than to stop proclaiming God’s Truth to an unbelieving world.

Our personal testimony is as much a part of this witness as our proclamation of the saving power of the sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God and Son of Man.

Always the world must be on the receiving end of this message.

The Church dogmatically proclaims the Truth and the world listens, this is how it was in the early years of the Christian Church.

Is this still the tone of the Christian Church's witness?

Or has the dogmatic declaration become a respectful suggestion, a word of religion, given with the understanding that it is only an opinion and not meant to sound bigoted?

Jesus Christ is being offered to the world as a "*religious tranquiliser*" who is without sovereignty and without any semblance of Lordship.

I am referring to those Christian fellowships that are entirely ignorant of true spiritual worship [John 4:23], misunderstand the meaning of cross-bearing [Luke 14:27], and the serious implications of discipleship of Jesus Christ.

What is the Christian Church called to declare?

First, that God is the great reality which gives meaning to all other realities in our lives.

Isaiah 43:10-12 [NIV] "*You are my witnesses,' declares the LORD, 'and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me. I, even I, am the LORD, and apart from me there is no saviour. I have revealed and saved and proclaimed, I, and not some foreign god among you. You are my witnesses,' declares the LORD, 'that I am God.'*"

There is **only** one true God, that which the true Christian Church worships and serves.

Acts 4:8-12 [NIV] "*Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: 'Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. He is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone." Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.'*"

Salvation from eternal death is **only** found through Jesus Christ the Son of the One and only Triune God.

The next great fact is that we are made by God for God.

John 1:1-3, 14 [NIV] "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.*" ... "*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*"

All things are made by Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Triune Godhead.

Colossians 1:15-16 [NIV] "*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.*"

All things are made **for** Jesus Christ, that includes every human being.

Colossians 1:17 [NIV] "*He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*"

Jesus Christ sustains all He has created.

Colossians 1:18 [NIV] *“And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.”*

Jesus Christ is the true head of the Christian Church, **not** some human being claiming to be His representative on earth.

Colossians 1:19-22 [NIV] *“For God was pleased to have all his fulness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation,”*

Jesus Christ is fully God and the **only** One who can reconcile us to God the Father.

Science **cannot** answer the questions – “*why did God make me*” and “*where did my life come from?*”

The answers to such questions can **only** come from the Creator God and be revealed to humanity within His Word, the Christian Bible.

Christians are **not** sent by God to argue or persuade, nor are they sent to prove or demonstrate, they are sent to declare “*thus saith the Lord.*”

When Christians have done this God Himself is responsible for the outcome.

No person knows enough and no person can know enough to go beyond this.

God made humans **for** Himself, that is the first and the last thing that can be said about human existence and whatever more we add is but commentary.

Seeing who God is and who we are, a right relationship between God and us is of vital importance.

That God should be glorified in us is of critical importance.

That to bring ourselves, with the help of the Holy Spirit actively working in us, into a place where God is eternally pleased with us should be the first responsible act of every human being.

Isaiah 59:2 [NIV] *“But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.”*

Since sin has cut us off from the presence of God the Father, we **cannot** go to God.

What then can we do?

The answer to this is also found in the Christian witness to the world separated from God.

God came to humanity in the incarnation.

“*Who is Jesus Christ?*” the world asks.

The Church answers, “*Jesus is God come to us.*”

John 1:10-14 [NIV] *“He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

Jesus the Son of God, the Creator of all things became also the human Son of Man, made of flesh with His physical life within the blood of His body as is every human being. [**Genesis 9:4-6**]

Jesus came to the earth in human form, so that He could live a sin-free life, by the Power of God within Him, then give up that perfect life as a substitute sacrifice for our life that can only earn death. [**Romans 6:23**]

Jesus the Son of God and Son of Man made this perfect sacrifice on the cross, effectually and for all time.

“Where is Jesus Christ now?” the world asks.

The Christian Church replies, “at the right hand of God the Father.”

Romans 8:34 [NIV] “Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died, more than that, who was raised to life, is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.”

This we as Christians are to declare with all bold dogmatism of those who know, who have been there and experienced the risen Jesus Christ beyond the possibility of a doubt.

The Christian message to the world must also be one of sin, righteousness and judgement.

John 16:7-8 [NIV] “But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:”

This is the work that the “Counsellor,” that is the Holy Spirit, is longing to do through us as Christians, the servants of Jesus Christ.

The true Christian must **not** accept in any measure the world’s moral code, but stand boldly to oppose it and warn of the consequences of following it.

Isaiah 58:1 [King James] “Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.”

This must be done loudly and persistently by a true Christian, meanwhile taking great care that they themselves walk circumspectly that no flaw may be found in their life to give a lie to their testimony. [**Ephesians 5:15; Colossians 2:6-7**]

The Christian witness must include also the faithful warning that God is a just and holy Being who will not trifle with people nor allow them to trifle with Him.

God is long-suffering and waits patiently to be gracious, but after a while the friendly invitation of the Gospel Message will be withdrawn.

Jeremiah 15:6 [NIV] “‘You have rejected me,’ declares the LORD. ‘You keep on backsliding. So I will lay hands on you and destroy you; I can no longer show compassion.’”

The effort to persuade the incorrigible sinner is discontinued.

Death fixes the status of a person who loves their sins and they are sent to a place of the rejected where there is **no** further hope.

Revelation 20:11-13 [NIV] “Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.”

Every human being who has ever existed will be given the opportunity to know Jesus Christ as their Saviour and the Christian Bible [*“and books were opened”*] is opened up to them, to accept or to reject.

Becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ will then place their name in the *“book of life.”* [**Philippians 4:3; Revelation 3:5-6**]

Revelation 22:12-15 [NIV] *“Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Out side are the dogs, those who practise magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practises falsehood.”*

Nothing that is evil will be allowed in the presence of the Holy God to corrupt or harm any who have been faithful to Him.

Revelation 21:7-8 [NIV] *“He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practise magic arts, the idolaters and all liars, their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulphur. This is the second death.”*

This is the end of all those who are listed here and in **Revelation 22:15**.

It is the work of the Church and every true Christian to continue to repeat this **full** message from their Creator God.

A message that includes sin, salvation and judgement.