

ECHO OF HIS CALL



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16 Languages

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Vol. XXVIII

YEAR OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, MARCH 2021

No. 4

PRAISE THE LORD!!



THE HOLY BIBLE

Please memorize this portion

PSALM 45:1-10

1. MY heart is overflowing with a good theme; I recite my composition concerning the King; my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.
2. You are fairer than the sons of men; grace is poured upon Your lips; therefore God has blessed You forever.
3. Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O Mighty One, with Your glory and Your majesty.
4. And in Your majesty ride prosperously because of truth, humility, and righteousness; and Your right hand shall teach You awesome things.
5. Your arrows are sharp in the heart of the King's enemies; the peoples fall under You.
6. Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.
7. You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.
8. All Your garments are scented with myrrh and aloes and cassia, out of the ivory palaces, by which they have made You glad.
9. Kings' daughters are among Your honorable women; at Your right hand stands the queen in gold from Ophir.
10. Listen, O daughter, consider and incline your ear; forget your own people also, and your father's house;

“Repent!”
for the Kingdom of *Heaven* is at hand!!

Whatever happened to repentance you rarely hear the word mentioned in most churches today – even in Baptist, Pentecostal or Evangelical circles. Pastors nowadays seldom call for their congregations to sorrow over sin - to mourn and grieve over wounding Christ by their wickedness.

Instead, the message we hear from many pulpits today is, “Just believe. Accept Christ, and you'll be saved”. The text used to justify this message is Acts 16:25-30.

In this passage, when apostle Paul was put in jail all of a sudden the earth shook and all the cell doors opened. The jailer immediately thought all the prisoners had fled, which meant he faced execution. In despair, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself. On seeing this Paul and Silas stopped him, saying all were there.

Seeing this, the man fell down before the Apostles and cried out, “...Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said. “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house” (Acts 16:30-31).

As we read in this passage, it's important to remember that the jailer was on the verge of suicide, with sword in hand. He was already at a point of repentance – on his knees, broken and trembling, before the apostles. So his heart was truly prepared to accept Jesus Christ in genuine faith.

In the gospel of Mark, Christ tells his disciples, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:16). It's clear from what Jesus says here, that salvation is found in simply accepting him and being baptized.

...Contd to page 3



ECHO OF HIS CALL 1969-2019 GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR

OUR MISSION POLICY

We should expound and teach the contemporary generation the undiluted teachings of the ancient and early Apostles. It is the need of the hour.

“Fear not, for I am with you;...”
Isaiah 43:5



from Editors...

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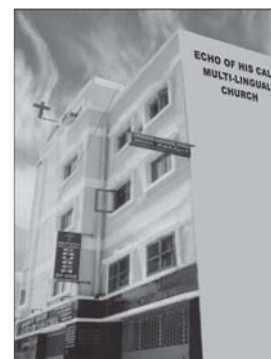
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Dearly beloved brothers and sisters in the Lord,

Much love to you in the sweet name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We do hope that you have been enjoying the protection of our Lord Jesus Christ all these days of uncertainty. We continuously pray for you.

Of late after the attack of COVID-19, the whole worldly systems are collapsed. The spiritual system of common people is also damaged severely. People have become more selfish, greedy and unspiritual, and under great fear due to the insecurity of life. Since the Corona Pandemic has affected the lives of so many, now people have started to feel that there is a supreme power which controls the whole system of the whole world.

So this is the right time for the children of the Lord God Jesus Christ to pray for the people of this whole world so that they may know that Jesus Christ is the Lord God. It should be our sincere desire and prayer that the whole Gospel should be brought into reality in the lives of mankind in all the countries of the world. The whole Church should take the whole Gospel to the whole World. Paul declares in Romans 15:19 **“... from Jerusalem and round about to**

Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ”. And in 2 Corinthians 7:1 **“Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God”**.

Focused so, our ministries should not be towards only a particular group of people or preaching the Gospel in an imperfect manner. The whole Gospel is, Repentance from dead works, Faith toward God, Doctrines of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead and of eternal judgement. Hebrews 6:1,2 **“Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment”**.

We are highly burdened about the millions of people who have not yet heard the name the living Saviour Jesus Christ, and for their salvation. Now-a-days the Lord God is pressurising us to know the terribleness of His final judgment towards the people of

Our Ministries: ✪ ECHO OF HIS CALL Monthly Magazines (16 languages) ✪ BIBLECOR - Postal Courses (3 languages)
✪ Theological Correspondence Courses (2 languages) ✪ Church Planting ✪ Nehemiah Bible Colleges ✪ Gospel Printing Press
✪ Great Commission Partners ✪ St. Paul's Matriculation School ✪ Crusades ✪ Community Development

the whole world and the consequences of a Christless Life in this whole World.

