

God's Challenge to the World

What is the greatest problem with the Laodicean church?

- Revelation 3:20 – Jesus is outside... I am not saying that He is outside of the church at this moment, for the Bible says (Revelation 1:13) Jesus is walking in the midst of the seven churches, but this means He is outside of the people's hearts, asking to come in. He is asking to be within, thus implying that He is without.
- Our hearts are being filled with other things rather than allowing God to reign as supreme!

Why are people running away from Jesus? Why is He not in our hearts?

Revelation 6:14-17 – Is it God's purpose that these men should die and experience His **wrath**?

- Romans 1:18-23 – Those who will experience the wrath of God are those who hold the truth in unrighteousness and thus are living ungodly lives! They know the truth and yet decide not to live it out that others may be led to Jesus! For when they knew God they did not glorify Him as God and worshiped creation rather than the creator!
- Testimonies for the church 1, 590.2 – “ I was shown that if those who are so closely connected with revealed truth give no special evidence in their lives that they are made better by the truth which is kept so constantly before them, if their lives do not testify to the fact that they are loving the truth and its sacred requirements more and more fervently, they are growing harder, and will be less and less affected by the truth and work of God, until they find themselves destitute of the emotions of the Spirit of God, dead to the heavenly impress of truth. Eternal things will not be discerned by them, but will be placed upon a low level with common things.”
- John 3:33-36 – God wants to seal us with His character that we would be protected from His wrath (Revelation 7:1-3), but many will experience God's wrath. Why will many experience God's wrath? Unbelief in God. If I believed God was coming I would be preparing my heart for Him, and by His grace removing all that dishonors Him.
- Testimonies for the church 5, 53.2 – “What say the testimonies concerning these things? Even one wrong trait of character, one sinful desire cherished, will eventually neutralize all the power of the gospel. The prevalence of a sinful desire shows the delusion of the soul. Every indulgence of that desire strengthens the soul's aversion to God. The pains of duty and the pleasures of sin are the cords with which Satan binds men in his snares. Those who would rather die than perform a wrong act are the only ones who will be found faithful.”

Why are they running away from Jesus?

- Unbelief, holding the truth in unrighteousness – through what medium? Idols!
- Isaiah 2:17-20 – These people are running from Jesus because they have been holding on to their idols.

What is an idol?

- *Test. 1, 436 - I saw that whatever divides the affections, or takes away from the heart supreme love for God, or prevents unlimited confidence and entire trust in Him, assumes the character and takes the form of an idol. There is allowed no separation of our affections from God.
- * LYL 72.3 – “It will require a strong will, in the strength of Jesus, to break up the force of habit, dismiss the adversary of souls that has been entertained by you so long. Exchange

guests, and welcome Jesus to take possession of the soul temple. But He does not share the heart with Satan.”

- School, television, movies, video games, fashions of the world, can become idols and thus separate us from God and thus drive us to run away from our Lord when He comes back!

Dangers of an Idol –

- Isaiah 44:10, 13, 17-20 – Takes away our desire to reflect Him and to know Him.
- Jeremiah 2:27-28 – In the time of trouble our idols cant save us

GC 489.2 – “If those who hide and excuse their faults could see how Satan exults over them, how he taunts Christ and holy angels with their course, they would make haste to confess their sins and to put them away. **Through defects in the character, Satan works to gain control of the whole mind, and he knows that if these defects are cherished, he will succeed. Therefore he is constantly seeking to deceive the followers of Christ with his fatal sophistry that it is impossible for them to overcome. But Jesus pleads in their behalf His wounded hands, His bruised body; and He declares to all who would follow Him:** "My grace is sufficient for thee." 2 Corinthians 12:9. "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. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." Matthew 11:29, 30. **Let none, then, regard their defects as incurable. God will give faith and grace to overcome them.**”

Babylon – My god my idol

Signs that Babylon is the god of this world/my life

- Isaiah 21:7-9 – Having idols in our lives

- **Jeremiah 50:1-2, 38** – Babylon will fall with her idols – As surely as we have idols in our lives, we reveal whom we have accepted as ruler in our lives. (Revelation 17:2-5; 18:2-3)
Babylon. We have committed fornication against our God and have accepted idols in place of Him!

