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GOD ALL IN ALL

RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH- Paul exhorted Timothy, *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."* (IITim.2:15) The Word of truth is wrongly divided when it is given a carnal or literal interpretation. The word can also be twisted or something can be left out to change the true meaning of it. The Word is sometimes interpreted according to our own desires or worldly convictions, and thus it becomes a delusion and we believe a lie. It is when we truly love the truth that the Word is pure unto us. David gave us a key, *"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me"* (Ps.51:10). Jesus said, *"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."* (Jn.6:63) Jesus had multitudes of followers, but it was to His disciples that He addressed the need to seek a pure heart. When He was here on earth, Jesus rightly divided the word of truth, making a difference in what He taught to the multitudes. One day as He stood in a place, *"...there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trod one upon another..."* (Lk.12:1) This was an opportunity for Jesus to teach His disciples and warn them about taking advantage of the fame given by the people, and speaking to them what they want to hear. He said, *"...Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy..."* Hypocrisy is the pretense of being someone when one is not. Jesus knew that the multitudes had come because of their need for food and healing, and He often taught His disciples through parables that neither the crowds nor the Pharisees could understand for they could not discern their spiritual meaning. Then He explained their true meaning to His disciples. When asked why He did this, He answered, *"...Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given."* (Matt.13: 11) Spiritual understanding is given to those who seek the truth for the love of it, with a clean heart and right motives. The multitudes were pressing all around Jesus, but He was addressing His little flock. *"Fear not little flock for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."* (Lk.12:32) These were the ones who had been chosen and predestinated from the beginning. *"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."* (Rom.8:30) *"(Christ) in whom, also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will."* (Eph.1:11) These are His little flock, who are disciplined and tested in the fire. They are the "Joseph" company, the ones who are rejected and despised of their own brethren, and even slain for their words.

The Father sent His Son in the flesh and named Him Yeshua, which means to deliver or rescue. Yeshua, (Jesus in English), became the long awaited Savior. Through Mary, his mother, He is from the tribe of Judah, and He came to deliver His own; the house of Israel. But His own rejected Him and He wept as He told them, *"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered her children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!"* (Lk.13:34) And again, *"And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! But now they are hid from thine eyes. For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side. And shall lay thee even to the ground, and thy children within thee, and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another, because thou*

knewest not the time of thy visitation. And he went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold therein, and them that bought; Saying unto them, It is written, My house is the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves." (Lk.19:41-46) Jesus was addressing His own brethren after the flesh. He had come to gather them unto Himself and to deliver them from the penalty of the Law, but they chose the honor and riches of this world over the simple life of faith that He offered; they had the heart of Esau, who sold his birthright for a mess of pottage. Jesus came first to the house of Israel and later, He commissioned Paul, anointed him with a mighty anointing, and sent him to gather the Gentile church, His bride, the one who would give birth to the many-membered sons in His likeness.

JESUS'S FERVENT PRAYER- When Jesus knew that His time to leave this earth was at hand, He appealed to His Father in a detailed and profoundly moving prayer. *"Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee; As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him...I have glorified thee on the earth; I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, **glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.**"* (Jn.17:1,4-5) Jesus was leaving the earth and His great concern was for the beloved men that He was leaving behind. *"And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one as we are...I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth."* (Jn.17:11,14-17) This entire chapter consists of the Son's prayer to His Father, for the welfare of the beloved disciples that were staying in the world, and for all future disciples too. *"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also that shall believe on me through their word."* (Vs.20) I often ask myself, "Do we really know how much Jesus loves us and cares for us all?"

Jesus prepared and instructed the disciples; it was absolutely necessary that He leave the earth and return to the Father. *"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient, (necessary) for you that I go away for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart I will send him unto you."* (Jn.16:7) He was speaking to a little flock of followers who would love Him, love His Word and suffer abuse from their own brethren because of their words. These are not part of the main stream majority of Christians, they are few, a "little" flock." But by the Spirit, they will overcome the world, the flesh and the devil that wars within their own flesh, and then overcome death itself in the entire creation. Jesus was not going to leave them alone; He was going to send them His Holy Spirit, the mighty Warrior who would take them through the wilderness of this world, and be their provider, their teacher, their guide, their comforter, their healer, and the One who had the power to imbue them with the incorruptible seed which is the Word of life. Jesus explained, *"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."* (Jn.14:2-3) These words have great depth and perhaps we have not yet been capable to fully grasp their awesome significance. The many mansions in the Father are the many dimensions of life available in the realm of God's Spirit. However, the Spirit is at work in us, to prepare us to be re-born into the same dimension of life that Jesus possesses with the Father. This is His inheritance in the saints, and as sons, our inheritance in Christ, for we are joint-heirs with Him. This is what Jesus was saying, *"And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."* (Jn.14:3) Jesus is in the highest dimension of life, for He is IN the Father, which means He is of the same nature as the Father, and this is the dimension into which He is bringing us.

BUT WE SEE JESUS *who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death..* (Heb.2:9) Jesus put on the mortal garment of flesh and blood and suffered the death of the cross to become the Savior of the world. Do we still see Him as He was in flesh and blood, and celebrate Him each Christmas as the babe in the manger? Or do we still see Him as the Man who walked the dusty roads of Galilee and preached to the multitudes? We might see Him as He clings to the cross, agonizing and calling out to His Father. Perhaps we behold Him as He suddenly joins the disciples on the road to Emmaus, and reassures them that He has truly been raised from the tomb in a new body.

