

may 19

in luke 4, after our Lord had been tried by the devil himself, went into a synagogue and proceeded to make this proclamation: "the Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty". He was quoting isa 61.

He then proceeded to say: "today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing". and so it has been for the last two thousand years. it is called "the acceptable year of the Lord" or the "age of grace" as we know it today. this is why He came.

this was His mission; His purpose for coming. to bring the whole world "out of darkness into His marvelous light" 1 pet 2:9 He came to expose the works of the enemy and obtain the victory that we, in all our struggles, could not obtain. He came to bridge a path back to the Father.

this same statement made by our Lord two thousand years ago in a lonely synagogue is still our mission today. it is called the gospel; the good news.

we who are bond servants of Christ have taken that same mantle upon us. a mantle is defined as a garment worn over other garments, such as a cloak or a coat. our mantle is none other than Jesus Christ Himself; the Son of God. we are told to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh". rom 13:14

"freely you have received, freely give." matt 10:8 He has not called us all to be great teachers or evangelists, but He has called us all to be a witness; by our words, by our actions, by our very lives.

"always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear." 1 pet 3:15

one may say, "but what can i do?" this is the same question the disciples asked two thousand years ago. "what shall we do, that we may work the works of God? Jesus answered and said to them, "this is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent." john 6:28

simply believe and bear witness to His name. do not be "led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ." 2 cor 11:3 nasb1995 our heavenly Father has made it almost too simple to miss. too simple to believe.

read in 2 kings 5 of naaman, how when he sought to be cured of leprosy. he thought the task was too simple to work until his servants restrained him with this question. "had the prophet told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? how much more then, when he says to you, 'wash, and be clean'?"

our message now is that same one to others - wash and be clean! yes, the gospel is simple but the time is short. our Lord is about to complete the reading of the passage in isaiah 61 - "and the day of vengeance of our God".

let us quickly finish proclamation of the first part
before the latter is spoken.