

Epistle 301

by George Fox

George Fox's Epistle 301 emphasizes the personal possession of the gospel and the transformative power of Christ in believers' lives.

Scripture: Isaiah 9:6-7, John 15:5, Romans 1:16, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 3:17, Ephesians 4:3, Ephesians 6:15, 2 Timothy 1:10, 1 Peter 1:23

Topics: "Inner Transformation", "Heavenly Government"

Description

George Fox preaches about the importance of possessing the gospel of peace, which brings life and immortality to light, and the need for believers to be heirs and possessors of Christ's heavenly government. He emphasizes the personal experience of having Christ ruling in one's heart by faith and the transformation that occurs when Christ is found within. Fox encourages believers to have the word of God near in their hearts and mouths, obeying and doing it, being born again of the immortal seed and freely sharing spiritual nourishment with others.

Transcript

Dear friends,--This is the day for all to take your possessions, that know the gospel, the power of God [Rom 1:16], which brings life and immortality to light [2 Tim 1:10] in them. . . . So every one take your possessions of this holy, everlasting, joyful, and peaceable gospel and order; for the peace is in the power of God; so it is called the gospel of peace [Rom 10:15, Eph 6:15], that keeps all in the peace, which you have from the Prince of peace [Isa 9:6], that the world cannot take away from you; and likewise that you may be heirs and possessors of Christ, and of his government, which is pure, holy, righteous, and heavenly, of the increase of this heavenly man's government there is no end [Isa 9:7]; but there will be an end of old Adam's and the devil's, which began in time, and will end in time, but there will be no end of his, that was set up from everlasting to everlasting. So all be possessors of this heavenly government, and of this heavenly, glorious, and comely order.

And whereas it hath been said by them without, you must come and hear Christ preached. The answer is from the possessors of him, I have examined myself, and proved myself, and have found Christ Jesus in me, and he rules in my heart by faith [Eph 3:17]; and I am in him, and he is in me [John 15:5]; 'and behold ye' (that is as much as to say, take notice) 'all things are become new [2 Cor 5:17].'

And whereas the saying has been by them that are without, why do not you come to hear the word preached? The answer is, and will be, from the possessors of him, the word is nigh me, in my heart and

mouth, to obey it and do it [Deut 30:14]; and need not say to any, who shall ascend to bring it down from above, or who shall descend to bring it up from the grave [Rom 10:6f]; for I am come to the righteousness of faith's speaking [Rom 10:6], (mark, faith's speaking,) that saith on this wise, 'The word is nigh thee, in thy heart and mouth, to obey it and do it;' by which word I am born again of the immortal seed, which lives, and abides, and endures for ever [1 Pet 1:23]; by which word I have milk to give freely to babes [1 Pet 2:2] and sucklings. So the possessors have breasts; and the possessors' breasts are not dry; glory to the Lord for ever. So no more but love; and God Almighty preserve you in his wisdom, that is pure and gentle from above [Jas 3:17], by which you may be all ordered [Wis 8:1], and order all that you have under your hands to his glory [1 Cor 10:31]. And keep in the unity of the holy spirit, which is the bond of peace [Eph 4:3], of the Prince of princes' peace [Dan 8:25], which is every one of your duty to keep this heavenly peace of the Prince of princes, which none can take away from you; for you are bound with the spirit to keep it, so that your praise may be in the gospel [2 Cor 8:18]; that you may admonish and exhort all that do profess the truth of the gospel, that they may walk in the truth, as becomes the gospel [3 Jn 1:3/Phil 1:27], and that every one that does profess Christ Jesus, and has received him, may walk in him in the new and living way [Heb 10:20], out of the old way.

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