



SPIRITUAL ILLUMINATION

By Sherry Cumby

The divine nature of God provides spiritual illumination to the born-again (John 3:3) believer – beginning at the point of his conversion from being under self-rule, to humbling one’s self of yielding to the drawing power of the Holy Spirit of the living God. The fall of Adam tainted the entire human race; thereby, all off-spring have inherited his sin nature. God’s holy Word reveals sin as being anything we think, say, or do that breaks God’s laws.¹

Regeneration brings the illumination of divine revelation of the inspiration of Sacred Scripture to the new nature of man so that he may see the lost state found in the degradation of man and flee from it into the arms of a waiting Father who longs for him to become all He intended from the beginning.² The light of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit shines upon the world around the new man revealing the truth of Jesus Christ: the crucified Savior of the world: resurrected, manifested, ascended, and seated on the throne beside His Father in heaven (Revelation 3:21). The work of the Creator points back to a timeless Supreme Being and is revealed as the Author of His Word.

Jesus Christ stands at the door of a man who has received His new nature and knocks by the prompting of His Spirit. When the believer invites Him to come in for fellowship, the Lord Himself welcomes the opportunity to commune with His chosen (Revelation 3:20). Prayer, based on the claims of

¹ Curriculum from Child Evangelism Fellowship, www.fortworthcef.com

² Robert L. Thomas, *Evangelical Hermeneutics* (Grand Rapids, Kregel), pg. 52.

Sacred Scripture, opens the door whereby communication between a natural man and the Holy God is made possible by of the blood of Jesus which issued forth the moment He willingly gave His life on the cross of Calvary. Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of sinful man, has hidden the believer within Himself. To be “in Christ” is to have a perfect relationship with the triune God who devised the master plan before the foundation of the earth; before time was spoken into existence. It pleases the Father for the follower of Jesus Christ to proclaim, “It is written...,” as the Supreme Model is imitated by one - obviously dwarfed by His magnificence. Without the illuminating power of the Holy Spirit, man cannot understand the mysteries of Sacred Scripture. Through the prayer of petitioning God to reveal truth, the Holy Spirit will bring illumination in measure of the man’s faith to believe and grow him from glory to glory (II Corinthians 2:5). If an unbeliever having no illumination fails to listen to the instruction of Moses and the prophets, neither will he listen to the teaching of One who resurrects from the dead; namely, Jesus Christ (Luke 16:31).

The illumination of the Holy Spirit upon Sacred Scripture reveals the inspiration of the living God breathing out His message to mankind as the Spirit moved upon Moses, the Prophets, and the Apostles (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20-21). Robert Thomas has well said, “**If** the divine nature in this communicative process prevails in the writing of Scripture, the Holy Spirit can prevail as a part of His illuminating ministry.”³ The Teacher can remove false presuppositions from the minds of the babes in Christ and enable them to properly exegete the truth of God’s Word.⁴

Left to himself after committing the first sin on earth, Adam would have been utterly lost without the illuminating work of the Holy Spirit of God. Through mercy and grace, the Creator not only gave Adam the breath of life and a language to communicate; but, the gift of divine illumination, as well. His reasoning ability was provided in order for him to survive and perpetuate

³ Ibid, pg. 52.

⁴ Ibid.

the human race for God's plan of redemption to reveal His glory in the course of time (Genesis 3:15).⁵

The prophet Daniel prayed to the God of his forefathers – Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. His prayer of thanksgiving proclaimed that the one true God owns wisdom and power; that He alone is the revealer of mysteries for those who seek Him and receive understanding (Daniel 2:20-22). Paul explained to the Corinthian Church body (II Corinthians 2: 12) that the regenerated Christians have the very Spirit of God living within each individual and receive spiritual insight (vs. 13). Natural man, operating from a worldview – as opposed to a biblical worldview, chooses to believe that spiritual ideas are utterly foolishness because he doesn't understand since he is operating in spiritual darkness (14). The Holy Spirit of God offers man a choice: receive divine instruction by His illumination through belief in the shed blood of Christ and of His resurrection and thereby gain the mind of Christ (16); or, remain in the darkness of unbelief through their own depraved minds and end up in hell – separated eternally from God.

