

Hi brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus our Lord. I've recently been mediating on the gospel and the church in light of current events. This is an open letter to encourage His church on in the unity of the faith in these hard times to please Him.

I have lived long enough (74 now) to see movements come and go. And while many movements have some cause and truth in them, their methods and general beliefs have been different than Scripture. Because the human race is fallen, all cultures have defects in them. Paul noted by the Holy Spirit, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons," Titus1:12, and claimed it was true, :13. In today's climate he and the Lord's Scriptures would be called racist.

North America is currently under God's present wrath and is in phase 3, Romans 1:18-32. And God, by not intervening to stop their digression, is allowing them to experience the natural consequences of their much sinning. And in this context, He shows the gospel of Christ is the **only** solution for man under His wrath. (Lord willing, will write more on the phases of this wrath in the July Bible Thoughts).

The Lord Jesus did not personally choose His skin color. His Father did. It was prophesied in Scripture He would be born of David's royal line. He came to fulfill all Scripture, Matt. 26:52-54, and thus was born a Jew of a virgin – born to fulfill His Father's will, prophecy and plan. Interestingly, the Jewish nation is one people who have a variety of shades to their skin from white to darker shades. Semites come in many different colors. Just look at modern day Israel. Most nationalities have one distinct color that identifies them - not Israel.

The Lord Jesus was born into the most privileged people of His day; Jewish Israel. Only they could be priests at His temple. Only they had a covenant relationship with Him. The rest of the peoples were strangers to the covenants of promise. Yet He would use that privilege to accomplish the gospel of grace for the whole world in fulfilling the Jewish prophets. Our world shows that some are more privileged than others in a society - the poor, we have with us always taught our Lord. But we as believers can use that privilege - if we have such - to further the saving gospel which brings all believing nationalities and classes into eternal riches.

I think of how the Lord Jesus reacted to all the governmental injustices done to Him then. He did not try to overthrow or defund them (that's for a future day when the kingdom comes). He told unjust government His kingdom was not of this world and that's why His servants don't fight now, John 18:36. But when He was reviled, He reviled not again but committed Himself to God that judges righteously, and no guile came out of His mouth, 1Peter, 2:22-23 – and that is the

exact example we Christians are to follow, 2:21. And the apostles followed this pattern and encouraged the true church to do so, too. They stuck to the gospel that saves from sin (something far deeper than skin).

How can we recognize the source of a philosophy (wisdom) today? James will tell us in chapter 3. Philosophies that promote jealousies of other people and selfish ambition are earthly, unspiritual and demonic in origin – and result in every evil work and confusion. But the wisdom from above (God) is pure, peaceable, gentle, open to reason and full of mercy with good fruits and impartiality to make peace.

Who does the Lord personally identify with today? 2 Cor. 5:16 teaches we no longer know Christ after the flesh, but we believers are a new creation in Christ, 5:17 - a spiritual race if you will. We are His body. So, what does His body look like now? What color is His body now? The answer of course is all colors, classes, gender, and statuses – for all believers from all nationalities are His body where there is neither Jew nor Greek, bond nor free, etc. The common factor is Christ in us – Spirit not skin is our identifying factor, Col. 3:11.

While there are many nationalities there is only *one* race of one blood and it's in Adam and is spiritually dead in sin, Acts 17:26, Eph. 2:1. The other race is the spiritual race of those who are born by His Spirit and in Christ Jesus, and are spiritually alive – the children of God, the true church, 1Cor. 15:22, Rom. 8:16.

And this is the people that the Lord Jesus Christ identifies personally with today – people who have repented of their sin and have bowed the knee to Jesus Christ as Lord – His body, the church, which is the fulness of Him, Eph. 1:23. And it is this church that He emancipates (frees) from its burden of sin and eternal judgment. On the cross the Lord, in love, was made sin for us so we could be righteous, 2Cor. 5:21.

We can sympathize (and do good and pray for all men) with those who suffer wrongly at times – as Christ and Christians did and do suffer wrongfully at times also. But our agenda is the gospel that looks at all nationalities as sinners and that salvation is the only answer. This gospel of God, without discrimination, makes all believers equally blessed as Christ's church. And to His church is where our energy goes. We are to *pray* (not fight) for government which God has ordained for law and order, Rom. 13, no matter what persuasion it is, that we the church can live peaceful and godly lives in a climate that promotes God who wants all men to be saved and know the truth through His one mediator, Christ Jesus, 1Tim. 2:1-5.

“Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things,” 2Tim. 2:7.