

A call out for the called out...

Letters

- I. The mystery of the ages:
 Who indeed steers the train?
- II. Is there any HOPE for true freedom?
 the re-birth labor
- III. The birth of the new man:
 Dead in Him and Risen in Him

Next: (forthcoming)

- IV. Understanding the new man
 the inner and the outer man: *the paradox*
- V. The project here and now: Growth
 into the stature of Christ

ZCH.

Sept. 11, 2021
(Meskerem 1, 2014 GC)
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

A call out for the called out!

Dear friends,

It is a new year, according to Ethiopian calendar. My wish to you is that you may get some time to read this message in these days of the beginning of this new year.

Understandably, in these days, which are filled with so many worries and too many ugly images, finding time to read anything is quite a luxury. And when we think we have got time to read, we are presented with tones of noises and disturbing images from all sorts of outlets. Surprisingly, all of them seem to work in unison, seemingly under a command of some evil power in the air, whose mission is to burden us with unending worrisome. These noises and images have crippled many with extreme anxiety. Observing these evil plots of our time, which seems to be skillfully orchestrated, it is reasonable to claim that humans are like chained slaves pulled by their neck from one field to the other, or like a lamb led to a slaughter. Sadly, no one has a sure idea about who is orchestrating all these noises and images and who indeed is pulling humans through the days into the slaughter – yes, literally to the slaughter house.

Dear friends, let us at least be calm for a moment and reflect. If we can, let us distance ourselves from these difficult noises around us for a moment and reason – reason with ourselves and reason with God.

Here is what I believe - the earth is the bigger prison while our individual body is our individual prison cell. History is that giant train cruising from the yester years to the tomorrows, which we naively refer it as a new year. We are trapped in a bigger illusion of an unending journey to somewhere though within the perimeters of the prison. Are we going round and round in one giant loop – whom should we ask? We often see some of our companions being tossed out of the window of the train by a strange conductor called **death**. Our brain is num and is not allowed to reason, even for a while, about their whereabouts. If incase we dare to ask, we would be easily drugged by a cup of coffee or by being invited to act in a simple illusionary drama and brought back to the state of numbness. The conductor works nonstop in a nonstop train and throws out our comrades – by continuously creating all sorts of dramas whose end game is to be thrown out – war, pandemic, accidents, disasters, diseases, murders,... Yes, these all are tales in which we all are characters. If our character is not tossed out, and if we acted well, we are rewarded in the form of pride with new name, new position, new dress, new house, or applause so that we continue to play the character for a while more. Otherwise, we get another way of emotional provocation in the form of sorrow, loss, resentment, - either to desire to be tossed out or continue to act in the drama with vigor and vengeance. ...strange nightmare.... But, there are also very few who are **called out** from the train by a strange invisible voice called **life**... When someone claims that he/she has received this **call-out**, everyone in the train would be disgusted and the train usually shakes in an attempt to refuse to let the called-out

go. For some strange reason, the person who is called-out would be filled with the weirdest feeling called joy and would be given a secrete gift called **faith** - which moves him to go out.....

Assuming that you are among the called out, the following serious of essays are to help you understand the prison, the train, the conductor, and your caller and the reason of your calling⁰...

I. The mystery of the ages

>Who indeed steers the train?

Some assume that it is their desire which pushes them from yesterday to tomorrow – crafted through their own intelligent plan of actions; others think that it is God, the supreme being - pulling them through the stresses of the days – the stress, which he himself orchestrated; even some others think that it is only a blind/random successions of events which decides the nodes and destinations of their travel through time - hence no one but a collision between an illusion of consciousness and a *non-existent* god called Chance. Of course, every adult heart would gasp for an answer for the question – who indeed is driving my life through the highway of time...and or in a bigger scale, who is steering the train of history which is crammed with agonizing souls of humans?

