

THE
“CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP”
ANSWERED
FROM SCRIPTURE

by

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PREFACE

This study began as a series of lessons for the congregation at Granite Belt Baptist Church, but has been expanded into its current form to help others understand this movement. My prayer is that it will be used for God's glory, for the promotion of his truth, for the deliverance of those in bondage, and for the protection of others from falling into error.

INTRODUCTION

The Christian Fellowship is a group of some twenty-six churches throughout Australia with its headquarters in Brisbane. They are also known as Restoration Fellowships International (RFI), which is said to be raised up by God “for the restoration of the body of Christ, as is prophesied in the book of Revelation”.

The group originated in the 1960s as part of the Latter Rain Movement, a branch of Pentecostalism which teaches that in the latter days God will pour out his Spirit in a special way, as at Pentecost, leading to a great world-wide revival in the days preceding the Second Coming of Christ.

An American missionary, Ray Jackson Snr, started the Immanuel Assembly in Melbourne, which later became the Christian Fellowship. After he was exposed for immorality, his son, Ray Jackson Jnr, took over the leadership.

Victor Hall, another Pentecostal preacher, met Jackson in Melbourne, was impressed with his teaching, and took his teachings to Brisbane. Victor Hall is now the supreme leader of the denomination with control over the churches, appointing and deposing their leaders at his pleasure. All Christian Fellowship churches base their doctrine and teaching on Hall’s writings, which he receives by divine revelation.

The Christian Fellowship has had some limited success in recruiting followers by seeking to present to newcomers an attractive display of church life:

- In their apparent friendliness;
- In their semblance of stable marriages and families;
- In their respectable middle-class demographic;
- In their refined musical performances.

Though the Christian Fellowship seeks to present itself as a mainstream, orthodox Christian church, it is far from it.

They believe they are “Gods administration” for the end times and they alone possess the “present truth” for this generation.

They require members to have complete and unquestioned obedience to the demands of the church leaders.

They do not use or read Christian books or resources from outside of their movement.

They have created their own hymnody – their worship songs are written and composed entirely by their own people based on Victor Hall’s latest revelations.

Their authors and speakers use convoluted, esoteric language, difficult for non-initiates to understand, which is akin to gnosticism.

They use jargon and terms peculiar to their own movement such as, “lampstand administration”, “proceeding word”, “the gospel of sonship”, and “firstfruits Christians”.

The Christian Fellowship has many marks of a cult:

- Legalism – they pervert the gospel of grace alone by faith alone by adding works for justification;
- Exceptionalism – they regard themselves as the one true church, outside of which there is no salvation;
- Prophetical – they presume to have a special role in God’s eschatological plan;
- Authoritarian – they have one supreme leader who controls the organisation and its people;
- Revelatory – they add direct revelations from God to supplement the Scriptures;
- Segregational – they shun and ostracise those who disagree with them or who leave their movement, dividing marriages and families.

But how can we know whether the Christian Fellowship is true or false? Is there any way we can test their doctrines?

God says, “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them” (Isaiah 8:20).

The Scriptures are our standard by which all teaching must be tested. We are to be like the noble Bereans, who, “received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11).

This study will examine, from their own words, the teachings of the Christian Fellowship in the light of the word of God.

THEY REJECT JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST ALONE

Christ is not rewarding our self-righteousness and calling it ‘walking in the Spirit’. Rather, **His righteousness is our reward for journeying with Him in the fellowship of His offering.**

(The Steps of Salvation Part 5, p.68)

Now that the Son has come to dwell in their heart, **they are justified by faith when they do the works that the Son of God does through them.**

(Born of the Spirit, p.5)

Christ’s imputed righteousness is not a *reward* for anything we do – that is a works gospel and a damnable heresy. Justification is wholly a gift of God’s grace, received by faith alone.

Therefore being **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: (Romans 5:1)

Knowing that **a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ**, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be **justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.** (Galatians 2:16)

THEY TEACH SALVATION IS NOT THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST'S ATONEMENT ALONE

A person’s salvation is dependent upon how they receive the doctrine of Christ that is proclaimed by His lampstand administration. The ministry of Christ’s administration is in conflict with **false messengers, who teach that a person can be saved and enter heaven on the basis of Christ’s vicarious offering, alone.** They claim that a person can avail themselves of the benefits of Christ’s offering through the profession of some salvation formula, such as the sinner’s prayer. By denying the necessity to come into Christ, they teach that righteousness can be demonstrated through a person’s self-defined religious works. Such practices reveal that these false messengers, and their followers, deny that salvation is only found in the fellowship of Christ.

(Restoring My Soul, May 2019, p.6)

Hall describes those who teach salvation through Christ’s sacrifice alone as “false messengers”.

Was the prophet Isaiah a “false messenger”?

But **he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.**... Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: **when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin**, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his

soul, and shall be satisfied: **by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.** (Isaiah 53:5,10-11)

Was Jesus Christ a “false messenger”?

For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and **to give his life a ransom for many.** (Mark 10:45)

Was the apostle Paul a “false messenger”?

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, **while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.** Much more then, **being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.** For if, when we were enemies, **we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son,** much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. (Romans 5:8-10)

For **he hath made him to be sin for us,** who knew no sin; **that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.** (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: (Galatians 3:13)

Was the apostle Peter a “false messenger”?

For **Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust,** that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: (1 Peter 3:18)

Was the apostle John a “false messenger”?

And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and **washed us from our sins in his own blood,** (Revelation 1:5)

Were all the preachers of the gospel throughout church history “false messengers” until Victor Hall appeared with his new “gospel of sonship”?

THEY REJECT THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST’S PROPITIATORY SACRIFICE

Let us now consider some examples of these **alternative understandings of the gospel...**Since the Reformation, many within the Evangelical movement have declared that entry into heaven is conditional upon Jesus becoming an individual’s personal Saviour. The essential element of this doctrine is that **Christ’s death on the cross was a legal propitiation that saves a person from the wrath of God that is destroying them because of their sins. Jesus Christ paid the penalty for the sin of the whole of mankind, and this salvation is available to those who meet and**

receive Christ as their personal Saviour. The reality of becoming an *actual* son of God through *new birth* and its necessity for entering the kingdom of heaven, has been actively rejected by many adherents of **this positional, legal gospel.**
(The Steps of Salvation Part 8, pp.7-8)

What Victor Hall rejects as an “alternative understanding of the gospel” is actually the true gospel. Christ is indeed our propitiation: “And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world” (1 John 2:2). The meaning of propitiation (*hilasmos*) is that God in his holiness and justice holds the sinner under his condemnation and wrath, but the sacrifice of Christ *propitiates*, that is, satisfies and appeases God’s wrath towards the sinner, thereby reconciling him to God.

Hall’s definition of propitiation falls well short of the Biblical meaning:

By definition, ‘propitiation’ is a merciful action of offering, made by God, by which He is able to destroy sin, remove man’s guilt, and then break down the barrier of shame that sin has interposed, or set, between God and man.
(The Steps of Salvation Part 4, p.41)

There is no recognition in this definition of God’s righteous anger towards sin and those who commit it, nor any understanding of the fact that Christ’s blood satisfies it. Rather, Hall disdains such a view as “a legal propitiation”.

