

Let my people go!
Ministry of Cpt. Gordon Nelson
The Old Ship of Zion
Only believers "shall take up
serpents" (of the sea). (Mk. 16:18)

MESSAGE 15 - 2005

MOSES' SEAT
WHO AMONG YOU IS QUALIFIED TO SIT IN MOSES' SEAT?

By Cpt. Gordon Nelson

"Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat." (Matt. 23:1-2)

Jesus said, *"The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat."* Had the scribes and Pharisees received the tablets of stone from God? *"And he gave unto Moses...upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God."* (Ex. 31:18) Only Moses was permitted to *"see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen."* (Ex. 33:23) *"And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend."* (Ex. 33:11)

If you read the entire 23rd chapter of Matthew in the light of these "scribes and Pharisees" sitting in Moses' seat "as gods," you can get a clear picture of God's attitude toward such foolish men that attempt such a feat. Pentecostalism is cursed to failure due to this one sin; the desire to sit in Moses' seat. *"The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun."* (Ecc. 1:9) Man desiring to be "as god," is the oldest prophecy in the Bible. (Gen. 3:15)

"All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not." There is absolutely nothing wrong with the doctrines they preach. *"For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders,"* because you've been caught up in some man's kingdom, which you presume is the kingdom on God. (Matt. 23:3-4)

The scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses' seat

- #1 – They *"love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues."* (vs. 6)
- #2 – Called Rabbi, Father, Master (vs. 7-10)
- #3 – *"Shut up the (true) kingdom of heaven against men."* (vs. 13)
- #4 – *"Devour widows' houses."* (vs. 14)
- #5 – Make proselytes, to create devils. (vs. 15)
- #6 – *"Blind guides"* (vs. 16)
- #7 – *"Ye fools and blind."* (vs. 17)
- #8 – A debtor, due to swearing vows and pledges (vs. 18)
- #9 – *"Ye fools and blind."* (vs. 19)
- #10 – Swearing by the altar. (vs. 20)

#11 – Swearing by the temple. (vs. 21)

#12 – Swearing by heaven and the throne of God. (vs. 22)

#13 – Pay tithes and freewill offerings (Knock the swearing off !) (vs. 23)

#14 – “*Ye blind guides.*” (vs. 24)

#15 – “*scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!*” appear outwardly clean. (vs. 25)

#16 – Blind Pharisee, clean yourself outwardly first (vs. 26)

#17 – “*Whited sepulchers.*” (vs. 27)

#18 – “*Outwardly appear righteous unto men.*” (vs. 28)

#19 – “*Build the tombs of the prophets.*” (vs. 29)

#20 – “*Ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.*” (vs. 31)

#21 – “*Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers.*” (vs. 33)

#22 – “*Ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues and persecute them from city to city.*” (vs. 34)

#23 – Jesus prophecies, “*The guilt for the death of all the righteous blood shed upon the earth will come upon this generation.*” (vs. 35-36)

“Ye are all bastards!” could well apply to clergy in Christ’s day

The charge “Ye are all bastards,” could very well apply to this “*generation of vipers*” and snakes that Christ was denouncing. (Matt. 23:33) Imagine your blessed Saviour using such foul language on the clergy of His day. This is the same gang that Jesus went after with a cat-o-nine-tails and lashed the backs of the hypocrites in the temple. “*And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: and when he had made a scourge of small cords*” Jesus went to work lashing their backs, screaming, “*Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.*” (Jn. 2:13-16)

Television time is so expensive that Christian television today is a marketplace to sell, in addition to their tapes, CD’s and books, this unimaginable merchandise of drugs and health store products for the well being of the body. “*And my people love to have it so.*” (Jer. 5:31) If Jesus visited earth today, would He once again make “*a scourge of small cords*” and start screaming all over again, “*Take these things hence; make not my Father’s house an house of merchandise.*” (Jn. 2:16)

Did we get off the highway to the Eternal City?