Having these in our heart, we work hard towards eternal aspects, since people especially so called believers of the Lord Jesus Christ are not giving any importance to the eternal life of the people of this perishing world. Having the oncoming judgment of God to the people of God, we are trying to disseminate the Gospel to all people of this world, inspite of great unfavourable forces. We try to motivate our State Co-ordinators, Associate Editors, Co-ordinators, etc., to speed up their activities for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Because of this situation the people who have been called to support are losing their responsibility and backsliding from supporting, the real ministries like **Echo of His Call**, we are facing financial difficulties one side and pressure of the unspeakable

worldly systems and administrations on the other side. We cannot mention everything here.

So, our dear friends, finally pray for us, during these tough times. We need your prayer and helping hands.

Your servants in Christ Jesus,
PR. SAM SELVA RAJ.

URGENT

We need a **Hindi knowing Theologian** to handle the post of **Warden** in our **Nehemiah Bible College** at Chennai. Salary, Boarding & Lodging will be provided. Please Contact:

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...Contd from page 1

However, Jesus prefaces His statement with this word: **“...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature”** (Mark 16:15). He's saying, in essence, that before people can believe in Him, the gospel must first be preached to them. And what is this gospel Jesus refers to? It's the gospel that Jesus Himself preached – the gospel of repentance!

Think about it – what was the first message Jesus delivered, after He emerged from the temptation in the wilderness? Scripture says, “From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17).

Jesus called people to repent before he even called them to believe! Mark writes, “...Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God”, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel”

(Mark 1:14-15). Christ preached, “Repent first – and believe”. Elsewhere Jesus says of His mission, “...I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Matthew 9:13). And He told the Galilans, “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3).

Jesus' gospel was all about repentance!

JOHN THE BAPTIST ALSO PREACHED REPENTANCE, TO PREPARE ISRAEL FOR THE COMING OF CHRIST!

John's message to the Jews was simple and straightforward: “In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, “Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 3:1-2). People came from everywhere to hear John. And he told them in no uncertain terms: “The Messiah is soon to appear in your midst – so, you'd better get ready to meet Him! You may feel excited that He's coming. But I'm telling you, your hearts are not

prepared – because you're still holding onto your sins! “Outside you appear clean and holy. But inside, you're full of dead men's bones! You're a generation of vipers, snakes, with absolutely no fear of God. Yet you have no concept that you're even sinners. I warn you – you must deal with your sin before you can believe on the Savior and follow Him”.

So, repent, turn from your sin – and live in a way that reflects genuine change! What gospel did Peter preach to the masses on the day of Pentecost? The Bible tells us that when the people heard the apostle testify, “...they were pricked in their heart, and said... Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:37-38).

Peter didn't tell these people just to “believe and be saved”. He didn't ask them to merely make a

decision, to cast a vote for Jesus. No – he told them to repent first, and then be baptized in obedience to Christ! What gospel did Paul preach to the pagan Athenians on Mars Hill? He told them very directly, “...God...now commands all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30).

These Greek intellectuals had no trouble believing in God. In fact, you could say their very pastime was “believing”. They believed in many Gods – first this one, then that one. Whenever someone came along preaching a god persuasively, they believed in it. So, they believed – but they did it while living in sin. Simple belief wasn't enough!

Paul told these men, “No, no – that's not Christ! Jesus can't simply be added to your list of Gods. You may believe in them all, but you can't merely do that with Jesus. He has come to save you from your sins. And He commands all his followers to repent and be cleansed!” Later, Paul preached the same gospel of repentance to King Agrippa, he said “...**I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:** but shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance” (Acts 26:19-20).

Paul is saying, “Every where I've been, I've preached repentance. And genuine repentance proves itself by its actions!” These passages make clear to us that the apostolic church preached unabashedly the same gospel John and Jesus preached: “Repent for the remission of your sin!”

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO REPENT?

Some Christians believe repentance means simply to “turn around” and go in the opposite direction. But the Bible tells us repentance is much more than this. I once heard a man saying, “I'm so glad I know New Testament Greek. It translates the word 'repent' as meaning, 'to change one's mind”.