Again, while Hall rejects the idea that, “salvation is available to those who meet and receive Christ as their personal Saviour”, the Lord Jesus Christ himself said,

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. (John 5:24)

The simple gospel message of Christ’s atoning death and his resurrection from the dead that grants eternal life to all who believe, can be understood even by a child. This plain and clear gospel has been perverted by Hall into a confused and convoluted process that cannot be clearly defined in a brief statement, but requires multiple books and hundreds of pages to explain and even then remains vague and contradictory.

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from **the simplicity that is in Christ.** (2 Corinthians 11:3)

THEY TEACH THAT JUSTIFICATION COMES BY “ACCEPTING GOD’S WORD CALLING THEM TO BE A SON OF GOD”

God imputes righteousness, meaning right standing, to a new believer when they accept God’s word calling them to be a son of God. Being a son of God is the first

expression of righteousness. Having been born of the Spirit, our obedience to the word of the Father reveals the righteousness of Christ. We reveal the righteousness of His sonship as members of His body.
(Born of the Spirit, p.78)

This is a perverted and false teaching. Imputed righteousness does not come by accepting “God’s word calling them to be a son of God”. This is nowhere taught in Scripture. God imputes Christ’s righteousness to those who believe in the blood of Jesus Christ for their salvation from sin.

Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation **through faith in his blood**, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and **the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus**. (Romans 3:25-26)

God justifies (declares righteous) only those who believe in Jesus, not those who “accept God’s word calling them to be a son of God”. This is a false gospel that will damn to hell those who follow it.

THEY TEACH A NEW AND DIFFERENT GOSPEL TO THAT OF THE REFORMATION

In the same way, **the gospel of sonship was not preached during the Reformation in the early sixteenth century**. The hope of being born as a son of God was even mocked and ridiculed by some preachers. It was not until mid-way through the nineteenth century that a well-known Baptist preacher began to teach that the blood of Christ was more than a ransom price that obtained a legal position of salvation. He taught that the blood had power to heal the sin-sick soul. This was something of a step forward, but it still fell well short of understanding the covenant that Christ has made with us in His blood.

(The Steps of Salvation Part 1, p.7)

Notwithstanding the numerous Romanist errors that many of the Reformers retained, their teaching on the gospel of Christ and the means of justification was generally Scriptural. They clearly taught that justification was by grace alone, through faith alone in the atonement of Jesus Christ. For instance, English Reformer, William Tyndale (c. 1492-1536) wrote, “Hereof ye see what faith it is that justifieth us. The faith in Christ’s blood, of a repenting heart toward the law, doth justify us only; and not all manner faiths.” (Tyndale, *An Answer to Sir Thomas More’s Dialogue*, 1530)

By their own testimony, the Christian Fellowship movement declare that they preach a different gospel to this and in doing so they pronounce God’s curse upon themselves.

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto **another gospel**: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would **pervert the gospel of Christ**. But **though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto**

you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, **If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.**
(Galatians 1:6-9)

Furthermore, the name they have given to their new gospel, the “gospel of sonship” is nowhere to be found in Scripture. There are many different designations of the gospel given in the New Testament, such as, “the gospel of the kingdom”, “the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God”, “the gospel of the grace of God”, “the gospel of God”, “the gospel of his Son”, “the gospel of Christ”, “the gospel of peace”, “the gospel of your salvation”, “the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ”, “the gospel of the blessed God”, “Christ's gospel”, and “the everlasting gospel”. But there is no such “gospel of sonship”. Both its name and, more importantly, its substance, are the invention of the corrupt heart of fallen man.

THEIR “GOSPEL OF SONSHIP” IS DEFINED AS BEING “BORN AGAIN AS SONS OF GOD”

The **gospel of sonship** is the most amazing message. We, the sons and daughters of men, **were predestined by God to be born again as sons of God.**
(The Steps of Salvation Part 2, p.5)

In contrast to this, the message of the true gospel is clearly described by the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4:

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you **the gospel** which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:** (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

The message of the gospel is the substitutionary atonement of Jesus Christ by his death on the cross and his resurrection from the dead. It is called the “gospel” because it is the “glad tidings” to condemned sinners, that if they will repent and believe this gospel, they will be forgiven and receive everlasting life.

While the focus of Paul’s gospel is *Christ* and his atonement, the focus of Hall’s gospel is *man* and his improved condition.

Consider some examples of the apostles’ preaching of the gospel in Acts, and whether they bear any resemblance to the Christian Fellowship’s “gospel of sonship”, which is summarised as “We...were predestined by God to be born again as sons of God”, or whether the apostles preached Christ’s atoning death and resurrection.

And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom **they slew and hanged on a tree: Him God raised up the third**

day, and shewed him openly... To him give all the prophets witness, that **through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.** (Acts 10:39-40,43)

And though they found no cause of death in him, yet desired they Pilate that **he should be slain.** And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, **they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulchre. But God raised him from the dead...** Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that **through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things,** from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses. (Acts 13:28-30,38-39)

Opening and alleging, that **Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.** (Acts 17:3)

Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come: **That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead,** and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles. (Acts 26:22-23)

Victor Hall's new "gospel of sonship" bears no resemblance to the true gospel that the apostles preached.

THEY TEACH THAT SALVATION COMES ONLY THROUGH THE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Only the word that proceeds as light from a functioning presbytery is able to join a believer to the fellowship of the Father and the Son.

(The Steps of Salvation Part 2, p.28)

On the day when we stand before the judgement seat of Christ, and meet Him face to face, the one pre-eminent question that Christ will ask us is, 'Do I know you, and **were you known by the overseers of My house as a son of God who served Me in My body?**' Heb 13:17. Jesus said, 'Many will say to Me in that day, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?" And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practise lawlessness!" ' Mat 7:22-23. **Knowing and being known by God and others in the body of Christ is essential to salvation.**

(The Steps of Salvation Part 8, p.39-40)

Extra ecclesiam nulla salus (outside the church there is no salvation) is an ancient phrase used by Romanism to establish their church as the sole institution through which we may be saved. The Christian Fellowship imitates the papists in making their own claim to be God's chosen vessel through which we must receive eternal life.

The Scriptures teach that Christ is the door of salvation (John 10:9), but now the Christian Fellowship is the door.

The Scriptures teach that Christ is the one Mediator between God and men (1 Timothy 2:5), but now there is a second mediator: the Christian Fellowship.

The Scriptures teach the conditions for salvation are repentance and faith (Acts 20:21), but now there is another condition: join the Christian Fellowship.

What then becomes of the countless multitudes who have come to a true faith in Christ without any involvement of the Christian Fellowship? What of those who were converted through reading the Bible or a tract, or of those who were brought to saving faith through the witness of a friend or family member?

Their answer: if the gospel was not “the word that proceeds as light from a functioning presbytery” (i.e. a Christian Fellowship church), then it is not “able to join a believer to the fellowship of the Father and the Son”.

The leaders of the Christian Fellowship religion are no different to the popes, cardinals, bishops and priests of Rome who have constructed a sacerdotal system in which they become the gatekeepers of eternal salvation. You must enter through them, under their conditions, or forfeit your soul to the burning lake.

