



# THE ASSURED WAY

**The Church of Christ with the Elijah Message**

December 2020

## Their Hearts are Swallowed up in Their Pride

Apostle Norman Lyles

*Let the Assured Way continue to reach out unto the nations, that all may be blessed and encouraged.* — Mess. 123:19

(Alma 31:27)

Today there is a great cry for society to repair global warming, to change systemic racism, to have greater acceptance of transsexual and homosexual marriage and ministries. We are not speaking of society alone, but also within the religious community.

The questions facing the ministry is how best to address these issues, as indeed the Church itself is part of society and has a responsibility to provide guidance and insight into God's Word, that the Church may walk in the Will and plan of God.

We can try to ignore the above issues and hope the political system or the masses will provide guidance unto the Christian brothers and sisters who are seeking to love and follow the Lord. It is however the responsibility of the ministry to preach and teach the Word of God and to lead the people in the paths of righteousness.

Message 52:6 the Lord said, **“Sanctify the congregations in my sight, saith your Lord. Great responsibility is given unto you men, fail not, lest the judgment be bitter unto you and the people be left in darkness.”** The Lord has given unto the ministry the great responsibility to sanctify the congregations though the Word of God. Even as we were told in Malachi 3:3, “He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and

he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.” The Lord has sent His Messenger unto His Church to guide them, and help them to sanctify the congregations through the Word of God in this day and time.

When we consider global warming; we must realize that indeed the climate of the earth has been in flux or changing in this day and time. We have a tendency however to forget that earth has been in constant change since its conception. We have had Ice Ages, meteor showers which have been proven to heat the earth to the point it even destroyed the dinosaurs and truly changed the landscape in many places. Volcano activities have at times rendered the earth in an almost untenable situation, and destroyed entire cities. The earth has been far more warm than it is in its present form and also far more cold than it is at present. All of these changes happened long before man even existed upon this earth and even up to more recent times. While mankind indeed has made influences upon the earth, the activity in volcanic activity and even activity from our solar system have had much more influence than our human activity upon this planet.

Mankind in attempting to influence this global warming event during this present

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### Christmas Greetings

“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” Luke 2:8-14

**May God Bless and Keep You in His Perfect Will this Christmas !!!**

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**FOREWORD**

*The Assured Way*, the official publication of THE CHURCH OF CHRIST WITH THE ELIJAH MESSAGE inc. comes to you as an expression of hope we have in Christ.

In its pages are found the thoughts and expressions of a united people, whose only aim is to promote the cause of Christ by spreading abroad to every nation, tongue, and people, the true gospel of Christ, that through obedience to his laws we might be found worthy of eternal life.

In this publication, The Record of the Nephites is quoted many times. This book was revealed and translated by the gift and power of God: The year 1828 marked the beginning of the restoration of all things. It is a history of the people who once lived in the Americas, some who are the ancestors of the Native America Indians. Though it contains a record of two other groups of people who once lived in the Americas, it is for the most part a record of the people of Nephi.

The Messages so often mentioned in this publication are messages from the Lord, brought to earth by his chosen servant John the Baptist, who comes to earth in a glorified body to finish the work given him of God; that of restoring all things (Matthew 17:11). The angel first came in 1829 and restored the priesthood authority of the Son of God, that The Church of Christ might be established as in the days of the Apostles.

In 1927, the angel messenger again appeared, and on numerous subsequent visits, has brought to us The Word of the Lord that the Church of Christ might be set in order, that a people might be prepared to be the bride of Christ. This "The Elijah Message" so many have looked for, "The midnight cry" has been proclaimed, a warning of destruction, but to the people of the Lord, a message that Christ's coming is near at hand. Fear God and give glory to his name, for the hour of his judgment has come. Awake thou that sleep and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.

We hope that whosoever reads these pages might make it a matter of prayer and fasting in humility before God, that they may know for themselves, that God has again spoken and revealed His will from Heaven. To this end we dedicate *The Assured Way*.

**NOTICES**

The Quorum of Twelve recognizes the teaching and wording found in the Bible (Authorized King James Version), The Record of the Nephites, and The Word of the Lord: Brought to Mankind by and Angel, as our rule and guide as the stable wording of God.

