

ENCUMBRANCES

INTRODUCTION

We shall be considering a topic that is sparingly discussed or taught in Christian circles and therefore not given the required attention and exposition that it deserves, in order to bring the men out from the subtlety by which it ensnares them unto destruction at the end. It is treated lightly, with kid's gloves, but leads unto damnation at the end for those that are engrossed in it. This has to do with "encumbrances" of which all are partakers of one way or the other in the world.

Unfortunately, the Ministers of the People (MOPs) of the Churches as organization/business (CAO) knowing full well that men love to have it so, keep them desiring and operating in worldly encumbrances through their teachings that is geared on winning the MANY and not the FEW.
Mtt 7:13-14; Jer 5:30-31

Those that do not hear the Master Jesus Christ in his doctrines in order to do accordingly are held in the bound of encumbrances and they encumber others too as religious leaders in their worldly wisdom and ways.

WHAT IS ENCUMBRANCE AND ITS ORIGIN?

It should be noted that the term "Encumbrance" is not used in the KJV Bible, rather what you find is a similar term "cumbered". We shall be using "encumbrance" in this literature in order to capture how men are kept so occupied therein unto an inglorious end as it were.

What does the word "encumbrance" mean? According to the English dictionary it is defined as "Something that encumbers; a burden that must be carried", while "Encumber" means to "hold back"; "to load down something with a burden; to restrict or block something with a hindrance or impediment".

Hebr 12: 1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset [*encumber*] us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

In this literature we identify “encumbrance” as that which is carnal and of the earth by which men are generally weighed down minding worldly things continually without let. Now when we use the term “carnal” it can stand for either seen (physical) or unseen (mental) things, which some term as “spiritual”. Carnality is not limited in usage to physical things only but also the things of the mind, soul and heart. So there is the encumbrance of the flesh (seen things) and the encumbrance of the soul (unseen things). Sin and iniquity are encumbrances as it were.

The commencement of encumbrance can be traced to the fall of Lucifer from grace to grass, from heaven to earth and this was due to lust. Therefore, encumbrance is rooted in lust. Before iniquity was found in Lucifer, he was occupied with spiritual and heavenly matters cum business in love according to the divine responsibilities bestowed upon him. Until he began to think contrary to the perfect will of God unto self will and he was cast down to the earth as Satan being held captive in lust thereby. Lucifer, a spiritually being was made carnally minded as Satan on earth due to the judgment of God that came upon him wherein he is bound. The pure wisdom that he had from the beginning that was from above became a corrupted wisdom that is from beneath, devilish and wicked as it were. **Jam 3:13-16; Jn 8:41,44**

Ezek 28:1-19 (Vr.5 By thy great wisdom and by thy traffick hast thou increased thy riches, and thine heart is lifted up because of thy riches: **Vr.6** Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God; **Vr.7** Behold, therefore I will bring strangers upon thee, the terrible of the nations: and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of thy wisdom, and they shall defile thy brightness. **Vr.8** They shall bring thee down to the pit, and thou shalt die the deaths of them that are slain in the midst of the seas. **Vr.12** Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. **Vr.15** Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. **Vr.16** By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. **Vr.17** Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. **Vr.18** Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.

Satan by devilish wisdom tempted Adam in his trial in the Garden of Eden unto Man’s fall by the instrumentation of the Woman. The lust for woman and her eventually manifestation became a stumbling block to Adam which led to his partaking in eating of the encumbering tree of

knowledge of good and evil. Adam was meant to eat of the needful tree of life but he did otherwise. It was God that planted the two trees in the garden as it were.

Gen 2: 7-24 (Vr.8 And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. **Vr.9** And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. **Vr.15** And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. **Vr.16** And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: **Vr.17** But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Gen 3: 6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. **Vr.12** And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. **Vr.13** And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. **Vr.22** And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

By reason of Adam's disobedience to the commandment of God he fell into the same lot with Satan in sin and iniquity. Thereafter he was cast out of the celestial grounds of Eden into the terrestrial realms of the world to be encumbered with the burdens of the cursed ground unto death therein by the divine ordination of God. Sin entered into the world and with it the encumbrances of it upon man unto death as an end. Therefore with sin come encumbrances till death. **Ps 51:5**

Gen 3: 14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: **Vr.16** Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. **Vr.17** And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; **Vr.18** Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; **Vr.19** In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art , and unto dust shalt thou return. **Vr.20** And Adam called his wife' name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.

Rom 5: 12-15 (Vr.12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: **Vr.14** Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

Job 14:1-6 (Vr.1 Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.

The fallen man as a sinner is held in captivity by encumbrances both physically and mentally in the world till his demise, but Christ was sent to liberate him from such. It is the work of the Devil to keep men encumbered producing the works of the flesh continually in lust. A saint, being a child of God is meant to be freed from this bondage to flesh unto the liberty that is of the Spirit of the Lord. **Rom 8:8-9,12-16, 20-21; 2 Cor 3:14-17; Mtt 26:41; Jn 16:33**

Lust is at the root of encumbrances as it were; rather seek for godliness with contentment which is of great gain. Encumbrances take up spaces that needful things ought to occupy instead. **Jn 2:24-25; Jam 4:5; Phil 4:5; Jn 15:1-2**

Lk 13:6-9 (Vr.7 Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?