Though we all share an illusion of controlling our steps in the walk of 'life', deep within us, we know that both the

journey and the destination of life is but absurd and hence scary. Surely, we have little or no control on both our arrival and departure to/from this planet – and consequently, we have no or little control over the majority of events happening in between these two nodes of our presence. The unknowns in this journey are troubling. If we get a small strand of light, We oftentimes curse our nature (of being conscious) for all these unknowns. We often ask – if indeed we are given the capacity to KNOW or if we possess this weird nature of consciousness, why aren't things clear to us? Why don't we simply KNOW? This nature of ours seems to burden us with more question than answers. Unless we are puffed-up by arrogant spirits, most of us know that the more we think we know, our journey through time becomes more absurd. If not, why aren't we driven by our instinct just like the flowers of the field or the birds of the air. Putting the conundrum in another word - Is it not really creepy that humanity is on a scary train called *History* where no traveler knows where it is destined – except making some arrogant predictions? What is more worrisome though is what comes out from the pens of those in the train of history who claim to know more. Their best answer simply is - 'why care! – take everything as a simple nightmare!'... almost jokingly they dare to say – 'no worries – everyone of us would be thrown-out on a random station, by the conductor of the train - death!' ...then the question, which no one dare to ask, becomes – if this is indeed a nightmare, then what does it means to be truly awake?

Let us push aside the destination/station mystery and think of the wagon itself. The more concerning question

becomes – why is it that the wagon in this mysterious train is filled with agony? In other words - why are our days on earth filled with pain and suffering - while our desire is love and peace?

More honestly, knowing that most of the pain is caused by humans themselves, we are pressed to ask - Why is it that the human heart is more fertile to inflict pain and suffering than love and empathy? While the news of disasters from wars and diseases are cutting through our hearts, how come that the power in the human brain, which boasts of having enough volume to create bombs with a capacity of destroying all life at once, is infertile to conceive a working idea for harmonious coexistence? How come that the collective intelligence, which created glittering cities and rocket-shuttles, fail to create a functioning recipe for peace? It sounds quite confusing and no one can indeed claim to be outside of this enigma. Neither hearts in the 'advanced' regions of our world nor minds in a 'backward' regions are immune from the disposition of destruction caused by hatred and self-centeredness.

The beautiful beast!

Yes, the ugliness within this species is immense and is everywhere. No matter where we want to hide on the face of this prison planet – we are confronted with aggression from the nature of humans. Notice that the strongest nations of earth are referred as strong primarily due to their capability to kill (the stock piles of powerful bombs). Yes, greatness, throughout this train of history, has been associated with the ability to destroy and dominate – be it

personalities like Alexander *the 'Great'* or *the 'great'* empires of the past and the present.

We humans, when we are sincere to ourselves - in the silence of our nakedness, know that there is indeed a dreadful error in our nature which gravitates us towards hostility while we claim outwardly to desire 'peace'. Listen the drums in your heart... they are summoned more by hatred than love and by vengeance than forgiveness. Agreeing with the Christian doctrine, I accept that the species, though created as an embodiment of **beauty** – in the image of **love**, has turned itself into an **error** – it is in a deep fault (in a nature of sin)! Its genetics is irreversibly corrupt and lost ***The Beautiful*** and the capacity to know ***The Truth***. Consequently, its entire history has been a journey in utter darkness and hence full of war and disaster. Actually, ***history*** itself can be taken as an alternate term for ***war***. Tellingly, all these wars, which rendered history, are waged by humans against itself - riding the evil horse of fear (of itself). As any person is unable to see inward, he projects his fear-thorn ugly inner-being onto his brother and indeed, he finds his brother ugly and detestable who deserves to be destroyed. Here it goes history, since the first two brothers - Abel and Cain.

It is disappointing to learn that even the best endeavors of mankind throughout its history – be it intelligence or skill, has always been invested on the making of these wars. Its 'progress' is driven by its industriousness towards destruction - be it advances in medicine, communication, or space exploration. Yes, all are but produces of the industry of war and aggression.

