

Current Affairs # 36 – Everything That Can Be Shaken

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In Hebrews 12, to continue our discussion... And by the way, these four pieces should be studied together: the first two—Current Affairs #34 and #35; now this is the third—Current Affairs #36; and I will do a fourth in this series—Current Affairs #37, and they should all be studied together. The first two have to do with the question of, should we be going to church during the coronavirus? This present one has to do with everything that can be shaken.

Now, I want to go back to the book of Hebrews, chapter 12. He compares Mount Zion with Mount Sinai, and we see “*Jehovah Jireh* provides” is the meaning behind the name Jerusalem, where he has said in verse 22, “You have not come to Mount Sinai...” (cf. verses 18-21)

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect (Hebrews 12:22-23 NKJV).

This is the general assembly to which he is speaking of. This is the *panéguris* (Strong’s Greek 3831) of which he is speaking. *Panéguris* is the universal companionship or the general assembly. It is when it is done, and when the bride and the Spirit agree that it is done.¹ In the process, you are being assembled. This is looking to the end of the assembling, the *pan*, which is usually the term “global” or “universal” or “general.” But in the *episunagógé* (Strong’s Greek 1997),² the actual fitting together of the parts, the absurdity that we would even think that meeting together on Sundays is what is implied by this, when a vastly more glorious picture of what the assembling of the body is, is what the Scriptures speak about. You know, I am exasperated at times with the ignorance of the Scriptures that is routinely practiced by preachers and pastors.

By the way, do you know what the word “preacher” actually means, as in Romans 10:17? It says, “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing comes by the word of God. The word of God comes by a **preacher**. And how shall he preach unless he be sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace.’”³ The word there for “preacher” is the word “sent one” or *kérux* (Strong’s Greek 2783)—derived from *kérussó* (Strong’s Greek 2784). It is a herald.

It is the word for one who sounds a trumpet or blows a trumpet to announce the word of a king. That is the word “preacher.” That is the word “herald”— *kérux* is the Greek word. It means a herald. What does that imply to you, a herald? See, we think anybody who puts on a suit and goes and quotes the Bible is a preacher. No. It is a term of art. It is a *kérux*. It is a herald. What does a herald imply? A herald implies a king; a message being brought from a king is by a herald. Usually, you recognize a herald as coming from a king because he wears the king’s livery. The word “livery” means colors. He wears clothing that is appropriate to one who represents the king.

- Well, in the Scriptures, of course, clothing is a metaphor for our position or habitation. “I counsel you to buy of Me fine raiment wherewith you may be clothed, that the nakedness of your shame does not appear.”⁴ “Buy of *Me* fine raiment”—the One speaking being the Lord Himself, speaking to the seven churches of Asia through John in the first few chapters of the book of Revelation.

It is wearing the King’s livery and making an announcement on behalf of the King. It is not just anybody who goes to preaching school or who takes a fancy to preaching.

That is why there is so much ignorance of the word, because it is interpreted domestically—so, interpreted to the logical mind. These are not *kérux*, heralds. It is the word that comes by a herald that increases our hearing of God. Now it is possible to have the word of a herald be brought from the King, but that word be rejected. Why? Because, people who do not want to change will hear what they want to hear, like they will see what they want to see, so they enjoy the condition of seeing and seeing not, hearing and hearing not, neither do they understand. Whatever is written in the Scriptures is there for all to see, but people do not see and they do not hear because they are looking for what they want to hear, looking to see what they want to see.

When a herald comes, he opens the word, because a herald wears the colors of the King. A herald has loyalty to the King to bring, with integrity, the word of the King, because the herald is accountable to the King. In fact, he is the mouthpiece of the King. If we live in a democracy, of course, anybody can apply for and get whatever job they want to. And if you want a job with the church, you just need to go to their seminaries, and the like, and get what they are teaching. Then, they will send you out to make another church like the one you came from. That is where people are, and the people are deceived because no real heralds, or very few who are real heralds of the

King, are actually speaking today. The assembling of the body, you see, viewed from the standpoint of the eternal and consistent with the message from the King is a most dramatically different thing than meeting on Sundays and calling that the assembling.

