



GRAN ALACANT TABERNACLE NEWS

October 2016
Issue 8

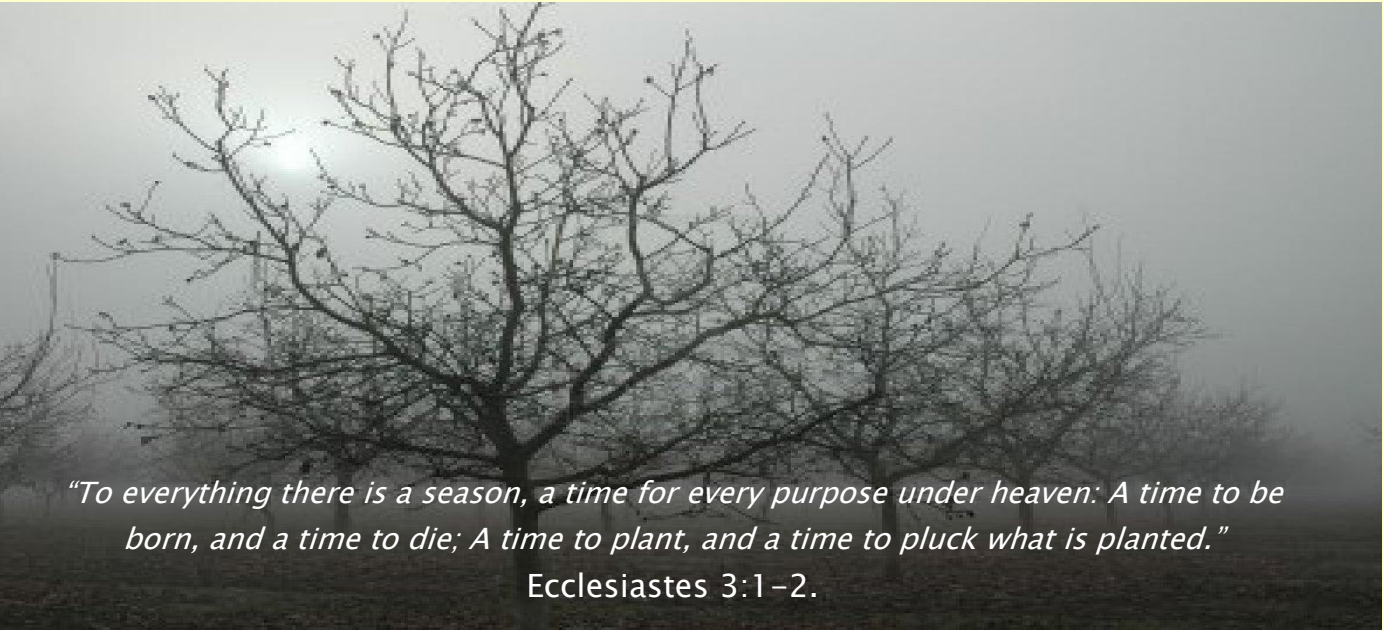
Greetings to all from the church at Gran Alacant

We are in the season of the year when the days grow shorter, darker and colder, winter time. Here in Gran Alicante the autumn and winter are quite mild and we are still getting some days of sunshine, we have not had any freezing cold and dark days as most of the countries north of us are experiencing.

But at Gran Alacant Church, we are experiencing a different type of winter, as during this time of the year we see less visitors, we do miss the Christian warmth and love of the brethren that came to visit us in late summer and autumn that participated at in our meeting. Thank you to all that shared the word of God, and those who brought instruments to praise the Lord with music and hymns, Thank you we pray that the Lord has blessed you just as we have been blessed from your visit.

We thank and praise the Lord for the new Spanish speaking believers that have been attending the church meetings, (a couple that have moved here from Madrid with a child of 8 years old and an elderly sister from Pamplona) this has always been the purpose of the mission here to build up a community of local believers to bring the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ, the only light and hope in an area where there is spiritual darkness.