How did we arrive to where we are today? Was there some simple signpost we failed to heed as we journeyed like Pilgrim (in The Pilgrim’s Progress) on the road to the Eternal City? One detour off the main highway leads you astray.

This highway really commenced when Jesus approached ordinary fishermen and a publican and challenged them, “*Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets,*

and followed him.” (Matt. 4:19-20) Simon Peter and his brother Andrew, left their father’s business to follow Jesus. They *“left their nets.”*

Randolph Byrd anointed as Captain

Recently, Randy Byrd said, “If I’m going to be a Captain, I must act like one.” It is God who makes preachers, not Bible schools. Bible schools are probably the biggest fly in the ointment. They brainwash students just enough so they can’t comprehend the scriptures. An example of this is how Roe v. Wade brainwashed all of us into believing God had removed the curse placed upon woman with the birth of Humanism. Humanism declares a woman is free from the curse, *“and he shall rule over thee.”* (Gen. 3:16) *“Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition.”* (Mk. 7:13)

I wrote a ballad that is a favorite of mine, which I wish to dedicate to the new Captain of Monterey County. Cpt. Randolph I. Byrd has earned his stripes by following Cpt. Nelson for over 30 years!

Don’t Look Back to the Nets of Zebedee

By Cpt. Gordon Nelson

This song that I sing
Is God’s last call
To board the Old Ship,
The Captain built for all.

Thee-e-e Old Ship
Is rugged and true,
Built for you and ever-larger crew.
Never ever look back
You can be on the deck to complete the crew.

Chorus

Don’t look back to the nets of Zebedee.
Don’t look back to the nets of Zebedee.
He is in a maze
And confused unto this day.
Don’t look back to the nets of Zebedee.

Your old family tree
Is caught up in the waves of yesterday.
Yesterday is gone forever.
Today is all there is, ever.
But your choice is on the line
To make your tomorrows just fine.
O come my neighbor, friend,
This Old Ship is true to the end.

Don’t look back to the nets of Zebedee.
Old Zebedee is caught up
In his own nets
They have come on down to thee.
The nets came down the family tree.
Do you really want the nets from this same tree?
Now this is your night
To escape the plight

Of the nets of old Zebedee
That he has planned for thee.

The Master has boarded tonight
With His true Captain leading you right.
Salute the dear Captain now
For his ability and know how
To sail this vessel into the night
And gather souls for the Son to light.
Direct from the throne above
It is now even descending on you like a dove.
Shout for joy ye sons and daughters that are free
We sail tonight on this ship into eternity.
With your Master by your side leading thee.

“I give unto you a ship!”

I heard God tell me these strange words, “I give unto you a ship, and you are the Captain. You are to call it The Old Ship of Zion, and have the same government that is aboard a ship.” These are the orders that you inherit as a Captain. A ship cannot leave port without a Commander.

You’ll find, as I have discovered in attempting to obey these orders from heaven, that you can’t go it alone unless, of course, you want to sit in Moses’ seat. God sends preachers out two-by-two, just as young Saul was called by the Holy Ghost to follow Apostle Barnabas. *“As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas (the seasoned Apostle) and Saul (the new convert out of Phariseeism) for the work whereunto I have called them.”* (Acts 13:2)

Jesus originated the idea of two-by-two, which both the Mormons and the Jehovah’s Witnesses have taken more seriously than the true church of Jesus Christ. The cults have stolen Christian truth and prospered, because it is truth. All Mormons tithe. If they don’t, they are no longer a Mormon. The Mormon tithe is like a tax, or paying their labor union dues. But, however, the Mormon church is one of the wealthiest churches in America because they tithe.

The twelve sent out two by two

“And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two.” (Mk. 6:7) Why two? Because you need the agreement of two. *“And gave them power over unclean spirits.”* *“Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.”* (Matt. 18:19)

Cpt. Byrd, you must begin to seek the Lord for that “Jonathan” that David had as a friend. David could never have been King without Jonathan. I could never be a Captain without Commander Mary. You watched the number of men I tried before settling for Mary. In Pentecostalism, in particular, we grow more chiefs and little gods, but no Indians. No one wants to follow, especially after talking in tongues for six months—you can’t teach them a thing.