THOSE THAT ARE ENCUMBERED ARE CARNALLY MINDED

Everyone born of woman is born of the flesh into this world of encumbrance wherein he is held bound labouring for the meat that perisheth till death, unless otherwise saved and redirected by Christ Jesus. The natural man is condemned to labouring for the carnal things of this world and is therefore earthly minded. It is bondage of corruption geared at trying to satisfy his mortal, corruptible flesh as it were which is insatiable. A man comes with no material/carnal thing into this world but ends up labouring, dying and killing for material things all his lifetime which he leaves behind at his demise, this is foolishness and bondage at work. It is the carnal mind that keeps a man bound in this vicious circle of hopelessness being a debtor to the flesh and servant of sin therefore. **Eph 2:12; Rom 6:20**

Jn 3: 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh;

Jn 6: 27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth,

Mtt 4: 4 But he answered and said, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone,

Rom 8: 12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

As it were, Satan being condemned to carnality (**Gen 3:14**) labours at keeping men also in this state of carnal mindedness continually. The flesh, world and the devil being enemies of our soul encumbers men with hard labour so that men cannot have time to think of God or set their mind and heart on spiritual service to God at all, rather they shall be occupied with labouring for the meat that perisheth always. Taskmasters are set over them to enforce this hard labour throughout their lifetime on earth. Thereafter, we shall subsequently identify the “Big five (5)” amongst the lot of inescapable taskmasters that all have to contend with in life one way or the other – Lust, Woman/Sex, Food/drink, Sleep and Money. **Exo 5:1-23**

The Master also made us to know about this sorrowful state of carnality that Satan was made to be in by reason of his rebellion to the will of God and fall into unrighteousness.

Mtt 16:21-23 (Vr.23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

Jn 8:34 Jesus answered them, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. **Vr.35** And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. **Vr.44** Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

I Jn 3: 8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning.

The carnally minded are heavily burdened pursuing the lustful things of the flesh in the world by sight, and are devoid of spiritual understanding. They cannot see afar off nor can they grasp the spiritual things of God and His kingdom. It is an uphill task for them. They struggle and wrestle with such which appear foolish unto them. Since they cannot easily comprehend them they give themselves over to the carnal things that they can understand. **I Cor 1:18; Mtt 13:9-15**

Rom 8: 5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; **Vr.6** For to be carnally minded is death; **Vr.7** Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. **Vr.8** So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

I Cor 2: 14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Mtt 11: 28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Spiritual understanding of the mysteries of God and that of the kingdom is hid from the carnally minded no matter how much they strive to learn and know of it by their own effort. They by hearing hear but do not understand, and seeing they see but do not perceive and because their hearts are waxed gross they cannot understand. They end up speaking of things that they know

not of, such being too high for them. Also they engage in deriding, mocking and despising those that have spiritual understanding. Such is the lot of the encumbered CAO MOPs being blind guides leading the blind. **2 Pet 3:15-16; Jude 1:10; Mtt 15:14; Jude 1:16-19**

2 Tim 3:1-9 (Vr.2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, **Vr.3** Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, **Vr.4** Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; **Vr.5** Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. **Vr.6** For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, **Vr.7** Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Rom 7: 14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

The carnally minded shall not inherit the kingdom of heaven and they are so many amongst those that answer believers today having been deceived and deceiving themselves as a result. **I Cor 3:1-4; Rom 8:1; Jn 15:1-2**

THEY ENCUMBERED ARE ALWAYS TAKING THOUGHTS

Those that are always taking thoughts concerning the cares of this world being entangled therein are carnally minded and encumbered. They are sold out to pursuing deceitful riches and trying to gain the whole world by becoming famous in order to be loved by the world. Such are driven by the prince of this world in the unseen background but they know it not, seeing themselves as wise and smart. Those that “take thoughts” are those that are always given to worrying, fretting being anxious of yesterday, today and tomorrow, fearful, without rest of mind, dwelling on the things of this world. Their hearts are always troubled, afraid to die and therefore they are encumbered by frightful thoughts. They are given to murmuring, complaining, whining, scoffing, and the likes. **Lk 12:4-7; Prov 23:4-5; Lk 6:24; Jn 14:1,27; Jude 1:15-16; Hebr 2:14-15**

Lk 4: 5 And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. **Vr.6** And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. **Vr.7** If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.

Lk 8:11-14 (Vr.12 Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. **Vr.14** And that which

fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

Lk 12:13-21 (Vr.15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. **Vr.16** And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: **Vr.17** And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? **Vr.18** And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. **Vr.19** And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. **Vr.20** But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? **Vr.21** So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

Mtt 19:16-24 (Vr.22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions. **Vr.23** Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. **Vr.24** And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

I Tim 6: 9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. **Vr.10** For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

The natural man is so preoccupied by the things that have to do with his belly and thereby serving his belly as his God unconsciously and continually in much labour. Those whose destinies are tied to this world are so encumbered by it and shall pass away with it at the end. Encumbrance is a yoke of bondage that those held by it knoweth it not, but instead welcome it heartily. **I Jn 2:15-17; Eccl 5:10-17; I Tim 5:6; Rom 1:32**

Phil 3: 19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.

I Cor 6:12 All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. **Vr.13** Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.

Mtt 6:25,31 (Vr.25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat,

and the body than raiment? **Vr.31** Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? **Vr.34** Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Gal 5: 1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Not all encumbrances are bad or evil on their own, but all encumbrances are carnal and geared towards keeping men earthly minded and in servitude, removing their primary focus from the spiritual things of God if they be believers. **2 Pet 2:1-22**

Mtt 7:7-11 (Vr.11) If ye then, being evil, know how to give good [encumbering] gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good [needful] things to them that ask him?

