

WILLENHALL FREE CHURCH



FROM OUR PASTORS

Seen the news lately, floods, fires, earthquakes, famine, civil wars, wars, plaques, viruses, extreme weather conditions, climate change, economic problems, debt.

Has this made you think what is happening, what is going on, everything is collapsing, nothing is reliable, what's happening to our seasons, as a boy it snowed in winter, sun in summer, but this no longer happens, is there a solution? is there hope?

Matthew 24:6-8 (NLT)

6 And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don't panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won't follow immediately.

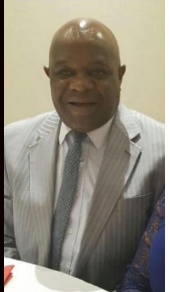
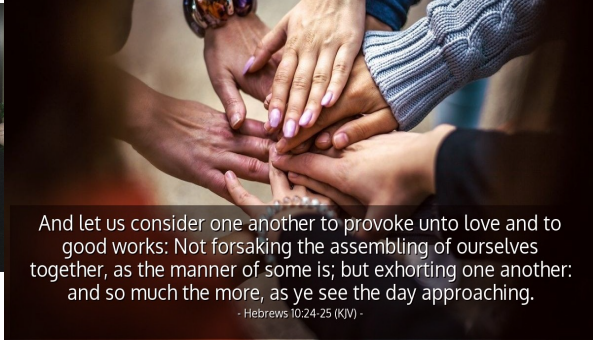
7 Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world.

8 But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come.

Luke 21:11 (NLT)

11 There will be great earthquakes, and there will be famines and plagues in many lands, and there will be terrifying things and great miraculous signs from heaven.

Jesus is talking about events that will happen before His return, which looks like they were written today from today's news, if these are in fact signs that Jesus is returning, look at what He says, don't panic, He is in control, He is our shepherd, so no matter how bad the news gets keep your eyes upon Jesus who will one day return to this planet. (John)



And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

- Hebrews 10:24-25 (KJV) -



CHURCH? PART 5

We have seen that the word church means a group of people called out to assembly together for a common purpose, that the word church could be used in two ways: to include all believers living and dead, and to speak only of those who are living in a certain location. Last month we looked at a word that Jesus used in connection with Church and that was build, and we continue with that thought this month.

Jesus Himself declared to be the Rock on which the church is being built, He has to be the foundation, anything else will collapse or it will not be the building, the representation of God that happens when Jesus and not people, or an organisation are doing the building.

**UPON THIS ROCK
I WILL BUILD
MY CHURCH**

AND THE GATES OF HADES WILL NOT OVERPOWER IT

Matthew 16:18



Church continued

Matthew 16:13-18 (ANIV)

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

This is an important passage when considering the building, the people, who make up what is called church, some have confused Jesus saying you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, as meaning Peter is the rock on whom the church is built, but Jesus is word playing.

The word Peter means a stone, a pebble, a piece of rock, the Greek word is Petros.



Church Continued

John 1:40-42 (NKJV)

"One of the two who heard John *speak*, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ).

And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone)."

When Jesus said upon this rock I will build my church He used the Greek word Petra which means a very large rock, see what Jesus did? By reminding Peter of his name a stone, a pebble which is a piece of rock, He then says His church will be build upon the Rock, which is Himself Jesus.

The church is not built upon Peter but upon Jesus.



Church Continued.

This is what Peter says about the building of the Church.

1 Peter 2:4-8 (ANIV)

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him—

you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone,"

and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

Peter confirms that Jesus is both foundation and cornerstone, he says come to Him, that is Jesus the living stone, that although He would be rejected in His lifetime, He is chosen, precious, and prophesied. Jesus can be trusted and to His followers, believers He is precious, although many will continually reject and refuse to follow Him.

The messiah (the rock) that was rejected by the builders has become both foundation and cornerstone, and continues to cause people to stumble because they do not believe in Him or in His word and therefore are in disobedience.