The anointing of the Holy Spirit Isaiah wrote about (61:1) and Jesus claimed (Luke 4:18) enables the Spirit-filled believer to do the work of God upon the earth. The Good News will be preached to those who are without provisions: economically and spiritually. Children of Adam's race held in bondage of his fallen sin nature will be freed by believing Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God whom the Law and the Prophets foretold.

The Sovereign God has provided the Bible as a revelation of Himself and the truth about mankind so that man can know Him and better understand himself. The things of the Spirit are too lofty for man to understand without the illumination of the Holy Spirit of God (Psalm 131:1). By holding to a literal, historical, grammatical interpretation of the Word God inspired for man to write under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, the reader may come to receive the ideas that are absolute truth concerning things *tangible and intangible*,

⁵ Ibid.

*temporal and eternal, visible and invisible, earthly and heavenly.*⁶ Adam was a friend who walked with God in the Garden of Eden learning things about himself, his physical surroundings, and spiritual matters from the Creator. When Adam birthed the sin nature of mankind by one disobedient act against God, incredible incompetence must have filled his mind and his innermost being.⁷ Man walked in the Valley of the Shadow of Death (Psalm 23:4) when he received God's first promise that "...*you shall surely die.*" One day, it would be written in the canon of Scriptures that "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23); and, "It is appointed unto man once to die..." (Job 7:1; 14:14). Adam chose to walk in the *gross darkness* of the depravity of sin rather than in the illumination of the presence of the glory of God.⁸

Lewis Sperry Chafer points out four specific forms of spiritual darkness particular classes of humanity suffer from as a result of the inherited sin nature of Adam and the shadow cast by impending death upon the fallen race of man.⁹

Israel's Blindness.¹⁰ The Lord God Jehovah who spoke with prophets of old had Israel on the direct line of communication as prophets heard from Him and communicated the direct Word to the nation. During the sojourn of Isaiah, God placed Israel on hold and had the faithful prophet to announce His message to them (Isaiah 6:9, 10). The Apostles Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Paul announced Isaiah's initial message to the Church of Jesus Christ – telling of their inability to understand the light of the gospel (Matthew 13:14, 15; Mark 4:12; Luke 8:10; John 12:40; Acts 28:26, 27). Paul explained that there is a veil over the hearts of Jewish people [and that of Gentiles] blocking their understanding; yet, if they only turn to God through Jesus Christ, that shadow of darkness will be lifted (II Corinthians 3:14, 15). When the Messiah was born of a virgin and came into His ministry on earth, the nation of Israel

⁶ Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Systematic Theology*, Vols. 1&2, pg. 105.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

was blind to the reality of the Scriptures being fulfilled in their day – resulting in the crucifixion of the Savior of the world (Isaiah 29:10-12; Acts 2:22-24). Chafer points out that this was *the occasion of the breaking off of the natural branches from the olive tree* (Romans 11:13-25).¹¹ This temporary period of time will only last until *the fullness of the Gentiles* is completed when the last chosen convert from the Jewish nation and the Gentiles is added to the Church of Jesus Christ before His coming in the clouds of glory (Ephesians 1:22, 23; I Thessalonians 4:16, 17). The illumination of the Holy Spirit comes supernaturally to those who read and obey the Word of God – saving to the uttermost and granting eternal life with the Light of the World (John 3:16).