Christ’s fearful curse is pronounced on such deceivers:

But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. (Matthew 23:13)

THEY TEACH REGENERATION BY BAPTISM AND OBEDIENCE

And having been born of the Spirit and **entered the kingdom through baptism**, we received the baptism of the Holy Spirit so that we could continue to ‘see’ and be led by the Spirit.

(Born of the Spirit, p.65,66)

To be born of God, a son of man needs to receive Christ, the Seed, and to believe in His name. This means that **they need to be baptised into His name, and to continue to live by every word that proceeds from His mouth. When they do this, they abide in the Son, and the Son abides in them.**

(Restoring My Soul, May 2019, p.4)

Through baptism and an ongoing participation in the elements of communion, we are joined to the fellowship of Christ’s death, burial and resurrection. This is the pathway of **eternal salvation** that He authored and finished for us.

(The Steps of Salvation Part 8, p.37)

Like so many other pseudo-Christian religious organisations, the Christian Fellowship promotes a false gospel of an eternal life that we *earn* through our obedience. How contrary is this to the true gospel of eternal life as the gift of God's free grace!

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; (Titus 3:5)

The dying thief was not "baptised into his name"; he had no "ongoing participation in the elements of communion"; he had but a simple faith that, in contrition and repentance, looked to the crucified Lamb of God for his only hope of pardon and life (Luke 23:40-43).

If we are trusting in ourselves and our own obedience for even the smallest part of our salvation, we have nullified grace and forfeited eternal life (Romans 11:6). Salvation is by God's grace *alone*.

THEY TEACH SALVATION COMES BY RECEIVING THE COMMUNION

At the last supper, Jesus said that the bread is His flesh and the wine is His blood. He connected these elements to the offering that He was about to make. Paul said that drinking the cup is a participation in the blood of Christ, and eating the bread is a participation in the body of Christ. In other words, **eating and drinking the elements of the communion joins a person to Christ's offering.** (The Steps of Salvation Part 3, p.95)

The parable of the sower and seed teaches us that, unless we are joined to a process through which the seed of our sonship is able to take root in our heart and to bear fruit, we will return to living according to a righteousness of our own. Mat 13:19-22. **We must be joined, through baptism and the communion, to the fellowship of Christ's offering and sufferings.** (The Steps of Salvation Part 5, p.63)

The communion meal is the Lord's provision for our participation in the New Covenant as members of His body. As Jesus said, 'He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.' Joh 6:56. (The Steps of Salvation Part 8, p.18)

As shall be seen later, Victor Hall criticises "sacramental communion practices", yet this is precisely what he teaches here. He attributes salvific efficacy to the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper. This damnable heresy is drawn directly from Romanism, which teaches that the sacraments, particularly baptism, confirmation and the eucharist, are necessary for salvation.

Following Rome, Hall uses John 6 to support his sacramental gospel, citing the exhortation of Christ to “eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood” (John 6:53) to teach that a person must eat and drink the bread and cup of the Lord’s Supper to receive eternal life.

Yet Christ himself in that very passage made it clear that his provocative language to eat and drink of his flesh and blood was *metaphorical* of believing in him.

The multitudes followed Christ for carnal reasons – they wanted him to heal their diseases, and miraculously feed them with bread (John 6:1-14). He exposed their fleshly motives, and exhorted them:

Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed. (John 6:27)

In contrast to the literal bread they ate which provided no lasting satisfaction, Christ is “the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst” (John 6:35).

This verse clearly shows what is required to eternally satisfy our spiritual hunger and thirst – *not* literally eating or drinking anything with our mouths, but **coming to him** and **believing on him!**

And this is the will of him that sent me, that **every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life:** and I will raise him up at the last day. (John 6:40)

Just as there are people today like Victor Hall who mistakenly think that Jesus was speaking of literally eating and drinking of Christ’s flesh and blood, so there were people in Jesus’ day who misunderstood his words, therefore he made it abundantly clear:

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. (John 6:63)

By connecting John 6 with the Lord’s Supper, Hall teaches that the elements of the Lord’s Supper are more than mere bread and grape juice; that they are in fact Christ’s body and blood which must be eaten for salvation. Whether Hall believes in the *transubstantiation* of Rome or the *consubstantiation* of Protestantism, this is a gross perversion of the supper of remembrance that Christ instituted.

The bread and cup of the Lord’s Table are not his body and blood, they are *emblems* of his body and blood. At the Lord’s Supper we do not eat his flesh and blood, we eat bread and the fruit of the vine which *represent* Christ’s body and blood.

THEY TEACH REGENERATION IS NOT AN EVENT BUT A PROCESS; NOT RECEIVED BY FAITH, BUT BY DISCIPLINE AND INSTRUCTION OF PARENTS

For the whole of their lives, until the day of resurrection, when they receive an immortal body, **the process of regeneration is to be at work in their mortal body**. The washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, which children **receive through the discipline and instruction of their parents**, also addresses the natural identity of the child.
(Steps of Salvation Part 2, p.21)

Regeneration – being “born again” (John 3:7) and “quickened” (Ephesians 2:1) – is when a lost sinner is brought to life spiritually, birthed of the Holy Spirit as a child of God. It is solely the work of God, and the instrument he uses to effect the new birth is the word of God (James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23). Regeneration takes place the moment a person responds to the gospel by receiving Christ, believing on his name.

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:12-13)

Hall errs when he claims that regeneration is a lifelong process. No, the new birth is an event that takes place in a moment. We are not in a process of being born again. We are not in a measure of degrees becoming God’s children. There is no such thing as a *partial* child of God. A person is either a child of God or they are not.

Those who believe in Jesus Christ are born again and brought to spiritual life the very moment they believe.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, **hath everlasting life**, and shall not come into condemnation; but **is passed from death unto life**. (John 5:24)

There is nothing in Scripture to support Hall’s false teaching that regeneration is a process.

Hall further errs when he states that regeneration is wrought in children by their parents. This takes the miraculous, soul transforming work of the new birth out of the hands of God, robbing him of his glory, and places it into the hands of men. Christian parents have great responsibilities towards their children in bringing them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4), but they cannot regenerate their children.

THEY TEACH THAT THOSE WHO “DRAW BACK” FROM THEIR “GOSPEL OF SONSHIP” WILL FAIL TO OBTAIN ETERNAL LIFE

However, we note that **if we do draw back from the gospel of sonship, Christ’s soul will have no pleasure in us**. Heb 10:38. That is, **we will fail to obtain eternal life as a son of God**.

(The Steps of Salvation Part 8, p.12)

Since the so-called gospel of sonship is unique to the Christian Fellowship religion, this is a warning and threat to those within their churches that if they dare to leave they will fail to obtain eternal life. This helps to explain why so many of their people remain in their churches, enduring psychological and emotional abuse, manipulation, control, the splitting of marriages and families, and the endless stream of heretical, unscriptural and nonsensical teaching. As bad as it is to remain there, the consequences of leaving are far worse – eternal damnation.

