

The Purpose of Pentecost (continued from front page)

to the Ephesians, in which he refers to "one baptism, etc. But the baptism that *unifies* is the **fiery Baptism of the Holy Spirit**, which John the Baptist said would surpass water baptism. God had foretold this work of the Spirit in Old Testament times, as well as through John the Baptist. Truly saved people must present themselves as honest and open candidates for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

A three-fold evidence of this baptism is unity to Jesus Christ in *words*, in *works* and in *witness* (the Father and the Spirit witnessed to Christ's authenticity). **I read of an old ship captain** that taught a younger man how to avoid the shallow water and dangerous hidden rocks when entering a certain harbour at night. The old captain said, "You see those three lights on the distant shore? When they line up, go straight!" People tend to believe almost everything, instead of putting it to the test. When dealing with eternal matters, we should take the greatest care.

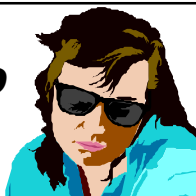
So, the Purpose of Pentecost is three-fold: 1) to cleanse and fill an already-saved believer, 2) to unify the believers in holiness and in God's purposes, and 3) to propel the believers into the world in a never-ending soul-saving mission among the lost and perishing. Jesus said that He had come "*to seek and save that which was lost.*" Likeness to Jesus involves sharing His moral character, as well as His redeeming mission. Professed connection to Jesus which does not include these things is a false, superficial profession. Let's be sure to get the real thing!

Now, look at what happened on that first Day of Pentecost: "*Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.'* And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, 'Be saved from this perverse generation.' Then those who

gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about 3,000 souls were added to them" (Acts 2:38-41).

Our desire is to see individuals and society spiritually and morally changed. The numbers are practically limitless, and how exciting that sounds! **What immeasurable benefit to Britain and others nations this would be!**

I hope For Those Who Mess Up... Again!



The inside article speaks about release from the captivity of sin and about the promised provisions of God. The Bible also gives God's promise to those *recaptured* by sin. Read, for example, 2 Chronicles 6:37, etc. which gives the promise *ahead of* the situation, and Jeremiah 29:14 which was *during* the situation, and Ezra chapters 9 and 10 which was *after* the initial captivity situation, when the people were getting messed up yet again! Sin is not a funny mess to be in. *Returning* to sin is far worse and far more dangerous, for Jesus says that the light is exchanged not just for darkness, but *great* darkness...even worse! St. Peter says that returning to sin after being freed from it, is like a washed pig returning to the mud, and like a dog that returns to its own vomit. Sorry! And it is impossible to repent when your mouth is full, which is basically the meaning of the fearful warning of Hebrews 6:4-6. You can't go north and south at the same time, and neither can you turn "love to God" on and off like a light switch. God alone, by His Holy Spirit, makes repentance and faith possible, though of course *we ourselves* must do our part to seek earnestly.

The Bible says

"I will hear what God the LORD will speak, For He will speak peace To His people and to His godly ones; but let them not go back to their foolish ways" (Psalm 85:8).

Sin IS foolish...eternally foolish!

Wolves In Sheep's Clothing!

It is terrible when *6 Ps and NH S nurses kill their patients*, or when police detectives "moonlight" as Mafia assassins, or when politicians work against our own nation, but when religious people purposely cover up the truth of God's **TRUTH** as eternal consequences! Some people purposely twist or distort the Bible to fit their agenda. **THAT is diabolical.** (See inside bottom left for an example)

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The London Christian Standard ...and Provincial "Lift up a standard for the people." Isaiah 62:10

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The Purpose of Pentecost

(Read Acts chapters 1-4 and see what new and powerful thing God did among multi-nationals. He can do it again. Let's ask Him to!)



Gabriel L. Mancino

"Pentecost Sunday" (4 June this year) refers to a day that brought unbelievable shock and surprise. We need it again! The article *inside* this issue has beneficial lessons mainly connected to *Ascension Day* (26 May). We feel those lessons will also be of surprising interest and profit you.

