



DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

Giving God His Rightful Place by Antiah

God is about to lead us in a higher level of faith and glory. In history, every time God has brought men to a crossroad in the walk of faith, He always asked a readjustment of their focus on him to bring them to a reconsideration of their hearts. Unless God is first in our hearts and has His rightful place in our life, nothing can stand in its place. This is the divine order how things work in the Kingdom...God has to be loved, served and to have the priority place in all positions of our lives. When this position is not given to God, everything fails. everything loses significance...

For David, God as his priority is as an essentiality for life to sustain and continue and have meaning. In *Psalms 127*, he wrote, if God does not build the house, everything that builders build becomes a waste.

Abraham, also placed God at the highest point in his life priorities. In *Genesis 22*, when God asked him to take his only son Isaac and to offer him as a burning sacrifice, we see the promptitude of Abraham's obedience (*verse 2*). This can be explained by the way Abraham had always considered God in His right of ownership and Creator of all things. This is important for us to understand that if we do not consider God in His rightful place, obedience will be difficult. This experience was also tested in *Mark 10:18* with the rich young man who approached Jesus about how to receive eternal life. Jesus told him '*One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me*'. This is about loving God more than the treasures of this world. The rich man could not love God more than his wealth and he could not obey the words of Jesus.

Jesus came to bring everything come back under His divine order that was disturbed at Eden. Paul explained this fact in *Ephesians 2*. We have been made closed to God and to come under the condition of reconciliation...in the divine order. As long as we live in Christ, we shall be in harmony with God because the Body of Christ is in perfect harmony with this order. Jesus taught us to 'seek first the Kingdom of God and its righteousness (*Matthew 6:33*) and this message discloses how we believers can walk in God's perfect will, by giving God his rightful place in us.

Haggai chapter 1 gave us more light how people can fail to focus their vision on God and consider Him above all things. Israel, coming into their land after the captivity in Babylon, started to rebuild their own houses and to live in luxurious homes, neglecting the House of God...they saw that building the House of God was not important. God spoke to them through prophet Haggai reminding them of their wrong. For the same reason Israel before entered into captivity as they did not put God in His rightful place before them. When Jesus comes into our lives a situation of conflict will arise, because Jesus will require His rightful place, the first place, and we have to make a choice between Him and any other things. *Deuteronomy 4: 24* tells us that God is a consuming fire, a jealous God and will never let anything take His place in your heart.





WEEKLY EVENTS/NOTICES

Issue 03

Events /Notices

- ▶ **Baptism Tomorrow at 12.45pm.** Main meeting starts at 10.00am and there will be a break for refreshments from 11.45 to 12.45. Please bring something extra for refreshments as there will be a number of visitors present
- ▶ **New church website** in final stages of construction. Please check www.caec.ie and send feedback to church email address.
- ▶ **Donations of second hand books** will be gratefully accepted in the bookshop at there is a big demand at present.

Extra Services

If you have children with you, these are the facilities provided:

▶ Crèche and Pre-school Praise

Our crèche is based on the floor above the Meeting Room with baby changing facilities and toys to keep your young child occupied if they do not settle during the meeting. Parents are to attend to their children at all times. There is a short and simple pre-school Bible lesson during the sermon for 2-5 year olds in the Crèche (as arranged).

▶ Sunday School

Our Sunday School is open to children of school going age and operates during the sermon in the Sunday School room on the top floor. Our teachers have a Bible story and songs prepared for your child(ren), teaching them the need for Salvation and Christian living.

Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD (Psalm 34:11)

▶ Tea and Coffee

After the Sunday morning service, tea, coffee and light refreshments are available on the top floor in the Hospitality Room. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. (*Hebrews 13:2*).