

U.H.P.C. WORSHIP—SEPT. 22, 2019

SERMON TOPIC: "SEEKING HEALING, COMFORT, AND RESTORATION

Someone from another church was telling me recently how painful and distressing it is for him when he goes to church and every Sunday the Pastor begins with asking for prayer regarding some bad news or tragedy that happened during the week. While he knows that it is important for the church to pray for others, the constant reminders of the bad news are becoming oppressive. HOW MANY OF US ARE FEELING THE STRESS OF THE DAILY GRIND OF BAD NEWS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS...EVEN YEARS? I agree that the current atmosphere over the entire nation is depressing. It is heavy. People's spirit and emotions are off balance. *Some of us are just overwhelmed with the bad news. Some of us may recall the account of King David, when he had sinned and a plague came upon the people. When he realized that as the head of the nation, he had caused the wrath of God to bring affliction upon them, he cried to Jehovah God and pleaded for mercy upon the people for he was the one responsible.* He repented, and God forgave. The person who spoke to me pointed out that when we come to church, we come to hear GOOD NEWS. We come to get our spirit lifted, our hope restored, and our soul revived. WOULD YOU AGREE?

While we can't deny that things are out of order, everything seems to be fake, Mother Nature seems to be enraged, and there is gun violence everywhere, we are a people of HOPE and of the GOOD NEWS. Like this young man who spoke to me, Jeremiah was feeling just the same way or worse, because the people of God in Jerusalem at the time, were in turmoil and Jeremiah knew why. **He knew they had incurred the wrath of God upon themselves and upon their loved ones for their blatant, unrepentant sins, immorality of all kinds, and especially that of idolatry—the worship of foreign gods.** God was grieved and Jeremiah mourned for the nation because everything was out of control. Speaking for God, Jeremiah declared: **"The harvest is past, the summer has ended, and they were not saved.** The prophet pleaded with them to return to the only True and Living God of all creation—Jehovah God in Trinity. For there is no God like Jehovah who is everlasting. --This God is not carved out of wood or stone. --This God does not have to be lifted and carried. -- The God we serve is not made with human hands. But our God moves, speaks, and acts with power, strength, wisdom, with love, with mercy, and yet with justice and with authority.

However, with all the urging and pleading by Jeremiah, the people would not change. So, he asked a question of them on behalf of Jehovah God: "IS THERE NO BALM IN GILEAD? IS THERE NO PHYSICIAN THERE? WHY HAVE SOME PEOPLE BECOME SO TREACHEROUS AND UNRESPONSIVE TO THE VOICE AND THE WORDS OF GOD? WHAT IS THE ANSWER FOR THOSE OF US WHO ARE CHRISTIANS? What is the answer for those who know their God? **We can do as the Psalmist said in Psalm 79: 8-9: "O LORD, forgive our sins and do not hold them against us. Let Your tender mercies come speedily to meet us. WE CAN CRY TO THE LIVING GOD OF ALL CREATION FOR HELP.** Jeremiah urged them to turn to the One who atones for their sins back then, and for our sins today..." AND WHO IS THAT? WHO IS OUR MEDIATOR? WHO IS OUR INTERCESSOR? AND WHO IS OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST? **LET US CALL ON HIS NAME RIGHT NOW. Say after me if you can: --"Lord Jesus Christ come and help us. Lord Jesus Christ intercede for us! Lord Jesus Christ, we call on You—Pray for us and mediate for us and for this entire nation we ask! For some of us are distressed and oppressed. Many are simply dying suddenly because**

of hopelessness. Lord Jesus Christ we pray that You give command to break chains, loose bonds, and set the captives free. **WE HAVE NO OTHER MEDIATOR AND INTERCESSOR BETWEEN GOD AND HUMANITY BUT YOU.** So, we turn to You and ask for Your divine intervention and Your strong arm of defense on behalf of those of Your children who are suffering wrongfully.” In the name of Jehovah God in Trinity we lift our prayers to the Throne of Grace in faith. Now we are WATCHING TO SEE WHAT YOU WILL DO. And we will not fail to rejoice and give thanks. We will tell our testimonies of Your goodness and saving grace. We will not hide it from others.

