Be "Ambassadors" for Christ!

By Peter Salemi

www.British-Israel.ca

Many Christians do not realize who they represent on this earth today! There is an identity Crisis in the Christian community-Christians look themselves differently than the way God looks at them. And until Christians change their mindset their position in this world will never change.

What is an Ambassador?

Many countries have embassies set up around the world. In the embassies, the Ambassadors of those countries work to *represent* their countries and leaders in foreign nations. "An ambassador is the *highest-ranking diplomat representing a country in a foreign nation*, and they typically stay at an official residence associated with the embassy, which is their headquarters." (Article: Wikipedia "Ambassador" emphasis added).

In the time of Jesus, the word "Ambassador" meant the same thing, "In the time of Christ, an ambassador was an official representative of a king or nation, sent to carry messages, negotiate treaties, or conduct other state business. Their role was to embody the authority and interests of the person or country they represented, and an insult to an ambassador was considered an insult to their sovereign... The Bible contains no finer characterization of the exalted and spiritual nature of the minister's vocation as the representative of Jesus Christ, the King of kings, and Saviour of the world. Dwight M. Pratt" (Article: What does it mean to be an ambassador for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20? by Got Questions.org; International Standard Bible Encyclopedia 1915, emphasis added).

Jesus was an Ambassador for the Father. He said to his parents, "Why is it that ye have sought me? did ye not know that I ought to be *occupied* in my Father's business?" (Luke 2:49 Darby). Jesus came to do the Lord's business. Jesus understood his role as a representative of God the Father in heaven, acting according to the will of his Father. He spoke with a unique authority, which was a sign of his role as God's representative on Earth.

The Kingdom of God

Jesus Christ of Nazareth has called us Christians to be in his Kingdom. A Kingdom is a *government*-the government of God. "...and the *government* shall be upon his shoulder...Of the increase of *his government* and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, *and upon his kingdom*, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this." (Isaiah 9:6, 7).

Christians are to *inherit* this kingdom, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, *inherit the kingdom* prepared for you from the foundation of the world:" (Matt 25:34). This happens at the second coming of Christ. Until that time we are here on earth and, "behold, the kingdom of God is *within* you." (Luke 17:21). God is the king of our lives and "...the peace of God *rule* in your hearts," (Col 3:15).

Christians are *representatives* for God on this earth doing the Lord's business-spreading kingdom culture on earth and be examples for all people on earth. John wrote that he was a, "companion in tribulation, and in the *kingdom* and patience of Jesus Christ..." (Rev 1:9). Christians were spreading the "kingdom" on earth-God *ruling* in their hearts.

The Apostle Paul said of *Christians* including himself, "...we are *ambassadors* for Christ..." (2 Cor 5:20). Christians are here and represent the King of Kings Jesus Christ! Understand and embrace your *identity* and role on this earth. It is the most important role one can embrace on this planet! Stop thinking that Christians are like what you see in the movies-poor wretched people with no power. The Apostles in Jerusalem were held "in high esteem." (Acts 5:13NASB). They were respected and feared as Ambassadors should be!

Act like and Be an Ambassador

An Ambassador for a great king does not live in a shack and wear rags. An Ambassador is one who is *accomplished* in many things-learning languages and law, political science and has experience in government etc.... We as ambassadors must work ourselves and become better people learning the laws of God, studying the Bible and *from* the Bible learn new things about language, finance and many other topics that the Bible teaches.

Ambassadors live in beautiful embassies and wear fine clothes not for their own ego but to represent the honor, dignity, and abundance of the king they serve.

Christians are Ambassadors for the king of kings, do *not* attend churches services and meet and greet people with rags, dirty, or old clothes. We must be our best because we *represent* the best. There have been many reports of people going to church in rags and unwashed faces and uncombed hair. But Jesus was not like this. He encouraged people to, "anoint thine head, and wash thy face;" (Matthew 6:17); to be groomed and well dressed; and Jesus was so well dressed that the soldiers gambled for his clothes (see Matthew 27:35; Mark 15:24; Luke 23:34; John 19:24). When people go to the opera, or on a date or dinner do they dress in rags? No! Why is it ok when you go to church? The guest of honor is God! Shouldn't we be our best in *his* presence and when we also represent him?

Christians have a responsibility to represent him well. This means we should strive for excellence in all we do. We should dress well. We should keep our homes and workplace in a state of order and beauty. We should also act with integrity and generosity.

When one lives with this consciousness, one is *not* being materialistic. You are being a good ambassador. You are showing the world that the God you serve is a God of abundance, order, and excellence, *not* a God of poverty, chaos, and lack.

Ambassadors in the Kingdom of God

In the end time when Jesus comes back, he will send his ambassadors throughout the world demanding the nations send delegates to, "...go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. "And it shall be, *that* whoso will not come up of *all* the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain." (Zech 14:16-17). This will be the job of many *resurrected* Christians.

Prophecy states that, "We have heard a rumour from the LORD, and an *ambassador is sent among the heathen...*" (Obadiah 1:1; Jer 49:14). The nations that have not heard about the Lord, his goodness and triumph over evil, God is going to send his "Ambassadors" to teach them the ways of God.

Isaiah states, "And I will set a sign among them, and *I will send* those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they [the Ambassadors for God] shall declare my glory among the Gentiles.

- "And they shall bring all your brethren *for* an offering unto the LORD out of all nations upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon swift beasts, *to my holy mountain Jerusalem*, saith the LORD, as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the LORD.
- "And I will also take of them for priests and for Levites, saith the LORD.
- "For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.
- "And it shall come to pass, *that* from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, *shall all flesh come to worship before me*, saith the LORD." (66:19-23).

We now must train and be ready for this amazing future we have with God, being Ambassadors sent to the heathen. Let's be Ambassadors **now**-as Jesus says in the parable of the talents, what we do today *translates* to the kingdom of God, "Well done, good and faithful servant; *thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things*: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.... For unto every one that hath shall be given, and *he shall have abundance*: but from him that hath not [does nothing with the gift given to him/her] shall be taken away even that which he hath." (Matthew 25:23, 29). It is a time to produce, educate and better ourselves for the Kingdom of God-*not* to take the talent and dig it into the sand, sit on it and do nothing with it which most Christians think we ought to do! This is exactly what the Lord does *not* want! Start Today!