Unfortunately, all attempts of arresting (controlling) this destructive behavior of the species through politics, religion, or education have rather fueled(energized) its evil nature. When the species runs out of ideas to resolve or even to explain this dangerously evil nature, it has a disturbing tendency of endorsing them as norms. The contemporary intellectual and political discourses are full of rationalization of darkness and sin. Well, we now know that after eradicating the absolute reference of good – God (the personification of Truth, Love, and Beauty), from all its undertakings, the species seems to have arrived at the stage of absolute vanity. Evil-fully though, it enthrones its own mind (and inner cravings) as the only generator and reference of ‘truth’. And hence, the strong among men (individual or group or nation) dictate ‘truth’ (in the name of science or politics – the new gods which are created in the images and likeness of the corrupt hearts of the ‘beautiful’ Beast).

The Co-conspirator – Nature

It seems to me that nature also mysteriously dances with the heartbeat of this strange species called humans. I know that such a statement sounds quite superstitious but I dare to use this hypothesis as a way to explain particularly the current state of the country I reside - Ethiopia. The country is at war with itself and the massive majority appear to pray for peace, but within the same hearts, it is not difficult to feel the vibration of rage and vengeance. There are much more priests of hatred than priests of decency. The aggressively malicious among the

members of ethnic groups or religious groups have taken this priesthood but to preach hate. With their venomous utterances, millions of souls are being driven into the deep ocean of hate and destruction. Love and forgiveness are chased away from the land by being labelled as weakness and even wickedness. Yes, with the aggressive ignorance, the country has been pulled into mass psychosis. With such vibes in the heart, to observe the parallel fierce aggression of nature through locust infestation, COVID pandemic, and even flooding seems beyond a coincidence. It seems to me that Nature is Dancing following the Vibration of Human Hearts. We have witnessed such a pattern throughout history - droughts, famine, and pandemic following wars. Yes, we do often times tend to rationalize such incidences through simple theories such as the 'missing men from the field'. Obviously though, the current reality which we are witnessing easily disproves the 'missing men' theory. Even before the war, the locust and the pandemic were hovering, and much before them was dangerous seeds of revenge, and arrogance were being sown in the hearts of young and old, creating a massive wave of hatred along ethnic lines. And shockingly though, the arrogance is so high that everyone has a blind justification for its hatred. Yes, everyone seems to be under the spell of evil and no one can see through. Indeed, the blanket is so dark and so thick, even those who claim to be the called-out (of history), have turned themselves into the game of history (*as it is written - to lead astray, even the elect*).

All the above is simply to establish the obvious - the species is and has always been under the nature of obscenity. No attempt throughout history could fix it or

could set it free – neither the laws set by its rulers (including the God given commandments) nor education developed by both priests and elites!

Then What?

The best description of the human condition and its profile is given by St. Pauls' letter to Romans: (Rom. 3:9-20)

What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin.

As it is written:

*“There is none righteous, no, not one;
There is none who understands;
There is none who seeks after God.
They have all turned aside;
They have together become unprofitable;
There is none who does good, no, not one.”
“Their throat is an open tomb;
With their tongues they have practiced deceit”;
“The poison of asps is under their lips”;
“Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.”
“Their feet are swift to shed blood;
Destruction and misery are in their ways;
And the way of peace they have not known.”
“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”*

Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

Yes.... we all are useless....and dangerous...neither our individual nor our collective conscience is possible to be cleansed. We are in a constant torment of a deeply

incarcerated collective psyche. All we hear (from within and from without) is a sad lamentation of the soul which awaits its eventual destruction....