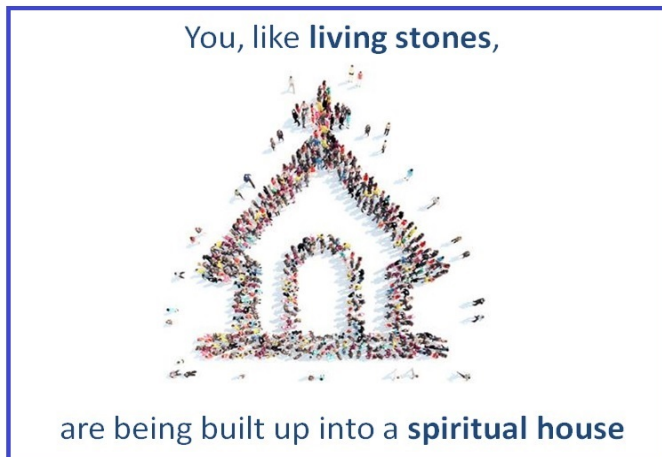


Church Continued

The official builders in His day rejected Jesus while on earth and people today still reject Him because they do not believe Him, so what is needed?

Just as Peter received a revelation from the Father to whom Jesus is so we also must receive a revelation, an understanding of whom Jesus is from the Father, this is not learnt or taught, this understanding, ability to believe comes from the Father, so ask the Father to reveal Jesus the Christ, the rock the builder of His church to you, and I am convinced He will.

Next month we will see how Paul teaches about the church and Jesus being the foundation. (John)





THEME

HABAKKUK

**Evil may seem triumphant,
but God is on the throne and
deals with evil in his own time.**

Habakkuk part 4 (John)

Please read Habakkuk 1:12-13

Habakkuk has asked his questions of how and why and now he reminds himself about what he knows about God, that God is eternal and holy.

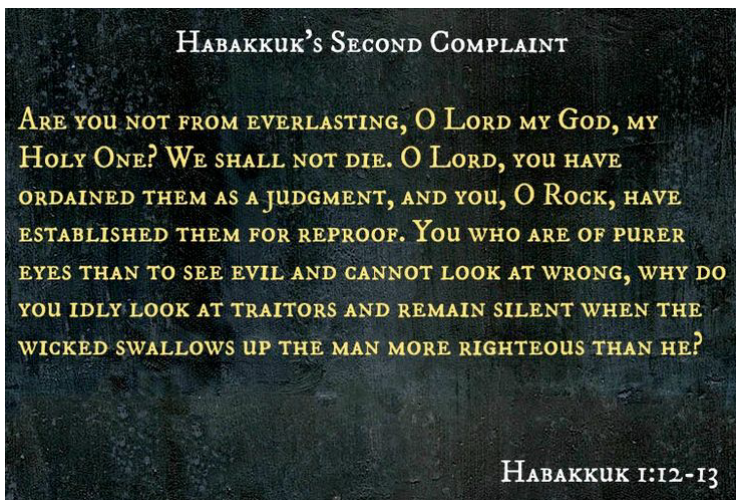
This reveals that Habakkuk had a personal relationship with God, as he calls Him my God, my Holy one, my Lord. It was this personal relationship with God that saw Habakkuk through, that helped him come to terms with the revelation that God would use the Babylonians to judge Israel.



Habakkuk continued

The circumstances we struggle with, justice and the goodness of God, the love of God, were the same for Habakkuk and like him it is our personal relationship with God that will help, see us through, and comfort us.

Imagine if we were told that God was going to judge the United Kingdom for their sins by using America, or Australia, this is how those in Habakkuk's day felt, and without a personal relationship with God would be left feeling alone, fearful, and that it wasn't fair or just, they needed to know as we need to know that God is Holy.