Jesus prayed a very important prayer leading up to Pentecost. That prayer, where He prays for His disciples and for us, as well, is recorded in St. John 17. It is clear from Jesus' words there, that He considered His disciples as "saved," "converted," "born-again" believers. He says to the Father twice; "*they are not of the world even as I am not of the world.*" That sounds pretty "saved" to me, **yet these disciples obviously had a specific deficiency.** It was for this "lack" that Jesus prayed that they would be "sanctified in truth," or "truly sanctified." Sure, they were "sanctified," or "set apart" for God's use when they became believers, but the

"sanctified" Jesus prayed for them refers to a deeper change for them within. St. Paul speaks of this in 1 Thessalonians 5:23 when he calls those believers to be sanctified wholly/completely/through and through, and their whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless to the end. When you read Paul's description of those believers in chapter 1, **you could think they were fine enough already!**

Jesus commanded His disciples to "go to Jerusalem and wait for the Promise of the Father." Jesus had wept over that city that He said had resisted, stoned and killed the former prophets, yet He sends His disciples to the very "religious" city that hated God. So why send them? **Like modern London, Jerusalem was "a hard nut to crack."**

"*In order that*" means that a thing being accomplished depends on another thing before it. When Jesus prayed to the Father in John 17, He asked that the disciples be "truly sanctified" *in order that* they may be one (unified), "as We are one!" Jesus wants His followers to be unified like He and the Father are unified! But Jesus didn't stop there, adding "*in order that* the world may believe that the Father has sent Him." In other words, the cleansing from sin, and the filling of the believer with the Holy Spirit, as first experienced on the Day of Pentecost made unity *IN* the Church possible and mission *OUTSIDE* the Church possible.

Inside this issue I mention St. Paul's Letter

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A World Out of Control and A Church Asleep and Astray - What a Challenging Context In Which God Can Do Something New and Powerful!
Dear Friends, what starts and keeps the ball rolling for a personal and national "turn-around" for God, is Y-O-U! It's YOU, not the government or any other organisation. For God's sake, and for the sake of all around us, let's go 100% - with no corner cutting - and be what God wants us to be.

Prison Reform ... That Works!

by Gabriel L. Mancino



This country's chaos extends to practically every corner of society. We read about the trouble with the moral lives and political decisions of cabinet members and MPs, and in the NHS, education system and the police. Illegal immigrants (many who are known criminals!) by the hundred thousands have been allowed to "disappear," while more recently, dangerous prisoners have "escaped" from their prison! On and on it goes. Do you think we should ask for national advice from one of these prisoners? Well, actually, there is *one* prisoner whose life and letters offer such sound and solid counsel that this entire country would prove its immeasurable value if they read, study and put to practise the things he says.

Last month we commemorated "Ascension Day," which refers to the day Jesus ascended back to the Father after His death and resurrection. Jesus told His disciples before His death and then again before His ascension about the coming of the Father's Promised Gift of the Holy Spirit, and that they must wait for that Gift, then go into all the world to tell others. As with the birth of Jesus, His ascension was also foretold many centuries before in the Psalms, which St. Paul quotes in his letter to the church at the city of Ephesus (of present-day Turkey).

That Letter to the Ephesian Christians is for us all to read and profit from. Criminals like those of the Mafia have continued to run their "organisation" from prison, and destroy lives through murder, prostitution, drugs, etc. But St. Paul, though also writing from prison, has written to LIFT society, rather than destroy it.

Amidst his letter, in which he clearly

shows the way to *live* and the way *NOT* to *live*, Paul tells of Christ's ascension, and of the resulting "gifts" from God for the benefit of mankind. Jesus said to that spiritually-hungry soul of a woman in St. John chapter 4: "If you knew the gift of God, and Who it is that speaks with you, you would ask Him, and He would give you *living* water." The unsatisfying glitter of this world will only mock us in the final day...and often, before.

There in Ephesians 4, Paul identifies himself as "**I, the prisoner**," yet he continued, "I, the prisoner of the Lord!" Paul's prison chains were only incidental, for he was God's free man. When he presented his case with a bursting heart of love before a king and a governor, the king mockingly replied, "Paul, you almost persuade me to become a Christian!" Paul's instant comment was that he wished that not only the king, but everyone there in the chamber would not only be *almost*, but *entirely* as Paul was...and then added, "except these chains" (Acts 26:29).

There in Ephesians, Paul tells us of God's gifts given for the entire benefit of the church and the world, if people will only walk in God's way. When Jesus ascended, God gave gifts! The very birth of Jesus was a gift, for the Bible says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Yet God gave once again, as we celebrated on 4 June (Pentecost Sunday) which is connected to the coming of the Holy Spirit, God's Promised Gift, of Whom Jesus spoke.