Rom 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? **Vr.20** For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

2 Pet 2: 19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

STUMBLING BLOCKS MAKE FOR ENCUMBRANCES

A stumbling block is put in the way of a true Believer in order to remove his focus from pursuing the needful image, and true things unto pursuing shadowy things till the end. The human doctrines of the CAO are stumbling blocks to those that want to make heaven because majorly they are at variance with the doctrine of Christ. In the Old Testament we have such shadowy example as Balaam who taught Balak how to do that to the children of Israel in their wilderness journey. Also the story of the young prophet and the old prophet suffices too amongst others. We also see God putting stumbling blocks in the way of the children of Israel due to their hard heartedness and rebellious nature to His commandments. **Rev 2:14; Num 25:1-5; I Kings 13:1-26**

Deceptions, lies, foolishness and ignorance are great stumbling blocks used by the enemy of our soul in keeping men encumbered in this world unto death as it were. **Hosea 4:6-7; Jn 3:16-21; Lk 19:41-44**

Jer 6:13-30 (Vr.13) For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one is given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely. **Vr.14** They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace;

when there is no peace. **Vr.19** Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it. **Vr.21** Therefore thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will lay stumblingblocks before this people, and the fathers and the sons together shall fall upon them; the neighbour and his friend shall perish. **Vr.22** Thus saith the LORD, Behold, a people cometh from the north country, and a great nation shall be raised from the sides of the earth.

Ezek 3: 19 Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul. **Vr.20** Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die:

Ezek 7:7-27 (Vr.19) They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be removed: their silver and their gold [*which the CAO seeketh after to possess – Mtt 6:32*] shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD: they shall not satisfy their souls, neither fill their bowels: because it is the stumblingblock of their iniquity.

Ezek 14: 3 Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them? **Vr.4** Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols;

Rev 2: 14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. **Vr.15** So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate.

That which is spiritual is usually a stumbling block unto the carnally minded and it appears as foolishness unto them unfortunately. The truth is a stumbling block unto those that believe in a lie and hold unto it tenaciously. Likewise the continual pursuit of worldly things by those that claim to be spiritual is a stumbling block that continually cumpers them till their end if not repented of or reversed from.

That which is good can be made a stumbling block unto the hardhearted, stiff-necked and rebellious people of God like the children of Israel. So a stumbling block is not always that which is wrong, bad or evil, instead it can be that good appearing evil to the hard hearted and stiff-necked, who are quick to take offence by it and act contrary thereby. **2 Cor 3:12-17; Mtt 16:21-25; Jn 4:20-26**

Jn 16: 1 These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. **Vr.2** They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. **Vr.3** And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me.

I Cor 8:7-13 (Vr.9 But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.

Mtt 20:1-16 (Vr.13 But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny? **Vr.14** Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee. **Vr.15** Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?

I Cor 1: 22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: **Vr.23** But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

Rom 11:6-11 (Vr.7 What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded **Vr.8** (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day. **Vr.9** And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them: **Vr.10** Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway. **Vr.11** I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall [*forever*]? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

It is not only the enemy that can put stumbling blocks in the way of men, but God Himself does so to those that are of a reprobate mind who would not receive the love of the truth or retain the knowledge of God within them. Jesus the Christ was made by God to be a stumbling stone unto the Jews who presently walk in unbelief concerning him as their Messiah and the Son of God whom the crucified. But not only to the Jews who practice Judaism but to every other religion in the world that is not Christianity until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. **Rom 11:25-32; Isa 8:13-18; Jn 1:9-11; Acts 2:22-24, 36; Acts 17:16-31; Rom 1:18-32; 2 Thess 2:9-12**

Rom 9:15-18,31-33 (Vr.31 But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. **Vr.32** Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone; **Vr.33** As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

I Pet 2:6-10 (Vr.5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. **Vr.6** Wherefore also it is

contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. **Vr.7** Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, **Vr.8** And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

Loads of things that are of this world constitute stumbling blocks whether they are good or not as pertaining worldly entanglements and lusts. Such as education, work, religion, politics, entertainment, pleasures of life, money, drugs, etc. Also pressures of life, responsibilities, busyness, disappointments and preoccupation with earthly matters are all manner of encumbrances that dry up the soul, keeping it in an unrest condition, robbing men of peace of mind always and a distraction from the heavenly focus as it were.

ENCUMBRANCES ARE THE SPECIALITY OF THE CAO

The CAO by their encumbering doctrines keep men carnally minded and earthly focused continually, thereby fulfilling in them the lusts of the Devil. The CAO by their another gospel bring men into their encumbering religious system and set them on labours, yokes and burdens that keep them fully occupied as workers and ministers therein. Such are so encumbered with vain religious, temple worship programmes and duties that keep them unable to think or reason for themselves any longer, while yielding their reasoning faculty to the CAO MOPs who think for and manipulate them through indoctrinations. Their MOPs in the usage and interpretation of the Bible carnalize the spiritual things of Christ and spiritualize carnal things in the Bible as it were. The CAO are good at spiritualizing encumbering things through their teachings, commandments and the traditions they get men to observe. **2 Cor 8:9; Jn 10:10; Lk 19:13; Mtt 15:1-9**

Many are ready to defend and die for such MOPs as their disciples, but not for Christ as it were. Anyone that ventures to reason in line with the dictates of Christ, and queries their erroneous doctrines thereafter is seen as a rebel and enemy of the organization, but be not moved when they shall cast you out by their frustrating antics. The CAO prefer to raise simple, docile, malleable, browbeaten, fearful and non inquisitive followers instead. **Lk 6:22-23; Jn 9:16-34; Prov 14:15-18**