THEY TEACH THAT CHILDREN OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP PARENTS ARE REGENERATED FROM CONCEPTION

Children born into covenant households have received the seed of the divine nature. In other words, **they are born of God from the point of conception.**
(Born of the Spirit, p.74)

In recent years, the Holy Spirit has been restoring to us the wonderful truth that **children who are born into covenant households are born of the Spirit in the womb of their mothers.** This means that the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the Father, and the Spirit of the Son come to dwell within them following their conception.
(Steps of Salvation Part 2, p.19)

Every person is first conceived as a natural identity. This natural identity is then born again in the womb of a believing mother by the word of God the Father. **A child who is conceived in a covenant house is then adopted by the Father as one of His sons. This occurs immediately following their conception.** On account of the faith of at least one of their parents, the Father brings the child into the position of a son within His house. As an adopted son in the Father's house, they are entitled to an inheritance. This inheritance is all the wealth that belongs to the Father. It is the divine nature, which is also described as 'the riches of His glory'. **The Father sends the Holy Spirit to dwell in the heart of the child, and they begin to receive the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.** This enables their heart to receive the seed of God's word from the Father so that their natural identity is born again in the womb. When the word of their name as a son of God is planted in their heart, **they are born from above as a spiritual son of God.** God has become the Father of their spirit. The Father also sends forth the Spirit of His Son into their heart. At this point, they have been born of water and the Spirit. They have become a new creation who is 'of God'.
(Steps of Salvation Part 2, p.20)

In highlighting the reality that every family in Christ would receive this blessing, Paul taught, 'for the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy (or, of God)'. 1Co 7:14. The implication of Paul's teaching is that a child who is born into the household of at least one believing parent is a recipient of the promise of the Spirit. On account of the faith of one or

both of their parents, **the child is born of God and is part of the body of Christ, just moments after they are conceived. At birth, they are already a son of God and are joined to the fellowship of Christ.**

(The Blessing of Abraham in Families, p.42)

Amazingly, twelve weeks from conception, all of an unborn child's body parts are formed. This means that **they are participants in the fellowship life and devotion of the Christian home, while in the womb. They have the Spirit and are possessors of the divine nature.** Their awareness, personality and mood are also seen as they interact from within the womb.

(The Blessing of Abraham in Families, p.45)

The Christian Fellowship did not always believe and teach this doctrine – it is a new heresy introduced by Victor Hall in 2007.

At the same time [2007], I began to teach on the divine nature being resident within a family as part of the covenant that had been given to Abraham, and which was now available to believers in the church. I understood this to be a foundational pillar for our structure as a lampstand church.

(The Steps of Salvation Part 6, p.171)

When Victor Hall began to spread this damnable heresy throughout the Christian Fellowship churches there were some leaders with enough sense to recognise it as false doctrine and rejected it, prompting Hall to “disempower” them, removing them and replacing them with compliant leaders.

There was some resistance to the teaching of the divine nature in Christian homes. **Some leaders rejected** the scriptural principle that the children of covenant households are recipients of the blessing of Abraham – which means being born of the Spirit – from conception. However, the **influence of these traditional understandings and practices within the church have been disempowered**, as households have accepted and walked in the accountability of cultivating the divine nature. This has also delivered these families from the perceived control that some in the clergy group have had over their families.

(The Steps of Salvation Part 6, p.172)

The apostle Paul's teaching in 1 Corinthians 7:14 does in no way support Hall's assertion that a parent's faith can save his unborn child. The context is addressing the situation where a believer is married to an unbelieving spouse. The instruction is that in such a case the Christian should not end the marriage in order to avoid problems. Rather, the Christian should remain with the unbeliever and in doing so exert a positive spiritual influence in the home that may lead to the salvation of the spouse and children. The unbelieving husband is said to be “sanctified” and the children “holy” not in the sense them being regenerated by the believing wife's faith – this would violate the rest of the Scriptures which require personal faith. It rather means that the home is

blessed by God for the sake of the believing spouse and parent, and by God's grace the family may be won to Christ through the witness of the believer (cf. 1 Peter 3:1).

Timothy was raised by a godly mother (Acts 16:1) who taught him the Scriptures from infancy (2 Timothy 3:15), yet his mother's faith did not make him a child of God. It was through Paul's ministry that Timothy was converted (1 Timothy 1:2) when he placed his faith in Jesus Christ.

Consider the case of David. He was the son of believing parents, and, if Hall's teaching were correct, then David would have been a son of God from conception, sanctified and holy by virtue of his parents' faith. But what does David say?

Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. (Psalm 51:5)

David, like all of us, began his existence as a sinner, inheriting his sin-nature from Adam. None of us are conceived as God's children in a justified or regenerate state. We are conceived as children of wrath, dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1-3), and the faith of our parents does not change this.

Contrary to Hall's teaching, a sinner cannot be saved by virtue of another's faith. The Scriptures are clear that in order for a sinner to be saved he must exercise personal faith in Jesus Christ.

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: (John 1:12)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Romans 10:9-10)

Can an infant exercise saving faith? No. True faith must hear (Romans 10:17) and understand (Matthew 13:23) the gospel to be effectual. Hall's diabolical doctrine is a false salvation which creates a false hope in both the parents as well as the children who will grow up under the mistaken assumption that they were regenerated from conception, effectively inoculating them from receiving the gospel.

**THEY TEACH THAT CHRIST WAS NOT ETERNALLY THE SON OF THE FATHER,
BUT "BECAME THE FATHER'S SON" WHEN "THE ETERNAL COVENANT WAS
ACTIVATED"**

Before the eternal covenant, the fatherhood of Yahweh the Father was fully revealed and expressed in the sonship of Yahweh the Son. The Father was fully satisfied in

the Son. However, **Yahweh the Son was not the Father's Son...**When the Son communicated His mind to empty Himself to no longer be the only identity expressing sonship, the eternal covenant was activated...The name of the Lord Jesus Christ became His possession as a 'new name' when **He emptied Himself to become the Father's Son**, and then further emptied Himself to the womb of Mary to become David's Son, the Son of Man...When Yahweh the Son emptied Himself in the covenant, the fullness of the offering of Father, Son and Holy Spirit was revealed in the 'one offering'. Likewise, the offering of Father, Son and Holy Spirit was fully revealed in the 'one name'... Further to this, **when Yahweh the Son emptied Himself to the bosom of the Father, He was begotten as the Father's firstborn Son**. The Father proclaimed, 'Today I have begotten You'. The Son now possessed the name 'Lord Jesus Christ' as both Yahweh the Son and the Son of God.

(What Every Christian Should Know About Jesus Christ, pp.67-68)

This is Christological heresy, a denial of the doctrine of Eternal Sonship. God is a Trinity – one God in three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Ghost. This triune God is eternal and all three Persons are eternal. Neither the Father, Son or Holy Ghost had a beginning. The Second Person of the Godhead did not “become” the Son, but eternally exists as the Son. He is eternally begotten of the Father.

Christ was the Son of the Father before his incarnation.

In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. (1 John 4:9)

And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. (1 John 4:14)

Christ was the Son of the Father before the creation.

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: (Colossians 1:13-16)

Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; (Hebrews 1:2)

Christ was the Son of the Father from eternity.

No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him. (John 1:18)

And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. (John 17:5)

Hall's Christology is not only heretical it is self-contradictory. While he states that in eternity there was "Yahweh the Father" and "Yahweh the Son", he then says in the next sentence, "Yahweh the Son was not the Father's Son". If the Second Person of the Godhead is the Son of the First Person of the Godhead, then logically he is the Father's Son. Hall makes the most nonsensical and confusing claims about the nature of God and Christ that have absolutely no foundation in the Scriptures.

