

C THE LABOURER'S TERMS OF COVENANT

The Art of Living by the Gospel of Christ ▶ May 2011; Issue No.05 Vol. 11

THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GLORY OF GOD

By Joseph Enyima

Self preservation is the order of the day in our society today. It has been the same in past generations. Self preservation is at the heart of many of our attitudes and actions in life. As a matter of fact, it is our default mode of behavior in the absence of the light of God.

The unfortunate thing though is that our efforts to preserve ourselves more often than not end up being self destructive. You would imagine that with all the scientific research and developments that have taken place over the years, man would be more secure today than in any other time in history. That however is not the case. Man is more vulnerable to self destruction today than in any other time in history. Why is there such a dilemma?

The answer is simple. There is a basic link missing. Apart from this link, man is doomed to self-destruction. That link is the glory of God. The prophet Habakkuk got a good insight into this link in his day and time when he penned down these words by the Spirit of God: **"Behold, is it not of the LORD of hosts that the peoples labor to feed the fire, and nations weary themselves in vain? For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."** (Habakkuk 2:13-14)

The prophet Habakkuk penned these words down by the Spirit of God as he reflected upon the determination with which Babylon plundered Judah. Judah was under the judgment of God and Babylon was the instrument of judgment. Driven by their lusts, the Babylonians plundered Judah without knowing they were serving the purpose of God. Little did they know that their own actions were attracting judgment on themselves. All the wealth they had gathered from Judah through unjust and evil ways was bound to be destroyed. In other words, their efforts were futile. It is as a result of seeing this that the prophet Habakkuk asks, "is it not a judgment from God that men labour to feed the fire?"

He however doesn't stop there. He goes ahead to observe something very important for you and me. He acknowledges that it takes the knowledge of the glory of God to escape the self destructive path that our natural tendencies for self preservation always drag us into. Only by the knowledge of the glory of God can we see a reversal in the destruction and futility that our lusts plunge us into. Consider this verse from the Bible for a moment: **"...all have sinned and come short of the glory of God"** (Romans 3:23). It is very clear from Roman 3:23 that if there is truly going to be a change for the better in our lives, it will come about as a result of the knowledge of the glory of God.

The basic problem of man today is that he is short of the glory of God. With the help of the Holy Spirit, you can trace all the trouble and suffering we see and sometimes experience in our world to one thing – a deficiency in the knowledge of the glory of God. Romans 5: 12 records, **"...by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned"**. When most people talk about death, they are usually referring to physical death – the cessation of physical life. The basic bible meaning of the word death however is being separate from God – Who is life. Physical death is only one of the expressions of death. The Bible describes it as being the last enemy (effect of death) that will be experientially overcome at the return of Jesus.

Jesus already defeated physical death in His resurrection. That defeat will become an experience for every believer who is looking forward to the return of Jesus during His second coming. There are however other expressions of death besides physical death. Sickness and disease, poverty and torment (fear, anxiety, panic and demonic harassment) are all expressions of death. These expressions of death prevail wherever there is a vacuum of the knowledge of the glory of God.

In an attempt to fill the vacuum created by his fall from the glory of God, man is busy trying to satisfy his lusts and to guard against his insecurities in all sorts of ways. According to one commentator, "The lusts of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life, are the entangling snares of men; and we find him that led Israel captive, himself led captive by each of these."

When you have this understanding of the place and function of the glory of God, it becomes easy to see why Jesus said what He did about His mission on earth in Luke 19:10: **"...the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."** What was lost and who lost it? We go back to Romans 3:23 for the answer to this question: **"...all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"**. Man lost his connection with the glory of God when Adam sinned and that is primarily what Jesus came to restore. Talking about Jesus' coming to earth and the glorious nature of the end-time Church, Isaiah 60:1-3 records, **"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising."**

How will the gentiles see the glory of God upon the Church? They will see it as we roll back the works of the devil with revelation knowledge of who we are in Christ. Yes, **"...the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil"** (1 John 3:8). Talking about the knowledge of the glory of God, Jesus Himself said, **"...upon [the revelation that am the Christ] I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"** (Matthew 16:18). Sickness and diseases, poverty, torment and sour relationships cannot withstand the knowledge of the glory of God.

Where the church is awake with the knowledge of the glory of God, people are liberated. There is joy, peace, healing, deliverance and restoration. On the other hand, where the Church is busy with religious traditions instead of the knowledge of the glory of God, the people there will certainly be in bondage. That's exactly what the Prophet Hosea saw in the Spirit when he wrote these very profound words: **"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."** (Hosea 4:6)

Our primary business therefore as the Church should be that of publishing the Word of God in line with Psalm 68:11: **"The Lord gave the word: great was the company**

of those that published it." Jesus knew this very well and that is why He preoccupied Himself during His earthly Ministry with getting the Word out: **"The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:) That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."** (Acts 10:36-38).