The CAO get men labouring in order to lay up treasures in this world for themselves as the Gentiles do continually contrary to Christ teachings. They teach about the kingdoms of this world, how to rule and dominate; preaching "heaven on earth" sermons instead, rather than focus on teaching the kingdom of God and how to inherit it by forsaking the treasures of this world for the gospel sake. The CAO encumber men with all manner of vain religious activities,

programmes and building projects all their lifetime. They seek out the wise, prudent, noble, rich, learned and mighty in society in order to ordain them as their ministers and workers for the sake of growing their organization as a worldwide religious conglomerate, while the unlearned, poor are despised. **I Cor 1:19-29; Acts 4:13**

Many of the CAO MOPs are fleecing the sheep while claiming to be feeding the sheep. They live large on the poverty and misfortune of those that they lead religiously. They prey on their ignorance, feeding them with wisdom from beneath in order to reap from them of their carnal things continually. Through the “prosperity gospel” that they pedal they are able to accomplish this worldly goal as it were. **Lk 6:24-26; Mtt 7:15; Acts 20:28-30; Mtt 23:16-19,23; Mtt 15:3-6**

Mtt 6:19-32 (Vr.19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: **Vr.21** For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. **Vr.24** No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. **Vr.32** (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:)

The CAO MOPs get men to be pursuing the deceptive riches and acquiring the things of this world for themselves in their ministries even as they set out establishing their own personal empires while declaring that it is the kingdom of God that they are growing and building. But the Master taught us that it is he that shall build his church, the Body of Christ. By this the CAO adherents are so occupied with how to “make it” in the world rather than how to make it to the kingdom of heaven. So when tribulations, sufferings or persecutions come because of the Word they resist it vehemently and are offended, rather than rejoice in it instead. The CAO yoke and burden the adherents under them unto death labouring for the things that perish. **Mtt 13:20-22; Lk 21:34-35; Rom 5:3-4; Acts 5:40-42; I Cor 7:23; Mtt 16:18; Acts 2:41,47**

Mtt 23:1-33 (Vr.2 Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: **Vr.3** All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. **Vr.4** For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. **Vr.5** But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,

Acts 15:1-11 (Vr.1 And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved. **Vr.5** But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses [encumbering things]. **Vr.10** Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

Mtt 11:28-30 (Vr.28) Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden [*under the law and the world*], and I will give you rest.

Jn 6:22-27 (Vr.26) Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled [*the encumbering things*]. **Vr.27** Labour not for the meat which perisheth [*which is what the CAO focuses men on continually*], but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you [*the needful things*]: for him hath God the Father sealed.

And some CAO require compulsorily that their pastors be encumbered with marriage first before they can be made ministers in charge of their various local assemblies or parishes - what an error. Christ did not teach this as his doctrine but the CAO do so in their worldly wisdom as it were with so many other encumbering dogmas of like manner. A husband is encumbered in marriage with a wife and the wife is encumbered the more therein as a mother with children in the home, and the people love to have it so. **Mtt 19:10-12; Lk 14:15-21; Mk 7:1-13; Deu 24:5**

Lk 20:34-36 (Vr.34) And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage:

Lk 14:20 And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.

I Cor 7:25-40 (Vr.28) But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh [*be encumbered*]: but I spare you. **Vr.32** But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord: **Vr.33** But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife. **Vr.34** There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband. **Vr.35** And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction [*encumbrances*].

Some other CAO continually focus their adherents on the Devil, human enemies, evil altars, generational curses, and pursuit of miracles, signs, wonders and the likes. Such are all the time battling negative circumstances and situations in life, seeking deliverances continually to no avail. Those that are focused so much on enemies in the world, the Devil and his cohorts (demons) and their devilish (evil) activities are encumbered while they falsely claim to be engaged in fighting spiritual warfare constantly. The CAOs raise situation and circumstance driven Believers who walk by sight, being reactive always rather than faith driven proactive Believers. Instead of such Believers desiring to be baptized with the Holy Ghost and with fire and therefore live by the leading of the Spirit unto fulfilling the heavenly calling in their lives

through faith, grace and the love of the truth. Such ought to be miracle producers rather than miracle seekers, who end up being encumbered in circumstantial living. **Lk 9:51-56; Mtt 5:43-48; Mk 16:15-18; Jn 4:48; Mtt 14:24-32; Rom 12:14-21**

The things of the kingdom are not encumbering things but the things of the CAO are. Being occupied by God in the kingdom cum gospel business as of the Body of Christ (BOC) is not the same thing as being encumbered by the worldly empire building business of the CAO MOPs, where each of them are competing amongst themselves for preeminence and relevance over the other. The former has an eternal reward awaiting you, but the latter is of wages of carnal things of this world. Such receive of their consolations here on earth only. The deceived welcome the encumbering things of the CAO, but see the kingdom things of God and the truth as grievous and hard to bear. **I Cor 1:10-13; I Cor 3:3-5; 2 Cor 10:12-16; Lk 6:24-26; I Jn 5:3; Jn 6:59-61**

NEEDFUL THINGS VERSUS ENCUMBERING THINGS

For a true Christian that is born of the Spirit there are things that are needful for accessing the kingdom of God at the end and there are those things that are encumbrances to making it to heaven when distracted wholly by them and being brought under their influence and control as it were. The carnally minded are not bothered about distinguishing between the two but the spiritually minded are. The needful things are of the Spirit basically having eternal value and shall not pass away, but the encumbering things are for this earth and shall cease here. **Hebr 12:16-17; I Cor 13:8-13; Lk 20:34; I Cor 2:1-2,12-15**

Mtt 4: 3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. **Vr.4** But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone [*the encumbering thing*], but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God [*the needful thing*].