As Christians we have someone greater than Moses, greater than Elijah, greater than any other. We have the One who shed His sinless Blood for the atonement of the sins of those who believe and turn to Him. **If we are the people who believe and know our God, we have a Refuge and a Fortress, a Strong Tower, and a Deliverer. We have a strong Rock on whom we can depend.** We do not serve two masters. We have only one God. JEHOVAH GOD IN TRINITY. We have the One who tells us to cast all our cares upon Him for He cares for us. WE NOW CRY OUT TO OUR GOD IN FAITH as Paul suggested in 1st Tim. 2:1-7 -We call FOR HELP SAYING: ***“Jehovah God in Christ Jesus, we call on You by the power of the Holy Spirit who indwells us and who is also our Advocate! We your people and this entire nation are feeling the oppression of the sins of some of our leaders. We believe, as the people of God, You have authorized us to pull down strong-holds, to bind and to shackle the principalities and powers and rulers of darkness of this world. We believe when we ask in faith You will let the oppressed go free, make the rough places smooth, and the crooked places straight. You will comfort those who grieve. When we turn to You and cry for help, we believe You will bend the iron bars and break gates of bronze and deliver us from all evil. And now Abba/Father in Heaven, may You reach down and touch every mountain and cause them to melt and smoke.*** Let them come down so we can have a straight path for our feet. Paul told Timothy to intercede, make supplications, and prayers for THOSE IN AUTHORITY and people everywhere, so that they will do what is good that we might live peaceful godly, and prosperous lives. Then Paul reminded Timothy that God desires that all people to be saved. And we have this eternal hope of eternal and abundant life in the Only Mediator between God and humanity---Jesus the Christ who gave Himself a ransom for all. Lord Jesus Christ, we are depending on you to act on our behalf. May we never be disappointed!!

Having Christ in us, Christ for us, Christ around is --ISN'T THAT GOOD NEWS? WE HAVE JESUS OUR ROCK AND OUR HIDING PLACE. ISN'T THAT GOOD NEWS? WHEN EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE FALLING APART IN THE WORLD, WE CAN STAND FIRMLY ON THE SOLID ROCK who doesn't shake. THAT IS GOOD NEWS. WHEN SIN SEEMS TO BE IN CHARGE, WE HAVE A COMFORTOR IN THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO CAN HELP US WHEN TROUBLE AND SORROW COME OUR WAY. ISN'T THAT GOOD NEWS? OUR HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS THAN JESUS' BLOOD AND RIGHTEOUSNESS... THAT IS GOOD NEWS. WE BELONG TO GOD AND OUR LIVES ARE HIDDEN IN CHRIST. WE ARE CITIZENS OF THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM...THIS IS GOOD NEWS. While what is going on in this world concerns us, let us remind ourselves that we belong to another Kingdom...The Kingdom of God.

So, in answer to Jeremiah's question: "IS THERE NO BALM IN GILEAD? THE ANSWER IS YES! We have a Balm in Gilead. We have a Prince of Peace to whom we can run for the Fountain of Living Water and quench our thirsty souls. We have the Word of God as our Heavenly Bread. Yes, the world may seem to

be spinning out of control, but we don't spin with it. THE QUESTION IS: Do we run there when things are shaking? Do we realize that we can and should run to Him for cover every day and ask for help? Let us take hold of the SOLID ROCK WITH OUR ANCHOR HOLDING FAST TO HIM while the billows are rolling. WHEN THE SEAS OF LIFE GET ROUGH, let us GO INTO A POSITION OF WORSHIP FOR THERE HE HAS A WAY OF TURNING OUR SORROWS INTO JOY, OUR HOPELESSNESS INTO HOPE. When we offer up a sacrifice of praise in the midst of our trials and tribulations, we turn "BACHA"= the valley of tears into springs of living water. Yes, we see the issues. We hear the bad news, but we don't need to dwell there. There is a higher way. It is called the "King's Highway." It is the way of righteousness and truth. It is the way of Godliness with contentment. It is the Way of worship, praise, prayer, supplication and sometimes with fasting. It is the way of faith and hope. **So, hear the Good News of Salvation: Jesus died to set us free. Jesus died to show God's love.** By His Grace we rise above the din of evil of all kinds and we cling to Him whose blood atones for our sin. We cling to Him who arose bodily from the grave. We cling to Him who ascended and is seated at the right hand of majesty. THEREFORE, WE ARE ASSURED OF THE VICTORY AND WE SHALL CONTINUE TO RISE DESPITE THE SATANIC FORCES THAT SEEK TO TAKE US DOWN AND TROD US UNDER.

Be lifted out of the dull drums, out of the valley of despair. Come up out of the depression singing songs of praise unto Jehovah our God in Christ Jesus and by the Holy Spirit. LET US GIVE THANKS AND PRAISE TO GOD FOR LISTENING AND ANSWERING OUR PRAYERS. LET US LOOK FORWARD FOR THE MANIFESTATION of our requests, FOR WE HAVE NOT PRAYED IN VAIN. We receive beauty for ashes. We exchange sorrow for joy, and we replace mourning with dancing... in the name of Christ Jesus/ Yeshua-Ha-Messiach! **So, take comfort, find healing, and be restored, for God has promised all this and more to those who believe and remain faithful.** WE ARE PUTTING GOD'S WORD AND PROMISES TO THE TEST AND EXPECT TO SEE THEM MATERIALIZE IN OUR LIVES AND IN OUR WORLD FOR GOD CANNOT LIE AND GOD'S WORD CANNOT RETURN VOID BUT MUST ACCOMPLISH WHAT IT WAS SENT TO DO. AMEN.

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