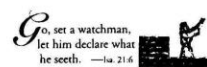
Persistence will pay off. You are the Captain, so must make the tough decisions. It was Peter and John that saw *“a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the*

gate of the temple...And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, LOOK ON US.” (Acts 3:2-4) The “US” is where the power resides, not in a “me” or an “I.”

“Loners” sit in Moses’ seat, disqualified as a member of the brotherhood

Apostle John was shocked when he found a “loner” casting out devils, so he said to Jesus, “*Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbad him, because he followeth not us.*” (Mk. 9:38) This scripture proves conclusively that disciples went two-by-two like Jesus taught them.

In choosing a Commander, even the very elect can be deceived, Cpt. Byrd. The late Walter Martin, the Robert Bork of fundamental Christianity, chose Hank Hanegraaff as the Commander of his ship, “The Bible Answer Man.” See what Martin’s daughter reports on his choice of a Commander on the website www.waltermartin.org. It is the opinion of Cpt. Nelson that Hank Hanegraaff is a victim of amillennialism and Replacement Theology. Follow the money to get the answer to the question, Why? In today’s society, man is all caught up in preserving a kingdom that Jesus said was not of this world. (Jn. 18:36)



Prophetic Observer

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Keeping Time On God’s Prophetic Clock

L-014

Hank Fumbles the Big One

Hank Hanegraaff, billed as “The Bible Answer Man,” is one of the nation’s most popular Christian radio program hosts. However, in our opinion his egotism is exceeded only by his non-credibility. He has been a consistent critic of any ministry that does not conform to his self-appointed “sheriff of Heaven” authority.

On his program of June 30, 2005, that we picked up on the Internet, a listener by the name of “Bob” asked Hank a question about Southwest Radio Church’s remarks related to his preterist position in his new book *The Last Disciple* in which Hank identified Nero as the Antichrist. If Nero was the Antichrist, then the mark of the Beast and the seven years of the Tribulation period, and including chapters 4 through 19 of Revelation, must have occurred on or around A.D. 70. As Hank’s friend, Dr. Norman Geisler, said on our program this past month, this would place Mr. Hanegraaff squarely in the preterist camp, which should be most obvious to any first-year seminary student.

In his response to Bob’s question, Hank replied:

It’s not the kind of radio you want to listen to [referring to Noah Hutchings]. Those have made all kinds of bad prophetic statements. They misread the Scripture. Misinterpret the Scripture. They’re sensationalistic. . . . The whole group there bases their interpretation of Scripture on sensationalism, sophistry, sloppy journalism, and the torture of Scripture. . . . Just like Tim LaHaye, they sometimes make it up as they go along. . . . He’s characterized me as a preterist as well.

Hank rambled on to say that he is a preterist in some interpretations of Scripture and a futurist in others. For example, he said, “. . . there’s

going to be a final resurrection of the dead and a final resolution of the problem of sin and evil. That is going to happen in the future.”

Hank believing in the future resurrection of the dead does not make him a pre-mil futurist. Neither does it remove his label as a replacement theologian. Hank has slithered in out of the preterist closet to keep his pre-mil supporters. According to Hank’s reasoning, believing the sun is going to rise in the morning would make him a futurist and a prophetic scholar.

Hank also charged that we said the Y2K computer glitch would bring in the mark of the Beast, but this is something that he just made up as he went along. According to Revelation 13 there is going to be a “mark of the Beast.” It is going to happen at some time in the future, and the demand for it—and the means to make it happen—bring it closer day by day. But Nero’s “X” was not the mark of the Beast foretold in Revelation 13.