How I wish I have a voice!

i have lived enough and traveled sufficiently on this planet and have covered its history fairly to confirm the above statements of Saint Paul. Yes, the human species, though beautiful, can be regarded as a sick and confused animal – viciously trying to destroy itself, hence a *beautiful beast*. My heart is gravely wounded with disgust due to its cruelty expressed consistently throughout its history. My heart is also exhausted due to the cruelty of the collective consciousness that I witness almost every day. I don't know and can't imagine any other species or being as angry and cruel on itself as humans are. When I see the rich mutilating the poor; the strong enslaving the weak; one group germinating hate to shatter the lives of the 'other', I even often times claim that, actually, nature has been so generous in its response. The earth has generously been carrying the cruelty, arrogance, and utter ignorance of humans for far too long. I wish I have that enough voice to cry out for the heavens, with all the force within me – I would have cried - 'Help! ... Help! ... Save us from ourselves!!!...save us from our own evil!!!

I feel the same fury operating within my own blood... I wish, I can drain out this blood and terminate the nature of rage from the human species! ... I wish, I can silence these disturbing and distressing voices of hatred and ignorance which have infested the air....!!! However, leave alone eradicating the disease from the species and

silencing the noise of arrogance from the air, I cannot even silence the drums of rage and war within my own little heart. The world system has educated me to calm myself down through finding someone else to blame. Blame your parents, blame your country, blame the other color, blame the other gender, blame the other tribe, blame the poor, blame the rich, blame the economy, blame the climate, blame history, blame God ...Even the so called 'learned or enlightened' among us have nothing to offer us than the blame game while they conduct a malevolent music which initiates hatred and greed within us. *Lets be honest- at least once, and ask – what am I made of? What poison have I eaten?*

What is the question?

If I were me, I would have asked - How should i go in life – how should i face tomorrow which is labelled as new (year) knowing that I am indeed imprisoned in this dark and ugly prison called ME – filled with hatred and fear? Should we, as a collective, keep on living in such a state of utter darkness, which is built through history by rivers of human blood and maneuvered by the 'genius' of the eviler among us? Is there any means to get awakened from this nightmare? Is there any hope of freedom... for me ... and ... for you?

Yes, the only question one has to ask is - **how can I escape?** (From myself, who is literally controlled by voices in the air and conducted by an invisible ruler whom I cannot fathom (Eph 2:1-3)? Or if in a family or a group - **Who can pull us out from our own deep grave** which

we conveniently refer it as 'life'? We know that we cannot escape by shutting our eyes and closing our ears. We cannot escape from the torment of hate and fear by hiding in our tribal caves - which actually are the very graveyards decorated by fear.

Liberty, the dream of history

Though within the walls of the prison, humans have long been writing and playing a drama entitled - *the struggle for freedom*. The setting, all throughout history, has been similar - two roles are available for all who are engaged in this drama (customarily called life) - to act as an oppressor and/or as an oppressed. The scheme is clear – the oppressed fights to attain freedom from oppressors. When one episode is over, however, the cycle goes on by changing roles – the oppressed becomes an oppressor. And the drama of 'the struggle for freedom' continues, since the beginning of ages, by sacrificing river of human blood.

*Oh... liberty... the rebel's cry;
Under your spell, millions die
Though all profess to march to Canaan,
one could 'be-come' - to cross river Jordan!*

Yes, people have been oppressed by nature, and more horrifyingly, by culture – which is the production of the collective psyche. All oppressors are products of oppression and all the oppressed are potential oppressors. The honest root cause of this conundrum is the fact that everyone is dreadfully oppressed and tormented by the gravity of their own evil nature.

This darkness is in us and it is us! It is in me and it is me - it is in you and it is you! Both our individual and collective construct are results of this darkness. Doesn't matter what the color of our skin is or which religion we follow, or what language we speak. The problem is me – in the truest sense - i am the perpetrator! Then the question, in a more personal note, shall be – how can i get healed from the disease called me? In other words - How can I get freed from me?

Who would destroy my prison cell (the me) and set me free from this rotten nature? Yes, these lines should have been in all songs of freedom, however, all songs of freedom, that we know, have skillfully replaced the real problem – *ME*, by *THE OTHER*, who actually is my brother - placing my own ugliness onto him. Conveniently, the struggle for freedom was reduced into simplistic blame game. Rather than confronting the problem, which is me, culture (constructed human wisdom) has thought me how to blame my brother and fight him (to subdue him, otherwise to kill him). Oh yes, under the shadow of our darkness, we still tend to justify wars and killings in the name of freedom. Is there any freedom-war ever won except leaving the warriors with a more messed up mind set?