If eternal life itself comes by knowing personally the true Father and the true Son (John 17:3), then how serious are the implications for those in the Christian Fellowship religion whose knowledge is based on Hall's false Father and false Son!

THEY TEACH THAT CHRIST'S SOUL AND ESSENCE WERE ACTUALLY MADE TO BE SIN

As a sin offering, the Son was made the sin of every person. This means that **His soul, or the essence of His being, was made to be sin itself.**

(The Steps of Salvation Part 5, p.18)

This is a blasphemous representation of Christ's atonement. It shows complete ignorance of the doctrine of imputation. Christ's essence was not made to be sin – this would make Christ a sinner, and the very text that Hall uses to teach that Christ became a sinner refutes such blasphemy: "who knew no sin" (2 Corinthians 5:21). He did not know sin in his Person, his Essence, his Being, or in any other way that would make sin to become a part of himself. Rather, Christ was "made sin" by imputation. The sin of man was placed upon him, he became the sin-bearer: "Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many" (Hebrews 9:28).

Even as he bore our sins, Christ in his Person remained "holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners" (Hebrews 7:26). Only Satan himself and those who are led by him would dare to call the sinless Jesus Christ a sinner!

THEY TEACH THAT ALL OF HUMANITY BECAME MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST DURING HIS PASSION

In the garden of Gethsemane, the Father made Jesus, who had no other law and who was sinless, to be sin for us. He did this so that we might become sons of God in Christ. 2Co 5:21. **Jesus Christ became sin when the Father made every person who had been born, and would be born, to be a member of Christ's body.** This happened when Jesus drank the cup of cursing that the Father gave to Him. Luk 22:42...**Every person who would ever be born was made part of Christ's body as**

He embodied the principle of sin that had dominion over us all. By this means, He took all of us who were in captivity to the law of sin, captive to Himself. Eph 4:8. (The Steps of Salvation Part 8, p.31-32)

Unless we are converted and are baptised into Christ and His death, we will die in our body of death, which is controlled by the other law and the law of sin. As the other law and the law of sin were taken out into the fiery sea of God's forgetfulness through Christ's offering, we will be taken out with that body of sin when we physically die. In this case, **although the Father made us members of Christ's body in Gethsemane, our names will be blotted out of the Lamb's book of life.** That is, our names will be forgotten by God as we are forsaken as part of the body of sin. This is damnation. (The Steps of Salvation Part 8, p.36)

Victor Hall makes the astonishing claim that every human being was made a member of Christ's body. This includes every unregenerate, unbelieving, blaspheming, Christ-rejector. People who live their lives hating Christ, then die and perish in the eternal flames of hell – they have been made members of Christ's body!

Nowhere in Scripture is an unbeliever said to be part of Christ's body. The only people who are members of the body of Christ are *believers* in the church, of which the body is a metaphor (Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:12; Colossians 1:24; 2:19).

THEY VIEW THE TEACHINGS OF CHRISTIANS FROM PREVIOUS GENERATIONS AS HAVING NO LIFE IN THEM

As we have said, this mindset is evident in those who define themselves as being followers of **religious leaders of past historical Christian movements.** Those who live from this basis derive identity from their connection to these figures and movements, and they judge the proceeding word from the basis of **former traditions that no longer have life in them.** (The Steps of Salvation Part 8, p.67)

Here we see the presumptuous, pompous and proud opinion the adherents of the Christian Fellowship have of themselves. They are God's "restoration movement" of the last days, raised up to restore the truth that was lost to the poor and ignorant Christians of the past. They hold the believers of history in such low regard that they never make reference to them or quote from them except to criticise them.

Curiously, Hall says of these past preachers of the gospel that their teachings "no longer have life in them", implying that formerly they *did* have life in them, but no longer.

This position is based on Pentecostal continuationism which contends that the gift of prophecy remains in operation today and that God's revelation to the church is not drawn solely from the Scriptures but from contemporary prophets who receive direct revelation from God. Hall takes

this further and has formulated his doctrine of the “proceeding word” which is said to be “God’s word coming to us today”.

Here the foundation of the Christian Fellowship is laid bare. Whereas Christ’s true church is founded upon the unchanging and fixed foundation of Christ and the word of God (Ephesians 2:20), the Christian Fellowship is founded upon a constantly changing “proceeding word”, given to their leader, Victor Hall, and conveyed to his followers.

This explains why the Christian Fellowship is regularly altering their beliefs and practices – they are not based upon the unchanging word of God, but upon the changing whims of Victor Hall.

The Bible contradicts Hall’s position of a continual revelation of truth, calling the church’s doctrine, “the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3). The faith was *once delivered* by inspiration of God through the apostles who wrote it down in the New Testament.

The admonition that Paul gave to Timothy is a rebuke to the Christian Fellowship: “that thou mightest charge some that they **teach no other doctrine**” (1 Timothy 1:3).

The Restoration Movement is based on the premise that at some point after the apostolic period, Christianity became completely apostate and lost the true gospel. The light of Christ was completely overcome by Satan’s darkness, but in the latter days God chose this particular group to “restore” the truth to the world.

This is a denial of Christ’s promise in Matthew 16:18 where he said, “I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” This is a promise of the perpetuity of the church, which is the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15). Over the last 2000 years, the world has not been without a gospel witness, though pagans, Mohammedans, papists and many other instruments of Satan sought to bring the church to extinction, God’s people continued to hold to the truth, and do so unto this day.

We can be blessed by reading the works of these faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ throughout history, who taught the doctrines of Scripture, and whose words *still have life in them*.

THEIR LEADER, VICTOR HALL, RECEIVES DIRECT REVELATION FROM GOD WHICH MUST BE ACCEPTED BY HIS CHURCHES

In 2007, during a ministry tour in Asia, some of the health difficulties that I had been experiencing for a number of years became quite acute. Nearing the end of this tour, I was seeking the Lord in private prayer. As I prayed, the anointing of the Holy Spirit was heavy upon me. **The Lord then met me again in revelation.** He gave me the option to die. However, at the same time, He asked if I would continue to serve another generation. I took up the second direction because the unction of the Spirit was urging me this way.

(The Steps of Salvation Part 6, p.169)

The Pentecostal belief that certain people today are receiving extra-Biblical revelations from God poses grave spiritual dangers for those under its influence. It diminishes the authority of the Scriptures as the foundation for the church's doctrine and practice. In the same way that Rome supplants Scripture by her man-made traditions, Pentecostalism supplants Scripture by its modern-day prophecies and visions. *Sola scriptura* is replaced by *sola propheta*.

During the apostolic period, while the New Testament was in the process of being written, the gift of prophecy was in operation – God was giving direct revelation to certain men, revealing new truth which would form the foundation of the church (Ephesians 2:20). With the completion of the canon of Scripture, the gift of prophecy passed from the church, it being no longer necessary as God's complete revelation was now contained within the sixty-six books of the Bible. The apostle Paul wrote, "whether there be prophecies, they shall fail" (1 Corinthians 13:8). The Greek for "fail" is *katargeo*, which is to abolish, do away, vanish, cease, make inoperative.