There is nothing in the Constitution that says Hank cannot be a preterist if he wants to be one, but we believe the “Answer Man” raised more questions than he answered about his doctrinal position on eschatology. The biggest question yet, however, is how he ended up with the late Dr. Walter Martin’s ministry. For the answer to this question, you who listen to Hank may want to check the web site, www.waltermartin.org. There is on this web site an item of some thirty to forty pages by Dr. Walter Martin’s daughter, Jill, about Hank Hanegraaff. To say Jill is condemnatory, would be an understatement.



—Noah W. Hutchings

It seems, from my reading of the Bible, only the Apostle Paul carried on this precedent set by our Lord of going out “two-by-two.” (Mk. 6:7) In Acts 15:36-41, is the dissention that arose between Apostle Paul and Apostle Barnabas over John Mark. John Mark apparently had failed the Apostle Paul, and Paul dumped him. Paul never gives you a second chance, so Barnabas chose John Mark as his Commander, while Paul chose Silas. At no time did it even enter anyone’s mind to go it alone. The great Apostle Paul was the champion of the two-by-two message, pleading, “*Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.*” (1 Cor. 11:1)

Cpt. Bryd, you’ve been following me, consciously or unconsciously, for over 30 years. Don’t you think it is high time for you to get someone to follow you? Knowing that someone is following you is a stimulus to walk as He would have us walk. My prayers are for you!

In the Lord’s prayer to His Father, Jesus says, “*I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.*” (Jn. 17:9) Jesus preached to the multitudes, but prayed for the twelve.

“The kingdom of God cometh not with observation”

“*The kingdom of God cometh not with observation* (watching Christian televangelists on TBN or Daystar): *neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.*” (Lk. 17:20-21) The kingdom of God walked among men in the person of Jesus Christ, but the scribes, Pharisees and religionists never recognized the kingdom of God.

Jesus said further, “*The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs* (for healing), *and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air* (satellite, radio and electronic airways) *come and lodge in the branches thereof.*” (Matt. 13:31-32) The birds found rest and peace from their wilderness trip to reach the Promised Land. “*This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest.*” (Isa. 28:12) Religion can tire one out and cause you to die prematurely.

King David correctly sat in Moses’ seat, but he was a “man after God’s own heart.” When Samuel came to the house of Jesse and his sons in search of God’s anointed, he looked upon Jesse’s eldest son, Eliab, and said, “*Surely the LORD’S anointed is before him. But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.*” (1 Sam. 16:6-7)

In a dream, I saw as God sees!

Oh, to view the church of Jesus Christ as God sees it. Man looks upon Christian television to draw their conclusions. My very first experience of viewing churches as God sees them was through a dream God gave me. In this dream, I saw two whirlpools that represented the two largest churches in Oakland, California. You and I would call them churches by looking as man looks, but God sees them as whirlpools with fast moving currents that revivalists call revivals. God looks upon the heart of any

organization; the heart being the rulers of these non-profit religious incorporation as issued to any three people by the Secretary of State.

The one whirlpool was of Dr. Bebe Patten, an independent of organized religion, while the other whirlpool represented the Jew-baiter, Dr. Cecil J. Lowry, pastor of Oakland Revival Tabernacle. Dr. Lowry was a former President of an Assemblies of God Bible College. Armed with this, "as God seeth" dream information, I discovered at the heart of each of these two churches they had one thing in common, the same government. Dr. Cecil J. Lowry's church, I discovered as a result of my dream, was identical to the Patten's. Is yours?

My question to you is this. Why can't you now look at a church as God sees it? Armed with the information I've just given you, you can make a visit to the Secretary of States office and ask for a photocopy of the Articles of Incorporation of your church you are attending. They are available to the public for a minimal cost.

I know how you view your church, but don't you even have a curiosity as to how God sees your church? *"For the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart."* (1 Sam. 16:7)

Had Morris Cerullo been a Freemason, a member of the World Council of Churches, and a Democrat, would the IRS have pressed these charges that have failed, thus far, after a three year investigation?