Mtt 24: 35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

Rom 1: 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

2 Cor 4: 18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Colo 3:1-4 (Vr.1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. **Vr.2** Set your affection on [*the needful*] things above, not on [*encumbering*] things on the earth.

Many in their self-will regard and make out encumbering things as the needful things contrary to Christ teachings concerning the two because they know no better nor have his Spirit in them. The Master Jesus Christ taught us the difference between the two in so many of his teachings for those that have ears to hear him. And these encumbering things are the things men consider as the needful things in the world today being overcome by their fleshly lusts for them. **Lk 10:1-9; Mtt 12:46-50; Lk 14:25-33; Lk 16:13-15**

Lk 10:38 Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. **Vr.39** And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. **Vr.40** But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. **Vr.41** And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: **Vr.42** But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Lk 9:57-62 (Vr.59 And he said unto another, "Follow me." But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. **Vr.60** Jesus said unto him, "Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. **Vr.61** And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. **Vr.62** And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Lk 14:15-24 (Vr.16 Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: **Vr.17** And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. **Vr.18** And they all with one consent began to make excuse [*concerning the things that encumbered them*]. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. **Vr.19** And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. **Vr.20** And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.

Mtt 19:16-30 (Vr.23 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. **Vr.24** And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. **Vr.27** Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? **Vr.28** And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. **Vr.29** And every one that hath forsaken [*encumbering things like*] houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

The encumbered are ignorant of kingdom things, but wise about earthly things, being wise in their own conceit. Such suppose gain to be godliness and therefore they seek to save their lives always in order to live to enjoy their booty on earth by all means possible. Many are not ready to deny themselves of the pleasures of this world and come out of their comfort zones in order to serve Christ in the way that he has stipulated for him to be served. Rather they in their self will decide which way that is convenient for them to serve him thereby deceiving themselves being loaded with encumbrances as it were. **Mtt 4:2-4; Jn 4:8,31-38; Lk 17:26-30; Rom 3:11-12**

Jn 12:24-25 (Vr.25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

Mk 8:34-38 (Vr.34 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. **Vr.35** For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. **Vr.36** For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

Jn 21:1-22 (Vr.3 Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing. **Vr.6** And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes. **Vr.12** Jesus saith unto them, "Come and dine." And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord. **Vr.13** Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise. **Vr.15** So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?" He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, "Feed my lambs.

The Master in his parable told us to occupy on earth till he comes with the kingdom to reward those that have been faithful being occupied with the kingdom business. So what are you being occupied with continually in this life? the encumbering things of the flesh or the needful things of the soul? Is it the Spirit of truth that is occupying you or the flesh by the cares of this life? Which work outweighs the other in the scale of your life occupation? Many are so much concerned about the wellbeing of their vile bodies more than the wellbeing of their souls, being carnally minded as it were. **Mk 8:36; Lk 19:13; Jn 15:26-27; Jn 16:7-15; 3 Jn 1:2-4**

Lk 18:1-14 (Vr.7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? **Vr.8** I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth? **Vr.11** The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. **Vr.12** I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that

I possess. **Vr.13** And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. **Vr.14** I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Mtt 23: 23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Miracles and healings of the flesh shall pass away but the healing of the soul through forgiveness endureth to eternal salvation. But men are made to sacrifice the latter on the altar of the former by the CAO, the needful on the altar of the encumbering as it were. The CAO seek to exercise the power of God but they do not seek the wisdom of God first to know His ways and will in order to show forth His acts subsequently. It is needful to do the primary thing first before considering the secondary things subsequently, otherwise you end up in error. **Prov 14:12-14; Mtt 6:32-33; Ps 103:7; Mtt 22:29; Mk 8:36-37; Jn 20:25,27-29**

Mtt 9:1-8 (Vr.5 For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee [*the needful*]; or to say, Arise, and walk [*the encumbering*]?)

Mtt 18: 8 Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. **Vr.9** And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.

CHRIST CAME TO DELIVER US FROM ENCUMBRANCES

As we had opined, by reason of the fall of Adam in the garden, mankind was condemned to encumbrances in this fallen, evil corrupt world as flesh and blood by the punishment of God but in hope. And that hope is found in Jesus Christ. At the fullness of time God sent his Son made of woman into the world to redeem man from the bondage of encumbrances. How? Christ came to deliver us from the captivity of carnal mindedness unto the liberty of spiritual mindedness, from the power of Satan unto God and from the pursuit of earthly things unto the pursuit of heavenly things instead. As long as a man is kept carnally minded he is kept in captivity and unfortunately that is what the Church as a business organization (CAO) is still doing contrary to the spiritual mandate of Jesus Christ for the Body of Christ (BOC). **I Pet 1:3; Rom 8:18,20,24**

Those whose hearts are set on earthly treasures, the abundance of worldly possessions and looking unto the things that are coming upon the earth shall always be troubled and bound thereof, contrary to the way of righteousness and liberty in the Spirit that Christ came to lead us into as it were. **Jn 14:1,6,26-27; Mtt 24:4-13; Phil 4:4-9; I Tim 6:9-10**

Mtt 6:19-21 (Vr.19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, **Vr.20** But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, **Vr.21** For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