But the last recorded time that Jesus was physically seen on the earth, was when He ascended and was caught up into a cloud. At that time, two men in white apparel, (angels), told those who were watching, *"...Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."* (Acts 1:11) This was a strange scene, *"While they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight."* (Vs.9) This was not a rain cloud or a puffy white cloud; it was the cloud of witnesses who are gathered on the other side of the veil. The men in white did not explain His leaving, instead, they quickly spoke of the manner of His returning. You see Him ascending in a cloud, they said, and you will see Him again, coming in the same manner, "ascending in a cloud." As promised, Jesus sent His Ghost to them in the upper room but was this His "coming back to them" as these men in white had told them? It could be, but I believe they were speaking of another time, for here the Lord was not ascending; He was descending.

Paul gives a picture of the ascending of the sons, at the sound of the last trump, *"Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."* (I Thess.4:17) The last trump speaks of the Word that announces the end of this age; we certainly have been hearing that trump through the Spirit. It is being heard loud and clear by the sons who are reaching maturity in Christ. These are the sons who have been tested through suffering, and are **"as He is."** These will be caught up in the cloud of witnesses who have been waiting so long for that day and that He will bring with Him from the other side of veil. Thus the entire body of sons will be caught up into the same dimension of life as Jesus, the Head. *"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is."* (I Jn.3:2) Thus, this same Jesus who was seen ascending alone, will now ascend again, bringing His entire body to the place prepared for them in His Father's house.

FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT-GOD ALL IN ALL- Every Sunday morning, the Methodists affirm their beliefs as they sing, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty...God in three persons, blessed Trinity!" Yet, the Old Testament proclaims, *"Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord."* (Deu.6:4) Is our God, one Lord or is He three persons? The beloved apostle John wrote, *"Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: but he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also."* (I Jn.2:23) Jesus commanded His disciples, to go and baptize in *"...the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."* (Matt.28:19) So our God is one Lord who is also Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Actually, this one Lord of the old covenant did something special in the new covenant, *"God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son..."* (Jn.3:16) To save the world, the Son who was one with the Father, divested Himself of the glory He shared with Him, for, *"...being in the form of God, (the Son), thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon himself the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men."* (Phil.2:6-7) There was no other way, *"For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."* (Rom.5:19) Among men, there were none righteous. Only the sinless Son could be tested as a man, and still found righteous and the only acceptable sacrifice for sins. And so the sinless Lamb of God, endured the agony of the cross, and then triumphed over death and the grave. Having finished the work He was given to do, the Son returned to His

place with the Father, and now shares the same glory that He had with the Him before the world was. Yet, He promised the disciples, *"I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you. Yet a little while and **the world seeth me no more; but ye see me; because I live, ye shall live also.**"* (Jn.14:18-19) And He continued to explain, *"But the Comforter, which is the **Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.**"* (Vs.26) Then He said something that is not easily understood, *"You heard me tell you, I am going away and I am coming back to you. If you really loved me, you would have been glad, because I am going to the Father; for the **Father is greater and mightier than I am.**"* (Vs.28 Ampl.) Jesus was saying that He was definitely going back to the Father, and this was good because He would then have the Father's power to **impart life** to them; to be a "father," one who possesses the seed of life. The life giving power is in the Father. It was the Spirit of the Father who implanted the seed in the womb of Mary. The Holy Spirit is the "promise of the Father," for He is the life sower. By returning to the Father, Jesus could now send the Holy Spirit who holds the seed of life who would quicken the spirits of the disciples back to life. For the Holy Spirit is that same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead and who now dwells in us.

And so He told them, *"And behold, I send **the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.**"* (Lk.24:49) And a hundred-and-twenty of them gathered in an upper room and waited expectantly, *"And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."* (Acts 2:2-4) The Holy Spirit had indeed entered into them, to quicken their spirits, to comfort them, to lead them into all truths and plant the Word of life within them. It was the Father's answer to Jesus's prayer, to protect them from evil! *"I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth. As thou has sent me into the world, even so have I sent them into the world...Neither do I pray for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word."* (Jn.17:15-18,20)

The Holy Spirit is truly the Ghost of the Son who is very much at work in the earth, (the sons), leading them to conquer all enemies until *"...the last enemy that shall be destroyed, which is death...And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that **God may be all in all.**"* (I Cor.15:26,28) Jesus is the only begotten and unique Son of God. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, He is bringing forth many sons to be as He is. These sons are the "feet," or as a dear sister calls them, "the boots of the ground," standing by faith, to make death, which is the last enemy, their footstool. When all is finished, the prayer of Jesus will be fully answered and the Son and Holy Spirit will be One as the Father and Son are one. *"That they all may be one; as thou, Father art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."* (Jn.17:21)

"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, (Son), and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, (soul), and the blood, (body); and these three agree in one." (I Jn.5:7-8) When the three that bear witness in the earth, (humanity), flow in perfect harmony with the three in heaven, (Father, Son and Holy Ghost), God will be All in all, and peace, justice and love will again rule over God's entire creation. *"Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."* (Matt:6:9-10)

Because He is love, *Jackie Caporaso*