There is only a season of time for the veil, meant for the nation of Israel, to cover the truth of Jesus, the Messiah. One day, they will no longer be on hold because “It is written...” Isaiah penned the inspired Word from God that the glory of the LORD will rise upon them and His glory will be seen upon them – drawing both Gentiles and kings (Isaiah 60:1-3).¹²

The Bible reveals two possible illuminations for the Jewish people. Primarily, individuals may be drawn by the Holy Spirit to embrace the truth of John 14:6 in which Jesus Christ of Nazareth says, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.” The illumination of the Holy Spirit will dispel all darkness and the light of life will flood the heart of the believer. Secondly, the nation of Israel will no longer be on hold for the Lord who is the “*Sun of righteousness’ will arise with healing in His wings* (Malachi 4:2). The Deliverer of the nation of Israel and the Gentiles will come out of Zion and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob (Romans 11:26). The fulfillment of the New Covenant will be fulfilled when the Word of God written on their hearts will be illuminated so that the nation will be enlightened by the Sacred Scriptures of absolute truth and their sins will be forgiven (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

¹¹ Ibid., pg. 106.

¹² Ibid.

Gentile Darkness.¹³ Lost man does not realize the darkness of the shadow of the inherited sin nature of Adam leading to death that surrounds him. The Satanic influences of deception are always at work to lure man away from the call of God upon his soul. Unbelievers, virtually throughout the universe, have never known the privilege of the intimate relationship Adam had with God before he fell; and therefore, disregard the Scriptures that describe their plight.¹⁴ John said, “And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it” (1:5). Man chooses to suppress the truth in unrighteousness (Romans 1:18) and neither give Him honor nor thanks; nor do they give Him glory (1:21). They are without excuse (1:20). When the nation of Israel receives the illumination of the Savior, Jesus Christ, the long-awaited promise of Isaiah will draw Gentiles to the truth, as well.

Satanic Darkness.¹⁵ Paul explained to the Corinthian believers that the god of this world, Satan, has blinded unbelievers so that they are unable to see the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ who was born of a virgin conceived of the Holy Spirit. He was, is, and will always be fully God and fully Man in the image of God (II Corinthians 3:4). Satan has veiled the minds of the unregenerate. God calls to man and reveals Himself through *His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature* (Romans 1:20). Satanic influences, along with the fallen nature of man, obstruct the communication process and man continues to live in darkness. Jesus told Nicodemus, “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3). Man cannot be born again unless the Holy Spirit of God, which cannot be seen, draws him supernaturally to see the light of God’s grace through faith and the gift of regeneration is set in motion (John 14:17; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:8). The Apostle John warned that the worldview is based upon unregenerate men perverting the truth and giving their own explanation of life through vain philosophies and misconceptions since they do not know God (John 14:17).

¹³ Ibid., pg. 107.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

This is the very avenue Satan chooses to blind the hearts of unbelievers and cast doubt in the minds of those who do profess Christ as Savior and Lord of their lives.

When man willfully turns away from the truth God reveals of Himself in order to illuminate their hearts, God allows the foolishness of their hearts to lead them eventually to “professing themselves to be wise, they [will] become fools, having a reprobate mind (Romans 1:19-32). Man allows his inherited fallen state to manifest through his own actions as he is influenced by satanic forces at work in this world. However, the power of the Holy Spirit enacted by the effective prayer of righteous men, women, boys, and girls (James 5:16) can illuminate the situation for the glory of God and overcome the base state of man and satanic forces.¹⁶ John explained that the Helper’s job is to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment and reveal that the ruler of this world has been judged” (John 16:7-11).

Paul told the Christians in Rome that “faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17). Therefore, as overcomers, the responsibilities to pray for the lost and to preach/teach the Sacred Scriptures are to be used as weapons against spiritual blindness in order to bring others to the Light of salvation through the illuminating presence of the Holy Spirit at work upon the hearts of believers.

Carnal Blindness.¹⁷ God has called believers to be holy and to present their bodies as living sacrifices in order to prove to the world what is *His good and perfect will* (Romans 12:1-2). Failure to live holy lives and to feed upon His Word results in weakness and non-productivity. Paul addressed the Corinthian brothers as babes in Christ who needed to be fed milk rather than the meat of God’s Word (I Corinthians 3:1, 2). The writer of Hebrews also addresses the unspirituality of the group being addressed in 5:12-14.

¹⁶ Ibid., pg. 108.

¹⁷ Ibid.

Christians are encouraged to hold to the word of righteousness and become mature by training their senses to be sensitive toward the things of God.