The Law of Moses is a law of encumbrances steeped in observance of carnal ordinances, sacrifices and offerings which were against us; for which Christ came to deliver all those under the yoke and burdens thereof. Those still keeping the law are encumbered unto death; for it is a law of sin and death. **Colo 2:14-18; Rom 7:1-6; Gal 3:10-13; Acts 15:10-11; Jam 2:10-11; Hebr 9:9-10**

Rom 8:1-27 (Vr.1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. **Vr.2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. **Vr.3** For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: **Vr.4** That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. **Vr.20** For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, **Vr.21** Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. **Vr.22** For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. **Vr.23** And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. **Vr.24** For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? **Vr.25** But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

Gal 4:1-9 (Vr.3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: **Vr.4** But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, **Vr.5** To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. **Vr.6** And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Christ came to make us spiritual being heavenly minded cum focused, while it is the work of the enemy to keep men carnal, earthly minded and focused. Whosoever keeps you carnally minded is your enemy as it were, do not be deceived otherwise. The Master made the clarion call to all that would realize this for such to come unto him in order to receive rest for their souls having

been yoked with fleshly lusts and burdens of this the world all their life. **Jn 7:37-39; Jn 4:10-15; Jn 6:31-35**

Mtt 11:27-30 (Vr.28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden [*with encumbrances*], and I will give you rest. **Vr.29** Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. **Vr.30** For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Jn 6: 27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you:

Colo 3:1-9 (Vr.1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. **Vr.2** Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Those that do not hear Christ in his doctrines to do accordingly, hear the world and do as the world dictates. Such remain in bondage still though they claim to be free. Carnal things are not in heaven where Christ is seated at the right hand of God but rather spiritual things. So set thy sight on Christ in order to obtain thereof by faith. Those that are carnal Believers find the yoke of Christ burdensome, but the yoke of the world appealing instead. **Jn 8:30-38; Jn 16:23-24; I Jn 4:5; Jn 15:18-19; Lk 6:46**

Mtt 7:24-27 (Vr.24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: **Vr.26** And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

Christ our Lord distinguished between the two forms of encumbrances by which men are held bound and identified the one that men ought to be more wary of, to deal with first and foremost in order that the other will not have dominion over them. There is an inward (of the soul) encumbrance and there is an outward (of the body) encumbrance. The former gives rise to the latter and you cannot deal with the former except by the Holy Ghost and power. Men are made to focus on the latter while being ignorant and accommodative of the former. **Mtt 9:5; Mtt 12:43-45**

Mk 7:1-23 (Vr.5 Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands? **Vr.8** For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. **Vr.15** There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man. **Vr.21** For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications,

murders, **Vr.22** Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: **Vr.23** All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

Men struggle to deal with the sin of the flesh, while romancing with the iniquity of the heart. This is the error Christ came to deal with and by which he sets men free to serve God in spirit, truth and holiness. **Mtt 5:21-24,27-28; Jn 8:1-11**

The life that our Master lived on earth is our perfect example of how we his disciples ought to live in order to overcome the world as he overcame also. Christ came and overcame both types of encumbrances – body and soulish, showing us an example on how to also overcome if only we would hear and obey him continually. **Jn 16:33; Mtt 7:24-27; Jn 14:30; Mtt 8:19-20; 2 Cor 8:9; Lk 12:15; Phil 4:4-9**

DEALING WITH ENCUMBERING THINGS AS BELIEVERS

Unfortunately, many become believers by belief in the another gospel of the CAO geared at transforming them as sinners into workers of iniquity, from obvious entanglement in worldly encumbrances unto religious bigoted encumbrances instead. Majority under the CAO do not experience genuine conversion unto being loosened from the bondage of encumbrances, rather they experience transformation unto being yoked therein the more.

The Master himself was encumbered at his youthful age by the family business under the upbringing of his earthly guardians who operated under the Law thence, until the time appointed by His heavenly Father for him to commence his ministry work wholly. From the age of thirty Christ let go of all that encumbered him all this while to pursue the work of His Father to the fullest. Moses answered the heavenly call at the age of eighty abandoning all other earthly pursuits as it were. **Hebr 11:23-29; Exo 7:6-7; Jn 2:1-13; Mtt 12:46-50; Mk 1:14-15; Jn 4:34; Gal 4:4-5**

Lk 2:41-52 (Vr.49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? **Vr.50** And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. **Vr.51** And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

Mtt 13:54-58 (Vr.55 Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? **Vr.56** And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?

Lk 3: 21 Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, **Vr.22** And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape

like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased. **Vr.23** And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph,

There is a time for everything under the heavens and a time for you to wholly devote your life to the Master's business. So you need to know your own time in God's scheme of things by the Spirit even as the apostles knew when they were all called of Christ. You cannot answer the divine call and yet cling unto the encumbering things of this world tenaciously as before. You cannot serve two masters, be advised. **Eccl 3:1-11; Jn 7:1-10; Mk 1:16-21; Mtt 6:24; 2 Tim 2:2-7**

Our heavenly Father deals with the encumbering things of this world for all those that truly trust in and wait upon Him to handle such things for them at His own time having been called of Him and not they by themselves any longer at their own determined time. **Ps 57:1-3; Ps 145:15-16; Mtt 5:45; Mtt 10:16-20; Acts 1:3-5**

Rom 8: 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. **Vr.28** And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Mtt 6: 8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. **Vr.9** After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. **Vr.11** Give us this day our daily bread. **Vr.12** And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. **Vr.13** And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. **Vr.24** No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon [*serve God and He shall take care of the mammon related issues for you by Himself*]. **Vr.25** Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? **Vr.30** Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? **Vr.32** (For after all these [*encumbering*] things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. **Vr.33** But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Phil 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches [*not your own riches any longer wherein ye trusted in as before*] in glory by Christ Jesus.

