

REVELATION 33 – LAODICEA: BEYOND REPENTANCE?

Dr. Leon L. Sanders Revelation 3:19-22

LOVE'S PROCESS: REPROVE, DISCIPLINE, REPENTANCE

- Love's Process is not syrupy sweetness reinforcing one's sinful worldview or selfimage; it's bringing one to decision: Accept or Reject Christ-Truth
 - <u>Reprove</u> {ἐλέγχω, elegcho} Convicting by Light, Holy Spirit, of Sin, Righteousness and Judgment; One cannot repent without knowing the error {asebeia-ungodly} (Jn 3:16-21; 16:7-11)
 - Discipline {παιδεύω, paideuo} Chastens sinner to correct him-her to understand why sin is sin and to see and accept the eusebeia {godly} path (ICo II:32; He I2:5-II)
 - <u>Repentance</u> {μετανοέω, metanoe} Accepting the new nature, salvation evidenced by a change of I) Mind and 2) Behavior, or maturing after salvation (Ro 10:9-10; 2Co 5:17)
- Christ loved what Laodicea had been; He now expresses His long-suffering mercy so they may repent, (re)turning to His way from <u>their</u> Hermetic way

LAODICEA'S ERROR: BLINDED BY HERMETICISM

- Laodicea ensnared in Satan's Hermeticism, to be as God, by choosing Satan's special gnosis over Christ's {Logos} Way
 - Their way appears Good and Christ's Way seems evil; opposite of discernment (He 5:11-14)
 - They deluded themselves into believing they were visionary, rich, powerful when they were **judged** as wanting: poor, naked and blind
 - They had true riches but exchanged them for The Lie that does not satisfy (Mk 8:34-38; 2Th 2:3-12; 2Pe 2:20-22)
 - They coveted this Creation, destined to pass away, and rejected intimacy and humility in Christ for eternity: Exchanged Violence for Peace (Ez 28:15-17; Mt 5:2-12; Jn 8:44; Ja 4:1-10)

LAODICEA FAILURE: CHRIST ON THE OUTSIDE

- Corrupted by special gnostic hermeticism, Christ was ejected; He was outside humbly knocking to come into <u>His</u> Church body (Col 1:15-20; Ph 2:5-11)
- Christ offered to share Eucharist with them as He did with His Apostles the night before His death on stauros for sin (Mk 14:53-65; Lk 22:15-22; ICo 11:23-29)
 - His death fulfilled Paschal Lamb sacrifice which the priest had to *bless* before the sacrifice; hence, Christ could only die in Jerusalem (Ex 12:1-27; Lk 13:31-35; ICo 6:5-8)
 - Eucharist, 3rd cup of the Passover meal, changed showing the cost of salvation, Christ's blood and body {life} in exchange for our lives and bodies; hence new bodies (Le 17:10-11)
 - All saved, Jew and Gentile, will partake together in *New Jerusalem*, intimately with Christ who unites us with the Father by the Spirit through Himself due to this sacrifice (Lk 22:16, 18; Re 22:1-5)

THE CALL OF CHRIST: ONLY SAVED HEARS HIM

- Christ's call to come goes to entire World; however, only the called hears as the asebeia Lost ignores by substituting their own call (In 3:16-18)
 - Christ <u>calls</u> Laodicean Church to join Him in Eucharist fellowship; will any respond?
 - When Christ calls from the air, Rapture, saved will hear and rise (ICo 15:35-57; ITh 4:13-18)
- As in all the Church Letters, Christ states <u>only</u> those maturing in Him have an ear to <u>hear</u>; will be listening for His Call to walk humbly with Him
 - Unlike Satan who refuses to share Control, Christ will share His Throne with the saved according to the *measure* of their maturing growth (Mt 25:14-23)
 - Over whom does the saved conquer? **Themselves** by submitting to Christ in the Spirit (Mt 7:1-5; Ro 7:25-8:4; Ga 2:20 Ja 4:7-10)

LAODICEA: CHURCH OF FAILURE

- Letters to the Churches ends with Laodicea as churches since Shavuot have followed this progression
 - Jews as a society followed this progression and generally rejected Messiah
 - Christians as a group have fared no better beginning with leaving their *first love*, which began the influx of hermetic *special gnosis* into the body
 - Epistles detailed the early stages of this; church history chronicled the failures in basking in its own *wisdom*, like Laodicea
 - Churches are organizations made up of individuals, true question to ask is, "What do you believe? What is the <u>source</u> of your gnosis or knowing?
 - Are you humble in Christ-Spirit remaining <u>closed</u> to False Teachers or are you a portal for their entry into your church or family turning them into Laodiceans?