***Christianity Today*, Week of July 11**

Weblog: TV Evangelist Morris Cerullo Indicted for False Tax Returns

Compiled by Ted Olsen | posted 07/14/2005 04:30 p.m.

The top story today is Morris Cerullo's federal grand-jury indictment on three counts of filing false income tax returns. The indictment claims that the television evangelist failed to report more than \$550,000 in income over three years, beginning in 1998.

It's not the first time Cerullo has had legal troubles over income; he was sued twice in 2000 by employees who said they were punished for raising questions about fundraising. The more prominent of these came from John Paul Warren, who said he was fired for confronting Cerullo about "unethical and fraudulent fund raising techniques."

A California appeals court in December 2001 said that the courts could not get involved in the case since it involved employment at a religious organization, and that state involvement would violate both the Free Exercise Clause and Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. (The Supreme Court in 2002 decided not to hear an appeal.)

Cerullo, a leader in the word-faith movement, is certainly an interesting figure. He says he converted to Christianity by a woman who worked at the New Jersey orphanage where he grew up. The twist: it was an Orthodox Jewish orphanage, and the woman was fired for giving him a New Testament. Cerullo says he ran away from the home at 14, sought the woman out, was given a home with her brother, and became a healing evangelist at 25. (This from Randy Balmer's *Encyclopedia of Evangelicalism*.)

Though he has largely conducted his healing revivals in South America, Cerullo has in recent years turned his eye to the Middle East, preaching in Qatar, Bahrain, and other Arab nations. His meetings in Saudi Arabia, attended by more than 1,000 people, were followed by government raids on local churches. "In 1992, authorities in India ordered Cerullo to leave the country after he was nearly lynched by an angry mob," reports the Associated Press.

He's had trouble in the West, too: In 1999, Britain's Independent Television Commission fined the Christian Channel £20,000 for a broadcast it found in violation of broadcast standards.

But Cerullo has had more success with television in the U.S. After a failed attempt to purchase all of Jim Bakker's PTL empire, including Heritage USA, Cerullo settled for ownership of the PTL television network. Now renamed the Inspiration Network and headed by Cerullo's son David, INSP is on more than 2,000 cable systems around the country.

If convicted, reports the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, Cerullo faces a maximum penalty of three years in prison and a \$100,000 fine. (The AP notes that this is for *each* of the three counts the evangelist faces, not the total.) "

Dr. Cerullo looks forward to an opportunity to respond to the allegations in a court of law," his lawyer said. "And he is pleased that after three years of investigation by the IRS, nothing was found to be inappropriate in the operation of the ministry."

The news comes one week after *The Dallas Morning News* reported that the IRS is investigating Benny Hinn Ministries.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Cpt. Gordon Nelson, I read your letters and I want to thank you for the information that you offer about churches, preachers and others issues related to the Christian movement. I want to tell you that I love the Lord with all my heart but I am having a difficult time to find a church that I can call home. My friend told me about "The Rock". She is visiting the one in Queens, New York. She describes it as a friendly people but a little strange place. My other friend visited the one in town and she likes it but had the same opinion. I am tired of visiting churches. I need your help. Please, can you tell me if you know anything about The Rock? Is it a good Christian church or it is a cult? I want to serve the Lord but I want to fellowship in the right place and the right people. In Christ, Esperanza

My dear Christian friend,

I hope I can be of service to you. I've been in the Pentecostal religion for 64 years. I'd like to believe I know this religion like the back of my hand. Unequivocally, the Pentecostal religion has the greatest truth, but the poorest government of any church on earth. Pentecostals have acquired the skill of using the Holy Spirit instead of permitting the Holy Spirit to work through them. When that happens, humility will brace that individual instead of the pride we see so manifested today. In Zechariah 8:23, we read, *"Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you."* These are ten Gentile Christians that got sick and tired of "hirelings" and "lords." Marv Rosenthal, a Messianic Jew, tells how he was approached on an airplane by nine other Jewish men to complete a minyan, a group of ten Jewish men needed to conduct a prayer meeting. The point to this illustration is that Gentiles have only two kinds of churches:

The hireling (Jn. 10:12)

- Type of Laodicea (Gk.-people rule). It is usually a membership. You get to vote exactly like a democracy. The Assemblies of God and the Southern Baptists (as a whole) follow this type of government.