In prayers ask for the needful things from God and He will take care of the encumbering things for you. Ask for the Holy Spirit and his leading in your life that ye might have knowledge and understanding of Christ in order to walk in the wisdom and power of God. Christ came to

baptize us with the Holy Ghost and with power for us to walk spiritual in this world rather than remain carnal all the days of our life herein. **Mtt 3:11; Jn 4:10-15; Jn 14:13-14**

I Kings 3:5-14 (Vr.5 In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee. **Vr.9** Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people? **Vr.10** And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. **Vr.11** And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this [*needful*] thing, and hast not asked for thyself [*the encumbering things*] long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment; **Vr.12** Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee. **Vr.13** And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days. **Vr.14** And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.

Lk 11:9-13 (Vr.11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? **Vr.12** Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? **Vr.13** If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Acts 1:5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence [*which is Christ's own work*]. **Vr.6** When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? **Vr.7** And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

Jn 4:31-38 (Vr.31 In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat. **Vr.32** But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of. **Vr.33** Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him ought to eat? **Vr.34** Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

Jn 6: 26 Jesus answered them and said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. **Vr.27** Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that [*spiritual*] meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed. **Vr.40** And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Mtt 5: 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust [*without any asking*].

Acts 14: 15 And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein: **Vr.17** Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

Mtt 10:1-15 (Vr.1 And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. **Vr.9** Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, **Vr.10** Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat.

Lk 22: 35 And he said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, Nothing.

Christ deals with the spiritual/kingdom things for us, while the encumbering physical things that we have need of in this world which the Gentiles seek and pursue after always is dealt with by the Father on our behalf. It was the Father that also provided meat for Christ throughout his ministry work on earth even as the Master went about giving us spiritual meat and milk to eat and drink of as it were. Our heavenly Father deals with our physical encumbering things, while His Son deals with the spiritual encumbering things that are against us; for our fellowship is with the Father and the Son. **Jn 9:1-7; I Jn 1:1-3; Jn 14:1,6; Mtt 3:11; Hebr 12:2; Jn 5:17; Jn 10:30**

Jn 6: 31 Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat. **Vr.32** Then Jesus said unto them, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. **Vr.33** For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

Acts 10: 38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Lk 4:18-19 (Vr.18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, **Vr.19** To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

Jn 18:37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

The work of Christ is not focused primarily at meeting our carnal needs rather it is the Father that has always done that, while Christ focuses mainly on meeting our spiritual needs. Christ raises true worshippers for the Father from among men by baptizing them with the Spirit of truth so that they can worship God in spirit and in truth. Those that obey Christ produce fruits that are pleasing unto the Father. **Lk 24:44-49; Jn 4:20-24; Jn 14:15-19; Jn 15:7-12; Jn 1:17; I Cor 1:24,30; Acts 3:25-26; Jn 6:57-58**

Jn 16:7-16 (Vr.7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. **Vr.13** Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. **Vr.14** He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

We are soldiers for Christ and he that sent us into the warfront provides all that we need to wage the victorious war against the enemies as it were. **Mtt 10:16-17; 2 Tim 2:3-7; I Tim 6:11-12; I Cor 9:7; Mtt 22:44; Eph 6:10-18; Jn 20:21-23; 2 Pet 1:2-4**

Eph 1: 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

ENCUMBRANCES ARE MEANT TO BE OVERCOME

Those that are overwhelmed and overcome by the encumbrances of this world cannot make it into the kingdom of God. For you to inherit the kingdom of heaven you must compulsorily overcome encumbrances till the end. You are either overcome by encumbrances in the flesh, or you overcome encumbrances by the Spirit as it were. Without being baptized with the Spirit and with power and being led accordingly you can never overcome encumbrances as it were. **Lk 17:26-30; Rom 12:16-21; Rom 8:9,14**

Gal 5:15-18 (Vr.16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. **Vr.17** For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

2 Pet 2: 19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. **Vr.20** For if after they have

escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

I Jn 4:1-6 (Vr.4) Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Encumbrances come in all sorts and forms – covetousness, loneliness, offences, anger, not forgiving others, the Big five (5), hopelessness, helplessness, sorrow, fearfulness, tribulations, persecutions, cares, deceitful riches, afflictions, marriage, family ties, career, health, etc. Encumbrances make sure that you have no rest for your soul, spirit and body in this world of unrest and they have taskmasters that ensure you are kept in check under their control. For example, Sin is a paymaster, while Satan is a taskmaster and men are the enslaved servants thereof. A special note ought to be made of the Big 5 encumbrances of which an entire literature shall be written about as a sequel subsequently because of its importance to whether you shall overcome to the end. **Rom 6:19-23; I Jn 3:8 ; Lk 20:34-36; Rom 7:14-24**

Jn 16: 32 Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. **Vr.33** These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace [*by which ye overcome the world of unrest*]. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Encumbrance does not make for peace of mind and rest for your soul; rather it makes for unrest and wars within you and without always. There is a within and a without encumbrance that men are inundated with, labouring therein continually, which has to do with physical (bodily) and mental (soulish) encumbrances. The CAO entangle men in such by teaching dominating and reigning in the encumbrances of this present world, rather than overcoming encumbrances by letting go or suffering loss in this world in order to gain in the world to come. **I Jn 4:4; Mtt 5:25-26.38-42; I Cor 4:6-14; Mtt 19:20-29; 2 Cor 8:9; Jam 2:5; Phil 3:7-8**