In writing these and dealing with the messes in the minds of people, I am aware of the contemporary tendencies based on psychological and popular self-help books, which tries to guide people in a successful blame shifting games. Or, a manipulation of the mind or the body – chemically or psychologically, in an attempt to make

people feel comfortable within themselves. I am also aware of the menus of prescriptions from various religious practices, which are sucking on the vulnerability of the species through their extensive manipulative power games. At best, almost all can be referred as schemes to **make humans adapt their prison (in other words, schemes to make humans comfortable within themselves and their own self-created culture)**. Bluntly put - they are evil schemes trying to make us adapt to the smell of DEATH, and make us sleep with our corrupt and sin-rotten nature. What is more disturbing, in the scheme of these conspirators though, is their method – they hijack words and twist their concepts with an opposite meaning. Surely, we have witnessed the distortion of words such as Life, love, liberty, truth, etc being reconceptualize (to have mean the opposite. DEATH is rebranded as LIFE and SELFISHNESS has successfully taken the meaning of LIBERTY. LUST is easily constituted to take over the meaning of LOVE and CONVENIENCE has replaced TRUTH.

After visiting a library, one can boldly conclude that the human civilization is nothing more than a continuous attempt of beautifying its own prison. In other words – rather than desiring for true liberty, humans have settled in trying to make sense of the prison life. At best, their endeavor aims at decreasing suffering and, if possible, maximizing pleasure within the chemistry of this awkward boundary of the prison called ME (Myself).

II. Is there any HOPE for true freedom?

>the re-birth labor

Thousands of years of history must have taught us that all schemes to attain freedom, peace, and love have failed. History itself is a witness that all claims of achievement have vanished with their claimants. By now, we have to settle with the fact that human mind is infertile to comprehend true freedom and true love and true beauty and true peace and or generally **Truth**. We have had enough promises and disappointments all across history by all sorts of noises from men and women, who themselves are finally silenced by death. Whatever we claim – be it bodily gymnastics in the name of meditation, or hiding behind piles of books in the name of knowledge, all our strives are within the walls of the prison. Except in death, there is no chance of escape! If in life, someone from the outer-space must smash the prison with ahistorical force – someone from outside of the human family – outside of the descendants of Adam.

In the midst of such a complete lockdown of the prison on the human race, the following strange statements have entered history and shaken it with ahistorical force:

> 'I have come to set the captives free!'¹

> 'You shall know the Truth and the Truth shall set you Free!'²

> 'I am the TRUTH!'³

These bold statements were fired into history not from the strongest warrior-prince or a superhero fighter in history. It is from the humblest person known to history - a person who was born in a refuge and murdered in the most brutal way - by being nailed on a tree, a man of compassion who preferred to plea mercy for his torturers rather than fighting against. These statements were not made from a man who set his goal to helmet a golden crown but who preferred a crown of thorns; a man who refused to carry any armor, even a Davidian sling, to destroy the Goliath of history – the enslaver of all - death. He aimed to free not any particular man or woman or group but the entirety of the human race. And he had no army behind him except himself; and more confusingly, no armor except love.

Though this person is indeed the gentlest being, his messages targeted the epicenter of the whirlpool of human history – the desire for liberty. Though born of a woman, it was told that this strangest of a person, was not a descendent of the human race. The writers of the books, which recorded his life and teachings, stated that he is the incarnate God - the embodiment of *The Word* which brought forth time, space, and everything in and beyond. What he said in his first public address have baffled many – He declared that he has come to **set the captives free!** Though people thought that he meant to free them from the usual historical drama of subjugation, He clearly stated that humanity is enslaved by its own nature called sin². And he has come to set these captives (humans) free. Just like today, there were many who arrogantly claimed that they are free and need no liberty. Unless one

is lucky, of course, it is difficult for a natural person to see his/her own chains.

