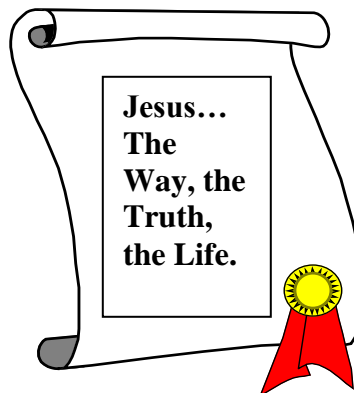


What is the Spirit Saying to the Churches?

- ✓ ***Did the Holy Spirit Speak to the Churches in Days Past?***
- ✓ ***Do you feel that the Spirit is speaking to the Churches today?***
- ✓ ***What is He saying?***
- ✓ ***Does the Spirit have something to say to the Churches..... or the Church as a Whole?***
- ✓ ***If the Spirit still speaks, why aren't we listening?***
- ✓ ***Do you know how to listen to the Spirit?***
- ✓ ***If we are listening, why aren't we heeding?***
- ✓ ***If we are heeding to what He is saying, why aren't we making a greater impact on the world than we seem to be?***



The Question We Seek Answers for....

What lies in store for the 3rd Millennium Church?

1. An Unprincipled Passion for Unity

- ✓ *Be careful....the believer's obligation is to "Buy the truth, and sell it not" (Proverbs 23:23)*
- ✓ *It is unbiblical to forsake the truth in exchange for a superficial unity with those who embrace different doctrine.*
- ✓ *Just as there is no excuse for jeopardizing unity unless warranted by the clear standards and truths of the Word of God, so there is no justification for insisting upon so-called unity at the expense of what the Scriptures clearly teach.*

There is a difference between "imparted righteousness" and "imputed righteousness."

Impart..definition: To bestow a share of; give from one's share or abundance.

Impute...definition: To ascribe as author, responsible originator, or possessor; to credit (a virtue or good)..as in "crediting a charge to another."

- ***Imparted Righteousness**---said to have been provided by Christ but mediated only through the sacraments and the Roman Catholic Church.*
- ***Imputed Righteousness**---the very righteousness of Christ graciously applied to a sinner at the moment of his salvation. It is imputed from that moment forward, to stand legally faultless before a holy and righteous God.*

Romans 3:21-26

These two statements above have been the essence of Reformation thought. Yet many today challenge the legitimacy of making such distinctions.

Revealed truth is never an impediment to unity.

When it says that there is only one way to heaven.....believe it if it is in the scriptures.

2. A Functional Denial of the Sufficiency of Scripture

- ✓ *Satan's scalpel is sharp...his mission is to sever believers from their faith in the authority and sufficiency of scripture.*
- ✓ *Satan and his angels of darkness work overtime to convince Christians that one may pay lip service to the authority of God's Word, but no modern, thinking person would actually live by it.*
- ✓ *Satan and those who do not want to believe the truth state and consciously and unconsciously believe that "the written word only means what you think it means." The term for this is "deconstructionism.."*
- ✓ *The deconstructionist states that "all communication is a struggle over power. The reader/listener must therefore strip away what appears to be the meaning of the written Word (deconstruct the message), then reconstruct the message according to his/her own agenda.*
- ✓ *Consequently, no message can mean anything for certain; objective communication is impossible, objective truth imaginary. As for the Bible, it degenerates into whatever each individual would like it to be.*
- ✓ ***The meaning of scripture is fixed regardless of whether it is full understood***
 - *God knows how to say what He means, and he means what He says.*
 - *Any person who manipulates the message of the Bible to his own liking, rather than accepting what the Sovereign God has spoken, will answer to the Lord.*

✓ <i>The Good Bible Student:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">□ <i>Bathes his study in prayer</i>□ <i>Asks the Spirit to "illumine" him---to help him think God's thoughts rather than his own</i>□ <i>He works to understand the culture from which the message of Scripture grew and languages in which the Bible was originally written</i>□ <i>He struggles to grasp the Bible as a whole, so Scripture can correct him when his understanding of a given passage is wrong.</i>