It is the agreement of The Quorum of Apostles of this church that no minister of this faith is to ordain any man into the ministry of this church until said candidate has with all his heart and soul confessed he agrees with everything written in our *Articles of Faith and Practice*. It is each elders duty to seek guidance from and to keep the apostles informed of his works in regions he is laboring.

**Ministry Notice**

Be it known unto the membership and ministry of the Church of Christ with the Elijah Message that William Holden Jr. is no longer a part of the Church of Christ with the Elijah Message. He has rejected the Word of God and the Lord has removed him from the membership and ministry of His Church. According to Message 126:12 -

"...Those who reject the Words I bring shall not be found among the faithful of the Lord." We would ask that you Please do not give heed to any communication about the church that you may receive from Mr. Holden.

(Continued from page 1)

time; has neglected to consider what truly has much more influence upon the globe than mankind: and that dear brothers and sisters is the Lord God Himself. At first blush, we might say that cannot be possibly true, until one realizes the events the Lord has brought forth unto the earth to awaken mankind. You might ask what events? Perhaps we have neglected to understand the time of Noah. Perhaps we have ignored the lessons of Sodom and Gomorrah. Perhaps we have forgotten the Words of Jesus Christ in Matthew 24:37-39, **“but as in the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking and marrying and giving in marriage, until the days that Noah entered into the ark. And knew not until the flood came and took them all away, so shall also the coming of Son of man be.”**

Have we forgotten the words of warning that the Apostle Peter had given unto us in 2ndPeter 3:19-12 wherein the Lord had promised, **“But the day of the Lord will come as thief in the night in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise and the elements shall melt with a fervent heat and the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversations and godliness. Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?”**

It is the pride of mankind that makes us believe we have a greater influence upon the earth than in reality that we have little or no influence at all. We have set ourselves up on an equal basis with the Lord God and find ourselves forgetting whom is truly in control. It is the Lord who has called for us to seek Him and come unto Him in repentance. Yet it is our pride that stands in the way, as we seek to place our own judgment over that of the Lord God.

As we consider “systemic racism”, again it would very much wisdom to view the possibility of it in the understanding of what the Word of God expresses. The Word of God has told us very plainly we must be born again in order to become his “sons” (John 1:12-13, **“But as many as received him, to them gave he the power to become the sons of God, even to them which believe on His name. Which were**

**born, not of the blood, nor the will of the flesh, nor the will of man, but of God.”**

God created all men in our image (see Genesis 1:26) and said further in Genesis 1:27 “So God created man in His Own Image”. God is a Spirit. What color or appearance is the Spirit? When man and woman have a child it has the outward appearance of themselves, thus having similarities of the couple, however it is the Spirit of God that gives the Image life: so what color or features does the Spirit of God have?

Beginning with Cain and Able we can find jealousy, hate, and rebellion. Generation after generation has found one group of people seeking to show themselves superior to another generation of people. Entire generations of people have destroyed through the hate that exists between people. We often try to label this as racism, however it goes far deeper than what you may observe upon the surface. It is not a matter of black skin pigmentation or white, rather what is rooted in the very soul of mankind.

In the nation of Rwanda on the continent of Africa; both the Hutu and Tutsi people had the same skin pigmentation yet sought to destroy each other. The American Indian tribes sought often to destroy each other and again their skin pigmentation was identical. In Europe we have the same horror of genocide between people of the same skin pigmentation. Racism is much, deeper and more horrendous than the surface and color of a person’s skin color! It is deeper than family roots such as Cain and Able. It is Sin. The Lord God has created all mankind with the same spirit to give it life, however it is the sin of Pride that creates the division and hate. Does not the Lord command mankind to love one another? Does not the Lord say we are all created in His Image? In order to have hate to another human being; we must first hate God. We must consider ourselves superior unto the Lord, even as did Lucifer! The Devil’s sin was that of pride.

Let us now consider what the world and society would have consider as normal and proper: that homosexuality and Tran sexuality is perfectly normal and not a sin in the eyes of God.

Society has declared both groups as correct to marry, and to labor in the ministry of the Lord. What does the Word of God have to say on this matter?

Leviticus 18:22 the Lord tells us, **“Thou shall not lie with mankind, as with wom-**

**ankind, it is abomination.” Leviticus 20:13, “If a man lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.”**

Have we forgotten the Lord’s judgment upon Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19:4-28? Verse 24, “then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven.”