For those who sought after him, he said – ‘you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free!’. Well, these are strange collection of words. Knowing the truth, and being set free are phrases and words which are confusing even for our contemporary culture. What is truth? What is knowing the truth? What is freedom? And what is being set free? This strangest of a person is named Jesus (Yeshua) the Christ (messiah) which means Jesus the deliverer(savior). The climax of his relatively short journey on earth was his death on the cross and his resurrection from the grave. It is believed that those statements of freedom are anchored in these strange phenomena of his death and resurrection.

As our contemporary culture/language is too thin to capture the notions in His statements, it is necessary to revisit these words and phrases before we go further – truth, knowing the truth, and freedom.

Truth: he simply dismissed the historic description of truth which is claimed to be the resonance of thought and reality. (In the frames of human mind, the notion of truth is established when a word/statement (representing thought) has a parallel phenomenon in reality). In a complete redraw, Jesus defined truth as a being – as a person. And introduced himself as that person – the bodily manifest of Truth! He boldly stated – I am the truth! It is obvious that the ‘Truth’ which ‘sets you free’ does not refer to those statements

and narratives referenced with human mind and natural conditions. Neither nature nor mind is referred as anchors or persona of Truth - it is a person and it is a particular person!

Knowing in this case, hence, does not refer to cognitive processes which refers to conception in the mind through thoughts or senses or experience. Rather it is *knowing him* (instead of knowing about him) which entails various levels⁴ of depth of knowing, going all the way from being a follower to becoming one with him (complete knowing). It is like food – you can see it, smell it, test it, but you know it deeper when you eat it – then the food becomes one with your body⁵. So is knowing Jesus – it is being united with him through faith (through believing) and partaking in his journey which leads to liberty which in turn is the basis of Life. He himself declared saying '*I am the way, the Truth and the Life*'.

The much more perplexing phenomena is what happens in the journey after one is united with Christ Jesus (the truth) through faith? Of course, the promise is – 'the truth shall set us **free**'.... but how? As human as we are, we would like to know the how.

When one is united with him by faith and decided to partake on his journey with him, the first miracle one would experience would be the miracle of death (to be one with him on his death on the cross)!⁶ This is done through faith – Accepting the death of Christ in an active faith means identifying one's own death in Christ. Once own

death in Christ means freedom from oneself! the believer claims that when Jesus was nailed on the cross, it was him (the believer) who was nailed and died on the Cross with Jesus. This is not a simple death of the body – but the death of the person within this biological vehicle! Indeed, Christ died years ago but his death was eternally active for those who believe as an embodiment of their own death. Oh, yes...death is indeed the miracle, that which destroys what is referred as ME.

Historians and religious teachers have been trying hard to water down this phenomenon throughout the last two thousand years. It has been decoupled from the believers experience of death. But the direct message is when a person come to know Christ, he/she would become one with him. When one is one with him, he/she experiences his death and the freedom in it. There is no freedom without death!

For if we have become one with Him [permanently united] in the likeness of His death, we will also certainly be [one with Him and share fully] *in the likeness* of His resurrection. We know that our old self [our human nature] was nailed to the cross with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin. **For the person who has died [with Christ] has been freed from [the power of] sin.**⁶

Indeed, if you are dead with Him, you are freed from the nature of sin (corruption and rebellious)! 'You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free!'

III. The birth of the new man

>Dead in Him and Risen in Him

The crucifixion tells us that Jesus was crucified and buried but on the third day, he was risen from the dead.

Dying in him does not only free us from ourselves and from the predicaments of our nature, but it releases us and prepares us to receive the new life-form. After partaking in the death of Christ, the believer (who is united with Christ) passes into the second most important miracle called resurrection – a re-birth into a new life. This life is not a *reformation* or a *transformation* of the older life (the life-form one possesses before dying in Christ) nor is it a correction of errors to make one a better person. No, it is the complete destruction of the life-form of Adam which one inherits biologically (naturally) and develops it through cultural engagement. As the decree in the Book says - The old is passed away – burned down totally, and the new has become!