We ask that you join us in prayer for God's wisdom and purpose for the mission here in Gran Alacant, and for His providence for the financial needs for the rent of the church building.



"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; A time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted."

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2.

In nature during the winter time nothing seems to be happening, all kind of plants and vegetation go into dormancy, trees stop growing branches and leaves and the soil has nothing growing. This dormancy or seasonal rest, is necessary to help the plants get ready for warmer days ahead. Without winter, a tree can not be fully ready for spring nor can the seeds germinate to spring out of the soil. Yet during this time that seems still and quiet, there is activity beneath the surface of the ground. This work behind the scenes is invisible to the human eye but the Bulbs and seeds that are in the soil are undergoing a period of transition which is crucial to their coming to bloom the following spring.

In John 12.24 Jesus tells us , *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit"* (John 12.24).

The truth is that during the process of sprouting a seed must sacrifice itself, or as Jesus tells us "die", in order to become a plant. This is because a seed has two parts a shell or husk and the inside kernel (the central part, the core) very similar to an egg that contains an embryo of living tissue. The purpose of the outer shell serves to feed and protect that which is inside. The shell in itself does not turn into a plant, but the kernel it carries inside does.

When the seed is in the ground it will start to soak up all the moisture and nutrients from the soil and passes this on to feed the kernel, which at the right time and warmth, will begin to put out shoots and sprout out of the ground and a new plant is born which will bear many seeds. After this feeding and protection , the outer shell will die and decompose in the soil.

In John 12.24, Jesus compares his life to a seed of wheat. A seed of wheat must be sown into the earth and die to create a new plant, bearing more seed. This also shows the humility of Jesus' sacrificial death that would result in eternal life for many:

(1 Cor. 15:36–38) Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. 37 And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain—perhaps wheat or some other grain. 38 But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body.

In John 12:23, we read that the time of the death of Jesus is getting closer, *"The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified"*. He gave His own life as a sacrifice in order that just as the seed multiplies itself through sacrifice, through His death and shed blood (sacrifice) spiritually sown throughout the earth, new life in Christ is given to all that repent and understand that; without this sacrifice of Jesus Christ our sins cannot be forgiven or be reborn of the Spirit as children of God. Being then the spiritual fruits of Christ, we are a new plant that will bear fruit, by sowing the Gospel seed and following in his path we will share in His glory.

As Christians our life in Christ can sometimes feel like winter, dormant, we may experience times of quiet as if nothing is happening in our lives or that of our local congregation, but must always remember that even if we do not see it, God is active behind the scenes and growth is happening beneath the surface.

Let us pray and thank God knowing that He is working at all times even through our winter stillness being prepared to blossom and bear fruits at God's established time for His honor, power and Glory eternally. Amen.

God Bless you in Christ Jesus. Pastor Pino Cinquemani

Slavery can be in many different forms, historically through what we have been taught, we know that slaves were people that were forced to work and serve those that had either bought them or that had made them captives. But in the Bible we also see that there are other ways people become enslaved.

(Psalm 106:34–36) "They did not destroy the peoples, Concerning whom the Lord had commanded them, 35 But they mingled with the Gentiles And learned their works; 36 They served their idols, Which became a snare to them"

Deut 32:16–17 "They provoked Him to jealousy with foreign gods; With abominations they provoked Him to anger. 17 They sacrificed to demons, not to God, To gods they did not know"

Any object which becomes the focus of attention and personal desire is an idol, this exposes a person to the evil one (Satan) which then enslaves that person. Idols represent demonic power; the Apostle Paul tells us this in the New Testament: (1 Corinthians 10:20) *Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord 's Table and of the table of demons. 22 Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He?*

In another passage Paul connects and relates idolatry with slavery. (Colossians 3:5-7) *Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, 7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.*

Paul is saying that "*fornication*" immorality, "*uncleanness*" impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed "*is idolatry*" and this idolatry enslaves people to addictive behaviours under demonic powers.

