

Revelation's HOPE

Lesson 20: Revelation's Last Call

I. Introduction

¹¹ He that is unrighteous, let him do unrighteousness still: and he that is filthy, let him be made filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him do righteousness still: and he that is holy, let him be made holy still. ¹² Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to render to each man according as his work is. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end" (**Rev. 22:11-13**, ASV).

- Still – "They continued to do_____". This a statement from heaven tell us that humanity got to the place where they just continued doing what they always did. "continued" is past action. Both sad and sobering at the same time.
- Book begins with Jesus and ends with Him.

II. Revelation's Last Call

¹⁷ And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And he that heareth, let him say, Come. And he that is athirst, let him come: he that will, let him take the water of life freely. ¹⁸ I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto them, God shall add unto him the plagues which are written in this book" (**Rev. 22:17-18**).

- Bride: **Revelation 12** – God's people; **Revelation 21** – the place where God's people dwell.
- The Church has an obligation from Jesus in **Matthew 28:18-20**.
- Why call the world to worship? Why proclaim?
- Jesus told Us To!
- Last Call = Drink the water of life freely.
- Why would anyone refuse? God is doing everything He can to help us see our need, but we make excuses.

III. Belonging to a Network of Friends

A. How do I know Which Church?

- **Revelation 12:17** – God's Church is described as keeping the Commandments of God (all of them!)
- **Hebrews 10:16** – God puts His law into the hearts of believers.
- **Revelation 12:17; 19:10** – The Church has the "Testimony of Jesus" which is the prophetic spirit. This means the Church is spirit led and has ALL the gifts of the spirit present – including prophecy like John had.
- **1 Cor. 1:17** – The gifts would be present at the "Revelation" of Jesus
- **Revelation 14:6-7** – We already learned about the message God wants proclaimed at the end. The Church will proclaim this: Creator worship; Judgment has come (1844); glorifying God with our spiritual gifts and bodies; warning the world that Babylon has fallen.

B. Summary of the Characteristics of God's True Church

- Recapture the pure faith of the disciples (**Revelation 14:12**)
- Keep God's Commandments (**Revelation 12:17**)
- Guided by the gift of prophecy (**Revelation 12:17; 19:10**)
- Be a worldwide, mission driven movement (message of **Rev. 14** is worldwide).
- Call people to total commitment to Christ (salvation) (**Rev. 14:6-7**)
- Lead people to the Bible Sabbath (**Rev. 14:6-7**)
- Encourage people to give their bodies to Him to "glorify God" (**Rev. 14**)
- The Church will become visible sometime after 1798 when the persecution that drove the woman of **Revelation 12** into the wilderness ends.
- Will proclaim a judgment hour message sometime around 1844 (**Rev. 14:6-7; Daniel 8:14**).

C. My Search

- I narrowed it down based upon which church rested as Jesus did in honor of Creation and Salvation (Sabbath).
- Only found a couple that fit that description.
- Then compared ALL of their beliefs to the Bible.
- Continued to evaluate the Church that fit the descriptions I just gave. Specifically I looked for the timeframe that the Church began its mission.
- Would come up after 1798 / 1844 (**Rev. 12**)
- Would teach a faith relationship with Jesus that includes keeping His Commandments (**Rev. 12: 17; Rev. 14:12**).
- Will be a worldwide movement (**Rev. 14:6**).
- Would preach a judgment hour message: Glorify God (Health), Worship Creator (Sabbath) to prepare people to meet God.
- Would have the gifts of the spirit including prophecy present (**Rev. 12:17; 19:10**).
- Found the Seventh-day Adventist Church to be the closest.
- Some things I discovered and have served to re-affirm this conclusion→

IV. Fruits of the Adventist Church

A. *The Adventists* on PBS by Martin Doblmeier

- "What I saw was the juxtaposition between the rather conservative, traditional faith that is Adventism and this 21st-century pioneering medical technology that they're doing, along with the wellness. For me the combination of those two things made for a really interesting storyline. And that became the basis of the film. What you're seeing now the beginning of the 21st century is a new appreciation - a new acceptance of the fact that as human beings we have three components: body, mind and spirit. And that trinity is critical to the understanding of how to treat people. If one of those components is ill or failing then the other two are in jeopardy. If you only treat one of those aspects - the body or the mind or the spirit - then the other two are being neglected, and I think the person really suffers. The

Adventists understood that right from the very beginning. Even 150 years ago that was part of the way they wanted to approach health care and medicine. They're not the only faith tradition that does that, but it's served them very well over these 150 years. Approach health care with the basic principle that you treat the whole person: body, mind and spirit. With this film, where I couldn't help but spend all this time in hospitals and wellness centers, how can I not take stock of the life that I've been living, and my diet - the way that I've been eating? Spending all these months making the film has really just forced me to rethink what I'm doing now in my late fifties and the kind of life that I'm living. I don't smoke. I don't drink except occasionally at a social gathering. But I'm asking myself, "Do you really want to be eating meat any longer? Do you want to think more about a plant-based diet? Shouldn't you be exercising more?" And it's really started to change the way that I approach my own life. I think I owe it to myself, my body. I think I owe it to my family. And I really do believe that my body is on loan from God, and so I think, in the end, taking care of my body is something that I owe back to God" (www.theadventiststhefilm.com).

