

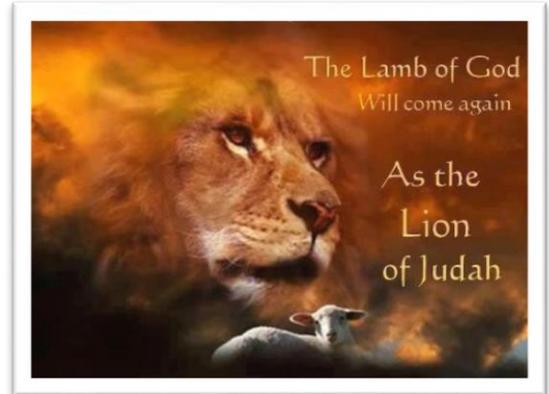
Christianity With Power

The Rev'd. Dr. John Roddam | www.Pleroma.ca

March can be bleak in the Maritimes. There is an old aphorism that “if March comes in like a lamb (mild weather), it will go out like a lion (stormy weather) and vice versa. Of course we prefer the better weather.

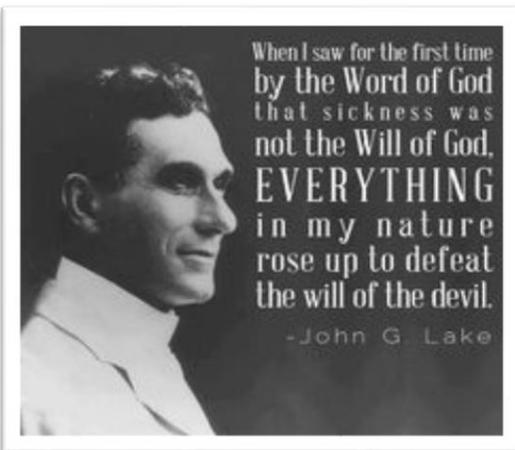
Jesus is also The Lamb of God and The Lion of Judah. We too prefer the images of the Gentle Shepherd – Jesus gentle, meek, and mild. Yet, Jesus is the One who will come to judge the quick (living) and the dead as both the Nicean and Apostles Creeds affirm. He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Many followers maintain He is alive today and still forgives sin and offers eternal life for those who have repented and turned in faith to believe in Him. As we are converted to Christ we enter into a relationship with God that the Prayer Book calls “a lively and steadfast faith in Christ our Saviour.”



Famous Canadian Evangelist John G. Lake (1870 to 1935) was approached by the Bishop of London to address the clergy of the Church of England. Lake had planted 1,250 churches in Southern Africa in 5 years. Well-known London Bishop Ingram sent a delegation by steamer to “check out” Lake while he was in Africa. In 1913, “Dr. Lake” addressed a synod of CofE leaders. Ingram described the message as the best he had heard regarding Primitive (Early Church) Christianity and commended the text for careful study by the clergy.

In the Fall of 1914, Lake founded the Healing Rooms in Spokane, WA. (NOTE: The Healing Rooms have been re-established. There is one in Dartmouth at Lutheran Church of Our Saviour! See: <http://healingroomsofhalifax.ca/>)



The success of these rooms was so profound that one of the three hospitals in Spokane went out of business! Lake visited many Churches upon His return to North America. One of the statements he uttered has haunted me. Lake was shocked at the state of the Church and opined, “They are preaching a different Jesus!”

Could that be said of us today? Are we preaching an anemic and powerless Jesus? One who is simply an example of “good living” rather than the Saviour of the World!

As I studied in seminary 30+ years ago, I wondered why the church in North America was struggling while the Church in the 2/3's world is growing in leaps and bounds!

Since then, I have taught leaders in the Chinese Underground Church where 35,000 people PER DAY come to Christ. I've

ministered among Church Planters in Northern India where last year (2015) 5,500 Churches were planted. These experiences have changed my perspective.

I believe our clergy and people need to encounter Jesus Christ afresh in the power of the Holy Spirit. This is the fire that fuelled the Early Church and renewal movements that have arisen since.

The Jesus proclaimed in places where the Church is growing is the living Lord who heals, delivers, and saves! AND the fruit is evident there – healings and other miracles abound! We need this Gospel proclaimed in our parishes. Then we will see growth... profound growth!