

THE INDESTRUCTIBLE GIFT



When the risen Lord returned to the Father, he left nothing tangible behind.

No writings.

Not a scrap of clothing.

Nothing that could become a shrine.

Jesus left no structure, no organization, only a warning:

"If any one would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." (Mark 9)

Jesus left his followers a single indestructible gift:

..... his Word.

That word was burning in their hearts even as the cloud enveloped him.

"I have given them thy word."

John 17

When the Holy Spirit arrived, he poured out the same gift.

"I have yet many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you."

John 16

With this gift they set the world on fire.



They didn't waste time building churches.

They didn't waste time creating a "permanent institution".

They set the world on fire with the words of Jesus.

Confident that Jesus lived in those words.

Confident that his words were sufficient.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Matthew 24

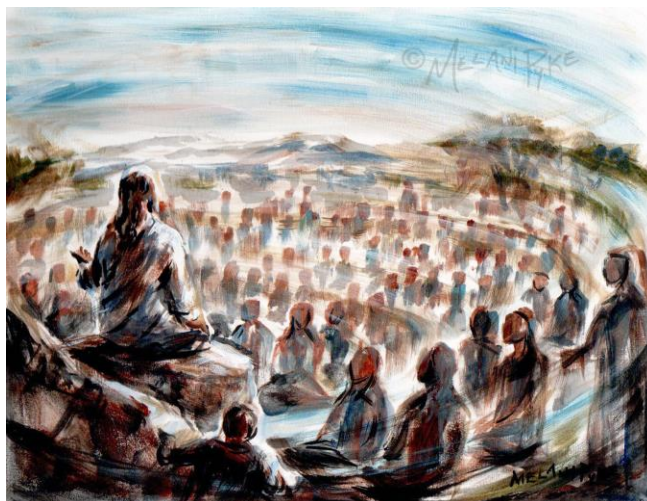
The one thing needful.

The Christian world is "anxious and troubled by many things".

The Christian world is weighed down and burdened by many things.

"One thing is needful."

Jesus' words.



His words burn with heaven's fire.

His words heal the sick and raise the dead.

Jesus speaks through the gospels.

He speaks through the prophets.

He speaks through the Spirit.

If we needed money, he would have left us money.

If we needed an institution, he would have built one.

If we needed a hierarchy, he would have set one up.

Jesus gave us the only thing we need:

His word.

All we have to do is....

Listen. Believe. Obey.

Wherever his word is heard, there is the kingdom of God.

Wherever his word is obeyed, there alone is the Body of Christ.

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand.”

John 10



Where two or three are gathered in his name, Jesus is there.

Where five or six are striving to walk in the light of his word, there is the Body of Christ.

Wherever Jesus' words alone occupy the throne, there is the kingdom of God.

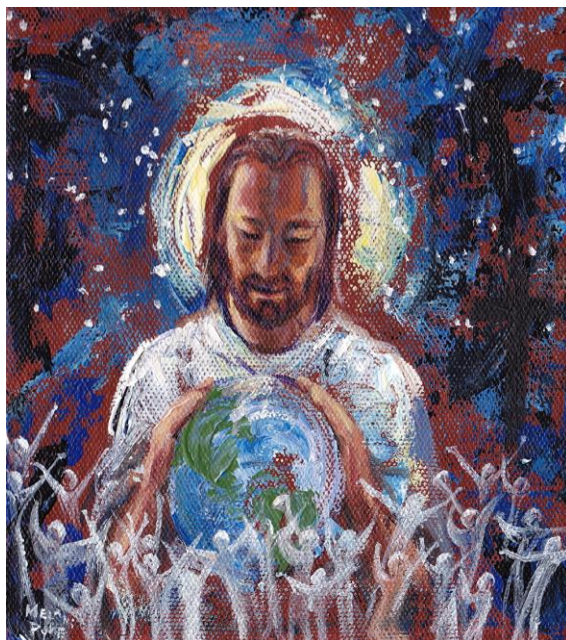
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.

In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.....

....And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John 1)



Message: Richard E. Bieber November 2021

Featured Artist: Melani Pyke...Niagara Falls Ontario at Melpyke.com

Prayer: Lord, help us to take this precious, indestructible giftyour words....and hold them and value them above all else. How wonderful that your words still burn with as much power and life as they did when you spoke them. May we live them, breathe them, move in the power and beauty of them. No matter what we face now or in the future, may your words continue to light us with your life, keep us beholding your glory, and keep us setting the world on fire until you call us home. Amen.

Maranatha Mirror

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THE LAMB
WHO WAS SLAIN
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN