

Sunday Session 1 Bible Study – August 10, 2014
"Neutralization of Opposition" – (Revelation 3:9)

Read Revelation 3:7-13

Read Revelation 3:9 – “Behold I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, the Ones calling themselves Jews, and they are not, but they lie; Behold, I will make them come and worship before your feet, and they shall know that I have loved you.”

ἰδοὺ Behold (AMImp. 2nd p.s. of εἶδον)

BEHOLD – IDOU – Be alert, with the emphasis on taking a *long look*, a panoramic view. The active middle imperative indicates that in obeying this command, the subject will benefit by the action of *beholding*.

The other verbs are equally powerful in conveying our Lord’s message in this verse 9.

When God made us a member of His Family, four major things happened:

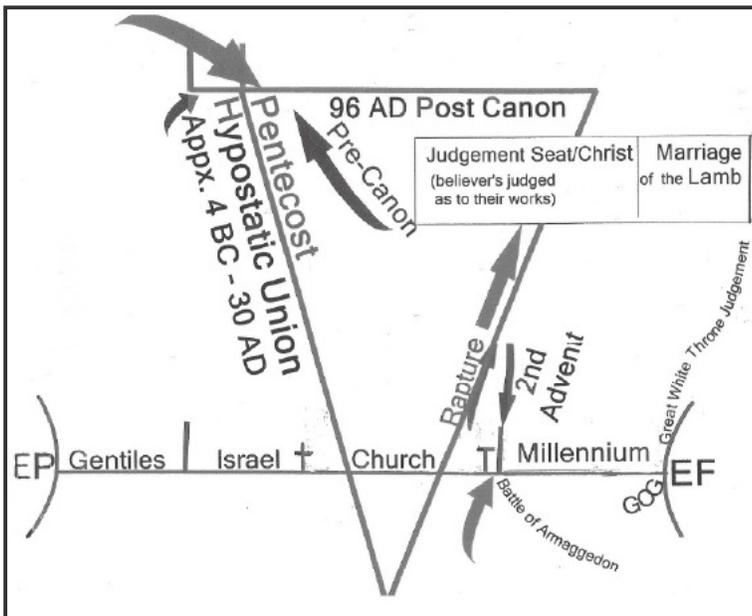
REGENERATION – CHANGE of NATURE

JUSTIFICATION – CHANGE of STANDING

SANCTIFICATION – CHANGE in CHARACTER

ADOPTION – CHANGE in POSITION (we become *the adult son*).

Note the expanded diagram of the Biblical timeline presented last Wednesday night.



In the Age of Israel, we had the *Hypostatic Union*, about 4BC – 30AD; our Lord was born, lived and died, was buried and was resurrected in the Age of Israel. Some 50 days later on the day of Pentecost, the *pre-canon* Church Age began. The pre-canon period lasts until the canon of scripture is recorded, then began the period in which we now live, the *post-canon* period of the Church Age, followed by the 7 years of tribulation.

The Millennium is “book-ended” between two great battles – The *battle of Armageddon*, and the *Gog – Magog Revolution*.

RELIGION IS SATAN’S ATTACK UPON GOD’S GRACE!

REVOLUTION IS SATAN’S ATTACK UPON ESTABLISHMENT!

Each time a person is saved in the Church Age, they are indwelled by, and sealed with, the Holy Spirit.

Note in Revelation 3:9 – *Behold* is the same word used twice in this verse. In each place it is followed by a word translated “*make*”, but they are different Greek words.

ATTITUDE

The Church at Philadelphia was an *Echo Zone* Church.

The Church at Laodicea was an apostate church.

Revelation 3:9 Notes

“Behold” Aorist middle imperative of horao = focus – attention upon something special – *a long look*.

In Philadelphia there were basically 3 kinds of people:

1. The Gentile Roman World – these people had emperor worship – some were involved in the phallic cult, others in some respectable activities.
2. There were also a Jewish population – very religious.
3. There were also believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Religion is the way that the Devil attacks Biblical teaching. The Devil laughs all over creation when he can get people caught up in his scheme of being active in religious programs – but with no emphasis upon learning the Word of God. RELIGION IS SATAN’S ATTACK UPON GOD’S GRACE – JUST AS REVOLUTION IS SATAN’S ATTACK UPON ESTABLISHMENT.

PHILOSOPHERS AND THEOLOGIANS:

DANISH PHILOSOPHER SOREN KIERKEGAARD (1813-1855) – Considered the first existentialist philosopher.

GERMAN THEOLOGIAN DIETRICH BONHOEFFER (1906 -1945)

SWISS THEOLOGIAN KARL BARTH (1896 – 1962)

Barth said “The revelation of God is the *abolishment of religion*”

He said that religion is the attempted replacement of divine Work by human manufacture. Religion is a feeble and hopeless but arrogant effort by man.

The revelation of God denies that any religion is true.

Bonhoeffer questioned the virgin birth and denied it, as well as the deity of Christ. He called Jesus Christ a “corporate presence” rather than a real Person. He believed that Christianity is not exclusive, and that Christ is not the only pathway to God. He also was a practical evolutionist, saying the book of Genesis was “scientifically naïve” and “full of myths”. He believed the OT account of creation was mythical work of man, and He also believed the resurrection of Christ was a mythological conception of man.

ATTITUDE OF THE PHILADELPHIANS

- I. What is the meaning of the word Attitude? We as Christians must have a proper attitude, which only can bring joy to daily living when *persistent consistence over-rules insistent resistance*. Our thinking must be *vertical*, more than *horizontal*. Proverbs 23 tells us “*Eat thou not the bread of him that has an evil eye, neither desire of him his daily meat, for as he thinks in his heart, so is he.*”
- II. One of the greatest conflicts in mankind is personal attitudes (Isaiah 55:6-9).
- III. The Bible commands a right attitude (Philippians 2:5; II Corinthians 2:16; 10:4-6). We must have the Word of God to have the Mind of Christ. We can then strive to “*bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.*”
- IV. The rapport of the local Church is based upon proper attitudes (Romans 12:2 – “*Be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*”; II Timothy 1:7).
- V. Christian advance gives an attitude of confidence.
- VI. Seven Areas where attitude is the KEY: 1) Stability (of soul), 2) Prosperity, 3) Generosity, 4) Worldliness, 5) Evil, 6) Arrogance, and 7) Inner Beauty.