No – this man doesn't know his Greek! The full, literal meaning of the word “repent” in the New Testament is “to feel remorse and self-reproach for one's sins against God; to be contrite, sorry; to want to change direction. “The difference in meaning here rests on the word “want”. True repentance includes a desire to change! Moreover, simply being sorry doesn't constitute repentance. Rather, true sorrow leads to repentance. Paul states, “Godly sorrow works repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world works death” (2 Corinthians 7:10).

Paul is speaking here of a sorrow that's without regrets – one that's genuine, that “sticks” in the life of the repentant person. This kind of godly sorrow naturally produces a repentance that includes a hatred for sin, a righteous fear of God and a desire to right all wrongs.

It shouldn't surprise us, then, that Paul, preached repentance to believers. He delivered a strong message of repentance to the Christians in Corinth. The Corinthian believers had been richly blessed by God, having sat under mighty teachers of the Word. Yet their congregation remained rip with sin.

First Paul testifies to the Corinthians, “Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and might deeds” (2 Corinthians 12:12). But then Paul tells them very directly: “I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would...” (2 Corinthians 12:20). What was Paul's fear? It was simply this: “Lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed” (2 Corinthians 12:21).

This tenderhearted shepherd loved the compromising saints in Corinth. Yet he knows they have been well taught that a life style of gross sin was wrong. And he told them, “When I come to visit

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Statement about ownership and other particulars about the Newspaper Echo of His Call (English) - Form IV (See Rule 8)

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I S. Sam Selva Raj, hereby that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

March 2021

S. Sam Selva Raj.



GREAT COMMISSION PARTNERS

TO SHARE (Galatians 6:2),

SUPPORT (Romans 12:13)

SPEED UP (II Timothy 1:6)

PRAISE & PRAYER POINTS - From 2021 March 19 To April 18

(Please take this sheet out, fold it and keep it in your Bible and pray continuously)



POINTS FOR PRAISE

- March 19:** God has blessed our Main Church Ministerial activities being conducted last month.
- March 20:** God blessed to include Manipuri language in our **ECHO OF HIS CALL** publication newly.
- March 21:** Let us praise God for blessing our **BIBLE COR** and Theological Correspondence Courses.
- March 22:** God blessed our **ECHO OF HIS CALL** Ministries in the last Month.
- March 23:** For our Prayer Partners, Subscribing Partners, Faith Partners & Life Partners and Great Commission Partners and their families, we praise God our Lord.
- March 24:** Let us praise God for having blessed new believers with anointing into our Church.
- March 25:** Praised be the Lord for gifting us the State Co-ordinators and their families.
- March 26:** Gratefully we praise God for having blessed our ministerial travelling.
- March 27:** Let us praise God for the benefits of our Associate Editors and their families.
- March 28:** Let us praise God for blessing our Printing Press and the 17 language publications printing and being sent to the mission fields.
- March 29:** God blessed our online classes in the St. Paul's Matriculation School.
- March 30:** We wholly praise God for blessing our St. Paul's Matriculation School's teachers and staff.
- March 31:** Let us praise God for blessing our livelihoods safer in the midst of COVID-19 during the year 2020.
- April 01:** God blessed all the activities of our **Echo of His Call Ministries** during the COVID-19 period.
- April 02:** Let us praise God for our Main Church Services being conducted regularly again.

April 03: God our Lord is safeguarding our Senior **Pastor S. Sam Selva Raj** and his family from all evil dominions.

POINTS FOR PRAYER

- April 04:** We pray to God to bless the friends and believers that we had met during the year 2020.
- April 05:** Let us pray towards the Lord for blessing the Gospel Printing Press.
- April 06:** To commit into prayers for unity among all religions.
- April 07:** To earnestly pray for integrity among all nations towards God.
- April 08:** Let us humbly pray to God for all drug addicts, for getting relieved of.
- April 09:** Let us pray for our Manipuri language Associate Editor, Rev. Dr. Rishikanta Sorokhaibam and his family.
- April 10:** Let us pray for our English Associate Editor, **Bro. M. Paulraj** to get healed wholly and lead peaceful life.
- April 11:** To commit into prayers for the sooner eradication of Corona Virus from the World.
- April 12:** Let us pray to God for the benefit of our Organization, all staff and their families.
- April 13:** Pray for this year's expenditure and God's hand on it.
- April 14:** To pray for our North India's Missionaries and their benevolence.
- April 15:** Pray towards God for keeping our Gospel Press safe and neat.
- April 16:** For praying in for all missionaries and believers stand united in the ministry.
- April 17:** To pray for the expansion of our Ministries in every ways and measures.
- April 18:** Commit into prayers for the safer living of our Senior **Pastor S. Sam Selva Raj** and his family members from all sorts of evil forces.