The apostle Peter himself received visions, and of the highest order, particularly when he beheld the transfiguration of Christ, which was a prefigure of the Second Coming of Christ. He testified of this event in his second epistle, writing,

For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but **were eyewitnesses of his majesty**. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And **this voice which came from heaven we heard**, when we were with him in the holy mount. (2 Peter 1:16-18)

Peter actually heard with his own ears the audible voice of God the Father. What could be more certain and trustworthy than hearing God's voice in the midst of a prophetic vision? There is one thing more sure, certain and trustworthy than that. He writes,

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no **prophecy of the scripture** is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. (2 Peter 1:19-21)

It is not the prophecy of visions and voices that we are to be relying upon today. Such experiences are subjective and may be misunderstood. And worse, they can be counterfeited by Satan and his demons, deceiving people into thinking they are receiving a message from God when it is actually from Satan. No, the only prophetic word we need today is the more sure word of Scripture, given by inspiration of God (2 Timothy 3:16).

The problem that the Biblical doctrine of "Scripture alone" poses for Victor Hall is that it removes his power over his followers. While he receives special visions and revelations from God, the people are dependent upon him to know what God is saying. But if every believer has the inspired words

of God in their hands and has the indwelling Holy Spirit to personally and individually show them the truth, then Hall loses his stranglehold over the people, the chains fall off, and they are free to learn God's truth for themselves. Moreover, they have the ability, the right and the duty to test from the Scripture the teachings of Hall, even as the noble Bereans, who did not blindly accept everything the apostle told them, but "searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).

VICTOR HALL PERSONALLY SAW AND CONVERSED WITH A BEING HE CLAIMS WAS THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IN HIS OFFICE IN 1975

The Man in front of me was a little less than average height, and of olive complexion. His clothing was non-descript. He wore something like a gown. Having appeared in the room, He then began to speak to me. The speed of all this had me off-balance. However, I was particularly focused on what was happening in front of me, and what He was saying to me. He said, 'I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place – unless you repent.' Rev 2:4-5. As He spoke the words, 'Remember therefore from where you have fallen', He raised His hand and opened the heavens with His finger. At that moment, in the Spirit, I saw the heights from which we had fallen. I was aghast and in shock. **I knew that the Person who was speaking to me was Christ.**

(The Steps of Salvation Part 6, pp.162-163)

The glorified physical appearance of Jesus Christ is described with some detail in Revelation 1:13-16 and is nothing like the vision that Victor Hall describes:

And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. (Revelation 1:13-16)

What was Hall's response upon seeing and recognising the Lord Jesus Christ standing in front of him in his office? He argued with him and made excuses for his sin.

I was completely affronted by what Christ was saying to me. **I responded to the Lord like a petulant child.** I said, 'The world is against me; the religious denominations are against me; and You are telling me that You are against me!'

(The Steps of Salvation Part 6, p.164)

When the apostle John saw the glorified Lord Jesus he did not defiantly argue with his Lord, but immediately fell at his feet as dead, in fear, humility and worship.

And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: (Revelation 1:17)

If Victor Hall did witness this apparition as he describes, it was not the Son of God but a deceiving spirit. "Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light" (2 Corinthians 11:14).

Christ himself warned us of such visions and those who claim to have seen Christ and received messages from him:

Then **if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets**, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. (Matthew 24:23-24)

For if **he that cometh preacheth another Jesus**, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him. (2 Corinthians 11:4)

VICTOR HALL TRAVELLED BACK IN TIME 3400 YEARS AND MET HIMSELF BEFORE HE EXISTED

He took me once up with the 70 elders and I ate and drank in their presence...In that season he also took me there with Moses and revealed to me where Moses said 'show me your glory'...and hid him in the cleft of the rock, and he proclaimed to me also Yahweh...and I still remember the astonishment that I had at the revelation of his name to me...**I instantly in that pre-dated my own existence.** I said, That's amazing, **here I am now meeting myself before I existed...**I'd like you to all have that experience. How many would like that experience? Well it's here for you today. (<https://www.facebook.com/BrisbaneChristianFellowship/videos/186201220876153/>)

The absurdity of this claim should be evident even to Hall's most ardent followers. It is one thing to claim to have been transported in time. It is yet another thing to claim to have met one's self. But it goes beyond all realms of credulity to claim to have met one's self *before he existed*. If Victor Hall did not exist when he met himself, how could he possibly have met himself?

The Christian Fellowship is a religion not grounded upon verifiable truth; it is not logical, rational or reasonable. It is based upon the fictional and fantastical visions of a man who is detached from reality.

But the true Christian faith is altogether rational because it is derived from a God who is wise and rational. He has endowed mankind with a rational mind and has revealed his truth that is in accordance with this rationality. The Bible is a book that methodically and logically reveals God's truth to man in an understandable manner. The claims that the Bible makes, such as the creation

of the world, the fall of man, the incarnation of Christ, his death, his resurrection and the day of judgment are all reasonable claims that accord with reality, so that the Lord can exhort us, “Come now, and let us reason together” (Isaiah 1:18).

The Christian Fellowship cannot ask its followers to reason over Victor Hall’s claims, as they are unreasonable, illogical, irrational and absurd.

VICTOR HALL HOLDS SOLE AUTHORITY OVER THE DENOMINATION AND SEEKS TO CONSOLIDATE HIS POWER BY WEAKENING THE AUTHORITY OF LOCAL ELDERS

I asked a number of elders around Australia to stand aside so that room could be made for a deaconing administration to be raised up among us that would be directly connected to the presbytery. Most of the brethren agreed to do this, and an administration based on the teaching of Paul began to take shape in the church. At the same time, I began to teach on the divine nature being resident within a family as part of the covenant that had been given to Abraham, and which was now available to believers in the church. I understood this to be a foundational pillar for our structure as a lampstand church.
(The Steps of Salvation Part 6, p.171)

The churches of the New Testament were autonomous, not governed by an ecclesiastical hierarchy but governed directly by their Head, Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:23). The seven churches of Revelation 2-3 were not dealt with through a denominational ruling body, but were each addressed individually and directly by Christ himself.

The Christian Fellowship model is closer to Roman Catholicism with its pope, cardinals and bishops, than to the Biblical pattern of church autonomy.

Elders are warned: “Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock” (1 Peter 5:3). The behaviour of Victor Hall, seeking to rule the churches and cast out those who are non-compliant, is similar to that of Diotrephes.

I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, **who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.** Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with **malicious words:** and not content therewith, **neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.** (3 John 9-10)

THEY TEACH THAT CONGENITAL BIRTH DEFECTS MAY BE GOD’S CURSE UPON CHILDREN FOR THEIR PARENTS’ SIN

We would like to think that all **congenital birth defects** are ‘nobody’s fault’. If we are Christians, however, we believe that everything we have is from the hand of God, whether blessing or cursing. God is not a benevolent benefactor who gives us what we want. He is a God who is jealous over His people, for ‘He seeks a godly

seed'. Mal 2:15. Of course, through Christ this curse can be turned to blessing through the reformation of our family cultures and covenants. Even so, God does not deliver us from our accountability or from the fruit of our works.