I want to address straight up what the assembling is, because it is *not* meeting at church on Sunday. Now look, I do not have anything against any group of people meeting for any reason. I do not even have any problems with people meeting on Sundays for church purposes; but do not call that the assembling of the Body of Christ, because it is not. When and how the meetings of believers should take place is determined by the governmental order that God has put them under, and that governmental order is the order of fathers. It is not about what is determined at headquarters, and you write prayers that are to be said, and the order of services that are to be gone through, and it is the same thing year, after year, after year. That is not it. That whole system is falling down now because it is not about that. That was never what God was doing, but God winked at it in the time when it was permitted. But now He is changing things, and they are going to go back to what He originally intended. In the process, you are watching as He debunks all manner of ridiculous doctrines. I am saying, you are going to see these churches that insist on meeting on Sundays, you are going to see among many of them that they become epicenters of new outbreaks of this virus. When it happens, understand that they did not accurately speak about what the assembling is. Their claim of a divine mandate as the basis of doing that is false, because it does not track with the Scriptures.

So I have taken the time to show you what the assembling of the Body of Christ is. It is not that. It is being done against a Day, the Day of the Lord's return, when it will all be gathered together and the bride and the Spirit will agree that it is time for the Lord to come back. That is the Day. And if you forsake your being placed accurately, then you are without a place in the Body of Christ. Then, you are subject to the fierce wrath and judgment of God, inasmuch as it will come on the disobedient and the unbelievers alike.

Now I want to read this to you about what the assembly looks like. This is from 1 Corinthians, chapter 12, starting at verse 12.

For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12 NKJV).

So he is saying there are many members, but one body. There is one body and many members. That is what he is saying, and he is speaking about the human body. Then he makes the analogy because that is the point of his reference: to analogize to the Body of Christ. So he says, "...so also is Christ." In other words, so also is the Body of Christ.

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many (1 Corinthians 12:13-14).

Then he goes on to talk about the parts of the body and their necessary functions in the whole, even such matters as honorable members the body and less honorable members of the body (see verses 20-25). Then he talks about the interrelationship of the parts of the body, so much so, that if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; and if one member is honored, all the members are honored (see verses 25-26). And he says,

Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:27-28).

For what purpose? To build up the body and to cause it to function. That is the text of 1 Corinthians, chapter 12, as it speaks of the assembling of the body. But the key verse here is 1 Corinthians 12:13, "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body." So how were you placed, how is anyone placed in the Body of Christ? By the Spirit of God. Now this is not the baptism of the Spirit, which is for the purpose of empowerment, because the Spirit carries the *dunamis* (Strong's Greek 1411). The Spirit is God's executive; He is the *exousia* (Strong's Greek 1849) of God's *dunamis*, of God's power. Of which we become, then, the plenipotentiaries. We become the executive workings out, meaning, we are the ones through whom the power of God is projected in

the earth. But in order to have that, we have to be hardwired into the body, and the only way for that to happen is by the Spirit of God in His function to assemble the body together.

Throughout the ages, the Body of Christ has been assembled, since the first century, both in heaven and on earth. The body that is on the earth is the present-day expression of all that Christ is and does in the earth. This body is destined to reach maturity. Paul would even put it this way: “When I was a child, I understood as child, I thought as a child, and I acted as a child. But when I became a man, I put away childish things” (cf. 1 Corinthians 13:11). So in the history of the church, its evolution is not unlike a human child. Its evolution is from an infant who is born, growing through the stages of maturity and coming to fullness. Individually that happens, and corporately that also happens, because the thing that the Spirit is assembling in the earth is what is called the bride of Christ and the Body of Christ.

They are one and the same thing, but we should not consider the bride of Christ in a romantic way. We have done that, and we have had popular writers and theorists who found a way to sell large numbers of books by creating this notion of a divine romance that sounds more like a paperback novel. In fact, some of the most popular Christian writers in recent times have attempted to build a relationship between Christ and the church along the lines of the emotions of a woman and a man, and mostly speaking of the emotions that a woman would have toward a man. That is silly. It is uninformed, but it sells millions of books, because we approach this issue sentimentally. And human beings can make the jump, logically, if what you do is you drag out—this one particular writer I am thinking about right now, whose forte is to drag out every nuance of what an emotion might be like and attributes that to how the bride ought to see the husband, you know, with doe eyes and a fluttering heart, and all of that dime-store novel foolishness. No.