... Contd from page 4

you, you're going to see me hanging my head in grief. My eyes will flow with tears, and my voice will wail in sorrow. "If I see you continuing to indulge in uncleanness, fornication and lust, I'll be utterly broken - because the gospel has not done its work in your heart. You haven't yet repented of your sin. And I will call you loudly to repent!"

THESE WORDS OF PAUL PUT ME TO SHAME!

As I read Paul's words, I find myself examining my own ministry. And I have to ask, "Have I cut short the gospel Jesus preached - the gospel of repentance? Have I essentially taken scissors to my Bible and removed the higher cost of following Christ? Have I lowered His standard by telling people, 'Just believe and be saved?'"

As I took at the church to day, I wonder: Do we, evangelists insist on a biblical "Godly sorrow" as evidence of true repentance? Or are we leading masses of unrepentant people into a false peace? Are we wrongly instructing them that all God requires of them is to say, "I believe in you, Jesus"? Have we cut short genuine conviction for sins? Have we jumped in and offered salvation to those who haven't actually repented who haven't sorrowed over their trespasses, who haven't seen the exceeding sinfulness of their sins, who have sought faith so they could merely hide their lusts behind it?

We constantly hear awful exaggerations about the number of people who come to Jesus through various ministries. Christians report that scores of people were saved as

they preached in prisons, schools, tribal meetings. They say, "Everybody in the place gave his heart to Jesus. When I finished preaching, they all came forward for salvation".

No, that is a tragic exaggeration! All too often, what actually happens is that everyone simply repeats a prayer. They merely pray what they're told to pray - and few of them grasp what they're saying. Then most go back to their heathen ways! Such people never experience a deep work of the Holy Spirit. As a result, they never repent, never sorrow over their sins and never truly believe. Tragically, we've offered them something Jesus Himself never offered salvation without repentance!

I believe the church has even taken the feeling out of conviction. Think about it - you hardly ever see tears on the cheeks of those who are being saved any more. Of course, I know tears don't save anyone. But God made us all human, with very real feelings. And any hell bound sinner who has been moved upon by the Holy Spirit naturally feels a profound sorrow over the ways he has grieved the Lord.

The apostle Peter felt this kind of godly sorrow, when he denied Jesus. Suddenly, he was

flooded with the memory of what Jesus had told him: "Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept" (Mark 14:72). As Peter remembered these words, he was overcome with emotion.

Beloved, we simply cannot work up that kind of repentance in our own flesh. Only the Holy Spirit can reveal to us how, like Peter, we also have wounded our loving Savior. And that revelation ought to fill us with deep sorrow! I don't agree with all of the Puritan writers' doctrine, but I love their emphasis on holiness. These godly preachers called their sermons "deep ploughing". They believed, they couldn't sow true seeds of faith until the soil of their listeners' hearts had been deeply plowed.

So, the Puritans made sure their preaching went deep, cracking all the fallow ground of their listener's souls. Their sermons produced genuine repentance in their congregation. And, in turn, over the years this produced strong, mature, faithful Christians, as John Milton, the famous poet. Today, however, most preaching is all sowing with no plowing. I hear very few sermons nowadays that dig deeper than the topsoil. Deep

A Loving Request

As you all know we are hard-pressed to meet several needs like the salary of the staff, expenses for the purchase of paper and also the travel expenses. Generally we never ask others to meet our financial needs. But we request those who truly love this ministry to send their offerings through **Money Orders, Cheque or Demand Draft, PhonePe, NEFT** or through any other methods and support us in this Ministry. The Lord will surely bless you. For details call: +91 98412 71858 / 98410 71858

- Editor, Echo of His Call

plowing doesn't just address the disease of sin; it digs down to the very cause of the disease.

Much of the preaching we hear today focuses on the remedy while ignoring the disease. It offers a prescription without providing surgery!

Sadly, we cause people to think they've been healed of sin when they never knew they were sick. We put robes of righteousness on them when they never knew they were naked. We urge them to trust in Christ when they don't even know their need to trust. Such people end up thinking, "it can't hurt to add Jesus to my life". C.H. Spurgeon, the powerful English preacher, said the following about the need for repentance:

"I trust that sorrowful penitence does still exist, though I have not heard much about it lately. People seem to jump into faith very quickly nowadays... I hope my old friend, repentance is not dead. I am desperately in love with repentance; it seems to be the twin sister of faith. "I understand myself much about dry eyed faith; I know that I came to Christ by the way of weeping - cross... When I came to Calvary by faith, it was with great weeping and supplication, confessing my transgressions, and desiring to find salvation in Jesus, and in Jesus only".