Does not the Lord warn us even yet today in Message 122:23, saying, **“I am John the Baptist resurrected, the Elijah, the Messenger of the Covenant, sent to refine and purge His Ministry from the doctrines of men and the traditions of man. This is my work. Who can claim more than this?”** Message 123:11 said, **“Submit yourselves unto the ordinances of the Lord, for His ordinances endureth forever.”**

Read Message 125:13, **“Be not lifted up in the pride of your hearts. Set not your hearts upon the riches and vain things of this world. Remember the Spirit of God will not dwell in unholy temples, neither can anything unclean and filthy enter into the Kingdom of God. See the Lord and humble yourselves before Him that your garments may be spotless, even as the garments of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were spotless.”**

Indeed brothers and sisters we live in the time of the end, wherein men and women will seek to follow their own desires, their own minds, and place themselves as a god unto the themselves forgetting the commandments of the Lord, forgetting the ordinances the Lord God has placed in His Holy Word to guide us safely to His precious bleeding side and the salvation that is there for each of us to partake in. Mankind is seeking to make their own laws, developed through the pride of their hearts and their self aggrandizement of self.

In following their own pride they are on a road to destruction and sorrow. Let the Ministry truly preach the Word. Let us sanctify the flock with the Word of God and lead them away from those who ignored Noah and were destroyed even as were Sodom and Gomorrah. Let us not fall into Satan’s trap of Pride and lifting ourselves believing we are equal unto God. Let us not be swallowed up in the pride of our hearts. God Bless each of you as you read and understand these words.

Your Brother in Christ,

Apostle Norman D Lyles

*Continued from November:*

The Church of Christ was thus established anew in 1929 and the Messenger continues, pleading and instructing against the teachings, traditions, sins and doctrines of men. I will quote excerpts on this subject from some of the Messages.

**Message 26:5:** “See that all speak the same thing. Let no one preach and teach the traditions of men.”

**Message 31:8:** “... When I speak answer by your actions; abide in My doctrine ...”

**Message 34:3:** “... Preach and teach the written words and My Spirit will be with you...”

**Message 37:20:** “... Follow the Doctrine taught in the Scriptures.”

**Message 41:4:** “... Teach diligently the Doctrine of the Gospel of the Kingdom ...”

**Message 42:3:** “... and wander not off on strange doctrine. For such will not save you.”

**Message 26:15:** “Let the Voice of Warning go in peace, as I told you. Publish not your traditions, but send the Message the Lord has sent.”

**Message 38:3:** “... Turn away from the traditions of men and the things that bringeth contention, for the Lord will bless those that are humble and do His will.”

**Message 44:10:** “...Have no part with those whose hearts are not just ... some are stained with traditions of men and worldly ways...”

**Message 46:5:** “...Heed not the traditions of men, that you may be able to stand when greater things will come to pass and your trials shall be upon you...”

**Message 46:8:** “... Some have grieved Me because of man’s traditions, hardness of hearts and sins, causing My work to suffer...”

**Message 46:16:** “Turn from the past with its sins and traditions and the contentions that destroy hope.”

**Message 49:6:** “... Israel ... bound by traditions and sins of men. My words shall judge all men...”

**Message 57:17:** “... Turn from traditions of men and strange delusions...”

**Message 63:9:** “...Power will come ... not in the traditions of men, but in the Spirit and its obedience...”

**Message 64:12:** “Speak the truth and not the traditions of men the thoughts off men...”

**Message 69:9:** “...Trust not in the traditions of men, nor the ways of man or flesh. They will not save you.”

**Message 73:5:** “... Those that are full of doubts, fears, envy and revenge shall not stand. Those that

**speak lightly of the words I bring shall not be numbered with you. Let their names be removed for they are not a part of those that love truth. Yet they say, ‘We love the Lord’, and do scatter seeds of evil all day long. They worketh to destroy and know not the Lord’s Words and Will. Their minds are darkened and they see not because of their traditions. Therefore, the traditions and sins of men have ruled their lives and do destroy them because they will not repent.”** Evidently from the above quotations from the Messages which extend over a period of some twenty years, the Lord is having trouble getting the people of the Church to abide in His Doctrine in Word and deed. It seems that human nature has not changed. Nevertheless, the Lord shall not fail: His Messenger shall not become Discouraged. The Bride shall be prepared and the Bridegroom shall come and the Wedding Supper shall be spread. Now, returning to the first advent of the Holy One of Israel: Jesus answered Satan during His temptation, “It is written, man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth from the mouth of God.”

