

Reprint of Document

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST, UNTO A PEOPLE IN KENTUCKY & THE ADJACENT STATES, SENDETH GREETING-

WE have heard of a work of God among you, who worketh in divers operations of his power, for which we feel thankful, as we have an ardent desire that God would carry on his own work according to his purposes. We know that God's work as it respects the salvation and redemption of souls is a strange work, which he hath promised to bring to pass in the latter days.

We also know that the servants of God have been under sackcloth and darkness, since the falling away of the apostolic order, which, from the time of X|'s [i.e. Christ's] ministry, continued about 400 years; since that time Antichrist has had power to reign in Christ's stead, and hath set up the abomination that maketh desolate, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, which Christ according to the scriptures, was to consume with the spirit of his mouth, and destroy with the brightness of his second coming.

But not to tarry on these things, we will come to matters in the present day- The time being nearly finished, according to the scriptures; that Antichrist should reign, and the time fully come for Christ to make his second appearance, God, of his everlasting goodness and mercy to his creatures, in the fulfilment of his promises[,] raised up to himself witnesses & gave unto them the same gifts of the Holy Ghost that were given to the apostles, in Christ's first appearance. The light and power and gifts of the Holy Ghost were so convincing, especially in the first Pillar, attended with the word of prophecy, in so marvellous a manner, that every heart was searched and every rein of them that heard was tried.

The loss of man and the way and work of salvation by Christ in the present witnesses appearing so unspeakably great, that altho we had been a people greatly wrought upon by the spirit of God, and were looking for the coming of Christ, yet the light manifested in the witnesses showed us that we were unspeakably short of salvation and had never travelled one step in the regeneration towards the new birth; for it showed us that it was impossible for them who lived in the works of natural generation, copulating in the works of the flesh, to travel in the great work of regeneration and the new birth.

And as these witnesses had received the revelation of Christ, in this last

display of the grace of God to a lost world[,] they taught and opened unto us the way of God, which is a way out of all sin, in the manner following.

First. To believe in the manifestation of Christ and in the messengers he had sent. Secondly, To confess all our sins; and Thirdly. To take up our cross against the flesh, the world and all evil; which we, by receiving and obeying from the heart, have received the gift of God which has separated us from the course of this world & all sin in our knowledge, for 20 years past and upwards.

We, therefore as servants of Christ and children of the resurrection, testify to all people that Christ hath made his second appearance here upon earth and the poor lost children of men know it not.

We know there are many among the wise and prudent of this generation who are looking for the coming of Christ, in this latter day, who entirely overlook the work of God, as the ancient Jews did, in the day of Christ's first appearing: For Christ has come, and it is hid from their eyes, and we marvel not at it, for Christ said "I thank thee O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes." But as the work of God that has wrought[t] mightily in us to puri[f]y us from the nature of sin has been progressive from step to step as we were able to hear, from one degree to another we cannot write particularly in this letter. We hope and trust, you will be so far informed as will be necessary to your salvation. We feel union with the work of God which we have heard is among you, and have a desire to communicate something to you that will be for your good.

The light of God in the gospel has taught us the strait and narrow way that leadeth to life, and not only so, but has given us to see the devices of Satan that, from ages past down to this day, when God has given his holy spirit to enlighten and convict the children of men of sin, Satan would also work, to heal their wounds slightly and lead them into by and forbidden paths, if possible to dishonor and destroy the work of God, even, in them that God enlightened & called to be his witnesses.

We have had a great desire that some of you might have visited us before now, as we have been waiting for some time to know the mind of God in relation to you: we now out of duty to God and our fellow creatures, have sent three of our brethren viz John Meacham, Issachar Bates & Benjamin Youngs, who, we trust [i.e. trust], will be able to declare these things more particularly, and open the way of eternal life unto you, which is a way out of all sin; a way which the vulture's eye never saw, the lion's whelp never

trod, and the fierce lion never passed by it. Receive them, therefore, as messengers of Christ and friends to your salvation.

Written in the Church at New Lebanon, in the town of Canaan,
County of Columbia and state of New York.

Dec. 31, 1804 } Signed in behalf of the Church, —

David Meacham,
Amos Hammond,
Ebenezer Cooly.