

Semester 4 – Week 10 - Class 19

REVELATION'S SAINTS - A "PECULIAR" PEOPLE

Class sing "Give Me the Bible"

Question: What should be the aim of God's people today?

It is the desire in teaching a Bible study course such as this that we edify the body of Christ. And there are some topics that God would have us place an emphasis upon, primarily in these last days.

2 Corinthians 5:20 **"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."**

Now what is an ambassador? An Ambassador is an individual who lives in a foreign country. And there in that foreign country he represents his government. And an ambassador holds to the policy and the laws, and standards of his country and represents his country in the best way possible. But the Bible says that you and I are ambassadors for Christ. Just as an ambassador in the political realm strives to represent his land as best he can, so does the Christian hold to the standards, and laws and regulations of the government of heaven.

This is not our home for we live in a foreign world. So we are ambassadors for Christ while we are on this earth and Jesus has placed us in a most important position—one of representing Him in His physical absence. Today, we'll learn how to better do this. This is the aim of God's children.

Sometimes people ask: "What's wrong with doing this, or what's wrong with eating that, or what's wrong with wearing this or that?" Then they add, "You mean God's going to keep me out of heaven because of this?" Our only response must be this: "Is that the way Christ's ambassador's should act and speak?" An ambassador will go out of his way for his government, above and beyond the call of duty. Will the Christian go the extra measure for His Lord?

The little sin or the little problem is not really the issue in question. The real question is, Is the heart in love with Jesus? Because if we go through our whole Christian life saying, "Well, why can't I do this" and "Why can't I do that?" that's not true Christianity. True Christianity is made up of a relationship. You do things because you want to.

When God makes His will plain in the Bible and people hold to the attitude of "Well do we really have to; and Why can't I do this or that?, or "God says, but I think . . .", the root problem is simply this: the heart is not fully in love with Jesus.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 **"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."**

1 John 3:22 **"And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight."**

Being an ambassador for God, and having a relationship with God takes us beyond just keeping the commandments. The response of the Christian goes into those things that are what? "Pleasing in His sight." If we really love God we'll keep His commandments. But we'll do more than that, Amen?

Certain individuals want to try to inch along the precipice of the cliff without falling over. They want to know how much they can get away with down here and still escape the fires of hell and go to heaven. Have you met such people? They want the world and what it offers, but they only want enough of an easy religion to feel safe.

As Christians, if we love God and keep His commandments, our one desire will be to stay close to the heart of Jesus. And if we find ourselves close to the heart of Jesus, we'll find ourselves far, far from the world. Why? Because Christ was not of the world.

Jesus said, **"The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me."** John 14:30. The devil had nothing on Christ. Jesus was holy, undefiled, separate from sin.

Today's topic is for those who really want to be counted among the 144,000 who will walk with Jesus wherever He goes. The true follower of Jesus is willing for the Spirit of Christ, to do the necessary heart surgery on us to

take the love of the world out of us—that is to say the love of things that are not for the best purposes of the Christian life. The “world” represents those things that appeal to the carnal nature of man.

Don't you believe we should love God enough to desire to do whatever is pleasing in His sight? Of course, and along with that we should desire to stop doing anything that is not pleasing in His sight.

And love of course, is to be the primary motive for serving Jesus. If you don't have a love relationship with Jesus, this whole subject will mean little to you.

Hebrews 12:1 **“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”**

1 John 5:4 **“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.**

1 John 2:15-17 **“Love not the world, neither the things [that are] in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”** Let's read this again and Catch the meaning this time, **“Love not the world, neither the things [that are] in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”**

Question: Why is the Christian life such a high calling?

1 Peter 2:9 **“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.**

Mark 4:24 **“And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear...”**

Isaiah 33:15 **“He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil; ...”**

Isaiah 33:15 **“... that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil.”**

Question: Is dancing good recreation for a Christian? People will sometimes say, "Oh, but I just dance for the exercise." If we made all men dance only with men, I wonder how long the men would do it for "exercise." The fact is that there are certain sexual improprieties that are taken while dancing that would not be normally proper to take. Some like to cite David coming from a victory and dancing in the street. Is David our example? Who is?

