

## Apostolic Ministry

07-2018

### Building, Restoring and Governing Believers

The **nature** of **Christ** in you is to **build, restore** and **govern**. I believe that God has made each **Christian** unique and given us gifts for increase. We know that all churches in the New Testament were **apostolic in nature** and is relevant to understanding your purpose. The **nature** of the Church is **apostolic** and can be found in three words: **build, restore** and **govern**. These three traits are in every born again believer. Understanding these will empower you to do great things for **Christ, as he said greater will you do because I go to the Father**.

Jesus preached the Gospel of the Kingdom. That's not all but that is what keeps reoccurring throughout His ministry. When you understand Jesus you will understand His ministry teaching about the Kingdom. From the opening announcement of His ministry in Mark 1:16 to His departure in Acts 1 His ministry dealt with the Kingdom. When you grasp the **nature** of **Christ's** ministry, to **build, restore** and **govern**, you can grasp the **nature** of your ministry. Don't get confused here because you will never be the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. In that sense there is only one Lamb. No other sacrifice for sin is needed. You are, however, able to continue the agenda of **Christ** found in His **apostolic nature** to **build, restore** and **govern**. We know that Jesus was **apostolic** (Hebrews 3:1) and a sent one. He was sent (apostello), not only to offer himself as the Lamb of God, but also to bring reconciliation to the world (2 Corinthians 5:19).

When I was a young girl we weren't taught about **Christ's** ministry to reconcile the world necessarily, we were taught about reconciliation of man to God through the atonement of sin. That's vitally important. We need also to understand the mission of **Christ** to establish His kingdom on the earth too. We know this is God's will because Jesus told his followers to pray, "Our father which are in heaven hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven." Scriptures speaks: Be ye holy for I am holy, and we are to be renewing our minds to Christ Jesus, and the Kingdom of God is not just near you but is within you.

I had the understanding of **Christ's** ministry in my early years was that of His ministry as the Lamb of God culminating at the cross of Calvary when He said "It is finished." It might have been the same for you too. I did not fully grasp some of **Christ's** ministry of the Kingdom. This is significant. If we focus only on the cross (I'm certainly not discounting that) we miss the teaching about the Kingdom and if we focus only on the Kingdom we miss the cross. Both are important. Both bring definition, balance and help us understand our purpose.

Let's look more at the **apostolic nature** of the **Christian**. Jesus asked His disciples who men said that He the son of man was? (07-12-18 Word spoken to me). Only one responded that Jesus was the **Christ**, Peter. Jesus said that insight was given to Peter by direct revelation. Revelation is important because revelation always brings increase. The revelation of the **Christ** came from the Father. That same revelation of **Christ** is vital to us today; greater your revelation of **Christ** the more likely you are to be successful in life and ministry. All of us are challenged in this area because all of us have various images of **Christ**. To some, for example, **Christ** is the lamb, others a humble man surrounded by children, still others see Him as a revolutionary warrior. How we see **Christ** determines what we do with our lives. When we see Him for whom He is then we will also partake in His **apostolic nature**. We rightly believe that Jesus is the revolutionary Lamb of God. But not only did He offer himself as a sacrifice but He also determined to **build** a Church, His Church that would reconstitute His Kingdom on the earth. To accomplish this goal God calls many sons and daughters working with him to turn the

world upside down. (Prophecy about the Church in 1996). Scripture even says the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our God. To accomplish this, however, requires revelation of **Christ**. It was the same with all the apostles of old. First came the revelation of the **Christ** then came the joining with His mission to **build** His Church. That Church is still here some three thousand years later. In fact of the increase of His **government** and peace there shall be no end.

Jesus said that man should not live by bread alone but every word of God. In the Greek there are two words for the English word – Word. The first is logos. Logos means the written word of God. The second is Rhema and is the life given word. It is the revealed word or revelatory word. Therefore Jesus was saying man shall not live by bread alone but by every revelation, revealed Word. Revelation brings enlargement. By revelation Jesus said He would **build** His Church. And by His logos Word through or with revelation He will **build** your life.

For us to accomplish our purpose in this life we must believe for revelation of **Christ**. To understand Him is to understand your calling and what He meant when He said “I will **build** my Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” Notice He uses the phrase “**build** my Church.” Part of the **apostolic nature** of Jesus was to **build**. Not just **build** any old thing but to **build** His Church and to **build** it by revelation and His Word and the power of the Holy Spirit. Then He continues with the declaration “and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” The gates of hell refer to spiritual opposition by demonic **government**. As **Christians** you and I are involved in a spiritual war for dominion. The devil doesn't want to give up this world without a fight. Nevertheless, at the name of Jesus every knee must bow and every tongue confess that Jesus **Christ** is Lord. James said to submit yourself to God, resist the devil and he would flee. As a member of the body of **Christ** you are unstoppable. You are part of a royal priesthood of kings that **Christ** gave authority to rule on His behalf.

The apostle Paul called these opposing spiritual forces principalities and powers. All natural and spiritual warfare battle over who is going to **govern**. When Jesus launched His ministry He said the time is fulfilled and the Kingdom of heaven is at hand. Repent ye and believe the Gospel. In this we discover **Christ** announcement. He was declaring the beginning of the greatest revolution of all time. He was referring to the reconstitution of His kingdom on the earth. Revival.

When He said repent He wasn't referring to repenting of ones sins only, but of changing how you think. If you want to change your life you must change the way you think.

\* Changing how we think can be problematic because of wrong teaching or experiences that can **build** strongholds within our mind and we may struggle to see **Christ** for who He really is. He is not only the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world, He is also God Almighty. The Apostle Paul understood the need for spiritual revelation of **Christ**. He wrote “**The eyes of your understanding being enlightened that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He wrought in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places far above all principality and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the Church**” (Ephesians 1:18-21).

We need to have the revelation and agreement with Paul's prayer. When we see **Christ** for whom He really is **CHRIST** the **King** we will grasp His **apostolic nature**, to **build**, **restore** and **govern**.