

Brief Report

From Dewayne, Rita, and Antonio Shappley

Sept. 12, 2020

Dear Brethren, may this find you, and your congregations, strong during these somewhat troublesome times. Having read a lot of history over the course of my lifetime, “somewhat” seems, to me, an appropriate adjective, for there have certainly been many “times,” through the centuries, more troublesome than these. Religious freedom is surely one of our greatest blessings.

Referencing one of the conflictive areas of our times, about two months ago I developed a study in Spanish, which I translated to English last week. It is available at: www.editoriallapaz.org/life-human-color-of-black-lives-matter.html, and begins as follows, with formatting as on the Internet.

The COLOR of HUMAN LIFE



“BLM.” “Black Lives Matter.”

Omnipresent acronym and headline today (2020) in social media, newscasts, talk shows, newspapers, magazines, on decals, even on fences and walls of buildings, in many places in the United States of America.

Also, on banners and placards carried by throngs of people crying out for respect, equality, and justice.

Some, peacefully.



Others, through riots, destruction of property and physical aggression against those they conceive as "enemies."

"Black Lives Matter" is a federation, without formal organization, of groups that advocate for racial justice, and other social-sexual-political causes.

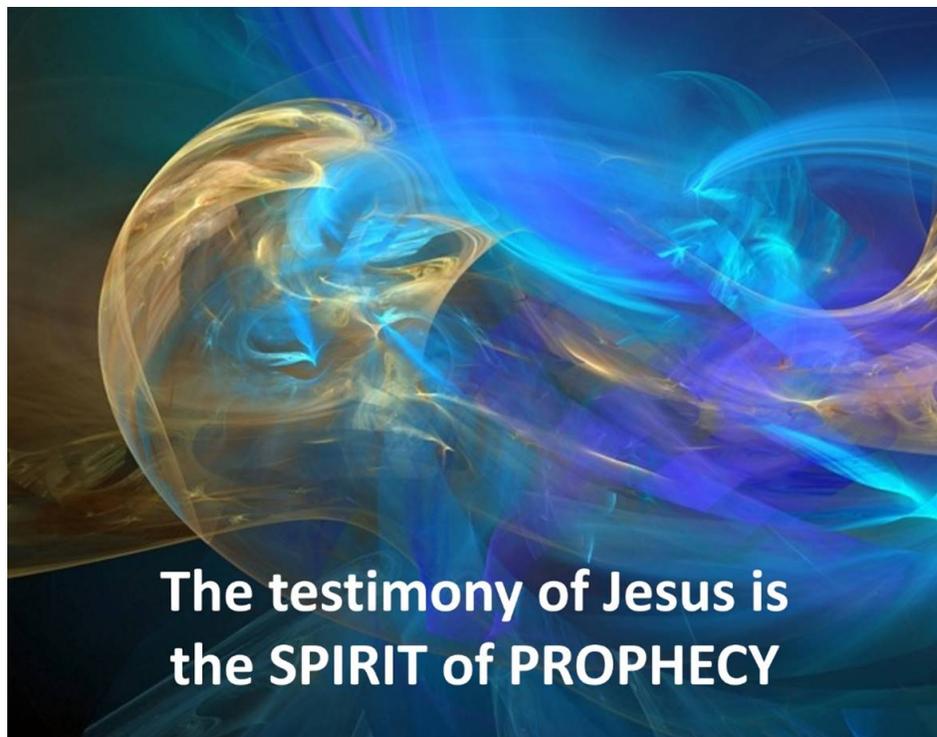
"Black" is an **adjective**. **"Lives,"** the **noun** "Black" qualifies.

However, the reality is that **human life**, as such, **has NO COLOR!**

It is **neither black, brown, ruddy, red, bronze, yellow, cream, white, albino**, or nuances and combinations of these colors. Nor is it **blue**.

And the analysis continues, with emphasis on: How each human life acquires true value.

Fulfilled and **yet-to-be-fulfilled prophecies** also provide me, personally, invaluable orientations and perspectives for life in present times. In that context, another of the studies I have been privileged to produce in recent days is ***"The Testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy."*** Full text on the Internet at: www.editoriallapaz.org/spirit-of-prophecy-testimony-of-Jesus.html. Written first in Spanish, the English version begins as follows.