3. An Unconscionable Indifference Toward the Old Testament

- ✓ *The Lord has affirmed the timeless value of the entire Word of God, as well as the believer's responsibility to know and obey it (Matt. 5:17-18; Romans 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:11; 2 Timothy 3:14-17)*
- ✓ *The attitude adopted toward the Old Testament will automatically set much of our Christian theology---whether we do so in a deliberate or an unreflective fashion.*
- ✓ *Many Christians today exhibit a careless indifference toward the Old Testament and are content to toss aside that body of sacred revelation.*
- ✓ *The greatest danger is that the believer who enjoys the blessings provided by the New Covenant will lose sight of the majesty of the God who made Himself so powerfully known in the Old Testament.*
- ✓ *The greatest distinctive of the New Covenant is the indwelling Holy Spirit, who ministers to the believer an intimacy with God that would have been unthinkable in the Old Testament.....But, there is a sin that can beset anyone who enjoys such intimacy----the sin of careless familiarity.*
 - *Familiarity is manifested in many ways today:*
 - ❖ *The flippancy, shallowness, and marginal respect with which believers speak of the Eternal God*
 - ❖ *The carelessness with which His commands and standards are regarded*
 - ❖ *The self-centered character of worship*
- ✓ *Without the Old Testament, it is impossible to correctly understand the unique place God's Chosen People occupy in world history and to understand the Jewish roots of Christianity.*

4. A Deliberate Disregard for the Eschatological Truths of Scripture

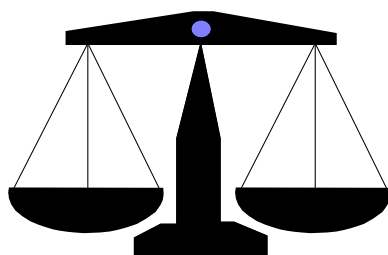
- ✓ *A familiar tone of some preachers of today, "The Bible is unclear about the end-times...eschatology (the study of future things) only divides Christians...just be a 'pan'-millennialist---it will all pan out in the end."*

- ✓ *It will all “pan out” the way God intends, but that fact does not absolve believers of their obligations to study and believe the prophetic Scriptures that describe how it will pan out.*
- ✓ *Approximately one-quarter of the Bible is predictive prophecy.*
- ✓ *Scriptures admonishes Christians to be ever watchful (Matt. 24:42-43; 25:13; Mark 13:33-37)*
- ✓ *Scripture confers a special blessing upon those who carefully study the portion that most completely unveils the grand climax that God has planned for history (Rev. 1:3; 22:7)*

Summary:

- *Once men dispose of the true meaning of the Word of God, they can justify anything.*
- *Without faith in the sufficiency of Scripture and without the foundation of the Old Testament, it will become easier, even for Christians ...to believe a lie.*
- *That is when Satan will run to his toolbox one more time and bring out his sharpest scalpel of all---violent, aggressive anti-Semitism.*

And who will know enough or care enough to resist him?



Overcomer's Reward

Churches

Promises to Those That Overcome

Ephesus

Right to Eat from the Tree of Life Which Is In the Midst of the Paradise of God.

Smyrna

The Crown of Life; Will Not Be Hurt by the 2nd Death.

Pergamum

Some of the Hidden Manna; A White Stone With a New Name On It...Known Only to Him Who Receives it.

Thyatira

Authority Over the Nations; The Morning Star.

Sardis

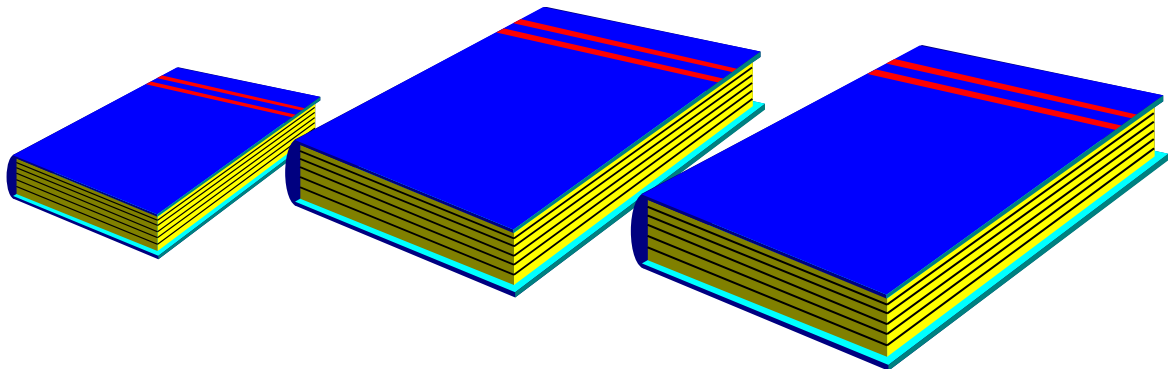
Will Be Dressed in White; Never Be Blotted Out of the Book of Life.