Among the Words are these, “And other sheep I have, that are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.” (John 10:16)

This passage of Scripture has been overlooked or not understood by the believers, past and present. However, it seems plain that the Master would visit another people before returning to that Heavenly Realm and they would hear His voice and He would add them to His fold.

In the year of 1830 A. D. in the state of New York, U.S.A. a book came forth by the Power of God. It was a sacred history of a people who lived anciently on this American Continent. It was published as the Book of Mormon. The Messenger commanded that we call it the Record of the Nephites, and that is what it really is.

This people were a remnant of Israel which came from Jerusalem 600 B.C. In this record, it is revealed that Christ did visit them from His Resurrection and He did teach them His Doctrine, the same as was taught in Jerusalem. This is a Doctrinal book coming directly to us passing through only one translation, and that by the Power of God. Therefore, it is very plain. Per-

haps plainer than the New Testament. For the benefit of those who do not have this Book or find it difficult to “crack a book” I will quote somewhat from the Words of Christ as He spoke to the Nephites as they were gathered at the temple, during His visitation and they were duly recorded that we, as Gentiles, to whom the book would come would be beneficial – yea, even judged by these words.

### His Teachings on Baptism

III Nephi 11:19-27, “And Nephi arose and went forth, and bowed himself before the Lord and he did kiss his feet. And the Lord commanded him that he should arise. And he arose and stood before him. And the Lord said unto him: I give unto you power that ye shall baptize this people when I am again ascended into heaven. And again the Lord called others, and said unto them likewise; and he gave unto them power to baptize. And he saith unto them: On this wise shall ye baptize; and there shall be no disputations among you. Verily I say unto you, that whoso repenteth of his sins through your words, and desireth to be baptized in my name, on this wise shall ye baptize them—Behold, ye shall go down and stand in the water, and in my name shall ye baptize them. And now behold, these are the words which ye shall say, calling them by name, saying: Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. And then shall ye immerse them in the water, and come forth again out of the water. And after this manner shall ye baptize in my name; for behold, verily I say unto you, that the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost are one; and I am in the Father, and the Father in me, and the Father and I are one.”

### This Is Not His Doctrine

III Nephi 11:28-30, “And according as I have commanded you thus shall ye baptize. And there shall be no disputations among you, as there hath hitherto been; neither shall there be disputations among you concerning the points of my doctrine, as there hath hitherto been. For verily, verily I say unto you, he that hath the spirit of contention is not of me, but is of the devil, which is the father of contention, and he stirreth up the hearts of men to contend with anger, one with another. Behold, this is not my doctrine, to stir up the hearts of men with anger, one against another; but this is my doctrine, that such things should be done away.”

### This Is His Doctrine

III Nephi 11:31-41, **“Behold, verily, verily, I say unto you, I will declare unto you my doctrine. And this is my doctrine, and it is the doctrine which the Father hath given unto me; and I bear record of the Father, and the Father beareth record of me, and the Holy Ghost beareth record of the Father and me; and I bear record that the Father commandeth all men, everywhere, to repent and believe in me. And whoso believeth in me, and is baptized, the same shall be saved; and they are they which shall inherit the kingdom of God. And whoso believeth not in me, and is not baptized, shall be damned. Verily, verily, I say unto you, that this is my doctrine, and I bear record of it from the Father; and whoso believeth in me believeth in the Father also; and unto him will the Father bear record of me, for he will visit him with fire and with the Holy Ghost. And thus will the Father bear record of me, and the Holy Ghost will bear record unto him of the Father and me; for the Father, and I, and the Holy Ghost are one. And again I say unto you, ye must repent, and become as a little child, and be baptized in my name, or ye can in nowise receive these things. And again I say unto you, ye must repent, and be baptized in my name, and become as a little child, or ye can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God. Verily, verily, I say unto you, that this is my doctrine, and whoso buildeth upon this buildeth upon my rock, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against them. And whoso shall declare more or less than this, and establish it for my doctrine, the same cometh of evil, and is not built upon my rock; but he buildeth upon a sandy foundation, and the gates of**

**hell standeth open to receive such when the floods come and the winds beat upon them. Therefore, go forth unto this people, and declare the words which I have spoken, unto the ends of the earth.”**

We find the same plain doctrine in II Nephi 32:33. In fact the whole Book is loaded with the same teachings from cover to cover. If the world in general, or we should say Christianity in general, could accept this great record of God’s dealing with the ancient inhabitants of this American Continent there would not be so many divisions and contentions.