- Jeremiah 51:7 – By having idols in our lives we are declaring that Babylon is our God!
- 2 Corinthians 4:4 – God of this world is blinding this world
- Revelation 18:23 – Through her sorceries – anything that medicates the mind away from God

Isaiah 47:1, 8-10 – Babylon claims to have the position of God and thus they show that there are people who are worshiping it rather than God by us having idols in our lives!

Gods Challenge - I am God and there is none else

- 7 times does God challenge these idols -
- Isaiah 41:21-24, 17-19 - God challenges these idols to satisfy the needs of the people like He can!
- 43:10-11 – I am God and there is none else
- 44:6 - I am God and there is none else
- 45:18,21,22 - I am God and there is none else
- 46:9 - I am God and there is none else

Medical Ministry 143.1 - The intelligent soul who has respect unto all of God's commandments, through the grace of Christ, will say to the passions of the heart as he points to God's great moral

standard of righteousness, "Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed," and the grace of Christ shall be as a wall of fire round about the soul.

3 Ways God gives challenge

Purpose: 41:20 – That they may be able to see

- A. Predictive prophecy
- B. Creative power – Creation
- C. Redemptive power - Redemption

1. Creative Power – 40:21-22; 41:17-19 –

- a. God makes something out of nothing – through His Word –
- b. Ezekiel 36:26-27 – Power to create a new heart = MANNA – Wilderness –
- c. What has the power to create life in us – His Word – 41:20 = That they may see and know –
- d. Example: Satan Verses God – creative power
- How where we created? Everything else was created by Gods mouth – His word we were created by touch but also sustained and maintained by His Word.

2. Redemptive Power –

- Isaiah 41:10-17 – to save to the ends of the earth – Romans 5:8 Example of Paul – II Timothy 3:11 – A Solution to suffering, pain, sickness

3. Predictive prophecy – Isaiah 46:9-10

- Ex. 41:2-4; 44:28; 45:1, 13-15 – God called Cyrus a century before he was even born to set the captives free – Characteristic of Jesus = Characteristic of Gods end time people = Isaiah 43:10 – WITNESS –
- Isaiah 41:25; 2 Chronicles 36:22-23 – How was Cyrus able to do such a powerful mission? He read his name in the Bible – He spent time with God – DEVOTIONS

****God's Challenge your challenge – Isaiah 43:7, 10 – God needs us to give this challenge!**

Appeal – How do we call people out of Babylon? How do we show that God is God and there is none else?

Making sure we are out of Babylon

- **Jeremiah 50:1-2, 34-38** – It is through the sword/word that we free people from idols and help them see their need for the Savior!
- Galatians 4:7-9 – When we don't know God we often times do serve idols. But when we do know Him (Jeremiah 29:13- seeking Him with all our hearts) why would we turn to things that held us in bondage again when Christ (:7) is giving us the opportunity to be heirs with Him! Often times we do this by turning the truth into a lie (Romans 1:25) by worshipping creation rather than the creator! But we can be like some in the Thessalonian church (**1 Thessalonians 1:6-10**) who turned from their idols to their God and waited for His soon return and thus gave a powerful testimony of their faith everywhere they went!
- ***3 Testimonies 543.1** – "Real godliness is diffusive and communicative. The psalmist says: "I have not hid Thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared Thy faithfulness and Thy

salvation: I have not concealed Thy loving-kindness and Thy truth from the great congregation." Wherever the love of God is, there is always a desire to express it.

- ***4 Testimonies 38.1** – Those who have a seat at the Saviour's side on His throne are only that class who have overcome as He overcame. Love for pure, sanctifying truth, love for the dear Redeemer, will lighten the labor of overcoming. His strength will be cheerfully granted to all who are really desirous of it. He will crown with grace and peace every persevering effort made in His name.

Now we can give this challenge by our...

Our lifestyle – What we profess

- Isaiah 42:6-7 – To open the blind eyes and to set the captives free
- Isaiah 43:7, 10; 45:14; 48:9-10 – Our lifestyle –
- Revelation 14:6-12, 1-5 - Preaching and living the three angels message

Our Literature

- **Revelation 18:1-5** – How do we call people out of the Babylonian lifestyle is – through the other angel giving light – **Literature Test 7. 140.3** – And in a large degree through our publishing houses...
- So here we see at Christ's second coming that many will be running to the rocks and mountains with their idols, recognizing that they didn't worship God but idols, and thus. for fear of His glory, they run to the mountains wanting to die with their idols! But by the testimony of our lives and our literature, many won't have to run from Jesus but run to Jesus!