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”⁷

After partaking in the death, the believer once again unites himself, through faith, in the resurrection of Christ. Risen from death but with the very risen life of Christ in a process referred as re-birth. In this re-birth, the believer shares the very life of Christ – because he/she was in Christ while he was risen. In this resurrection, the person (the believer) becomes a spiritual being (no more a natural person).

Accordingly, he/she declares truthfully saying – I live no more but Christ lives in me!⁸ It is an active faith where his/her older self is done (is deleted) on the cross and has received the life of Christ. In other words, *the person is released to live Christ* – the life-form of God himself. While still in this physical body, Christ has become his new life!⁹ He has no life of his/her own but Christ is. All his bodily operations, be it in words or deeds, will be done in the name of Christ rather than in once own name. As he is dead for this world, he seeks and desires no name, no fame, no recognition of any glory from this world.

The spiritual man is hence a man who is withdrawn from the stages of History. Other than an active critique of darkness, the spiritual person recognizes or attests no drama on earth. The spiritual man lives beyond the simplistic cultural/religious/moralistic codes and measures of good and bad. His reference is not human culture, politics, religion, or any other human made references. This new creature becomes simply an absurd intruder into the historical and evolutionary project of civilization. Hence, he is officially known as **an Alien**. His life-form indeed is not from earth and hence life on planet earth becomes a mission to represent Christ in the body. The spiritual person is the '**called-out**' soul but refilled with new-life and once again re-sent into history. The spiritual person on earth is as He once was - they indeed carry his death and resurrection in the brief moment of their mission – a message of liberty, love and reconciliation!

Further notes:

>Let it be clear for all – no level of psychological massaging, no pile of motivational invocations, no dozes of chemicals injections into the body, no claims of intellectual and mechanical mutations, no depth of spiritistic meditations, no performance in religious duties, nothing ... nothing washes away the corruption in the human nature. As the ancient scripture puts it:

“The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*,
And desperately wicked; Who can know it?”¹⁰

It has to simply be terminated! Death is the only resolution! It silences all the noises – be it natural or cultural. St. Paul rightly claims that our message is nothing but the cross – the table upon which the old-man with its nature is slain - clearing the way for the new!

“For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”¹¹

>The natural human nature cannot comprehend love – what works in it is fear, which produces hate. It operates primarily through securing survival resources by being hateful to others (by considering others as potential contestants for

resources). Based on convenience, it structures itself as an individuals or groups (in any form - family, tribes, ethnic group, nations, races...). To experience Love (GOD) and to be one with, demands first liberty from this nature of fear(sin). To be free from it, that nature of sin has to be destroyed - which requires nothing less than a complete death – deeper than physical death! And such a death demands the cross of Christ!

>When you are liberated from yourself through death, you are free to **become** - you are freed to **be!** (To be but light⁹, to become but one with **love!**)

Through death on the cross, you are called out from darkness but to be light¹²

Through his resurrection, you are given his life to become an embodiment, hence an expression, of LOVE!

Quoted verses

⁰ Eph 1:18, ¹ Luke 4:16, ² John 8:32, ³ John 14:6, ⁴ Eph. 4:11, ⁵ John 6:35, ⁶ Rom 6:1-8, ⁷ 2Cor. 5:17, ⁸ Col. 3:1-4, ⁹ Mat 5:14, ¹⁰ Jer. 17:9, ¹¹ 1st Cor. 1:22-24, ¹² 1st Pet. 2:9, ¹³ 2nd Cor. 3:3

Next: (forthcoming)

IV. Understanding the new man

>the inner and the outer man: *the paradox*

V. The project on the spiritual person

> Growth: *into the stature of Christ*