



## **SAFE HARBOR**

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### **Words of Encouragement**

John 17:13-19 New English Translation (NET Bible)

<sup>13</sup>But now I am coming to you, and I am saying these things in the world, so they may experience my joy completed in themselves. <sup>14</sup>I have given them your word, and the world has hated them, because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>15</sup>I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but that you keep them safe from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They do not belong to the world just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>17</sup>Set them apart in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup>Just as you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>And I set myself apart on their behalf, so that they too may be truly set apart.

The Christian has a special place in the world he lives in per the words of Jesus. To follow after Christ is a call to non-conformity in the world. It is a call to a separation because of faith. It is a call to become the light in the world radiating the love of God and his holiness. We must be careful to understand this and its implications for our lives in all aspects.

The uniqueness of Christian living is beyond the comprehension to all pre-occupied with the matters that chain people to the world. Jesus has promised a life in close relationship with God through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. In the Garden of Eden we read that God communicated with Adam and Eve as well as being with them. The sin of Adam separated them from God and they were cast out of the Garden.

Even today people who profess to follow after Jesus have never into the deep and meaningful communion with him. Instead of surrendering their beings to the presence of the Holy Spirit they continue in the seductions of this world. They have a form of faith but deny the power that is

inherent in their faith. Like the children of Israel who entered into the Promised Land they look away from the One who delivered them and follow after the follies of this present age.

So the churches that should be attracting people to experience God's great salvation have become beholden to the society which oppresses. The altars have been transformed to platforms promoting wealth, power, and acceptance. They are places that our children have been sacrificed to a secular heathenism devoid of knowing the Creator and Sustainer.

My friends this does not have to happen. As the seven churches were called out for their failings, they were also called to repent so that Jesus might have his knock on the door answered and enter into the hearts of those who would share in vibrant communication with him.

Let the Comforter bring the presence of Christ into your life with power and the radiant light of God flowing forth each moment of each day. Reject the notion that excuses sin and seeks accommodation with values of the world we live in. Stand apart! For that is where we are called.

### *Words to Live By*

Ephesians 4:1-7 Modern English Version (MEV)

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, exhort you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you were called. <sup>2</sup>With all humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>be eager to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit, even as you were called in one hope of your calling, <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

<sup>7</sup>But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

### *A Blessing for Easter*

That morning in the garden while disciples tried to sleep.  
The Roman guards were disturbed, aroused in fear  
With shaking eyes watched the stone be rolled away.  
And Mary came upon the sight, the empty opened tomb.  
With thoughts that someone had stolen away the body of the Lord.  
Bewildered turned and ran.

Alerting the two disciples of the wonder she had seen.  
They run full speed to verify that this was not a dream.  
Peering inside John could not but marvel at the sight of linens, empty  
Laying there with no body to be insight.  
Curiously when Peter entered without thought of the taboos  
He saw the face clothed on the side neatly folded too.

For with this dawn came a new day upon this sodden earth.  
For from the grave the One arose who brought about new birth.  
The hope that through the ages passed fulfilled and now brought light.  
And secured for those who come by faith deliverance from sin's night.  
That glorious dawn, a bright new day to celebrate we come.  
To honor and rejoice in chorus glad the victory Christ won.

**May the joy of the Resurrection bring blessings upon you as we celebrate the Living Lord!**

You can follow Cove Fellowship at [www.billlangservices.com](http://www.billlangservices.com) , email to [covefellowship@verizon.net](mailto:covefellowship@verizon.net) or on Face Book at **CoveFellowshipMinistries**.

Also a footnote:

My book of poetry, **Midnight Musings: Thoughts from a Restless Mind**, is available on Amazon and also Amazon Kindle. Your patronage and thoughts would be appreciated.