The reason there are so many divisions in this Latter Day Restoration Work is that they have not heeded the doctrine of this book. In II Nephi 3 it is plain that the Bible and this Nephite Record shall grow together unto the confounding of false doctrines and laying down of contention and establishing peace. If we will put them together – open – and use and study them and believe them – and as Jesus said, “If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God or whether I speak of myself.” (John 7:17)

God is speaking now. He is sending His Messenger, and by this prophet and His Spirit He is pleading to all (including The Church of Christ) to heed the Words that He speaks and abide in His Doctrine. Those that transgresseth and abideth not in the Doctrine of Christ hath not God no matter how much they affirm, “We Love the Lord!”

In closing let us consider the following beautiful words from the Seventy-third

Message. The Lord is speaking through His Messenger and shall we not say “It is sound Doctrine” and heed it?

Mess. 73:6-7: **“The Lord knoweth the hearts of mankind and wherein they desire to learn and do his will, it shall be like precious ointment poured out upon the faithful to dwell in this light of life and salvation. For unto them, shall be great joy, that which the mind of man has not yet attained to. Be not contentious. Speak the truth and be firm. A great light has been given but few there be that perceive it, because of the precepts and commandments of men; which bind and destroy, closing their understanding. Remember, the greater your study and illuminating of your minds with the words and will of the Lord, the greater your understanding and light shall be; freeing your lives from the bands of Satan and all his powers; making you a blessing among mankind”**

II Nephi 31:20-21: **“Wherefore, ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men. Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life. And now, behold, my beloved brethren, this is the way; and there is none other way nor name given under heaven whereby man can be saved in the Kingdom of God. And now, behold, this is the doctrine of Christ, and the only and true doctrine of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, which is one God, without end. Amen.”**

J. W. Savage

## A New Year Foretold

This New Year has been foretold.  
Your future is at hand.  
God knows the fate and outcome  
of each and every man.

God has chosen the narrow road.  
His wisdom is leading the way.  
His great strength can carry your load.  
His compassion you will feel every day.

With a new dawn over the horizon,  
and the Lord to lead the way,  
you can spread your wings like an eagle  
and soar through every day.

Source: <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/a-new-year-foretold>

# The Message of Christ Today

## Message 24

*The Messenger came to me at 9:45 a.m., Sunday, November 30, 1930, and was with me till 11:45 a.m., at my home near Port Huron, Michigan, and these are the words as he gave them to me, and told me to write them:*

1 "I have come to you as a messenger from God. I have not come of myself, but the Lord your God has sent me. I am the Messenger of the Covenant. I came at the time of Christ to prepare the way before him, from the old to the new; again I am sent to prepare the way before Christ, and to bring the last, for this is the closing time. My message is to all people, and every nation, color or race.

2 I am John the Baptist. I am he that cried repentance in the wilderness. I am the Messenger spoken of by the prophets of old. I am the man sent from God, and my name is John. This I give to all people that they might know that I have come.

3 Let this message be taken to each nation and race in their own language and tongue, and their own color, for God looks upon the heart.

4 'Thus saith the Lord your God to the children of Israel: Be ye comforted, for I will gather you from the north and from the south, and from the east and from the west, and from the islands of the sea, and will bring you again in your own land that I promised to your father Abraham.

5 I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation. But my wrath is not kindled against you forever, for behold the day has come when I will again show mercy, and will gather you in your land that I promised to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I will direct you, as in the days of Moses, and by mighty power and an outstretched arm I will manifest myself. I will not require of you the blood of bulls and goats and turtle doves, but I shall require of you to obey the gospel of love that was before preached by Abraham. You shall acknowledge Christ as your Messiah and the gospel as your law forever.

