

Sunday Session 1 Bible Study – September 21, 2014
"Proud and Deceived" – (Revelation 3:17)

Read [Revelation 3:14-22](#).

Revelation 3:17 – *"Because you say, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and you do not know that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor and blind, and naked."*

Exegesis:

HOTI – Because

LEGO – You say ["I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing"...]

This is a statement of arrogance, of *superciliousness*.

SUPERCILIOUSNESS

These folks have a poverty of soul and mental superciliousness; they're haughty, snobbish, condescending, scornful, smug and arrogant. They are saying in effect "I have no need of divine help".

These people were well blessed, but money is actually cheap to God (who has infinite number of "money trees"). He gave them prosperity, but they lost, or never had, any capacity for it.

PLOUSIOS – Rich.

For those persisting in apostasy, often God takes blessings and prosperity away, or He actually uses them as a means of discipline.

"Because you say, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing..." This is not a good place to be, when for whatever reason, one concludes "I don't need God anymore". Some of these people may have advanced in God's Grace, but when blessed by Him, they turned their attention to the blessings, and tragically away from the Source of their blessings.

They say... "We're Rich" – Christ says... "You are poor". They say... "We have need of nothing" – Jesus says "You are wretched". That is SELF-SATISFACTION OF RELIGIOUS HUMANISM. Men today (so many) think they are going to run their own world – materialistic and content that they are. The self-satisfied "lukewarm" person thinks he is something, when he is really nothing – note our Lord in this verse: "THOU SAYEST" and "THOU KNOWEST NOT".

Sunday Session 1 Bible Study – September 21, 2014 (Continued)

"Proud and Deceived" – (Revelation 3:17)

HUMANISM

Humanism is an outlook or system of thought attaching prime importance to human, rather than divine supernatural matters. Humanist beliefs stress the potential value and goodness of human beings, emphasizing common human needs, and seek solely rational ways of solving human problems. It is a system of values based upon the idea that people are *basically good*, and that problems can be solved using reason alone instead of Christianity (God). Humanism is any system of thought in which human interests, values, and dignity predominate. It is a progressive life stance, which without supernaturalism affirms our ability and responsibility to lead meaningful, ethical lives, capable of adding to the greater good of humanity. In short, that humans, and their interests, are much more important than any perceived God, or His interests.

Some in that church have reached a point of spiritual advance, then gotten off on the low road – false security.

The false security is a substitute of blessings for God. The Greek of this verse really tells the story. The people are rich, but actually, they are wretched, with the same money they had before they became so. They focused on it, on me, myself, and I, instead of the One who had blessed them. What was the difference? Their attitude was the difference! The money does not make the difference – it's the *attitude* that makes the difference. When a person gets off the track, then whatever they got while traveling the right road will ultimately be taken away, or will end up making them miserable. And the Lord says, "*You do not know!*" In essence, they quit drinking from the Fountain of Life, and started drinking from the cup of demons. These Laodiceans still had their money, but they lost their capacity for it, and they found themselves exposed as *miserable*.

Apostasy destroys clear thinking.

People involved in apostasy cannot face reality properly. A person involved in apostasy does not have good common sense, lacking *God's perspective* of life. As we grow, and begin to experience blessing, what is the attitude? Will our eyes focus on the blessing, instead of the Source of it? Once we reach maturity, we must *consolidate our position!* We need intensified reinforcement from the Word of God.

These people's attitudes shifted toward making another dollar, taking another trip, getting more stuff.

But the Lord said to that, "*YOU DO NOT KNOW*". OUK OIDAS – OUK is the strong negative, not associated with verbs in the subjunctive mood, meaning they *absolutely* do not know that they are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked. They are no longer looking at things from a divine viewpoint, only from the standpoint of humanism. This is truly tragic, to become careless and indifferent to the communication of God's Word.

Revelation 3:17 – "Because you say, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and you do not know that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor and blind, and naked."