Jesus was a word publisher and so should we be. It is through publishing the word that the knowledge of the glory of God gets to fill the earth. And as it fills the earth, more people are delivered from their self destructive ways. The early Church knew this and they demonstrated it. As a result of the lives and ministry of the believers in the early Church, the Bible records these testimonies: **"...the word of God grew and multiplied"** (Acts 12:24) and **"...mightily grew the word of God and prevailed."**(Acts 19:20) May these testimonies serve to inspire us towards spreading God's word to our generation and beyond! | [CWM](#)

Where Do You Stand with God?

If you have never accepted Jesus as your personal Saviour and Lord, the bad news is that you are separated from God and are walking "...according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:3). The good news however, is that you don't have to continue that way. You can be reconciled with God and born into His family by simply praying the following prayer:

Salvation Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I come to You in the Name of Jesus. Your Word says, "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Acts 2:21). I am calling on You. I pray and ask Jesus to come into my heart and be Lord over my life according to Romans 10:9-10. "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." I do that now. I confess that Jesus is Lord, and I believe in my heart that God raised Him from the dead.

Additional Resources:

If you've prayed the above prayer, write the CWM Mission Team and request a free copy of our Reception Package – a set of resources assembled to give you a right start on your journey to victorious living.



Vision Caster

Imparting the Art and Heart for Multiplying Kingdom Labourers

Happy 10th Birthday!

April 2011 is the 10th Anniversary of the Labourer's Terms of Covenant (LTOC) Study Issue. For the CWM Mission Team here at Covenant Word Ministries, this 10th anniversary of the LTOC is a great cause of joy and celebration. We are celebrating more than a number. We are celebrating 10 years of partnership with our Associates and Friends in:

- reaching believers with faith-building teachings, and
- casting vision for strong lifelong discipleship relationships

What better way to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the LTOC than getting involved in reaching lives with the faith-building and life-changing teaching that feature monthly in the LTOC. Imagine having access to the influence of the Spirit and power of God through a steady monthly supply of faith-building teachings. That is what access to the LTOC can mean for you and your loved ones. For an annual subscription fee of Ushs 18,000 (or USD 10), you can register for one of our subscription options:

- a) If personal study of the printed LTOC is what you are looking for, simply request the **Personal Subscription** option;
- b) If your desire is to bless a loved one or a friend with the printed LTOC, request the **Gift Subscription** option;
- c) And for believers who enroll for our Associate Ministry Programme, subscription for your Mission Cluster members is automatic under the **MAF Subscription** option.

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Covenant Word Ministries, Inc

Covenant Word Ministries (CWM) is a para-church organization dedicated to helping people connect with God, His Word and His Vision for their lives through nurturing faith and casting vision.

Our vision is “a global community of Kingdom co-labourers victoriously leading lives by the glorious gospel of Christ Jesus”. And our mission is “to reach and train believers to apply their lives to the glorious gospel of Christ Jesus and to multiplying Kingdom labourers”.

CWM executes its mission through three ministry programmes using five ministry outreaches: i) A monthly study issue – The Labourer’s Terms of Covenant; ii) Mission Campaigns; iii) Annual Associates and Alumni Mission Seminars; iv) Life Application Product Offers; and v) a Ministry Website.

Our ministry programmes include:

1. The **Associate Ministry Programme (AMP)**: A Mission Apprenticeship Fellowship (MAF) through which CWM initiates believers into a lifestyle of building and multiplying strong lifelong discipleship relationships within the context of a ministry framework and curriculum.
2. The **MAF Alumni Ministry Programme**: A liaison ministry through which the CWM Mission Team interacts with MAF Alumni members for purposes of fellowship, prayer and joint ministry to their lifelong Christian friends as God leads. The MAF Alumni is an alliance of accredited Mission Partners that have completed the CWM’s Associate Ministry Programme.
3. The **‘Psalm 68:11 Corps’ Ministry Programme**: A correspondence ministry that involves extending the reach of our monthly study issue - The Labourer’s Terms of Covenant – to believers in 50 prison facilities in Uganda. CWM is currently reaching believers in 21 of these prisons across 12 districts: Kampala (4), Wakiso (3), Jinja (3), Mukono (1), Kayunga (1), Masaka (1), Mbarara (3), Ibanda (1), Nakasongola (1), Kumi (1), Soroti (1) and Abim (1).

For further information about CWM and its operations, please visit us online at www.cwm.or.ug



The **MAF Alumni** is an alliance of believers (Accredited Mission Partners) who have completed the CWM Associate Ministry Programme – a Mission Apprenticeship Fellowship (MAF) through which believers are initiated into a lifestyle of building strong lifelong discipleship relationships within the context of a ministry framework and curriculum.

As a member of the MAF Alumni, you become a lifetime partaker of the MAF Alumni Ministry Programme whose objective is to encourage believers in their lifelong discipleship relationships after their three-year apprenticeship fellowship with CWM as Associates.

Under this programme, the CWM Mission Team liaises with accredited Mission Partners for purposes of fellowship, prayer and joint ministry to their lifelong Christian friends. For more information about the CWM Associate Ministry and how to enroll, write or visit us online.

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