

"The Government of the Living Spirit" II Corinthians 3:1-18

In II Corinthians 3, Paul reminds us we are "servants of a new covenant." (v6) One that, through God's indwelling Spirit, is forever ministering the righteous Life of Christ in and through us (v9). The union of God's Spirit and our spirits establishes a relational and functional oneness so that two - Creator and creature, God and man - may live and move together as one. One - God - lovingly leading. The other - man - respectfully following His lead. With an internal supply of God's character, joined to the One Who has defeated all our enemies, we may now operate by faith in the functional provision of His "indestructible Life" (Heb 7:16).

In this New Covenant arrangement we now have an internal and eternal fellowship with God through the gift of His Holy Spirit. Under the authority, the government, of the Living Spirit we may lay hold of and express all that is necessary to live "to the praise of His glory." (Eph 1:6,12,14) In other words, everything that God gives us is livable! This New Covenant arrangement with the capacity to live by His Life is no mystical, ethereal concept. It makes, instead, for a very material spirituality. The idea of living under the government of the Living Spirit, to be filled and led by the Spirit, is to embody and express the character of God.

In Christ, we have both the "willing" and the "working" of God in us (Phil 2:13). To put it briefly, we abide in Christ to lay hold of His "willing", we abandon to Him for His "working" in and through and as us. Jesus wills what God wants... He does what God is! Under the government of His Living Spirit, we are willing for Jesus Christ to be the "Willer", yielding to Him to be the "Worker", the Doer.

In Christ, we have a free "yes" and a free "no" - "where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." (3:17) We are free to walk in the provisions of Christ... or not. Free to "indulge the desires of the flesh"... or to "walk by the Spirit" (Ga 5:16). There are consequences to such choices. The natural consequence of choosing to come under the government of the Living Spirit is the free and full escape of His Life. This is how we "are being transformed... from glory unto glory." (II Cor 3:18) The "glory" already within us is being released and finds His expression through us! Glory to God!

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13820 NW 172nd Ave, Alachua, FL 32615

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Greetings

Bits and pieces of information and communication this month:

- Note the deadlines for our Florida retreat that is nearly here!
- Our landline phone number is no longer in service - note the cell number only now.
- The calendar for 2020 is filling up, but there's still some room left. Without the weekly CCF responsibilities, there is more flexibility.
- Many of you inquire about the new "Salt Church" plant. So far, so good - most of our former congregation is involved there, some have "planted" themselves in other local congregations. A handful are wandering...
- Thank you for your continued financial support. A strong "surge" of gifts came in December and we appreciate your investment in this kingdom work!
- As many talk about "love" during the February Valentine season, be ever ready to thank God for His "first love" - all other "loves" are but exponents or dim reflections of His holy passion for oneness. Be bold in testifying to the True and Forever Lover as the Spirit prompts!

In His Deathless Love,
Steve



CALENDAR



FEBRUARY

11

Alachua Study

21-23

FLORIDA RETREAT (see details below)

25

Ocala Study

MARCH

14-17

Pope Avenue Baptist Church,
Anderson, SC (864-227-1789)

April

24-26

The Hill, Hardin, KY (270-437-4172)

May

1-3

Waymart, PA

16-20

Fairview, NC

↩ 2020 Florida Retreat ↩



February 21-23
Gainesville, Florida



"Life Together" (I John)

\$50 deposit (per person) due by February 1, 2020

\$325 per Couple (meals, room & retreat fee)

\$275 - per person, single room (meals, room & retreat fee)

\$170 - per person, 2 to a room (meals, room & retreat fee)

\$75 per person (meals & retreat fee - no room)

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