

Churches of Revelation Chapter 2 and 3

Introduction

The True Church is not defined of any Denominationalism(s), but the Lord Jesus knows those that are his throughout “Denominations and non-Denominations”! These Chapters (2 and 3) of the Book of Revelation are final instructions that Jesus is sending to the Church during the time of John the apostle which are also for us today, because the kinds of problems the churches experience have not changed; although faces have changed:

Throughout the centuries most church groups have overlooked, misunderstood, ignored, or have not accepted these instructions from Christ Jesus as pertaining to their church; but only to those seven churches named here in Revelation. It seems as a result of this attitude the foundation(s) for “denominationalism” developed in the Church Body. We see that Paul the apostle battled this very same spirit among the Judaizers during his ministry (Galatians 2:14).

The gospel of the cross of Christ Jesus is as unique, and special as he, and is not to be modified. It is by grace and grace alone. It does not require improving, or fixing in any way. That which apply to one individual, applies to all. The original plan of God through Christ Jesus accomplishes every victory that men will ever need!!!

Questions:

- *As a result of the spirit of denominationalism, have well meaning (but often misled) church groups departed the path of the true gospel of the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ, and fallen into preaching “another gospel” as talked about in 2Corinthians 11:4, and Galatians 1:6????*
- *Is there a connection between the spirit of denominationalism and the spirit of the Nicolaitans (Revelation 2:6 & 2:15), or Judaizers (Galatians 2:14); whose actions caused the people to “error”????*
- *What say you? Be very honest and sincere in your evaluation. Thank you!*

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Angel of the Church is, “The spiritual character, as to the degree of true discipleship, that it is dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ; the Church Body.” While the Pastor, Preacher, Minister, or Person in charge has a huge part of accountability in make-up of the church health, I do not believe he is angel of the church all by himself. Or in words of a slang, “all by his lonesome”!

Even sounds a bit selfish, doesn’t it?

Then, what is the responsibility of the remaining congregation?

The apostle Paul identified those offices that the saints may occupy in church structure according to Ephesians Chapter 4, as follows:

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

One God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity (***hell and death***)

captive, and gave gifts unto men (***all men, not just a select few***).

(Or, hell and death which was the captivity of men, Jesus held it, “hell and death” captive, when he ascended up on high, and gave gifts unto men. Otherwise hell and death would still be free to steal/destroy the gifts. Therefore, those that are in Christ Jesus are no longer “captive of captivity (hell and death)”; ***but free to choose God. See Revelation 1:18.)***

(Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? ***(Or, before Jesus ascended (triumphant in all power and glory), he descended first to lowest level of human authority; even to the level of worldly poverty. But not heavenly poverty; there is a difference! Many on the earth are heavenly poor.)***)

He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) ***(Or he, Jesus, that descended is the same also that ascended above every authority, even far above all heavens.***

And these are the gifts/positions and reasons Jesus gave to men/the Church (His Body) that the saints may perform in discipleship and purpose to God for the benefit of those that would be saved, or heirs of salvation by the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; him crucified, unto deliverance/redemption/everlasting life):

And he gave some, **apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;**

And just what are the gifts for??

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they (***every wind of doctrine, slight of men, and cunning craftiness***) lie in wait to deceive;

But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:

From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity (***unprofitable ness***) of their mind,

Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:
Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness (... *etc.*).

Ephesians 4:1 – 4:19

Revelation Chapter 2

Jesus instructs the church of Ephesus

Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

The Church at Ephesus is fallen from having Jesus as their first love, perhaps because of false teachers in their midst.

And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent (***This would mean that the spirit/angel over that church is no longer Jesus, but some other spirit/angel. Perhaps a few leaders and Congregationalists have abandoned the true gospel of the cross and Spirit of Jesus, and entertained some other spirit; in this case the Nicolaitans.***)

But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Jesus instructs the church in Smyrna

And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

Do not be deceived of those pretending to be committed to God, but they really belong to Satan.