Christians bear the responsibility to read and study God's Word. Membership and faithful attendance in a local Bible-believing, Word taught Church is vital to Christian growth and Spirit-filled development. In order for Christians to war against unspiritual living and allow the illuminating work of the Holy Spirit to teach all things, all may: "Draw near to God and He will draw near..." (James 4:8). Carnality brings a dark cloud over the effectiveness of the possible illuminating work of the Holy Spirit in anyone who belongs to the Father.

The supernatural work of the indwelling Holy Spirit of the Living God within the heart of a child of God – fully yielded to lovingly hold to Sacred Scripture – breeds a continuous revival. The intimate relationship of God to man becomes Friend to friend as the Creator enjoyed with Adam; the Covenant-maker with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and the Law-giver with Moses. Jesus promised, "He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him" (John 14; 21). This relationship is to be guarded not only by the One who has promised to never leave the believer, but, the individual must resolve to remain on high alert against sin at all times.

Jesus promised that He would send the Helper after He went away from the presence of the first century believers (John 14:16). The time between His ascension to heaven and the time when He will return for His saints is known as "The Age of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 1:9 and I Thessalonians 4:16, 17).¹⁸ When the Church was birthed on the Day of Pentecost, Luke remembered and recorded in the Book of Acts *the activity and administration of the Holy Spirit*.¹⁹ All of the writers of the New Testament did, as well. The Apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit and did supernatural exploits for the glory of God. The

¹⁸ Ibid. pg. 109.

¹⁹ Ibid.

same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead quickened the Apostles and remains to do so in the hearts of the children of God (Romans 8:11). Devoted Christians, spiritually illuminated by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, would do well to long for Paul's heart-cry in Philippians 3:10, 11: "That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead."

The spiritual illumination of the Holy Spirit is a divine gift from God the Father, made possible by the work of Jesus Christ, for all who believe (Acts 2:33). Without His indwelling presence, it would be impossible for the believer to live above mediocrity if depending on his own strength.²⁰ The work of the Spirit teaches wisdom with revelation knowledge to hungering hearts (Daniel 2:20 – 23; Colossians 2:2-3).

Chafer points out that the chief difference between carnal Christians and those who discern the things of God is that the former is either involved in sin or practices an unspiritual lifestyle.²¹ Therefore, all need to heed the warning that the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit within the believer's life can be hindered by wrong choices (I Corinthians 2:15; 3:1-3).²²

The resurrected Christ manifested Himself to the two disciples who walked on the road to Emmaus; but, they did not recognize their Savior until He lifted their veil by expounding upon the Sacred Scriptures which revealed absolute truth (Luke 24:13-35; 45). The spiritual illumination of the Holy Spirit dawned upon them and their eyes were opened to the truth of the message they would proclaim when the power fell on the Day of Pentecost (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8; 2:4).

Peter preached with the fiery passion of the Holy Spirit of Truth burning in his bones on Pentecost and the power of the Spirit drew three thousand to build the Church of Jesus Christ on the Solid Rock of His salvation (Matthew

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

16:15-18; Acts 2:14-41). This same promise was made to the first generation and for all future generations since “it is written” in Acts 2:39.

Remembrance of the words of Jesus must have penetrated the hearts of those present on Pentecost of what Christ had taught them before His crucifixion, “...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 show you things to come” (John 16:12-15).²³ This is a beautiful picture of the Triune God at work in the heart of a believer: God the Father initiates the work provided through Jesus Christ the Son for the Holy Spirit to convey to man the will of the Father. Based on this reference, Chafer teaches that *the Spirit purposely originates nothing*; and, by directing the teaching of the ministry of the resurrection, He does all to *glorify Christ*.²⁴ The Lord longs for man to “Be still and know that He is God...” (Psalm 46:10) in order for believers to meditate upon the Sacred Scriptures and allow the Holy Spirit to bring nuggets of truth to His temple (I Corinthians 6:19). God has designed the heart of man for the presence of the Holy Spirit: *the incomparable position of nearness*.²⁵