1 John 2:6 **“He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.”**

Proverbs 23:26 **“My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.”**

Psalms 101:2, 3 **“I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. ... I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: ...”**

Let's talk about Television

By the age of 18, the average American child will have seen 200,000 violent acts on television, including 40,000 murders, according to Thomas Radecki, research director for the National Coalition on Television Violence. (The average 2 to 11 year old watches TV 25 hours a week.) University of Illinois psychologists Leonard Eron and L. Rowell Huesmann studied one set of children for more than 20 years. They found that kids who watch significant amounts of TV violence at the age of 8 were consistently more likely to commit violent crimes or engage in child or spouse abuse at 30.

“We believe... that heavy exposure to televised violence is one of the causes of aggressive behavior, crime and violence in society,” they wrote in 1984. “Television violence affects youngsters of all ages, of both genders, at all socioeconomic levels and all levels of intelligence... It cannot be denied or explained away.”

Seven years later [1991], Huesmann remains convinced: "Serious aggression never occurs unless there is a convergence of large numbers of causes," he says, "but one of the very important factors we have identified is exposure to media violence... If we don't do something, we are contributing to a society that will be more and more violent."

Fact about TV: The average 18-year old has witnessed 200,000 violent acts on television and movies, including 40,000 murders.

2 Corinthians 3:18 **"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."**

Psalms 119:37, 38 **"Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way. Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear."**

TV – Scripture Test: SIDE BY SIDE

They lie on the table, side by side; The Holy Bible and the TV Guide.

One is well worn, but cherished with pride; Not the Bible, it's the TV Guide.

One is used daily to help folks decide; Not the Bible, it's the TV Guide.

As the pages are turned, what shall we see; Ah, what does it matter, turn on the TV.

Then confusion reigns, because they can't all agree; On what they should watch, on the old TV.

So they open the book, in which they confide; Not the Bible, it's the TV Guide.

The Word of God is seldom read; Maybe a verse ere they fall into bed.

Exhausted and tired and sleepy as can be; Not from reading the Bible, but from watching TV.

So then back to the table, side by side; Lie the Holy Bible and the TV Guide.

No time for prayer, no time for the word; The plan of salvation is seldom heard.

But forgiveness of sins so full and free; Is found in the Bible, not on TV.

—Presbyterian Journal

1 John 2:15 **"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."**

Psalms 101:3 **"I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: ..."**

What are we Reading? Is it food for the soul? God's people will have none of the world's folly.

Leviticus 20:6 **"And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people."**

Romans 1:32 **"Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."**

Question: What should a Christian choose to think about?

Philippians 4:8 **"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."**

If you follow that as a guideline, you'll always be blessed in what you listen to and the places you go.

Now we've talked about what we hear, we've talked about what we see, now what's left to talk about? It's an area that preachers do not preach on any more, and that is the area of the pride of life. As we go into this next area, I just want to make a preliminary statement. What you're going to hear in the next few minutes is something that almost every single Protestant church without exception, once preached. But today we're living in a very compromised day and age.

We're living in a time when men don't want to speak the Word of God or lead people to a deep love relationship and a true born-again experience.

Here in this Bible study course we are not to bring the standard of God down to fit our lives. The standard of God remains high, and the Bible does not need changing. People's hearts need changing. Amen?

1 John 2:16 "... and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

Jeremiah 17:9, 10 "The heart [is] deceitful above all [things], and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, [I] try the reins, ..."

Isaiah 14:13, 14 "... I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne ... I will be like the most High."

PRIDE

Matthew 11:29 "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

Genesis 35:1-4 "And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother. Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments: And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went. And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which were in their hand, and all their earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem.

1 Timothy 2:3-8 "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity. I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

1 Timothy 2:9 "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; ..."

"... women adorn themselves in modest apparel, ..."

"... not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;"

What does the word "not" mean? When God instructed Adam and Eve in the Garden regarding the forbidden Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, the Lord said they shall "not" eat of it. Did the word "not" mean a little bit? Did it mean they could have one bite? "Not" meant nothing!! Adam and Eve found that out all too late. So when God said "...women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;" Did God give room for exceptions? Then why are so called Christian women trying to out Jezebel each other with expensive foolishness? It's bad enough in the churches where preachers have lost their voice, but what is in the world is a disgrace.

Matthew 4:4 Jesus said, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.."

Is the word "not" an inspired word? Does it proceed from the mouth of God? Then we should "live" by that word as well shouldn't we?

"... not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; ..."

Someone could say, "Well, it doesn't mention emeralds, rubies, sapphires or diamonds. Does God need to mention every metal or precious stone under the sun to get His point across?"