We see this around the world today; people are enslaved to wealth, sex and power. We can see how people pursue these things, give their heart to these things and worship these things a god.

So why does mankind pursue these things and put them as priority in their lives? Why does mankind worship what God has created more than, He that created them? Because God is not being put in first place priority in man's life, He has been put in second or third place or in no priority at all over these things, He has not been truly acknowledged as God of all creation as Lord and Saviour.

Many seek the things of this world believing they will achieve happiness and freedom "salvation", but it is a false freedom because in reality according to the word of God mankind becomes enslaved to the powers of evil that lie behind these things directly or indirectly, worshiping that which is not God, but non-gods. But these non-gods will only enslave.

Mankind can become trapped by destructive habits and become slaves to philosophies and traditions of man, slaves under the control of drugs or alcohol, wealth, sex and power. This is natural and is in line with mankind's fallen nature but in the world today even many who profess to be Christians are being trapped and enslaved according to the ways of the world, just as we read in the word of God that Israel the people of God also were:

(Psalm 106:35–36) "But they mingled with the Gentiles And learned their works; 36 They served their idols, Which became a snare to them"

In Galatians chapter 1 Paul tells the churches that: *"Jesus delivers us from this present evil age"*
Galatians 1:3-5 Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5 to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Grace and peace is a gift of God, there is no system in this world that can bring true peace because peace can only flow from God's grace through Jesus Christ. The free gift of grace from God is in Christ Jesus. *"who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father"*

In Colossians 1:12-14 Paul wrote that God *"has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins"*.

God gave us the most precious gift of all, "Jesus who gave Himself" The reason Jesus gave himself was *"for our sins"* We were the ones who deserved to die but He took our place on the Cross. He became our substitute, and paid for our sins with His death, through this we have been delivered from the power that the evil one had over us, the bondage of sin. *"to deliver us from the present evil age"* The Gospel is a rescue operation that releases and frees man from slavery, but all who reject the Gospel will not receive God's grace and will continue being slaves to sin.

The meaning of the word *"deliver"* is not a deliverance from the presence of something, but it is deliverance from the power of something. We will not be delivered from the presence of this present evil age until we go to be with Jesus. But we can have deliverance from the power of this *"Present evil age"* because we are rescued from the dominion of this godless age.

The present evil age is under the domination of "the prince of this world" the "Evil One," (1Jn 5:18-19) *We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him. 19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one*

As Christian we live in two worlds. We are residents of this present evil age, but are also *"citizens of Heaven"* (Phil. 3:20) the word of God also tells us that God has *"made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, (Eph. 2:5-6)*. As a true believer we have been delivered *"from this present evil age"* and live in the physical world and in the spiritual world, in the present and in the future, on earth and in heaven.

In Galatians 4:1-3 *Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, 2 but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. 3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. 4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*

We are children of God through Christ Jesus and heirs according to the promise, but before knowing Jesus or before we were known by Him, we were slaves under the elements of the world. We were in bondage to the elemental things of the world, The word "elements" in Greek is (stoicheion) , it refers

to any first thing or principal; a philosophy a structure, tradition. "*In bondage under the elements of the world*" are all those who have not put God in first place in their hearts and have not accepted Jesus Christ the son of God as their Savior and Lord, and are under the influence of Satan and his demons, the rulers of this world and all idolatrous worship and evil ways of this world.

