UHPC WORSHIP 7/21/19

SERMON TOPIC: “CHRIST: The Visible Fullness of God”

The following Scriptures are high-lighted to focus our attention on who Christ Jesus is from eternity past to eternity to come. I trust that you will digest them and others you may find or know for yourselves. For in these days, our faith is being challenged more than ever and we really need to have more understanding so we can stand steadfast without wavering or being deceived. LET’S WRITE DOWN THE REFERENCES AND LISTEN TO THESE SCRIPTURES:

1. “*In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and* ***the Word was God****.* ***He*** *was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and without Him nothing came into being. …And the Word became flesh and lived among us. What has come into being in Him was LIFE; AND THE LIFE was the light of all people.”* (John 1: 1-4 & 14)
2. *“Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by a Son whom He appointed* ***heir of all things, through whom He also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being;*** *and He sustains all things by the power of His powerful Word. When He had made purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high; having become much superior to angels…” (Hebrews 1: 1-4)*

*Of the Son the Father says: “… Your throne O GOD, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.” (v.8)*

1. *Genesis 1: a—“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth…” and then God SAID—“Let there be…”*

Who is the WORD, THE HE, THE GOD? --CHRIST JESUS IS THE ALL IN ALL!

I would also like to draw our attention to the words from Colossians 1: 15 -23 with a focus on v. 19-- where it says: “For in Him all the FULLNESS of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him God was pleased to reconcile to Himself all things… by making peace through the Blood of His Cross. Also consider the entire text that deals with Christ being the VISIBLE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD. Paul outlines for the church at Colossae the unique and supreme deity of Christ Jesus, the Son of God in flesh. Here are some of the distinct highlights that he listed besides being the visible image of the invisible God:

 1: **First born of all Creation.** For Him, by Him, and through Him all things in heaven and in earth were created—whether they be thrones, dominions, principalities, or powers…all were created for Him and through Him.

2. **He was before all things (Pre-existed all things)** and in Him all things consist (hold together)

3. **He is head of the body –the church**

4 He is **First born from the dead** that He might have pre-eminence (all authority and power) FOR IT PLEASED THE FATHER THAT IN HIM ALL FULLNESS OF DEITY SHOULD DWELL (BODILY). –THAT THROUGH HIM ALL THINGS IN HEAVEN AND IN EARTH WILL BE RECONCILED UNTO THE FATHER BY THE BLOOD OF HIS CROSS.

5. **Through the Blood of His Cross—the death of His flesh, Jesus presents us blameless (Justified) in the sight of God the Father.**  ---IF INDEED WE CONTINUE IN THE FAITH… committed, rooted, grounded and steadfast… not moving away from our ETERNAL HOPE OF THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO ALL CREATURES UNDER HEAVEN. These are reasons why we pray in His name unto Abba/Father for He is ONE with His Father in deity and in divinity.

Continuing with our focus on His fullness, let us listen and hear what Jesus had to say about Himself to Martha when she complained about Mary sitting at His feet, and not being busy enough with the house chores: **“Martha, Martha, you are busy with too many things. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken away from her.”** SPEAKING OF HIMSELF, Jesus is telling us as He told Martha that HE IS THE BETTER PART. In fact, He is the FIRST AND THE LAST PART. **He is actual God in flesh who came down from heaven to bring the Kingdom of God near to us** so we can actually see our potential and realize it through faith in Him. Remember also what Jesus told Martha in John 11: 23- 26—***"Your brother (Lazarus) will rise again.” When she responded that she knew he would rise again at the resurrection on the last day; Jesus declared this to her: “I am the Resurrection and the Life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live. And everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”*** In other words, **“I have the power in me to give new life, right here and right now. And all you have to do is believe this.”**

Speaking of **“fullness”** as mentioned in our topic, let us consider the vision shown to the prophet Amos, in which God showed him a basket of ripe summer fruits. That is a pleasant thing to see in the natural especially right now as we are in the summer season and there are ripe fruits everywhere. However, in this case it was symbolic of fulfillment and ripeness of another sort. You see, Israel had sinned horribly for so long that the time had come for God to draw the line in the sand and say: “NO MORE!” **The fullness of their sin was like a stench in the nostrils of God** and God told Amos to tell them, it would be tolerated no more. I believe God chose Amos for this task because he was an untrained, rustic, no nonsense farmer who did not know all the nicities of the professional prophets who would water down the message to make it sound really nice , good, and polite. God wanted someone who would deliver the message directly so no one could mis-understand. God chose him because God wanted a messenger who would “shoot straight from the hip” so to speak. So, God used Amos and the vision of the basket of ripe summer fruits to tell Israel that **the fullness of time had come when their sin would be tolerated no more. Their evil and injustice had ripened to its fullness and action would be taken swiftly.**