Paul tells the Christians at Corinth what he learned from the Holy Spirit in I Corinthians 2:9-3:4 and reveals that as believers, *we have the mind of Christ* and the Holy Spirit *will reveal the deep things of God* to us. Many teach that this is only promised in the hereafter; however, Chafer is correct in stating that “*these ‘things’ are a present reality*.”²⁶ From the least to the greatest Christian on earth, the omniscience of God, revealed by Him to the Holy Spirit, lives within the sanctified human heart; therefore, by a supernatural act of God, believers have been given *a position* before God *to receive and understand transcendent truth* known by the Spirit.²⁷ The Holy Spirit becomes the channel through whom the Father communicates with His child by way of the sacrificial

²³ Ibid., pg. 110.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid., pg. 111.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

death of His only begotten Son on the cross of Calvary. What a tremendous price was paid for sinful man to gain access to the holiness of God (John 3:16)!

Left to himself, a natural man can only know the things of man for the Creator provides the spirit of a man, a soul (mind, will, and emotions), and a physical body fashioned into His image (I Thessalonians 5:23). The regenerative work of the Holy Spirit opens the door for the things of God to be freely received.²⁸ The fresh-oil of the anointing of the Holy Spirit saturates the heart of the believer and teaches the things of God to the child of God who abides in Christ (I John 2:27).

Spirit-filled Christians who have given themselves to the study of the Word of God have the Teacher as their twenty-four/seven Resource Guide free of charge.²⁹ Chafer sees that the Apostle Paul reveals three categories of people in the I Corinthians passage disclosed in their own attitude concerning the Word of God.³⁰ One group is made up of those who are considered lost: natural man without Christ. Since they do not have the Holy Spirit living in their heart, no regeneration process can even begin; therefore, since Scripture is discerned by the Spirit, he cannot receive the message and considers it foolishness (I Corinthians 15:46; James 3:15). Another group would be those who were once a part of the natural/lost humanity but listened to the call of God and responded favorably to the drawing power of the Holy Spirit. This group is saved to the uttermost – for all eternity – by grace through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection (Romans 10:9-10). Their humility before God places them in the position to receive revelation knowledge of all truth from Him through the teaching of the Holy Spirit.³¹ A born-again Christian matures spiritually one day at a time rather than becoming knowledgeable of all things instantaneously. An intimate relationship is made

²⁸ Ibid., pg. 112.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

possible by the Christian loving God and loving others without reservation (John 13:34) as the Holy Spirit ministers from his heart. Carnal Christians make up the third group of humanity. They are saved; yet, their growth is stunted by their unwillingness to accept the challenges of God to mature in their thinking through prayer, Bible Study, Church services, and the wooing of the Holy Spirit to meditate on the things of God. His greatest need is sanctification: to be set apart for the things of God.³² Milk toast seems more palatable for those in this group than a juicy T-bone steak.

The ‘things’ that the Apostle Paul speaks of that the Holy Spirit will teach believers willing to be sanctified and regenerated deal with the character and attributes of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit; eschatological events, and the kingdom of God.³³ Once a man is born again, the Holy Spirit’s regenerative work as the Teacher within the heart of the believer is immeasurable. All of the knowledge of this world pales in comparison to all the things not of this world.

The unlimited knowledge that Christ will teach the child of God by the indwelling Holy Spirit is balanced by the divine gifting given to the willing heart to grasp the things of the Spirit. We receive the measure of faith to understand all things (Hebrews 11:3). The claim made by Paul in Galatians 2:20 that *Christ lives in me* is made even more clear that the Savior promised to continue His teaching in John 16:12-15 and disclose truth to believers.

It is imperative for the called-out ones to be decidedly yielded to the unction of the indwelling Holy Spirit to be used for the purpose of Christ in His earthly kingdom for heavenly gain. Christians have been saved by the power of God to become a kingdom of priests for His glory to be revealed to a lost and dying world (Revelation 1:6). The Great High Priest calls the spiritual man to be a priest to His God and Father; there is no higher calling for the regenerate man. Chafer challenges that “*a requisite life in conformity to the will of God, on*

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid., pg. 113.

the student's part, is neither incidental nor optional; it is arbitrary, determining, and crucial."³⁴ There is no knowledge this world offers that supersedes the teaching of the Holy Spirit of the Living God abiding within the yielded heart. It is no wonder that Jesus said to Nicodemus, "You must be born-again."