6 For behold, this is the time of restitution and restoration of all things. I have sent my messenger to prepare the way before you, and I the Lord your God will direct you from time to time, for the message he has brought has come from my presence, and it shall be to Jew and Gentile and to all

people, for I the Lord your God will again restore the earth to its former beauty, and Satan shall no more have power over the children of men, for my wrath is kindled against Satan forever.

7 Therefore, heed ye the warning I have sent, and repent ye, and keep the commandments, for Christ's coming is near at hand, and destruction will come upon the earth. Follow not after the traditions of men, for they will not save you.

8 I have sent John the Baptist, the son of Zacharias, in the spirit and power of Elias, preparing the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to be just, for he is the Messenger of the Covenant to all people, for I the God of Israel am no respecter of persons, for all that will love the Lord, and keep the commandments that my Son has brought to earth are accepted of me.

9 Behold, I am again establishing my Church and my Kingdom upon earth, and my gospel shall again be preached in its fullness as in former years, and those that shall obey my law and keep my commandments shall be my people and I will be their God, and they shall not be in want, for I will bless their land and their flocks and will lead them as in days of old, for I will walk and talk with them, and they will weep no more, for sin shall not be there.

10 I have chosen the weak things of this world, and the unlearned to bring about my purpose, that man may not glory in himself, for the wisdom of man knoweth not the foundations of the earth, nor the heavens what they contain; therefore, I the Lord your God have chosen those that are humble and full of love, who are willing to keep my commandments and heed not the advice of men, for I have measured the heavens, and the foundation of the earth, and the sea, and will guard my children as the apple of mine eye.

11 I will lead my people, those that will keep my commandments, and will direct them, for man cannot legislate laws, for his heart is filled with selfishness, but I require of him to keep my laws that I have given, for I the Lord your God will send my messenger from time to time until I have gathered my

people.

12 I am again establishing my Church in its fullness, with twelve apostles and authority as in the days of old. And mine elders shall preach the gospel and teach the people as in former days. I will bless those that shall take the message I have sent and warn the people, and I will again manifest my power in healing, and my Spirit shall comfort their hearts.

13 Let George Buschlen be set apart as an elder, and let him labor among the people in the West. Let him forget the past and mention it no more, for I the Lord have pardoned those that repent, but let him remember that this work is sacred, therefore let him be sober in all his work.

14 Contend with no man but let your minds be at peace. Let Frederick Vowles be set apart also to care for the flock as an elder. Let Joseph Ripma prepare to take the field as a missionary in the spring as I the Lord will direct. Let C. H. Storey remember that God knoweth his heart, and will bless him if he will continue in his labors.'

15 As you take the gospel to the Jew, take it in love. The Lord will direct you from time to time, and I will come to you from the Lord, but remember, Satan will do all he can to hinder your work.

16 And to you, my fellow servant, whom the Lord has chosen, and whose burdens are heavy, remember the Lord is your strength; in humility write your letters, and give advice to them, as the Lord has given it to you. Remember the many instructions I have brought to you that you have not been required to write, but which has filled your soul with joy and your mind with light, and has strengthened your faith. Let others carry the message I have brought to the children of men, but save your strength. The Lord will direct you from time to time. Send out no more of the Twenty-third Message until the correction has been made, for all things must be delivered as I gave them to you. Do also with this message as you did with the twenty-two, that every word may be correct. Let no man add to it, nor take from it, for this is the Word of the Lord.

17 Let the Voice of Warning be sent in peace, as you have done, for this is pleasing unto the Lord. This is the instruction of the Lord. Amen."

# Words of Encouragement

Apostle Edward Coffey

**“Remember the destructions have come and are coming, for the great controversy between Christ and Satan is on. Men will be tried and many will not be strong to stand because of fear. Remember to be humble, the Lord wants a tried people. Be true to the trust the Lord has placed upon you.”**  
—Mess. 56:4;

The Lord has often warned us about the conditions that will come upon the earth before He returns to claim His Bride. And He has given us the vision of the great Tribulation that will soon be unleashed upon the world; and because of the unbelief that is among mankind, many will be consumed with fear because they do not understand what is happening. But we have to remember that the Lord wants a tried and a proven people and that He will always protect and keep His own. He has told us often that we will be tried as Job. We all remember the story of Job how that He was a good man who loved the Lord yet he lost all that he had on earth, but he remained faithful even when he did not understand why he was going through the trails and tribulation that was cast upon him. And in the end the Lord delivered him from them all. The Word of God says that God is the same yesterday, today and forever. And He is no respecter of persons. He will do the same for us today as He did for Job.