When God created man and woman, woman was created to carry the seed of the man. The bride is about the one who is created to receive the seed of the husband. “Receive with meekness the engrafted word,” the Scriptures say, “for the words are spirit and life.”⁵ The words are not just descriptive, they carry the life of the One who is the Word, like the human seed, the male seed, carries the life of the male in it, to procreate according to the order of its origin. So if you receive the Word of God, who is Christ, imparted into your spirit by the Holy Spirit, that pregnancy will

be in the womb of the mind, and it will change your mind. You will have the mind of Christ, and you will grow up in the understanding that is common to Christ, so you will become like Him. It is not this silly dime-store novel, artfully written, beautifully portrayed on the cover with art; it is not that. That is soppy sentimentality, and if anything, that is just a coffee-table book. It is not that. It not is a feel-good book that makes you feel like you are fine the way you are without doing anything to change your mind. The reset of your mind in the truth is the biblical concept of repentance. You repent from acts that lead to death when your mind is renewed by the word of God that accurately reflects the sayings of Jesus, as the Spirit ministers those words to the mind of your spirit. The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirits that we are the sons of God. So the continuing work of the Spirit is to build up the Body of Christ, and He does it both internally with the word and externally with the governmental forms.

But key to all of the this is the accuracy of the representation of the Word. That comes by a *kérux*; that comes by a herald who himself has been cultured to the strict standards of the King. That is why not everybody is herald. God is very particular. Those who represent Him have been made to be like Him, so that in their manner, in their deportment, in the substance of what they bring and say, they might help to align the Body of Christ to the purposes of God. Now that assembling that we are talking about, that *episunagógé*, that assembling is something that the Holy Spirit does, and the result of which is called the Body of Christ. That is not a meeting on Sundays under some pastor. That is the permanent work of God in the earth that Jesus came to initiate, and the Holy Spirit came to perfect. And that will be done.

In the meantime, you see, every aspect of this assembling is being orchestrated to produce, in the end, a man in the earth who is exact in representing the image and likeness of Christ. That exactitude is measured, according to Ephesians, the fourth chapter, according to the fullness of the standard that belongs to Christ, the fullness of the stature that belongs to Christ. Then we will no longer be infants tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine and the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.⁶ We will be able to hear and see that these are charlatans who are advocating that you risk life and limb because of their childish understanding of Scripture, requiring the people to come down in the midst of a coronavirus epidemic/pandemic and meet in

some building because that is the quintessence of obedience to God. That is a child's doctrine. That is not the assembling.

The assembling is done by the Holy Spirit, and it is a permanent connection, bone to His bone, to enable you. The permanence of this connection is to enable the Christ in you to function as He means to function through your particular body and form. He gave you gifts, and He called you, and He is training and preparing you so that, in that way, He can function in your environment. Because, the assembling of the body is not only so that there is a body, but that the body may put on display the very nature and character of God Himself, as once put on display in the earth by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and now through the assembled corporate man who is the Body of Christ, so that the world can see the exactitude of the nature of God, the very image and likeness of Christ. This, you see, is the real assembly. And there is a Day against which this will be done.

In the meantime, this disease and the attendant circumstances are causing a profound change of leadership throughout the church structure, because it is this that has kept the people in bondage to these false traditions, that have kept the people from being able to grow up into the fulness of Christ. With the removal of these doctrinal traditions, God is also removing the leaders who perpetrated this fraud against the people of God. It is the time for that. God will not wink at it any longer. That is why you are seeing the summary dismissal of iconic figures, and the debunking of entire strains of theology that have falsely robbed the people of God of being able to stand in and walk in the truth.

We will talk about that the next time. Thanks.

Endnotes:

1. See Revelation 22:17 NKJV: “And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.”

2. See Hebrews 10:24-25 NKJV: “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”
3. See Romans 10:14-17 NKJV: “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!’ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, ‘Lord, who has believed our report?’ So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
4. See Revelation 3:18 NKJV: “I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.”
5. See James 1:21 KJV: “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”
6. See Ephesians 4:13-15 NKJV: “till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.”