Continuing his narration of the prophecies and visions entitled ***"Revelation,"*** the apostle John writes:

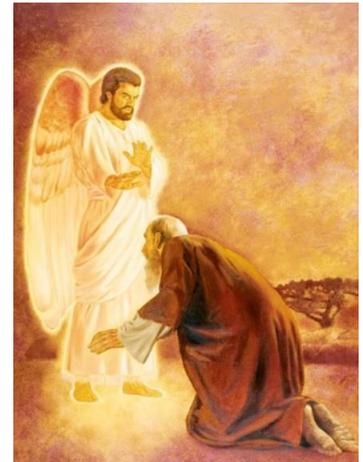
*“And the angel said to me, ‘Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’ And he said to me, ‘These are true words of God.’ Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, ‘You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your **brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus**. Worship God. For the **testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy**.”* Revelation 19:9-10 RSV

The angels faithful to God and the “*brethren*,” that is, the Christians, faithful to him, “*hold the testimony of Jesus*.”

In this context, “*hold*” means: “*To have possession or ownership of or have at one's disposal. To have or maintain in the grasp.*” www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/hold

So then, both faithful angels and Christians **possess** “*the testimony of Jesus*.” They have it at their disposal. They keep it in their minds and hearts. And this “*testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy*.”

This “*spirit of prophecy*” that Jesus possesses would be the **gift**, or **divine power**, that enables him to proclaim, precisely, **prophecies**.



Once his **prophecies are fully and perfectly fulfilled**, they become his **absolutely irrefutable “testimony”** that he is, indeed, all he affirms to be, to wit: the Messiah, the Son of God, the Savior of humanity, the Head of the church and the High Priest “*forever, according to the order of Melchizedek*.” Hebrews 5:1-6

When faithful angels and Christians witness the **perfect fulfillment** of the **prophecies proclaimed by Jesus**, they **hold** for themselves, retaining in the mind and spirit, the **extremely valuable, indisputable “testimony”** that such prophecies do, effectively, constitute, appealing to that testimony when they evangelize among the lost and edify the converted.

And the study continues, highlighting Peter’s affirmation that we have “*the more sure word of prophecy*,” the great importance Paul gives to prophecy in his instructions to the church in Thessalonica, reasons why not a few teachers and preachers of today seem to almost “*despise prophesyings*,” and some consequences thereof for their listeners or readers.

For our continued evangelism and edification through the Internet and the printed page, I have a **new HP desktop computer**, a 27 inch, **LG, UHD monitor**, and (as soon as the installation is made) a **new, high speed, access system** to the **Internet!** The large, Ultra High Definition screen allows me to have open, side by side, and see clearly, two programs, and transfer data from one to the other. For example, Word and Adobe DreamWeaver (website design software). The configuration is already making my work faster and easier, and that makes me even happier!

The HP laptop I have used some 30 to 40 hours weekly, for 5 or 6 years, had been very reliable up to about a year ago, when a sticking “e” on the keyboard forced me to connect an independent keyboard. Then, the crucial, cloud based, DreamWeaver program began to respond erratically and we could not discover the cause, thinking it might be the older

technology of the computer itself. Indeed, the program does function as it ought to on the new computer. I plan to continue using the laptop for recording audio and video material.

Raúl Rosario, of the Bayamon, Puerto Rico Church of Christ, sent us two photographs which evidence the continued work of congregations on the island during the coronavirus plague. In the one to the right, Raúl is standing between Jorge Ginés, deacon, on his right, and Luis Sardina, elder, on his left. Before them is **Rosalía Matta** in the act of making the good confession, after which she would be baptized by Raúl. Rosalía was taught by **Sis. Arelis**, a member of the **Park Gardens, San Juan congregation**. Since Rosalía lives closer to the Bayamon building arrangements were made for her to be baptized there.



Jorge Ginés, foreground, and **Raúl Rosario**, both of the Bayamon church, in the recording studio of Radio Station WIAC, for a Saturday morning, 30 minute, transmission of the Gospel Message at 9 a. m.

This weekly program began the first Saturday of July and continues, with preachers of other congregations also participating. The cost of \$125.00 per program is covered by the brotherhood on the island.

WIAC can be heard all over Puerto Rico.

Raúl, an MD by profession, promotes the program among fellow workers, as well as patients, and states that he regularly receives positive comments about the messages.

With brotherly love in Christ, and genuine appreciation for your continued support,
Dewayne Shappley