Is this unfair to these children? It is certainly devastating to think that **it could be a parent's fault that a son or daughter might go through life disadvantaged because of their parents' sin.** However, we should also remember that God has called every covenant son to their predestination, with a walk that is specifically tailored for them. Like any son of God, those born with a congenital birth defect can know the grace of life and can fulfil their destiny as a son, quite apart from the sins of their fathers.

(The Blessing of Abraham in Families, p.46-47)

It is in places like this that the mask of love, friendliness and warmth is peeled back and we see the true evil heart of the Christian Fellowship movement. They blame the sin of parents for the disabilities in their children.

This vile teaching turns children against their parents, blaming them for their physical and mental problems. It turns the children against God, for judging and punishing them for their parents' sin. It makes these children into victims of God's apparent injustice towards them instead of being grateful recipients his wise and gracious creation of them, just the way he intended (Psalm 139:14). And it lays immense guilt upon parents of disabled children.

We live in a fallen world, and part of the curse is disease and genetic disorders. Instead of blaming disease on the sins of others, we should rather understand that it is *sin itself* that is to blame, but that God in his providence works all these things together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28).

Whether in sickness or in health, in wholeness or in disability, in life or in death, God is glorified.

And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, **Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.** (John 9:2-3)

THEY TEACH THAT THE NEW HEAVENS AND EARTH WERE CREATED AT CHRIST'S CRUCIFIXION

The present heavens and earth passed away when Christ took them out with Him into the eternal judgement of God. This happened between the sixth hour and the ninth hour of Christ's crucifixion. During this phase of His offering, darkness covered the whole earth as the lights of this present creation were extinguished. Mat 27:45. Mar 15:33. Luk 23:44. At the conclusion of these three hours of darkness, the whole of the old creation had been taken out into the sea of God's forgetfulness, and Christ, the corporate New Creation, had emerged from the waters of God's judgement. At the conclusion of His offering, the Lord declared, 'It is finished!' as the law and prophets were completely *fulfilled*. Joh 19:30. Having

brought an end to the old creation, God committed the present heavens and earth to the prophetic Scriptures.

(The Blessing of Abraham in Families, p.11)

During His redemptive journey from Gethsemane to the cross, **Jesus was bringing the old creation to an end under the judgement of God, and He was establishing a new heavens and earth.** Isa 65:17-18. This was a creative work proceeding from the fellowship of *Elohim*.

(Restoring My Soul, April 2023, p.16)

The Scriptures, both Old Testament (Isaiah 65:17; 66:22) and New Testament (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21-22), prophesy a new heavens and earth. The apostle John, decades after Christ's death, was given a prophetic revelation of the new heavens and earth that will be created *in the future*, contradicting Vic Hall's claim that it has already been created. The new heavens and earth will not be created until after Christ's 1000 year reign on earth (Revelation 20).

When the new heavens and earth are created it requires the utter destruction of the present heavens and earth by fire – “the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up” (2 Peter 3:10), “the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat” (2 Peter 3:12).

Did that happen during the three hours darkness?

The various characteristics of the new heavens and earth show clearly that this present world cannot possibly be the new earth described in the Scriptures. In the new earth there will be no night, no sea, no curse, no sorrow or pain, no death, no unrighteousness.

It is a gross spiritualisation of Scripture to claim we are now living in the promised new earth, when the world is filled with sin, corruption, evil, sickness, pain, sorrow and death.

THEY TEACH THAT SATAN REGAINED ACCESS TO HEAVEN FOLLOWING THE JEWS' RETURN FROM BABYLON

It was the corruption of the priests after the Jews returned from Babylon that gave Satan the 'advantage' he needed to regain access into the sanctuary of God...The corruption of the priests, who had 'free access' into the holy place, left the gate open, so to speak, for Satan to regain access into heavenly places.

(An Introduction to Bible Prophecy, pp.69-70)

The book of Daniel identifies that the corruption of offering among the Jewish remnant became an 'abomination which makes desolate' and a 'transgression which causes horror'. It enabled Satan to regain access into the heavenly places. Satan became the ruler of the world and could later say to Jesus,

‘It has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish’. He empowered a ruler from among the Greek empire to rise up as a little horn.
(An Introduction to Bible Prophecy, p.5)

While Lucifer was cast from his exalted position in heaven when he first sinned (Isaiah 14:12), thus becoming Satan and the devil, yet he has since then continued to have limited access to heaven (Job 1:6; 2:1; Zechariah 3:1; Revelation 12:10).

Hall’s idea that Satan “regained access to heaven” due to the sins of the post-exilic priests is nowhere supported in Scripture and is yet another false teaching from his own corrupt imagination.

THEY TEACH THAT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL WAS CAST DOWN OUT OF HEAVEN BY THE LITTLE HORN

The little horn grew up to the host of heaven and caused Michael and his angelic host to be cast down. The angelic messenger explained to Daniel that they would continue to be trampled for a period of 2300 years. They were neutralised and trampled, and are unable to engage in spiritual warfare on behalf of the people of God until the end of this period.

(An Introduction to Bible Prophecy, p.6)

Michael the archangel (Jude 9) is a mighty angel of God, called “the chief prince” (Daniel 12:1), and who has a long history of contending with the devil (Jude 9). Contrary to Hall’s baseless assertion that Michael was cast down from heaven by Satan’s little horn, it is in fact Michael who will cast down Satan from heaven during the war in heaven described in Revelation 12.

And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (Revelation 12:7-9)

THEY TEACH THAT WHEN THE BIBLE SAYS “DAYS” IT ACTUALLY MEANS “YEARS”

We know the ‘2300 evenings and mornings’ are 2300 years, for a number of reasons. There are only two prophetic formulas that are used in the Scripture to interpret the length of a symbolic ‘evening and morning’. The ‘thousand years for one day’ is used exclusively for the overall creative and redemptive purpose of God. The 2300 ‘evenings and mornings’ is not a period of creation or redemption; it is a period of judgement and restoration. The prophetic formula which the Scripture uses in this case is ‘a year for a day’.

(An Introduction to Bible Prophecy, p.76)

Daniel was shown a dispensation of 2300 years from the time of the Greek empire until the time of the end. Dan 8:8-14. Within this time period, the messengers

whom God the Father sent to His people, including Christ Himself, would fall by 'sword, flame, by captivity and plundering'. Dan 11:33. Daniel prophesied that, during this time, many would cleave to the messengers with deceit and flattery. He described these deceitful people as 'those who do wickedly against the covenant'. (The Steps of Salvation Part 8, p.101)

In the Scriptures, the time of the end is also called the 'last hour'... How long is the last hour?... If one day is a thousand years, then one hour in heaven will be almost forty-two years on earth... The 'half an hour' is evidently referring to 'time in heaven'. This will be a period of almost twenty-one years on the earth. The context of this verse is the fulfilment of the great Day of Atonement, the consummation of the marriage between Christ and His church. This period will be a time of reaping. For twenty-one years, the nations of the world will keep the fulfilment of the Feast of Tabernacles.