WHEN OUR CHURCH WAS FOUNDED, WE, PASTORS PREACHED THE LAW FOR THE FIRST FEW YEARS

Why did we preach the law for so long in our church? We did it because many in our congregation were calling themselves Christians -yet their lives didn't reflect it! In those early years, many people

came forward to altar at the end of every service. They repeated a pastoral prayer and "accepted salvation by faith". Yet, most of those people never felt any conviction for their sin. They didn't experience godly sorrow - and so their lives didn't reveal true repentance.

Supposedly repentant theater actors professed Christ on Sunday but went back to their blasphemous shows during the week. Homosexuals prayed for salvation, but still indulged in their sinful lifestyle. Others confessed Jesus at our altar yet continued their adulterous affairs, fornication or drug use. This is why we thundered conviction from our pulpit! The Holy Ghost led our pastoral team to expose all sin, rebellion and disobedience to His word. We preached hell so hot, people got up and left our services. And we preached heaven so real, compromisers trembled at the awesome reality of Christ's holiness.

Our preaching of the law was absolutely necessary at that time. It is God's mirror, revealing every hidden, secret thing. And it brought the people in our congregation to an awareness of the exceeding sinfulness of sin. While some people ran out, others ran forward in genuine repentance. One of these was a booming voiced actor named David Davis. He surrendered all to Jesus in true repentance. And today, he and his wife pastor run a thriving church in Israel, where they've preached Christ for almost ten years.

While the true work of repentance was accomplishing its purpose in our church, the Holy

Spirit then led us to preach the glory of grace. We taught on the New Covenant, on power over sin through the Holy Spirit, on walking by faith. In short, we began to build up the saints. Through that whole experience, we also discovered the dangers of preaching only the law and focusing primarily on sin. If people are given a steady diet of this message alone, they begin to lose hope and wallow in despair thinking, "I'll never measure up". They constantly turn inward rather than looking at the cross for hope.

Yet when a church is the Lord's it can trust God's Spirit to bring the message of the law whenever it's needed. If Jesus sees His people lapsing into an "easy believism", He'll once again bring the lash of the law upon them, with all mercy and grace. You see, repentance isn't a one-time experience. It's not some hurricane that strikes once and then is gone forever. Nor do we experience repentance only in a moment of crisis, and then merely talk about it the rest of our lives. No sorrow for sin should be our constant teacher!

Spurgeon testified, "I freely confess that I have a very much greater sorrow for sin today than I had when I came to the Savior more than thirty years ago. I hate sin more intensely now than I did when I was under conviction: There are some things that I did not know to be sin then that I know to be sin now. I have a much keener sense of the vileness of my own heart now than when I first came to Christ. "Sorrow for sin is a perpetual rain, a sweet, soft shower, which to truly saved man lasts all his life long. He is always sorrowful that he has sinned. He will never stop grieving until all sin has gone".

JESUS SAID SOMETHING TO THE CHURCH IN EPHESUS THAT CAUSES ME TO TREMBLE!

You may remember the seven churches that John mentions in Revelation 2. Among them is the church of Ephesus a congregation Jesus commends very highly. I like to think of our church as being like the Ephesian church. That body of believers labored in one of the world's most populous cities, never fainting in the midst of vile wickedness. The people lived sacrificially, hated sin and refused to accept false doctrines. They stood strong in faith, loving God with all their heart no matter what temptations satan threw at them.

Yet Christ knew something was amiss among these people. And He so loved this church was it such a bright lamp to the nations. He wasn't about to sit idly by and let it die. So He told the Ephesians, "Never theless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love" (Revelation 2:4). Jesus was saying, "Your fire is going out! The love for me that once motivated your faithfulness is waning. You once bore my burden for the lost - but now you're satisfied merely to sit and listen to sermons. You've become totally engrossed in your personal concerns, and you're ignoring mine. You've fallen from where you once stood!"

Jesus then tells them, "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen... (Verse 5). He's saying, "Think back! You used to yearn to come to my house, to be with my saints, to bear my burden. But now an hour on Sunday morning is plenty for you! So, dear Christian are you still on

fire for Jesus? Are you in love with Him as passionately as when you first got saved? Or have you lost interest in His concerns, forsaking all ministry? Do you have too much else going on in your life? If so, the Lord says to you, "I've got something against you. You've left your first love!"

