



THE APOSTLE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN GOD, INC. (ACCG)

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1st Vice Bishop James E. Hayes

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A LIFE WELL PLEASING TO GOD

From the Desk of the Presiding Bishop

Hebrews 13: 20-21: “Now the God of peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, (21) make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ: to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

God’s greatest desire, in this passage of scripture, is for this people to be spiritually mature. He wants them to grow up in Christ Jesus. The God of Peace originated this passage; he is the divine author. It is because of his power; He can cause this passage to provoke the believer to grow in the grace and life of Jesus Christ, whom He brought again from among the dead. Romans 5:1, “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (2) And by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand and rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.” So, the believer stands and rejoices in the hope of the glory of God because He raised Jesus up from among the dead for his justification. The believer now stands in the grace and peace of God.

Christ is the days-man or mediator of this divine operation in the believer, or on the believer's behalf. The believer is able to achieve perfection because of Christ’s redemptive work at Calvary. He is the good shepherd of the sheep. He, Christ Jesus, leads and guides and takes care of the believer. This great provision has been paid through the blood of the everlasting Covenant. For the word says, “without shedding of blood is no remission of sin.” (Hebrews 9:22). So, therefore Christ has made it possible through His shed blood, that the believer may be perfected by the grace of God working in Him. God’s favor is upon His life “to work out both to will and to do of His own good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:13). This everlasting covenant, or agreement, or testament, is sealed and ratified by the blood of Jesus Christ. It is because of and through the shed blood of Jesus, God has covenant or made an agreement to perfect all those who come to Him by believing in Jesus Christ.



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The believer is being made, strengthened, and equipped by God to grow to maturity. He is equipping the believer with every good thing to do His will. The believer is being made perfect in every effective way. Listen to what the Amplified Bible says in the 21st verse: “Strengthen, (complete perfect), and make you what you ought to be and equip you with everything good that you may carry out His will.” Consider this analogy: when an infant is born, he has within him everything he needs to grow into a complete, perfect, mature adult. All he needs is someone to nurture and admonish him so everything that has been placed within him can grow and mature. The child can be a productive adult, doing that which is well-pleasing in his parent’s sight. When we are born again into the family of God, He equips us with everything that we need to grow and mature in the Christian life. I believe when we receive the new birth, we are given spiritual grace and the fruit of the spirit: love, joy, peace, meekness, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control. When we cultivate and embrace these spiritual graces, we show forth a life well-pleasing to God.

Amen.

Bishop H. Jerome Betts

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Presiding Bishop Prelate