We see another context of **fullness** in the text in Hebrews 1, how the Scripture spoke saying: **“But in the fullness of time God sent a Son…** According to the Scriptures, I believe God is speaking to us about THE FULLNESS OF TIME WHEN CHRIST JESUS WAS MADE VERY REAL IN FLESH TO US AND TO THE CHURCH AT LARGE. After eons of ages of prophecies and expectation, in the fullness of time, God set His Son. Jehovah God, the Father Almighty, is saying to people everywhere, but especially to Christians, **that it is time to know your God. Know who Jesus is and what He means to us and to the world.**  The Holy Spirit is telling us that time is getting short and we need to understand and embrace the FULLNESS OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS. THE LORD IS TELLING THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD THAT JESUS CAME, DIED, AND ROSE AGAIN TO ERADICATE SIN FROM ALL WHO WOULD BELIEVE. IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME HE IS COMING AGAIN AS JUDGE TO JUDGE THE LIVING AND THE DEAD. The basket of ripe fruits is telling us as God told Israel, that God is getting **“fed up”** with human neglect of His mercy and forgiveness, their complacency, and rejection of all that was done for them and provided for them that they may be reconciled unto the Abba/Father by the Blood of the Cross of Christ Jesus, the Son.

GOD DESIRES FOR US TO UNDERSTAND AND TO HAVE THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST IN US AND IN OUR UNDERSTANDING SO THAT WE CAN BE ORDINARY PROPHETS FOR GOD, LIKE AMOS, WHO CAN GIVE THE CLEAR, PRECISE, AND DIRECT, MESSAGE TO OTHERS WITHOUT COMPROMISE. GOD HAS GIVEN US HIS WORD IN FLESH SO THAT WE CAN TELL SOMEONE WHO JESUS IS e.g.: First born of Creation… Savior, Redeemer, King of kings and Lord of lords, Alpha and Omega, Great High Priest, First Born from the dead, Supreme above angels, Son of God seated at the right hand of Majesty, and our Eternal Hope of Eternal and abundant life… AND SO MUCH MORE. WOULD YOU TELL SOMEONE THAT THIS MORTAL AND MATERIAL LIFE IS NOT ALL THAT THERE IS? THERE IS MORE AND WE CAN HAVE IT THROUGH BELIEVING AND KNOWING CHRIST JESUS AND LIVING LIFE THROUGH HIM?

If someone were to ask you, would you be able to tell them who Jesus is? Could you give them a reason for the Hope that lies within you? Could you tell them your testimony? Could you share the basic Gospel Message that God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son to die so that all might come to repentance and have everlasting life? Could you tell them that continuous and unrepentant sin is offensive to God, but through confession and repentance, Jesus Christ will forgive them and present them faultless before the Father and give them eternal life? Therefore, I lift a prayer in faith and with thanksgiving that God in His steadfast love and mercy will enable us to do all this and more:

PRAYER: MAY THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST JESUS BE REVEALED TO US HERE TODAY. I PRAY THAT BY SOME DIVINE INTERVENTION OF GOD BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, WE RECEIVE A NEW REVELATION AND IMPARTATION OF THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST JESUS IN OUR LIVES. MAY THOSE WHO PERSIST IN DOING EVIL, CEASE NOW AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS BEFORE MERCY IS CUT OFF AND JUDGEMENT COMES WHEN GOD WILL NO LONGER OVERLOOK THEIR SIN. I PRAY EVEN FOR MY ENEMIES TO TURN TO JESUS FOR IT IS NOT GOD’S WILL THAT ANY SHOULD PERISH BUT COME TO REPENTANCE AND HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE. I plead with the hard hearted and stiff-necked, to yield to the truth of God in Christ Jesus and find new life … eternal life… and abundant life in His light and in His resurrected life. IN HIS NAME WE PRAY AND GIVE THANKS WITH FAITH. AMEN!