1 Timothy 2:10 "But which becometh women professing godliness with good works."

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist church. "I exhort you to wear no gold or pearls or precious stones. I do not advise women to wear rings, earrings or necklaces. It is true that these things are little, very little things, therefore they're not worth defending. Therefore give them up. Let them drop, throw them away without another word, else a little needle may cause much pain in the flesh, a little self-indulgence much hurt to your soul."

So many ministers today don't even touch on the dress topic anymore. There is a watering down of God's Word because of sin in our world today and plain Bible truth is compromised.

Christianity does not consist in a list of do's and don'ts. Being a converted grace saved Christian is not something that is attained through doing this and not doing that and judging other people because they don't live as we think they should. To be spiritually minded is to have your whole life centered around a relationship with Jesus Christ. There are things however, that will happen as a result of the gospel entering our minds!

1 John 2:15, 16 **“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.**

Development of Christian Doctrine, Catholic Cardinal John Henry Newman, p.372

We are told by Eusebius that Constantine, in order to recommend the new religion to the heathen, transferred into it all the outward ornaments to which they had been accustomed in their own religion... The use of temples, those dedicated to particular saints, incense, candles, holy water, processions, the ring in marriage, turning to the east, images at a later date, all are of pagan origin and sanctified by their adoption into the church.

Romans 12:2 **“Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.** Notice how Paul says we are to be transformed—not conformed. But in Christendom today it's as if Paul said be conformed to the world. People of the world come into the church and never leave the world, and the world never leaves them.

When Christians are baptized, it means they have been “born again.” And when we are born into this world the birth is not complete until the umbilical cord is severed. When we are born again in the spiritual sense, we also have a cord to cut—the cord of temptation that binds us to the things of the world.

What we are discussing today is for serious Christians who stand on **“every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”**

Are you aware that 1 out of 7 become alcoholics. But how about the temptation to become gemaholics? Wearing adornment of any kind is a stumbling block to my mission as an ambassador for Jesus Christ. Adornment is a weight which leavens your Christian witness. This is not fanaticism. This is not legalism. This is pure, unspotted religion, and to hang on to any spot is to say that the little things don't matter to God.

Revelation speaks of two women. One represents God's pure church and is in the minority, while the other, the corrupt church and that is the majority of Christendom. It's easy to spot the differences.

What adornment should a Christian have?

1 Peter 3:3, 4 **“Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.**

1 Timothy 2:9 **“...not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array.”**

The ornaments of the world are a counterfeit of God's true ornaments. Taking jewelry off frees people to discover who they really are in Christ. God has ornaments of a “meek and quiet spirit” — in other words, the character of God within the saint that loves Jesus. And God says that kind of ornament is so precious, it's of great price.

Hebrews 12:1 **“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”**

1 John 3:22 **“And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.**

2 Corinthians 5:20 **“Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.”**

Jesus removes the things that distract and begins the cleansing process, and people immediately notice the improvement.

The next few verses will summarize our whole message.

Titus 2:12 **“Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; ”**

Titus 2:14 **“Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.**

1 Peter 2:9 **“But ye [are] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light”** It is the world that thinks the true obedient followers of Christ are a peculiar people.

Luke 9:23 **“And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”**

Question: What makes it easy to obey God in the matters of lifestyle discussed in this lesson?

Philippians 1:6 **“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.**

1 John 5:3 **“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”**

Psalms 40:8 **“I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.”**

Everything we have been studying is for one purpose and that is to bring glory to Him, and to help us know how to love Him and to do what pleases Him.

The devil knows the greatest way he can destroy our Christian faith is through the world, its music and the things that we hear and see. Let's have victory over that today. Let's choose the better way.

The devil knows that if he can get us looking at these outward things our attention will be on ourselves rather than on Jesus. Today God asks us to have victory over the pride of life. And let's put on the true ornaments of Jesus, and let His words be so in our hearts that as we behold Him, and we love Him, that His very character will come into our hearts, so that when people see us, they can say, "I have met someone that loves and walks with Jesus Christ."

Today let us pray, "Lord, I choose to overcome the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. Lord give me that grace and strength day by day in the future to allow You to carry that out in me."

In Galatians 4, Paul preached the straight truth to his hearers, and what did he say to them? Galatians 4:16 **"Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?"**

End Semester 4 – Week 10 - Class 19

The Next Class Semester 4 – Week 10 - Class 20

The Most Sought After Secret in the Bible

The Following Class Semester 4 – Week 11 - Class 21

Prophets and Prophecy, Visions and Dreams

The Next Following Class Semester 4 – Week 11 - Class 22

The Unpardonable Sin