HABAKKUK'S SECOND COMPLAINT

ARE YOU NOT FROM EVERLASTING, O LORD MY GOD, MY HOLY ONE? WE SHALL NOT DIE. O LORD, YOU HAVE ORDAINED THEM AS A JUDGMENT, AND YOU, O ROCK, HAVE ESTABLISHED THEM FOR REPROOF. YOU WHO ARE OF PURER EYES THAN TO SEE EVIL AND CANNOT LOOK AT WRONG, WHY DO YOU IDLY LOOK AT TRAITORS AND REMAIN SILENT WHEN THE WICKED SWALLOWS UP THE MAN MORE RIGHTEOUS THAN HE?

HABAKKUK 1:12-13



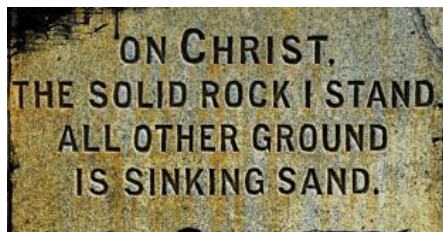
Habakkuk Continued

Notice that Habakkuk also reminds himself that God is the rock, (Jesus also refers to Himself as the rock upon which the church is built), this meant that God could be trusted, is the same yesterday, today and forever, He was his security, his refuge, his rock.

This personal understanding that his Lord is the rock, reliable, strong, unchanging meant that he could cast all his cares, worries upon Him, whatever we are going through we too need to know Him as the rock of our lives, to have Him as the foundation our lives are built upon, to cast our cares upon Him because He cares for us.

Jesus told a story of a wise and foolish builder, the foolish builder built his house upon sand, the wise builder built his house upon rock, when the storms came the one built on sand was destroyed, the meaning of this story is that the person who builds their life on Jesus by obedience to Him, will still be standing when the storms of life come.

So like Habakkuk we all need to know God as the Rock, because we all will have storms of life.





Habakkuk Continued

Habakkuk comes to realise that God can judge his people and use the Babylonians to do it, he almost charges God with not acting sooner, how could He see the disobedience and evil and do nothing.

Ever thought like that, Why doesn't God judge the evil that exists, why is He silent? If I was God I would not allow them to exist, they don't deserve to live. The problem is that God would have also to judge us and we all have sinned, so another aspect of a personal relationship with God that sees us through, even when evil seems to prosper and there's no justice is to know that God is merciful, graceful and is love towards people.

Habakkuk struggled with what he saw around him and God not doing anything, its not clear if he resolved this but his relationship with God helped, and its our relationship with God that is the key to living our lives built upon the rock, knowing the holy, everlasting, unchanging God.

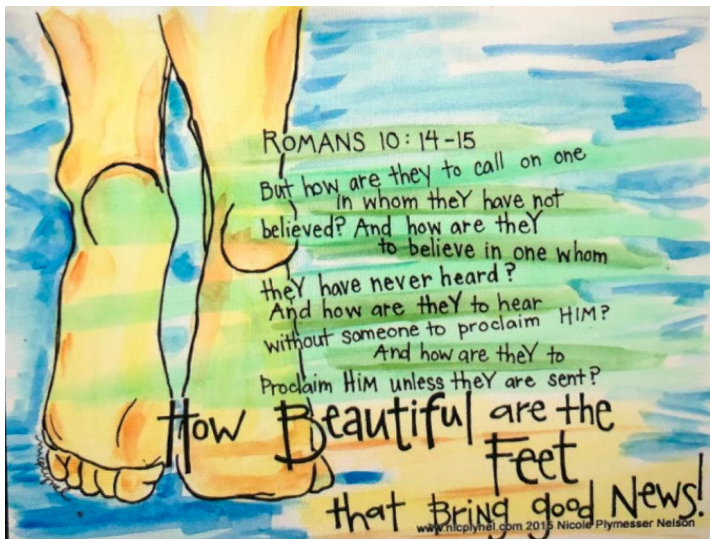
To be continued next month.