The lord (1 Pet. 5:3)

- Neither being lords over God's heritage. Morris Cerullo was indicted for income tax evasion. He is not a cult, but a follower of a formula that the IRS declares is a church, called a non-profit, religious incorporation.

Generally, whenever a man tells you he is going to church, governmentally he is attending either a church the people own, or else one the preacher owns. In Pentecostal circles that is it! Invariably, due to the complete dominance of the people by a single man, pride pokes up its ugly face. Suddenly, to the amazement of its followers, this "lord" can announce to the congregation he is a "little god," thus

achieving the bait given Eve in the Garden, “*ye shall be as gods.*” (Gen. 3:5) Television is the fruit that preachers aspire and bite into that they might be wise. Kenneth Copeland and Kenneth Hagin were the apostles of being “as the gods.”

None of which I have described thus far is cultish. Being either a “lord” or a “god” is mainstream today. If you find a church you think you like, take a visit to the files of the Secretary of State at the courthouse. The files on all non-profit religious incorporations are a matter of public record. For a minimal fee, for a photostatic copy, you’ll see for yourself the governmental structure of the church. Rather than merely relying on your feelings, now you have knowledge to base your decision upon.

The pattern for the New Testament church is Antioch, where believers were first called Christians. Antioch was not a one-man show, but rather presents five ministries in the church:

1. Barnabus – the Apostle
2. Simeon – the Prophet
3. Lucius – the Evangelist from Cyrene
4. Manaen – the Pastor
5. Saul – Teacher (the new convert from Phariseeism)

As they ministered together, the Holy Spirit made His appearance. (Acts 13:2) We are commanded to “*earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*” (Jude 3) The church of Antioch is the goal ministers should be contending for. In the 21st Century, we would be looking at five individual churches: Barnabus would have his church, Simeon his, Lucius his, Manaen his, and young Saul would be sent to Bible School to promote denominationalism.

To be more specific in answering your question, Barnabus would pastor the Rock Church in Virginia Beach, Simeon would pastor the Rock Church in Queens, NYC, Lucius would be pastor of the Rock Church in San Diego, Manaen in Florida and Saul, as the new convert, would wind up in a cult.

“*And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro* (having a hard time finding a church).” (Eph. 4:11-14) Ye shall know them by their fruit. Antioch produced the most luscious fruit ever: the maturing of Saul of Tarsus into the Apostle Paul.

The carrot has always been out there to challenge ministries to come together. But, to recreate Antioch, one must scuttle the idea of playing “god.” That is too big a price for our ministries to pay, hence all we have in the church today is pastor, pastor, pastor, pastor, each pastoring his own church as “god.” In Antioch the pastor is at the bottom of the totem pole relative to spiritual authority.

The days of the Gentiles are being closed to the truth. The Messianic Jews’ eyes are being opened. Try “the skirt” of a Messianic Jew. “We know God is with you!” Gentiles are only the engrafted branch. “*Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. Well; because of unbelief*

they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: for if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee.” (Rom. 11:19-21) If God spared not the natural branch, how much easier would it be for Him to cut off the wild olive branch (the Gentile church)?

Esperanza, you presented an excellent question. My answer could be beneficial to others seeking a church home, as well. Even C.I. Scofield says in his footnotes, “There is no evidence of a single elder (or minister) in the early church.” Jesus sent the twelve out two-by-two. Paul carried out the same tradition when the Holy Ghost spoke out at Antioch, “*Separate me Barnabas (the Apostle) and Saul (the learner) for the work whereunto I have called them.*” (Acts 13:2)

To even be called Christian, every church should have a minimum of two elders.