The minister or theological student having a right relationship with Christ will be taught of things to come: the doctrine of eschatology, or the study of last things as it centers in on the second coming of Jesus Christ. The first coming of Jesus tells of His conception, His birth, His ministry of three years, His death, burial, and resurrection, and His ascension while on earth thirty-three and a half years. The Second Advent of Christ will take place after the Rapture of the Church. All believers will be gathered up to meet Him in the air and be with him for a period of seven years before returning with Him for The Millennial Reign upon the earth.³⁵

In understanding things to come, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* explains that a dual fulfillment of Scripture may reference two things: *it could be a local as well as a future or a mediate as well as an ultimate event that will take place.*³⁶ The events on the Day of Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all mankind appear to be a partial fulfillment of Joel 2:28, 29. The Rapture of the Church will be such a day in greater magnitude than the human mind can conceive (I Thessalonians 4:14-18, I Corinthians 15:51-53; Revelation 4:1). Christians will be transported by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit in human hearts as He returns to heaven where He lived before coming on Pentecost. Pre-tribulation believers hold that the next supernatural event to take place affecting the worldwide Church of Jesus Christ will occur before the tribulation. Jesus tells us of a mystery that some believers will enter heaven without dying yet changed in the twinkling of an eye (I Corinthians

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Google: *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: The Doctrine of Eschatology*, edited by Michael P. Jurna, pg. 1 of notes.

³⁶ Ibid.

15:51).³⁷ Expectant believers know that it can happen any day and long for His return.

As Christians await the imminent call of Jesus Christ to meet Him in the air, there remains a work on earth to challenge each one to maturity.³⁸ The writer of Hebrews encourages believers to attend church services and to be faithful (Hebrews 10:25). Paul urges believers to observe the Lord's Supper and do so with pure hearts and motives – free of sin (I Corinthians 11:26). Based on the first and foremost commandment of Jesus, Paul teaches that Christians are to love fellow Christians (I Thessalonians 3:12, 13). James urges all believers to be patient and to do good works (James 5:8; 2:14). The Apostles John and Titus urge believers to live sanctified lives unto the Lord (I John 3:2-3; Titus 2:12-13). Paul warns that followers of Christ are not to judge others (I Corinthians 4:5). Ministers of the Gospel are to preach the Word of God with the authority of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit (II Timothy 4:1-2; I Peter 5:2, 4). Believers are to comfort the bereaved (I Thessalonians 4:16-18). All believers are encouraged to be evangelistic and win souls for Christ (Jude 1:21-23). The saved on earth are to think on things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God (Colossians 3:1-4).

Michael P. Jurna makes several distinctions between the Rapture of the Church and the Second Advent.³⁹ The Rapture deals with the removal of the saints from the earth; the Second Advent of Christ is His literal appearing or manifestation upon the earth to reign for a thousand years with the rod of iron (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 19:15; 1:7). The saints will rise up from the earth at the Rapture; Christ will descend from heaven with the saints to the earth on the Second Advent. The Rapture is a Groom coming to claim His Bride; the Second Advent reveals Christ returning with His Bride. The Rapture reveals the removal of the Church from the earth and the period of a seven year tribulation for all who remain; the Second Advent results in the Millennial

³⁷ Ibid., pg. 2 of notes.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Ibid.

Reign of Christ with His saints. The Rapture is imminent but the Second Advent will be preceded by multiple recorded events spelled out by John the Revelator and will last only seven literal years. All who are a part of the Rapture will be rejoicing; those who are on earth awaiting the Second Advent will receive judgment.

