



Mighty in the Word

*For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (I Cor. 1.18).*

*Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)
The Wise Still Seek Him Vol. XVIII.02*

of the
Lord
Jesus Christ

Where Two or Three Are Gathered In My Name . . .

Oh, how we hear about the BIG church buildings with the big numbers attending and all the monies involved and the mansions of those paid to stand on the pulpits and be filmed. *Feels* like Hollywood, does it?

How many times during the ministry traveling coast to coast, as well as locally, have my colleague and I asked people, "Is there a time in your life when you repented of your sin, and asked Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Savior?" To which the response, many times, was, "I go to church." This is the understanding today of what it is to have repented of one's sins.

Today, "church" means social gathering. I recall a *meeting* where someone made it clear the Holy Spirit taught them personally and they then were to teach my colleague and me. The person felt we did not know the Word, so turned the meeting into what they called a time of fellowship – talking about having a time of fellowship enjoying hot dogs over a fire and just chatting and playing games, etc.

When I read Acts 2.42, it is not about games and hot dogs. Acts 2.46 was not about hot dogs and games, either. When reviewing this in the language of which it was written, we find it was "loaves consecrated unto the Lord, bread used at love feasts and at the Lord's Table."

My heart is saddened as those standing on the pulpits have no interest in the Word of the Lord; their vocabulary is that of their people – so they can communicate on the same level. For over sixty years, it has been taught that one who is *teaching* – well I think it can be said that the teacher is to be on the same level as the students so they can understand each other.

Satan is so cunning, and the world has followed him, as those standing on the pulpits are following Satan, with their motivational talks, their *feel good* words.

All the above has been written to lead us now to the subject at hand, Matthew 18. 20. We have written much about the *square buildings* proclaimed as the great place to meet and socialize, and – come as you are, *dressed* (?) as you want.

I invite you to memorize this passage in Matthew 18, and as you go daily to work, shopping, exercising; let those words come forth through you to remember that the Lord is with you - to share His Word with another, to worship the Lord in all you do during the day. I invite you to know that when you are with one or two others during the day and you are sharing the Word, and what the Lord is doing in your life - or how the Lord is working in your life to be the vessel He wants, that the Lord is in your midst – if you are about His business and what He is calling you to do for His glory. This is worship!

I invite you to know that if you desire to tell someone else how to repent of their sins, and ask Jesus Christ to be their Lord and Savior - and know that they are called to live a life of holiness unto the Lord, the Lord is with you. This is worship!

Remember Matthew 18.20!

*For where two or three
are gathered together in my name,
there am I in the midst of them.*

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Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

Mat 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

It is written in the Word that "Where two or three are gathered together in My Name, there am I in the midst of them." The Holy Bible, the Word of the Lord is not about fellowshipping with the world's modern definition of fellowship nor the worldly ways. It is not about socializing for the benefit of gaining numbers in your group. In fact, fellowship is not about you or numbers or fun or any of the worldly ways.

Fellowship is about coming together in the Name of the Lord to worship Him and Him alone. It is about breaking bread together, communion, sitting at the feet of Jesus to learn of Him. It is about the two or three that hunger and thirst for righteousness, the righteousness of the Lord. It is coming together to seek "first the kingdom of God and His righteousness."

The Word of the Lord has made it clear that there are many who come in sheep's clothing, but are ravening wolves that Satan has sent - and continues sending. They are in your arena, on television, on internet – and very close by.

If we do not keep our eyes upon Jesus, if one is not reading the Word of the Lord daily (and I am not referring to those versions, translations, rewritten ones), that person is living a godly life. One can only live a godly life when truly in the Word – reading with their heart, sitting in His presence, desiring to know Him and live for Him – come what may.

Oh, people say, Well I cannot understand the older translations. I need one I can understand. So, there have been those very popular ones written that you might indeed understand Satan's understanding that he wants you to understand.

What ever happened to a hunger to search the ways of the Lord - instead of desiring the Lord God to come down on their level. LISTEN UP. That is not going to happen. The Lord God is God and God alone.

It comes to me that Moses was called of God to "come up to the Mount Sinai," God did not go down to Moses in the midst of a vile people. Read Exodus 33 and 34 and re-read it. He brought Moses up to where He was, in His presence, that Moses might indeed hear, know what the Lord was saying and wanted of him, and was calling him to be and do.

I am reminded of young Joshua who in Exodus 33.11 chose to remain in the tabernacle in the presence of the glory of the Lord while others today would leave the presence of the Lord to go play with Satan's followers – and do.

Oh, there are false prophets and false Christs. Listen up! Read the following passages in the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Lord has given forth warnings to us, and his warnings are ignored by most, as the false prophets and false Christs say and do what their following wants.

Jer 14:14 Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy

unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart.

Mat 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Mat 24:11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

Mat 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *[it were]* possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Mar 13:22 For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if *[it were]* possible, even the elect.

Luk 6:26 Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

2Pe 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

2Pe 2:2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

1Jo 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

We can only recognize the false prophets and false Christs - if we know the Truth, Jesus Christ, and His truth, His Holy Word.

The Word says "where two or three are gathered together in My Name, there am I in the midst of them." Worship is to offer unto the Lord Jesus Christ praise and honor and glory, to bow down before the only living God.

Where two or three are gathered together in the Name of the Lord, there is the Lord in their hearts directing them and helping them in all they are concerned, leading them in their study of the Word and in their desire to know the Lord more and more and walk in obedience to Him. The Lord is, indeed, in that meeting giving them counsel, and blessing them in all they do for His glory.

I am reminded of Mal 3.16 and those that feared the Lord, loved the Lord, desiring to walk with Him in all they did.

Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard *[it]*, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

Often, when we see someone, as we are shopping and travelling, with whom we can share the Word, some may say how they were encouraged in the Word – as are we. We take the time to remind them that this is the body of Christ Jesus coming together as is written in Matthew 18.20, and the Lord is truly in our midst.

Know that the Lord's presence is not about the building where you go weekly, but it is about the Lord's presence in us and in what we are doing and where we are going daily. Worship is about offering unto the Lord glory and honor and praise, as we go, as we talk with others. Worship is not a place where we go; worship is an act of love offered unto Jesus Christ with our lives that we live daily as well as

those times we come apart to bless His Holy Name, to be in His Word. It is to sit in His presence. It is to love Him with our lives. (Acts 24.14; Ph 3.3)