(An Introduction to Bible Prophecy, pp.18-19)

The "day/year theory" is not peculiar to the Christian Fellowship. It is adopted by other sects such as the Seventh Day Adventists and Jehovah's Witnesses. There is no Biblical warrant to convert the "days" of Scripture into "years", but it is rather a tool used by groups to manipulate the Scriptures to fit in with their eschatological views.

The Seventh Day Adventists famously used the same methods as Victor Hall, turning the 2300 days of Daniel 8:14 into 2300 years, and, counting from 457BC, marked the date October 22, 1844 as the day of the Second Advent of Christ.

The Christian Fellowship, however, in adopting this same 2300-year prophecy, were careful not to give a specific starting point to it, but simply say it began "from the time of the Greek empire", giving them about two centuries of cover.

The true meaning of the 2300-day prophecy is that they are actual "days", not "years", which began in 171BC when the Jewish high priest, Onias I, was murdered and a false line of priests assumed power. The 2300 days concluded in 164BC with the death of Antiochus Epiphanes.

When God speaks of days, months and years in the Scripture, he means them to be taken literally. Those unlearned and unstable deceivers who presumptuously change the clear words of God to suit their carnal agenda are wresting the scriptures to their own destruction (2 Peter 3:16).

THEY TEACH THAT THE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP MEMBERSHIP WILL NUMBER 200 MILLION AT THE TIME OF THE END

We can be encouraged that **the size of the remnant church will grow to be a significant number**. The book of Revelation reveals that **there will be at least 200,000,000 gathered in the heavenly places** when the 2300 year prophecy concludes and the time of the end commences.

(An Introduction to Bible Prophecy, p.20)

We read in the book of Revelation that there will be myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands of angels around the throne at this time. A myriad is ten thousand. Ten thousand by ten thousand is 100 million. The myriads are plural so this would indicate that there will be **at least 200 million** angels around the throne. We expect **this will also be the number of the remnant church across the world at the beginning of the time of the end.**
(An Introduction to Bible Prophecy, p.71)

Revelation 5:11 describes the angelic host as “ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands” (*muriai muriades kai chiliai chiliades*). The “myriads of myriads” is not intended to be a precise number, but rather to describe the “innumerable company of angels” (Hebrews 12:22). Furthermore, this is the number of *angels* not saints. Why Hall links the number of angels to match the number of saints is not clear.

THEY TEACH THE LORD’S SUPPER IS “SACRAMENTAL COMMUNION” AND SHOULD BE ABANDONED FOR THE “AGAPE MEAL”

In relation to this current season, it is sobering to realise that Christ has been ‘walking among us’ in judgement. 1Pe 4:17. Rev 1:13. He has spoken firstly to overseers, and then, through overseers, to every person, exposing the sacramental nature of our practices as a lampstand church. In particular, **Christ has rebuked us concerning the nature of our communion and our need to return to the tradition of ‘the agape meal’ that was established by the apostles.** Christ hated our former sacramental communion practices because they were a violation of the culture of His offering. In love, Christ has confronted our disobedience, and has endeavoured to provoke in us a zeal for repentance. Rev 3:19.
(The Blessing of Abraham in Families, p.60)

Victor Hall is incorrect to call the Lord’s Supper a “sacrament”. The Scriptures use no such word. A sacrament is a Romanist invention, describing a religious practice that merits God’s grace. The correct appellation for the Lord’s Supper is “ordinance” (1 Corinthians 11:2). The Lord’s Supper has no sacramental power, it does not earn or merit any grace or favour from God – rather it is a memorial, a meal of remembrance that sets before the partakers’ hearts the broken body and shed blood of Jesus Christ for our sins.

This “agape meal” is found in Jude 12 where these are called “feasts of charity” (Jude 12), a translation of the Greek noun *agapai*, the plural of *agape*. The love feast was a fellowship meal among the members of the church.

The only possible connection the love feast had to the Lord’s Supper was that it may have been held *prior* to the eating of the Lord’s Supper. In this case it would be a common meal of the brethren where each would bring food to share with others, fostering fellowship between the saints – an appropriate preparation for the fellowship of the Lord’s Table.

It was the abuse of this ante-supper that Paul rebuked the Corinthians for, as the spirit of self-denial, benevolence, commonality, sympathy and love had been overtaken by a spirit of selfishness and greed, where those who had plenty were failing to tarry for and share with those who lacked.

When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper. For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken. What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not. (1 Corinthians 11:20-22)

Paul contended with them, showing the inappropriateness of engaging in a self-indulgent feast with the same levity of a pagan banquet, and then presuming to worthily partake of the Lord's Supper.

The love feast cannot possibly be confused with the Lord's Supper. They are distinct in their *food* – the love feast was comprised of all manner of different foods, while the Lord's Supper is comprised of bread and fruit of the vine. They are distinct in their *purpose* – the love feast was an expression of love and fellowship between believers, while the Lord's Supper is a remembrance of Christ's atoning death.

During the apostolic period there were abuses and corruptions arising in the churches' love feasts (1 Corinthians 11:20-22; Jude 12) and in subsequent centuries these love feasts were dropped from the practice of the churches while maintaining the observance of the Lord's Supper.

By replacing the Lord's Supper with the love feast, Victor Hall has effectively taken the central focus of the church away from the crucified Saviour and directed their focus upon themselves and their self-proclaimed exalted position as the "lampstand administration".

In a similar way, the church of the Laodiceans wallowed in their own glory, saying, "I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing", not realising they were in fact "wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked" (Revelation 3:17).

The picture here is of a self-focussed, self-glorifying religious society that has removed Christ from their midst so that he is outside the door, knocking, and extending his invitation to those wretched souls locked inside: "if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20).

CONCLUSION

To those of you who remain a part of the Christian Fellowship:

Until now you may have pleaded ignorance as to the false gospel, the gross error, the antichrist spirit that controls the Christian Fellowship, but now you know the truth. What will you now do with it? Will you remain in darkness and bondage? Will you remain in an organisation that is under God's condemnation?

Heed the Spirit's call: "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Revelation 18:4).

Here is what you must do:

- Seek the Lord, confess to him your sin and your need of his salvation through Christ.
- Humbly repent of your sins, particularly your self-righteousness and embracing of error.
- Pray for God's will to be done in your life, and for his grace to enable you to fulfil that will.
- Pray for courage to renounce the evil of the Christian Fellowship, to sever all ties with them, whatever the cost.
- Pray that you may be enabled to suffer the satanic attacks that the Christian Fellowship will inflict upon you, as they will seek to destroy your relationships, your physical and mental health, and your very life.
- Read and study your Bible, asking God to speak to you by his Holy Spirit.
- Seek out a Bible believing church where Jesus Christ is preeminent and the word is preached.

To those of you who have friends and family under the grip of the Christian Fellowship:

- Love them with the love of Christ – they are victims of a satanic religion, in spiritual bondage to sin and error.
- Pray for them, that Satan's blindness would be removed, that the Holy Spirit would show them the truth in Jesus Christ, they might be set free from their bondage, that they would have courage to renounce their false religion.
- Let your life be an example of what true Christianity looks like – joy, peace, liberty and assurance – in contrast to their slavish fear, bondage and works-righteousness.
- Speak the truth in love to them, using the word of God as much as possible.
- Give them this study and encourage them to prayerfully read it.

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