I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and *I know* the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but *are* the synagogue of Satan (***Some of the members in this fellowship may indeed experience persecutions from those Jews influenced of Satan, which result in prison sentences, and even death. But Jesus encourages them to remain faithful to him (the true angel, gospel of the cross, and Spirit), and he will give them a crown of life. He that overcometh shall not be hurt***)

of the second death (Revelation 21:8). Your enemy can only kill the body; Jesus shall restore everything you lost, and even add more to you when he returns).

Do not fear for your lives, but be faithful to Jesus unto death, and he will give you a crown of life.

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death (***Revelation 20:6***).

Jesus instructs the church in Pergamos

And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

Nothing is hid from Jesus; he even knows which of those among you are of Satan, because he knows where Satan dwells, and his behavior.

I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, *even* where Satan's seat *is*: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas *was* my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

There are idol worshipers among those of church in Pergamos

But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication (*idolatry?*).

So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate (***All members of this fellowship had not the Spirit of Jesus and the true gospel of the cross; but some leaders and Congregationalists apparently had not fallen away from the name of Jesus, and his discipleship. But those that have fallen (the Nicolaitans) are seated with Satan; and Jesus is saying, I'm well aware of their deeds***).

Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth *it*.

Jesus instructs the church in Thyatira

And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet *are* like fine brass;

I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last *to be* more than the first.

Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication (*idolatry?*), and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds (*A specific person in this fellowship has fallen, and have not the Spirit of Jesus and the true gospel of the cross; but another spirit that is of Jezebel, and is being permitted to teach and make converts, according to her error/fornication*).

And I will kill her children (*or converts*) with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works (*Good rewards are given to those for producing good works, but destruction is rewarded to those for producing evil works*).

But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine (*doctrine of Jezebel*), and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they (*the spirit of Jezebel*) speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

But that which ye have (*that is of the Spirit of Jesus Christ and the true gospel of the cross*) *already* hold fast till I come.

And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

And he shall rule them (*the nations*) with a rod of iron (*the un-bending, un-breakable Truth??*); as the vessels of a potter shall they (*the nations*) be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

And I will give him the morning star (*Holy Spirit??*).

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 2:1 – 2:29

Revelation Chapter 3

Jesus instructs the church in Sardis

And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead (*The name of this fellowship has not been blotted out yet; but because the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ and the true gospel of the cross is no longer being promoted, their works (even though they may be good works) are dead. Therefore, “thou livest, and art dead”*).

Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect (*or, according to the true gospel of the cross and Spirit of Christ Jesus???*) before God.

Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. (*There still remain a few true saints of the Lord Jesus Christ at Sardis*).

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit (*dedicated and true angel of Jesus*) saith unto the churches.

Jesus instructs the church in Philadelphia

This church reflects the “True Church of the Lord Jesus Christ” more than any of the other six that Jesus addresses. The Spirit/angel of Jesus Christ and the true gospel of the cross is strongest in this Church than any of the others in Asia because they have remained dedicated to keep the word of his patience. I believe the word of his patience is to continue seeking understanding, doing, waiting, and looking for the return of Jesus; no matter what one is faced with.

And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews (*or my people*), and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth (***This speaks of the true church of the Lord Jesus Christ, which the Lord shall rapture before tribulations resulting from the judgment of God upon the world.***)

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown (***Keep doing according to the true gospel of the cross that no man take your crown.***)

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, *which is* new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and *I will write upon him* my new name.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Jesus instructs the church of the Laodiceans

And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth (***This fellowship, as a church is lost because it has learned to trust in worldly riches, instead of God. They have “straddled the fence,” and only go through the motions of being disciples of Jesus and living the gospel. They have also lost their zeal for promoting the true gospel of the cross, which is the Spirit/angel of Lord Jesus Christ.***

Apparently this church had no financial burdens, and as a result replaced the Spirit of Christ for the spirit of the world’s wealth; some other angel which is not Christ. But Jesus appeal to individuals that were part of this church. He says, “I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see ...).

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3:1 - 3:22