Paul brings up this subject about idolatry and paganism again In Galatians 4:8–9, that the churches of Galatia had participated in before their conversion, which also is applicable to all churches past and present; "*But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods. 9 But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage?*"

This refers to the worship of idols, the apostle Paul is clearly stating that God has delivered them from that way of life. If truly they "*have known God*" (through repentance and conversion) "*or rather are known by God*" (the acceptance of that repentance and conversion by God),

Why did they desire to return to the "*weak and beggarly elements*" that were idolatrous in practice and under the power of the god of this present evil age? Paul had already explained the reason in chapter one of Galatians, someone was preaching a different Gospel, a gospel that may seem pious and spiritual in appearance, but in reality, leads to a false conversion, a false salvation with people still being under the bondage of the god of this world. There are words of judgment about this by Jesus in Matthew 7:23 "*And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'*"

Galatians 1:6–9; "*I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed*".

in verse 6 "**another or different,**" The Greek word *heteros* is used which means uncertain , strange or altered, while in verse 6, "**another of the same kind,**" the word *allos* meaning, different but seems the same. This new, "different" gospel was bad news; teachers of false doctrine were stirring up trouble within the churches. The root of the word trouble *tarasso* , describes the opposite of the word "**peace**". These false teachers were distorting the good news of Jesus Christ. "The word **pervert or distort** is the Greek word *metastrepho*, means to change the gospel making it subtly the very opposite of what it really is. Paul warns us to reject it even if it were to come from angelic messengers sent directly from heaven, "**accursed**" means to be under God's judgment.

The false teachers were preaching in order to make their listeners happy, to gain a large number of converts for their own personal gain and or for a social and political agenda. There have always been preachers who have sought to be popular for themselves, and others who are working for organizations supposedly representing Christ on earth but have been using the Gospel to gain wealth and power, It is part of fallen human nature that unless there has been forgiveness of sin and redemption man will fall into the trap of the god of this world (Satan) trying to be popular even using that which is Holy turning it to profane "unholy" trapping people to believe it Holy.

There are preachers around the world and on television, that speak about how God can bless you and provide all your desires including wealth , they even speak of Christ's death and resurrection , but fail to mention that people are sinners and need to humble themselves in front of their Holy creator ,

to repent and ask for forgiveness because there is no other way, there is no sacrifice or goodness, self-righteousness or ceremonial sacraments that can deliver man from this present evil age, but only through the gift of God's grace, through His Son Jesus who gave himself for us.

If we truly declare that Jesus is our savior then He will become our Lord and King, we are to be subjected to Him and follow all He has taught and commanded us then there will be a change of Life that will bring forth fruits of repentance. But instead, in this perverse and evil age preachers are Christianizing things of the world and allowing and promoting them into the church, Christ does not want our old life whichever way man tries to justify it, even if in these modern times the wicked world keeps changing and legalizing more and more wickedness, God does not change, and His word stands eternally and those who alter it will face God's wrath and judgment!

But through the grace of God, all true believers in Christ Jesus will have a change of life, be born again through the Holy Spirit and are transferred under His Kingdom, having been delivered from this present evil age. *To God be the Glory forever and ever. Amen.*

Psalm 33 10-22

¹⁰ *The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect.*

¹¹ *The counsel of the Lord stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations.*

¹² *Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, The people He has chosen as His own inheritance.*

¹³ *The Lord looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men.*

¹⁴ *From the place of His dwelling He looks On all the inhabitants of the earth;*

¹⁵ *He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works.*

¹⁶ *No king is saved by the multitude of an army; A mighty man is not delivered by great strength.*

¹⁷ *A horse is a vain hope for safety; Neither shall it deliver any by its great strength.*

¹⁸ *Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, On those who hope in His mercy,*

¹⁹ *To deliver their soul from death, And to keep them alive in famine.*

²⁰ *Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield.*

²¹ *For our heart shall rejoice in Him, Because we have trusted in His holy name.*

²² *Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, Just as we hope in You.*

Blessings from Gran Alacant

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

*May the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you.*

*May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.*

Please continue to pray for the church mission here in Gran Alacant; to be strengthened in the wisdom of God; to be guided by the Holy Spirit in order to stay firm in His word and to fulfil His will and purpose for us during these difficult times as apostasy is increasing in the churches

Blessings in Christ Jesus.

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