Many centuries before Jesus' earthly life, the great prophet, Elijah, had done similarly. In the book of 2 Kings chapter 2, we read where God took Elijah up, and left behind his servant, Elisha, to carry on the prophetic work. Elijah had the humanly impossible task of turning idolatrous Israel back to the true God. The last book of the Old Testament tells us that God's intention in using an Elijah to turn the people back to God, was so that God will NOT destroy us (see Malachi 4:5,6). God tries His best to keep people from hell. Many people go to hell by choice, and many, many others go simply because people like you, who know

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the right way 1) don't obey that way, and 2) don't lovingly and consistently tell others. So don't blame God for people going to hell.

OK, what about Elijah and Elisha? Apparently, God had told Elisha that his master was about to leave him behind. Elisha apparently also knew that there was a greatly-needed "Gift" to be received if he saw his master go up. Various things could have put Elisha off, but he would not be put off. Finally, Elijah said to his servant, Elisha, "Ask me whatever you want, and you will have it *IF* you see me when God takes me." "If" means conditional. Throughout the Bible we see that God's promises are conditional on our obedience to the truth, AND, we need to be as persistent as Elisha if we expect to obtain the promise!

Elisha was basically given a blank cheque from Elijah. So, what would YOU ask for?! Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit! I think Elisha knew that the job he would inherit from his master would be enormous. Elijah said, "You have asked a hard thing, but IF you see me when I go, it's yours!" Elisha knew that to turn a backslidden, morally and spiritually corrupted nation back to God would take extra blessing and power from God. Britain needs the same today, for like Israel who knew the true way, it has turned its back to God and is feasting on the slop of the world.

Elijah went up and left a promised blessing to Elisha, just like Jesus left a promised blessing to His disciples, with more to come, and of which St. Paul speaks in Ephesians 4. Do you remember when King David ran from the jealous King Saul who was trying to kill him? Those who followed David were those "in debt, in distress, and discontent (meaning bitter of soul). Many today are similar. Now, look at the disciples of Jesus... a betrayer, a denier, a doubter and nine yellow cowards" (plus being position-seekers)! Now, in this article, we have been hearing from "a prisoner"!

You could ask, "What kind of people does God have following Him?!" To answer this question, I could simply say, "rebels."

Jesus split people into two groups: those for Him and those against Him. We are not for Jesus unless we are obeying His word. He said so! St. Paul says that God proved His love toward us in that while we were in active rebellion against Him, Jesus still died for us. One does not need to shake a fist at God to be in rebellion against Him. All you must do is be your own boss, and not care to either know God's will or do it. **That is rebellion.** Man's sin is it's own prison and captivity. The picture we see in Jesus' Ascension Gifts to us is that He "took captivity captive and gave gifts to us all" (Eph.4:8 quoted from Ps.68:18). The first mention of this kind of thing happening is when Abraham went to rescue his nephew (a resident of Sodom!) from the captivity of neighbouring kings who had invaded. Sodom was its own enslavement due to its utter wickedness. But the world, like those marauding kings, just adds its own slavery, so that the result is compounded captivity. That's today's world.

St. Paul introduces prison reform this country needs to implement. Forget all the exercise, entertainment and Jacuzzi benefits to prisoners for making better men and women. The kind of release from captivity which best benefits the individual and the nation is the one of which St. Paul speaks. You're right, Paul was still a prisoner, and he finally lost his life for his faithfulness to God. However, in the deepest reality, he was God's free man. What about you? Whose "prisoner" are you? And if you think it is foolish to live for Christ, then whose fool are you? Jesus came to break the chains of sin and release us from captivity. He changes prisoners to become a nation's best citizens and best assets, as well as granting them citizenship in the better world to come!

Super Summer Holiday Reading!

Get and read the 2 Frank Peretti books: **This Present Darkness**, and **Piercing the Darkness**. And listening to Peretti tell it himself on the audio version is "out of this world!" We've listened to them repeatedly.

In their tract "What Hope for Dead Loved Ones," "Jehovah Witnesses" quote (for 1 example) only the first 3 words of a verse to hide the truth of potential damnation the rest of the verse contains. (John 5:29) After death is 1 of 2 ends for us all, but neither are annihilation, purgatory, reincarnation or divinity!

We meet at Christ Church on the corner of Brent Street and Heriot Road in Hendon (NW4) at 8:45 pm Sundays. Nearest Tube: Hendon Central.

I hope the Devil shot himself in the foot with all this Da Vinci Code hype — the book, court case, film and all. More than sufficient evidence has come out from Christian spokespersons, as well as from secular press reports to make the whole Dan Brown series excitingly ridiculous.