

Wednesday Bible Study - May 21, 2014
"Soul Control: Mind or Emotions?" - (Revelation 2:23)

Read Revelation 2:24-25

Literal Translation of Revelation 2:23: *"And the children of her I will kill in death, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches emotions and hearts, and I will give unto every one of you according to your works."*

In Revelation 2:24, 25 we have an encouragement for the progressive believers – those advancing in God's Truth.

This church in Thyatira was plagued with people travelling the low road.

In this church there is a minority moving to the mountain peak of God's Grace.

"But unto you..." – de-adversative particle "...unto you..." dative of advantage...

The time will come, when the Lord will come to receive His own unto Himself. Note the time line with emphasis on the Church Age. The pre-canon period is from 33 AD Pentecost until 96 AD, then is the post-canon period, up to this very moment. Our Lord could come at any moment. When He does, he receives us who believe unto Himself, then begins the Millennium.

Confession of Sin

1. The believer is saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone (Isa 64:6; Eph 2:8-9; Gal 2:16; Titus 3:5). The perfect tense verb in the Ephesians 2 passage means it happened in the past, with the results continuing forever.
2. The believer, once saved, is never in danger of forfeiting his salvation (John 10:28; Rom 8:38-39; 11:29). This means that God DOES NOT sponsor any flops, and God DOES NOT tell lies. There is no room for unbelief in what God says here in the perfect tense verb used in Ephesians 2:8-9! When God saves, He thus is able to save with an eternal salvation.
3. Though the believer cannot forfeit his salvation, he can forfeit fellowship with God the Father (1 John 1:1-10).
4. When fellowship with God is lost through personal sin (1 John 1:8, 10), the Holy Spirit is said to be grieved (Eph 4:30) and/or quenched (1 Thess. 5:19). Confession itself does not cause growth in the spiritual life, but sets the stage for progress in the Christian life. Fellowship depends upon the unhindered fellowship, and upon the work of the Holy Spirit. There can be no growth in the Christian life as long as one is out of fellowship with Christ because of un-confessed sin.
5. (Point 5 of 11 – To be continued...)

RETROGRESSION – RESISTANCE – RELAPSE

1. Definition of retrogression: "to revert to a worse condition or move backward".
2. Scripture: Proverbs 14:14 "to be disloyal or to deviate"; Jeremiah 2:19; 3:11 "toward or with apostacy"
3. In the Old Testament, the book of Numbers (Chapters 22,23) – Balaam was in retrogression, and taught Balak to retrogress. Balaam was teaching for a fee – enticing Israel – to bring them to a place of cursing.

4. *Retrogressionists teach retrogression to potential retrogressionists.* The NO-Word crowd desires that you go with them. If you are a little weak anyway – the no Word (NW) person will hit you verbally at the weak spot of your mind; examples: “Come over on Wed. night for a very important party (word slashing meeting)”; “You know that is very hard on your children to have to think that much”; “They don’t need to be pushed.”
5. Retrogression is a contagious disease of the soul.
6. Idolatry is the practice of this concept in Category I love. Fornication is the practice in the area of Category II love.
7. Retrogression is personally, naturally, and spiritually destructive.

BELIEVER’S DECISIONS

1. Believers must decide which way to live life.
2. Either divine or cosmic – no in between.
3. Life in the divine dynasphere (DD) means historical up-trends for the client nation as well as spiritual advance for the believer.
4. Life in the cosmic system (CS) means historical downtrends for the client nation, as well as spiritual failure, which bring cursing by association to the client nation.
5. Residence in the DD brings blessings.
6. Cosmic system brings disaster.
7. Information received while out of fellowship has no motivation value.
8. Only truth learned in the DD results in spiritual momentum. Revelation 2:16 “Reside in the DD or else I will soon visit you with loving correction; in fact, if necessary, intense chastisement.”

“CAUGHT UP TOGETHER WITH HIM” – I Thess. 4:17

1. Believers will be caught up at the end of the Church Age, those who have died, and those alive.
2. At this time our Lord will only be visible to believers and will not set foot on the earth (Acts 1:11; I Thessalonians 4:17).
3. The rapture and the second advent of the Lord Jesus Christ (LJC) are two separate events.
4. At the present we are in the dispensation known as the Church Age, and we do not know when this age will end.
5. The day of the Rapture, which will occur at the end of the Church Age, is the first day of the seven-year period known as the Great Tribulation.
6. The Second Coming of Christ (Second Advent) will occur on the last day of the Tribulation period and will usher in the 1,000-year reign of Christ.

7. Description of the “Caught Up” time:

- 1st. Promised by the LJC just before His crucifixion, John 14:1-3.
- 2nd. At this time he keeps His promise and fulfills the prophecy.
- 3rd. This time completes the Redemption of the body and the believer receives resurrection. Phil.3:20, 21; I John 3:1,2.
- 4th. Read I Cor.15:51-53 and note:
 - *“mystery”* (hidden from OT saints).
 - *“we shall all be changed”* (Resurrection).
 - *“in a moment, twinkling..”* (instant).
 - *“the dead shall be raised incorruptible”* (no decay, no sin or death).
 - *“we shall be changed”* (new physical body, new personal attributes).
 - *“corruptible put on incorruption”* (No Sin nature).
 - *“mortal put on immortality”* (the believer will not die but receive an immortal body) – a RENDEZVOUS FOR LIVING AND DEAD!

8. FUTURE HOPE

- 1st. Sting of death removed, I Cor. 15:54-56.
- 2nd. Despair of bereavement taken away, I Thess. 4:13-18
- 3rd. Confidence, stability, blessing, peace and a relaxed mental attitude enjoyed (Job 19:25-27).
- 4th. Reservation made in heaven, I Pet.1:4; Eph.2:6
- 5th. A mansion, which Christ has prepared in advance, John 14.