Philadelphia

Be Made a Pillar in the Temple Of God; Written On Him the Name of My God and My New Name.

Laodicea

The Right to Sit With Jesus On the Throne.



3 Different Sets of Books

1. Book of Man's Works

Revelation 20:12 "The dead are judged out of those things which were written in the books."

Ecclesiastes 12:14

2. The Book of Life

- *All names that have ever lived...*
- *Names can be blotted out...Exodus 32:33*
Revelation 22:19
 - ✓ *8 times in the New Testament*
 - ✓ *3 times in the Old Testament where a book is mentioned in which names are written.*

3. Lamb's Book of Life

- *Only the names of those who have lived since the cross.....and*
- *Who have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Savior of the World.*

Revelation 13:8; 21:27

This Is Just A Theory! ***The 3rd Millennium....What Can We Expect?***

- ***More Change...***
 - ✓ *Progressive, Permissive, Promiscuous, Prideful, Postulate Attitude*
Postulate—to demand, require, claim
- ***More Drive and Push for Knowledge***
 - ✓ *The College Degree is not enough*
 - ✓ *The Desire to Go to the Moon With Everything*
 - ❖ *Human Cloning*

❖ *“If you can think it, it can be done” attitude*

- ***More Expression and Call for Unity***
 - ✓ *Unified Global Oneness*
 - ✓ *Unified Religion*
 - ✓ *Unified Thinking...and if you don't think like “us”, we don't need you.*
 - ✓ *“You are your own you” attitude...servant to nobody. “To be somebody, you must make your mark.”*
- ***Love of Things...More Than Love of People.***
 - ✓ *“What must I do to have what I want” attitude*
 - ✓ *Selfish-“If it feels good, do it.....at any cost.”*
- ***My Body is Mine...And I Will Do With It What I Want To Do!***
- ***To the liberal, 3rd Millennial Thinker...He will say,***
 - “Man will come to realize that dogmatic religion is the great divider of societies and a primary cause of wars, international tensions, and assorted conflicts. A unified church and a unified way of thinking will evolve. Out of this religious-social-political evolution, something better will emerge.”*

That something better was never defined!!

What is the Spirit Saying to the Churches Concerning “The End Times”?

- ***For About 2000 Years Believers Have Been Looking Forward to That Blessed Day When:***
 - ✓ *The Trump of God Will Sound*
 - ✓ *The Archangel Will Shout*
 - ✓ *The Lord Jesus Christ Will Come to Claim His Own.*
- ***How Much Longer, Lord?***
- ***Signs That His Return Is Near:***
 - ✓ *We cannot know the day or the hour when Jesus will come to take his own home (Matthew 24:36)*

- ✓ *We can know the season (not the four seasons we know)*
- ✓ *The signs mentioned talks of when Jesus returns (the Second Coming)*
- ✓ *Trends have emerged, however, that appear to be producing a climate more closely resembling end-time conditions than ever before.*
- ✓ *These “trends” do not prove the “end is near”; however, they do indicate that it is nearer than ever before.*

What Are These “Trends” That Indicate That the End Could Be Near?

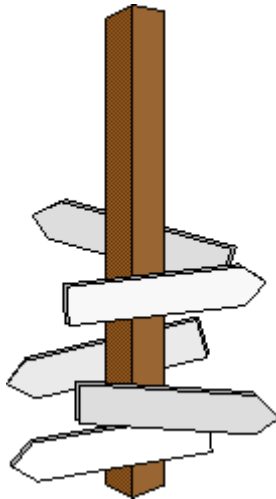
The Political Trend

- ✓ *One-World Government Emphasis of International Leaders*
 - *United Nations*
 - *Global Community*
 - *“The World is a Village” Philosophy*
 - *UN and NATO Forces Have United to Attack Individual Countries (Unified Effort to Bring World Peace, to Destroy Weapons of Destruction, to let the authorities be the ones with offensive weapons)*
 - *The Internet and Other Communication Tools Have “Shrunk” Our Planet*
 - *The Brotherhood of Man...Imagine a World Without Boundaries!*
- ✓ *One-Worldism...A Leader Who Can “Bring Us Together.” “Ignorant of the consequences”....A one-world government under the domination of a powerful world leader will mean compulsory economic controls and persecution of all who resist (Revelation 13:16-17)*