From our WhatsApp Groups.

We long for the coming again of our Lord and salvation. Our hope is in his word and his promise. For they are eternal, standing firm, and his faithfulness continues through all generations. "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 omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end". "The spirit and the bride say. "Come"! And let him who hears say. "Come"! Whoever us thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life". "Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book". (supplied by Mack)





WhatsApp continued

More from Adolph Saphir:

Concerning the Church and the world: “the last view of our Lord which is given in Matthew’s gospel is Christ on earth, surrounded by His disciples; and the last accents of His blessed voice which are recorded contain the assurance of His presence with us unto the end of this dispensation.

The truth which is thus impressed upon us is that our Lord, although ascended and seated at the right hand of the Father, is still on earth, that in His disciples He continues His work and mission, that His Church is identified with Him, that through His believers, as the members of His body, He exerts His power and manifest’s His grace among the nations of the world. The Church is the representative and continuation of Christ.

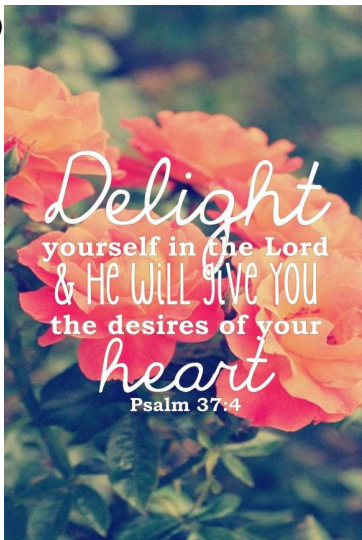
Apart from Christ the Church has no light or life; unless His presence go with us, we cannot continue our pilgrimage in the wilderness. Christ is with and in the Church. As He promised, so the Church has experienced it. In coming down from heaven He never left the Father, and in going up to heaven He never left the Church.” (Supplied by Eddie).



WhatsApp Continued

The Lord is our light and salvation. The Lord is good, upright, loving, faithful and he teaches us his ways. We trust in him. He answers our prayers, forgives all our sins, heals us, restores us and meets all our needs. He is compassionate and gracious, abounding in love. " May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, that your ways be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

May the peoples praise you O God; may all the peoples praise you. May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth. May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. Then the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us. God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear him". (Supplied by Mack)





WhatsApp Continued

“Jesus is with us to the end. Let us therefore be steadfast, strong, and of good courage. Jesus is the end. He is Omega as well as Alpha. We wait for Him from heaven. When He appears, we also shall appear with Him in glory.

Then shall we ever be with the Lord, as He now is with us. We shall have communion with Him in His glory and reign, if we are faithful to Him now in suffering and obedience. Thus is the Lord Himself our Hope, our Future, even as He is our Present Life. “And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” “Amen,” responds the believing heart.

Let us all say Amen with joyful lips and adoring hearts; let us say Amen in our daily obedience, and in our daily testimony for Jesus and His gospel; let our true and sincere response be, “Even so come, Lord Jesus, come quickly.” Amen.” Adolph Saphir ends his thoughts on Christ and the Church.

(supplied by Eddie),

Be kind and compassionate
to one another, forgiving
each other, just as in Christ
God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32





Weekly services.

Sunday - Service at 11.00am at Church, the service to be posted on line on Monday

Tuesday - House group 7.30pm on WhatsApp

Wednesday - 2 o'clock prayer and Bible study at Church.

For your Diary

Preachers for September to be confirmed

Useful Contacts.

Pastor John: johngowing@willenhallfreechurchcoventry.com

Pastor Kirk: Tel: 07852650870

Church email: wfc@willenhallfreechurchcoventry.com

Church facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WillenhallFreeChurch/>

Church web site: www.willenhallfreechurchcoventry.com

FIEC web site: <https://fiec.org.uk/>

If you would like to join one of our WhatsApp groups please contact John.