I Jn 5: 4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. **Vr.5** Who is he that overcometh the world [*of encumbrances*], but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

Rev 2: 7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches [*for those that are encumbered do not hear*]; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. **Vr.11** He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death. **Vr.26** And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

Rev 3: 21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

Rev 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. **Vr.8** But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Encumbrances are masters and lords over the carnally minded, who serve them as faithful servants and slaves, while those that are spiritually minded overcome encumbrances and exercise mastery over them instead. The spiritually minded are ever ready to forsake, let go or lose encumbering things in order to gain the needful things, but the carnally minded sacrifice the needful things on the altar of the encumbering things always. The spiritually minded are wisely taught by the Spirit of truth on how to handle the encumbering things of this world without being yoked any longer under them. You are either occupied by the Spirit or you are occupied by fleshly lusts, which is of encumbrance. **Lk 9:57-62; Phil 3:2-15; I Cor 2:2**

I Cor 7:26-31 (Vr.29 But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none; **Vr.30** And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not; **Vr.31** And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away.

I Cor 9:24-27 (Vr.25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. **Vr.27** But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Phil 4:4-14 (Vr.4 Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. **Vr.5** Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. **Vr.11** Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. **Vr.12** I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. **Vr.13** I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

The works of the flesh are the outward manifestation of encumbrances at work in a man that has been overwhelmed by them inwardly. While those that have overcome encumbrances inwardly manifest instead the fruit of the Spirit outwardly for all to see and testify of. If you cannot overcome encumbrances then encumbrances shall surely overcome you. **Gal 5:15-26**

Gal 6:7-8 (Vr. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

CONCLUSION

Encumbrances can be visible or invisible, outward or inward, external or internal, physical or mental/soulish, but no matter the form that they take they are carnally inclined. They are the things that would rob believers from wholly benefitting from the word of the kingdom and operating in the kingdom principles unto being fruitful or bringing forth fruits that are pleasing unto the Lord. **Mtt 13:19-22**

Encumbrances are the things that cause one as a branch in Christ not to bear fruit and be liable to be cut off, taken away, and cast into the fire to be burnt at the end. Encumbrances are stumbling blocks in a Christian's way that causeth him not to fully abide in Christ but yet be abiding in the world being entangled in the affairs thereof and loving it. **Jn 15:2,4,6**

2 Tim 4:9-10 (Vr.10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica;

Hebr 6:4-8 (Vr.4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, **Vr.5** And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, **Vr.6** If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

Ignorance is found among unbelievers, but foolishness or wisdom among believers as the case maybe. Ignorant unbelievers and foolish believers fall in the same category and they see encumbrances in different light or perspective from wise Believers. The former see it as something that they need to embrace, accommodate and live with, while the latter see it as a stumbling block, a hindrance and something they need to overcome and forsake as need be in order to make heaven eventually. The latter dealeth wisely with encumbrances. **Mtt 18:15-17; Lk 12:42-48; Mtt 10:16-17**

Mtt 25:1-13 (Vr.1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. **Vr.2** And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. **Vr.3** They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: **Vr.4** But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

Unbelievers believe that encumbrances are things that they cannot do without in this life and which they need to pursue with all their heart and strength to possess or have, while wise

Believers believe that such are things that they can do without or need to forsake for the kingdom sake. Anything in this world that you cannot do without outside of God and the things of the kingdom constitutes an encumbrance. But the children of the world with foolish believers do not see it as so to their own detriment at the end. Foolish Believers set out to serve God and mammon, being made to believe erroneously that through acquiring wealth you can then serve God comfortably and conveniently. The CAO preach the another gospel that cannot do without money unfortunately. They are of the encumbered lot same with the heathens. **Mtt 6:24; Lk 12:15; Lk 16:15; Lk 9:1-3**

Christ is our life and anything outside of him is death unto us ultimately. It is only in Christ that we have life. They that are of Christ do not love encumbering things but the needful things, while they that are against Christ love such and lust after them covetously. You cannot do the things that the Master commanded truly if you are yoked in encumbrances. **Jn 6:53-54,57; Colo 3:3-10; I Jn 2:15-17; Lk 6:46; 2 Cor 6:14-18**

Be wise, you came into this world with nothing carnal and definitely you shall depart from this world without any of your carnal things. Therefore, earnestly desire spiritual things and transfer your earthly treasure to heaven before you depart so that you will have an incorruptible crown awaiting you there when you arrive. Do not allow encumbrances to rob you of the heavenly inheritance in Jesus name. Amen.

Lk 21:34-36 (Vr.34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. **Vr.35** For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. **Vr.36** Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Look out for the sequel literature to come concerning “the Big five (5)” soon. These are primary encumbering things that overcome men, keeping them in bondage continually, of which you compulsorily need to have mastery over by the Spirit in order to enter life everlasting at the end. Those that are weighed down by encumbrances till the end cannot be “caught up” on the last day. Be advised and may the Lord grant thee understanding in the things written herein in Jesus name. Amen. **2 Thess 4:16-17**

FEEDBACK

Thank you for taking time to read this literature. If you have been blessed by it and wish to send comments, make enquiries or get access to various other literatures that the author has put out, then you can contact us via email info@devoutmenministry.com or send SMS only to 08091764495 or visit us @ www.devoutmenministry.com