The Religious Trend

- ✓ *The dream of various ecumenical types is a “World Church” that would replace the many and various denominations.*
- ✓ *Books have been written...i.e., “The Abomination of Denominations.”*
- ✓ *The World Council of Churches has desired a universal church...*
- ✓ *Unity-At-All-Cost movements, which water down valid belief distinctives, have emerged under the “evangelical” umbrella.*
- ✓ *The Question of Solidarity...bringing in all faiths, all religions...has been a problem.*

- ✓ *They have turned to a new movement called “The New Age Movement”*
 - *Bears earmarks of Eastern religions*
 - *Blurs the edges of truth,*
 - *Dissolving everything into a murky uniting “We are all one”--- the wish that “the world will be as one.”*
- ❖ *Some call the whole “United We’re One” religious thinking as “The Old Lie” of the Garden (Gen. 3)*
(Scriptures tell us that someday the unsaved inhabitants of this earth will unite in worshiping the Beast at the command and backing of religious prime minister, the False Prophet (Rev. 13).
- ❖ *The movement has been frustrated by those “stubborn” Bible believers who tenaciously maintain that unity must be based on truth, not on organizational membership.*



- **The Moral Trend**

Again....What is the Spirit saying to the Churches?

✓ *1 Timothy 4:1-3*

✓ *2 Timothy 3:1-5*

The characteristics mentioned above have always been existent in the church...but, along with the political and religious trends mentioned previously, the moral trends happening today make it increasingly apparent that we are in the last days (the season is here).

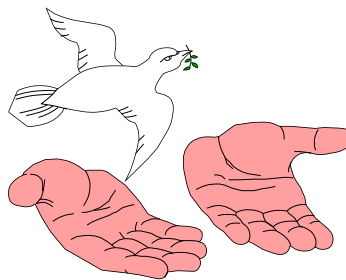
Remember...to Watch...be awake and aware of the times...and to be busy about the Lord's work of world evangelism (Acts 1:6-8)

Watch...No Commandment Appears more frequently in the New Testament than to "Watch!"

- ***Watchfulness Should Be the Constant Attitude of the Christian Life (Romans 13:11; 1 Cor. 16:13)***
- ***The Christian Must Be On the Watch Against the Wiles of the Devil (1 Peter 5:8)***
- ***The Christian Must Be On the Watch Against Temptation (Matthew 26:41)***
- ***Christians Need to Be On the Watch for the Coming of the Lord (Matthew 24:42; Mark 13:37; 1 Thessalonians 5:6)***

Every Person Should Live Every Day as If It Was His Last!

- ***The Christian Must Be On the Watch Against False Teachers (Acts 20:29-31)***
- ***As the Christian Must Watch for Jesus Christ...Let Us Not Forget That Jesus Christ Is Watching Us!***
 - ✓ ***"I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God," says the Risen Christ. (Revelation 3:2)***
 - ✓ ***Christ is looking for something from us....Our love, loyalty and service***
 - ✓ ***The things a man must do lies in his hands...his heart.***



***He must make the decision to do the works of Christ.
From every one of us Jesus Christ is looking for something; and
for every one of us there is something to do.
Are You a Willing Vessel? He's Watching to See What You Decide!
We need to answer the question:
Does God Reveal The Secret Things of God to His
Church?***

“Eyes have not seen, ears have not heard, nor mind can comprehend what the Lord God has prepared for those that love Him...but God has revealed it to us by His spirit.”

1 Corinthians 2:9.....through 13.

How does God reveal it to us?...Through the word, through experiences, through life’s challenges, through trials, through troublesome times, through people, through the world’s everyday ups...and downs. It builds faith!

We can experience, we can dream, we can think, we can listen to the voice of God....and we know when He speaks.

How did the Book of Revelation come to be...

From God...through Jesus...to the Angel...who revealed it to John...who gave it to us in his writings. Rev. 1:1

John was “in the spirit” on the Lord’s Day (Rev. 1:10)...

The Spirit told him to “Write down what you see and send it to the seven churches....” V.11

“In the Spirit”....What does it mean?

- ✓ *Christians have the Spirit of God (Romans 8:9)*
- ✓ *Spirit of Discernment*
- ✓ *Spirit of Interpretation*
- ✓ *Spirit of Prophecy*

God’s full revelation revealed to John for the Church.....through the Spirit!

One thing for sure.....John’s faculties were totally taken over by the Spirit of God!