

Sunday, 3 January 2010

Clothed with Christ – Romans 13: 14- Year of maturity- Romans 8: 29

INTRODUCTION:

I believe that this year we shall be moving from glory to glory, faith to faith, grace to grace; 2 Cor 3: 17-18; Rom 1: 16-17; John 1: 16-17. Like the path of the righteous which begins like the first gleam of dawn and shines ever brighter until the perfect light of day (Prov 4: 18).

God's desire from the beginning has always been that we shall all be made in His image – Genesis 1: 26-27. Adam is called the son of God. (Luke 3: 38).

The fall of man marred the image of God but did not annihilate it. Romans 3: 23. However **God's purpose will not be thwarted**. His purpose will always stand. Isaiah 46: 5-11; Proverbs 19: 21. Jesus is called the lamb that was slain from the foundations of the earth. (Rev. 13: 8). In Christ the last Adam, God initiated a restorative work. 2 Cor 5: 17-21. God will have a people who reflect Him, a people who are in His image.

After Jesus' death and resurrection, He sent out His disciples to go and make disciples of all nations. Matthew 28: 18-20. Who is a disciple? A follower, an apprentice; one who is becoming like the teacher; Luke 6: 40.

Can we truly become like the Jesus Christ? 1 John 4: 17; 1 John 2: 6; 1 John 3: 1-2; Romans 8: 29. If we look at the Scriptures, we can say that is expecting us to become like Jesus Christ! This means that it is possible to become like Jesus.

Who is Jesus Christ? He is **the Son of God** – Hebrews 4: 14; John 3: 16; 5: 18-24; Matthew 3: 16. He is not only the Son of God, He is also the **Son of man**; Matthew 16: 13-15; Matthew 8: 18-20. He is 100% God and 100% man. Something hard to understand but must be believed. Philippians 2: 5-11, shows us that Jesus Himself limited His 'God' qualities when He came into this world. He got tired; He slept and did things that show that He was truly human. It was as a human that He was tempted of the devil. How can God be tempted?

He overcame the devil as a man depending on the Holy Spirit. As children of God depending on the Holy Spirit, we can also overcome and live like Jesus!

Are there any people who have lived like Jesus?

The lives of Peter and John were such that the religious leaders acknowledged that they had been with Jesus. Acts 4: 12-13; Paul could confidently say that the Corinthian believers should follow him as he follows Christ. He even believed that his life was a pattern of what God wants to do with all those who believe in Christ.

1 Cor 11: 1; 1 Timothy; 1 Timothy 1: 12-17. No wonder he says he can do all things through Christ who gives him the strength. (Phil 4: 13)

The purpose of today's message is to establish the point that we can become like Christ, because that is what we were designed, redeemed and empowered for.

Apostle Sam Abalo