The Rapture will be for the Church and all Jewish believers who have put their faith in Jesus Christ; the Second Advent will be for Israel and the nations of the world. The New Testament tells of the Rapture; the Second Advent is prophesied by Old and New Testament writers. The believer's works will be judged at the time of the Rapture; at the Second Advent, Israel and the Gentiles will be judged. The covenants God made with Israel will be unfulfilled in the Rapture; fulfilled, in the Second Advent of Christ. The Rapture precedes the day of wrath; the Second Advent follows it. The Church will be taken into the Lord's glorious presence at the time of the Rapture; Israel will await the kingdom which will come at the Second Advent of her King.⁴⁰

The judgment seat of Christ will not be for the purpose of punishment for sin nor to determine salvation for believers. It will be held for the purpose of rewarding the saints according to their service while on earth for the glory brought to Jesus Christ and His God and Father.⁴¹

Believers will be judged according to the way they have treated fellow believers (Hebrews 6:10; Matthew 10:41-42). Our attitude and motives for exercising authority over others will be judged (Hebrews 13:17; James 3:1). God has given Christians certain abilities; judgment as to how they were used will reveal the quality of work (I Corinthians 12:4-11; II Timothy 1:6; I Peter 4:10). Stewardship of money will be judged (I Timothy 6:17-19; I Corinthians 16:2; II Corinthians 9: 6-7). Believers will be judged as to how much they suffered for Jesus' sake (Matthew 5:11-12; I Peter 4:12-13; Romans 8:18). Followers of

⁴⁰ Ibid. pgs. 2 and 3 of notes.

⁴¹ Ibid.

Christ will be judged as to how their time was spent (Ephesians 5:16; Colossians 4:5; I Peter 1:17). Christians will be judged as to how they run the race God chose for them to run for His glory (I Corinthians 9:24). With the indwelling Holy Spirit giving power and instruction to Christians, they will be judged as to how they controlled their old nature (I Corinthians 9:25-27). Those who have received the Good News will be judged as to the many souls witnessed to and won for Christ (Proverbs 11:30; I Thessalonians 2:19-20; Daniel 12:3). Believers will be judged as to how they handle temptation (James 1:2-3; Revelation 2:10). A crown awaits those who are judged as to their love for the Lord's appearing in the clouds to take the Christians home to be with Him (II Corinthians 4:8). All will be judged as to the faithfulness to the Word of God and the fellow-believers (I Peter 4:2-4; II Timothy 4:1).⁴²

The spiritual illumination of the Holy Spirit within the heart of the believer and the enlightenment of the Holy Scriptures He teaches, are divine gifts provided by the loving, Sovereign God for the purpose of preparing human beings to share the glories of Christ in His presence. As Biblicists, Christians are to live holy lives for the glory of God. The mandate of God is to take His message to the ends of the earth and to teach others the greatest story ever told (Matthew 28:19-20).

Those who hold to the inspired, inerrant, infallible Word of God to man, must become life-long students of the divine character and details of the biblical text.⁴³ The Book of books surpasses all others in authority, antiquity, literature, popularity, and wisdom; it remains supreme in revealing truth about the infinite God, His infinite holiness, man's infinite sin, and the infinite redemption provided by Jesus Christ.⁴⁴ The supreme, incomparable book of Old and New Testament writers could only have been possible through the moving of the Holy Spirit to illuminate the message of God to His creation.⁴⁵

⁴² Ibid, pg. 4.

⁴³ Class notes, pg. 5.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

The Person of the Holy Spirit, while being equal to the Father and the Son, is subject to the Father and the Son. His work within a Christian will always complement the administrative work of the Father and the Son. The Bible reveals that the Triune God is One in essence yet three identified persons all at work within the life of each individual whom He chooses and draws to Himself. Spirit-filled Christians are called to let their lights shine while being the salt of the earth and causing others to thirst for the truth of the Living Water (Genesis 1:3; Ephesians 5:8; Matthew 5:13; John 4:10). Spiritual illumination by the Holy Spirit will enlighten the hearts of all who respond to the redemptive work of Jesus Christ and resolve to become a student of the Word of God.

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