Listen to what Jesus says to us at this point: "...repent, and do the first works..." (Same verse). He's saying, "Mourn over your growing apathy. Be contrite take it seriously. Then let your grief lead you back to where you were when you first loved me!" Christ then gives us a word that let us know we'd better take heed. He says, "...or else..." (Same verse). He immediately spells out the consequence: "...I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick..." (Same verse).

Jesus is saying here that unless we repent, He's going to remove all the spiritual authority we've been given. This includes our influence on our city, our community, our neighborhood, those in our sphere of influence. Every bit of influence we have will be taken from us, He says, "Except ye repent!" Right now, churches across the world are shutting their doors. Their lights are literally being turned out because that's the judgment they incur for refusing to repent! God said they would lose their discernment, their spiritual blessings, their finances, and His very presence. Now they're dead, lifeless, with only memories of His past blessings.

I preached in many such churches thirty years ago. At that time they were packed with zealous believers. Today, barely a dozen people sit in their pews.

Soon they'll dwindle to nothing, and their doors will shut for good. God has written "Ichabod" over their doors meaning, "The Spirit of the Lord has departed!" Yet, beloved, God give this same message to every Christian individually. He says, "If you refuse to repent - if you remain in your apathy - I'll remove your lampstand. You'll no longer have any influence over your family, your coworkers - anyone!" This is exactly what happened to the Ephesian church. God waited patiently - over 1000 years, in fact - for that church to repent. Yet finally the time came when their backsliding was more than He could endure.

The historian Gibbon writes: "The first candlestick of Ephesus was extinguished. The barbarous lords of Ionia and Lydia trampled on the remains of Christianity. Only the church of Philadelphia still stands erect". Yet, even as we read these words, we are not to fear Jesus ends His admonition to us this way: "...To him that overcomes will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God" (Revelation 2:7).

Dear saint, Jesus is that tree! He's telling us, "If you'll repent, I'll give you constant life from my very being. And as long as you continue to love me, I will provide a flow of supernatural life in you. This life will be revealed in your discernment, your love for people, and your good works for my kingdom!" This is the trait that distinguishes every Christian who's truly in love with Jesus. Such a believer is full of life - and everyone around him knows it!



PIT TO PALACE

(Life experiences of Pastor S. Sam Selva Raj)

“whoever reads, let him understand” Matthew 24:15

Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year hundredfold;
and the LORD blessed him. Genesis 26:12

From the year, 1969, God has been using us in literature ministry and Church Planting through **ECHO OF HIS CALL**. We also raised a huge number of leaders to preach the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

During the year, 1980, the Lord enabled us to start a Bible Correspondence Course by name **BIBLECOR**. We received a great response from the non-christians from all over the country of India, as we conducted the course in English, Tamil and Hindi. We had to dispatch plenty of course books to the students each day. So, by faith on the Lord we have placed orders for printing about 30,000 copies of the course books. Accordingly, one fine morning, all the books were printed and handed over to us.

But the Landlord of our office building refused to allow us to keep the books in our office as he was not happy about the expansion of the Christian work. We tried several sources to get a place to store those books for rent. But all our efforts went on vain. We have been praying to the Lord to open a way for us.

All of a sudden, the Lord connected one brother called Mr. Ramalingam and his wife Mrs. Saral Saraswathi of Madras with us. The Lord prompted us to share the need of a place to store those course books safely. God spoke to them and they happily came forward to allow us to keep all those books in their house. We used to go to their house and take the books as when we needed. God really blessed that family in a special way.

Now that Lord has blessed us also with a building for our School and as well as a separate building for our Bible College of our own with plenty of space to keep any number of books. God has also blessed us with a Printing Press through which we print thousands of gospel literature in various languages, store them and dispatch them to various parts of the country. Thus the Lord has seen our tears and answered our prayers.

Dear readers, the Lord Jesus Christ is still alive. He can perform miracle in your life also. If you are undergoing great tribulation in your life, do not give up. Believe Him for a miracle. You will succeed. God bless you.



...Contd from page 8

Jesus promises that your godly sorrow, your repentant heart and your renewed love for Him will lead you to life. So, pray to Him right now: “Lord, give me a truly repentant heart. Take me back to who I was when I was first in love with you. Yet, this time take me Father, deeper in you, that I've ever been before!” As you repent, God's Spirit will begin to produce in you a new revelation of the glory of Christ. Amen.

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GOD BLESS YOU!

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