**“Thus saith the Lord, ‘I will lead my people if they will be humble and keep my commandments. Hear ye that are honest of heart and will be humble before me. You shall be tried as Job and many shall learn obedience.’”**  
—Mess. 56:6;

**“The contentions of the world will grow worse and worse, and your faith will be tried as that of Job; but be ye the children of peace.”**  
—Mess. 29:9;

**“Arise, ye ancient chosen of the Lord—the Lord is your deliverer. The vision has been; and many will yet know I have come of the Lord, and that this work of the Lord is true. Few have heeded, but many are seeking. Take to them the message of life. Let the glad tidings ring forth and the words of deliverance sound, even unto other nations. Hasten! the Lord has spoken! Let the servants be swift to his command. Remember Job; his trials did not destroy his faith. Yet lacked he anything? He endured and found peace with God.”** — Mess. 50:6;

We must stay faithful to the Word of God and keep our trust in Him despite the hardships and trying times that we are witnessing on this earth. God will never leave us or forsake us if we keep our hope and trust in Him. He has told us that man should always pray and not faint as we study to show ourselves approved of His word.

**“Many shall be made white and tried and have on robes of righteousness, but where the people will not study and learn the words I bring from the Lord they will grope in darkness. The Lord calls many that know not the plan of God, and the unlearned to bring about his decree.”** — Mess. 56:18;

If we will not study His word we shall grope in darkness. His word is light and protection and without it we walk in darkness at noon day.

**“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”** — Psalms 119:105;

**“See those that grope in darkness because they will not or do not study. Many are called, some faithful, some have been ordained yet they are slow to prepare themselves to be leaders. The desires of their hearts are not yet filled—nor the Lord’s will**

**obeyed.”** —Mess. 84:27;

**“There are those that have stumbled at a word, leaving them in darkness at noonday. See the blessing they could receive in attending services and carrying His Word among the people; yet, they seek to live as an island unto themselves—failing to assemble themselves with those believing and seeking fellowship. The Lord shall reprove them.”** — Mess. 123:3;

The Lord has warned us of the conditions that will come upon this earth and He has told us that he will keep and protect His own. But we must remember that we have to abide in His doctrine and we cannot abide in His doctrine unless we know His doctrine and the only way we can know His Doctrine is if we study His word.

**“Yea, verily, I have plead with you yet few arise quickly to obedience. Blessed are all those who drink of the water of life freely. Lift up, ye faithful for I am he who dwelleth on high. I will not leave you, therefore, lift up in faith and move in the strength I shall give, for I am your Redeemer and I will cause thee to stand. Yea, I will cause strength to be upon you that my strange act may be brought about. Nations shall yet know I have spoken and sent my Elias that all things may be in my planning. Bring forth my Zion and the righteous shall have victory over the oppressors. Enter in at the strait gate, abide and endure unto the end that ye may obtain life eternal. Repent in a contrite spirit and bring your sacrifice of a broken heart. Let all pay their oblations to me and I will be your reward, saith your Lord.”**  
—Mess. 56:10-11;

Your Brother in Christ,  
Apostle Edward Coffey

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**December 2020**

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## **Christmas Time**

At Christmas, lights burn brighter,  
and friendly hugs get even tighter.  
The spirit of Christmas fills the air,  
and people seem to really care.

Merry hearts are filled with cheer.  
Families and friends all draw near.  
The streets around are all filled  
despite the cold winter chill.

Everywhere there's smiling faces,  
giving and receiving warm embraces.  
And for a time, sadness disappear.  
Peace, joy and hope replaces fear.

All because God's love came down  
and filled the earth all around.  
So we celebrate at Christmas time  
our Savior and Lord, holy, divine!

We honor Jesus throughout the year  
so the Christmas spirit will linger near.  
For the story of His birth is ours to tell -  
that Jesus became our Emmanuel!

Source: <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/christmas-time-5>