B. Paul Harvey wrote in an article

"Have you wondered if health care is worth it? Consensus of most modern medical men is that you should exercise, keep your weight down, and avoid smoking cigarettes. An increasing number of physicians are recommending against alcohol, high-cholesterol meats and white-flour bread. These recommendations are based on the latest medical knowledge, though I can show you the same prescription for health in a book that's a hundred years old. Ellen White authored that book. To this day, Seventh-day Adventists accept her criteria. Since she has been proven right about so many things, perhaps we should examine what else she said".ⁱ

C. Health Message Accuracy Measurable:

1. 57,000 Adventist Living in California. "Dead ones were interviewed".
 2. The State of California, the United States Public Health Service, and the Adventist Church's Pacific Union Conference, analyzed available death certificates of all Adventists who had died over a five-year period. Seventh-day Adventists have a life expectancy five to six years greater than other Californians, 98 percent fewer from respiratory diseases, 88 percent fewer from TB and 85 percent fewer from pulmonary emphysema. Among all Adventists, there had been only nine cases of cancer of the lung and, further research revealed, each of these had at some time been a smoker. Adventists have 46 percent less strokes, 60 percent less heart disease".
- This is largely because of the guidance in health that we have received from the Bible and the writings of Ellen White.

- Questions that I initially asked: Who was this lady? Did she claim inspiration?

D. Ellen White's View of her writings

- "The testimonies of Sister White should not be carried to the front. God's Word is the unerring standard. The Testimonies are not to take the place of the Word... Let all prove their positions from the Scriptures and substantiate every point they claim as truth from the revealed Word of God" (Evangelism, p. 256).
- Her writings are to be the "lesser light, to lead us to the greater light" (*Selected Messages*, Book 3, p. 30).
- "It has tended to reaffirm the faith of the faithful to discover that the most advanced scientific findings support what was written and taught by this amazing little lady. Ellen White, more than a hundred years ago.... If some of her recommendations sound extreme, imagine how they all must have sounded in 1863. Yet modern science continues more and more to say, 'She was right!' (Paul Harvey News, March 1969).
- If you have found a community of faith that is this uplifting of Jesus and has benefited much by the fruits of the Spirit, then why not be a part of it?

V. Lots of Excuses for not Joining the Church

A. Common Excuses

- I'm not good enough to join! – more joy in heaven over 1 who repents.
- The Church is not good enough, there are hypocrites in the Church! NOT PERFECT
- What will family think? WHO do we follow?
- I do not believe in organization! What if everyone thought that way? A worldwide movement needs organization!
- I want to learn more – valid reason. I have a resource we can go through. REALIZE→ God's Church is not the Majority, but truth does not have to be voted by the majority to be truth! Elijah is one example – thousands against him, yet he stood for GOD!
- Unanswered questions – we will ever have our understanding enlightened as we continue learning more and there are items we will have to wait to fully understand until the coming ages (**Ephesians 1**).
- The popular preachers are not teaching this. They did not do so in Jesus' day either.

B. Revelation's Last Call is for YOU!

- The Spirit and the Bride say "Come"! As a follower of Christ (part of the Bride) I can only say "Come!". The Holy Spirit convicts you, people may direct you, but ultimately YOU must stand for truth!
- ¹⁹ and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life, and out of the holy city, which are written in this book. ²⁰ He who testifieth these things saith, Yea: I come quickly. Amen: come, Lord Jesus. ²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with the saints. Amen" (**Rev 22:1-21**, ASV).
- Find a church that points you to Jesus!

- Find a church that encourages you to be ready!
- Be the Church God wants us to be!
- When you take the step to join God's commandment-keeping people, you do not any truth you have believed in the past – you simply FOLLOW THE LAMB!

C. Your decision

- There are at least three decisions that can be made at this point.
- Unite – you want to visit with the pastor about joining the commandment-keeping movement called the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
- If you wish to do so, then please indicate to the pastor what way you would like to join: Bible baptism (immersion) or Profession of faith (for those who have already experienced Bible baptism).
- Rebaptism – you may have already been baptized by immersion, yet you feel you have wandered from the Lord in some way. Or you may have been baptized without a complete understanding of what it truly meant to be a follower of Christ. If so, then I would suggest you prayerfully consider rebaptism. Maybe you were sprinkled as an infant and felt that was good enough – being baptized fully may seem like a rebaptism to you, but why not follow Christ's example?
- Why not Follow the Lamb! (**Revelation 7 & 14**).

¹(Paul Harvey News, March 1969).