
Lesson 68 - Laodicea: God's Diagnosis

"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;" (Revelation 3:17)

The Emperor's new clothes

Do you remember reading the tale of the Emperor's new clothes as a child? The emperor, in his pride, is lifted up and he is deluded into believing a new set of clothes that are so fine were made for him. He put on these "clothes" and went off down the street. Everyone told him what fine clothes he had, when he wasn't actually wearing anything! Everyone is deluded into the same lie, until a young honest child said "he's not wearing anything!"

That is a perfect example of what God says this age is. They are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked and they don't know it!

Thousands of Christians and churches today are this emperor. They are going about as if everything is wonderful and just fine, but they are blind and naked. Only someone who has lost their mind can be blind and naked and not even know it! Spiritually, the church of this age is claiming they have need of nothing – but they HAVE NOTHING! Not clothes or sight!

We find a church that is wretched. One that has all kinds of money, but no peace or happiness.

We find a church that is miserable. They don't even know how bad they are or how they are in the curse of organization.

We find a church that is poor. They have money and big churches, they have filled altars and speaking in tongues, but they lack the true baptism, they lack the new birth!

We find a church that is blind. They think they have it all, and can see it all. They do not realize they need to be taught.

We find a church that is naked. They have refused to put on the Word of God.

We find a church that doesn't even know it is any of these things and thinks the exact opposite!!

Rather than being blind and naked as the church of this age is, God sent us a messenger to declare the truth. His desire was this:



"I hope He will crown my ministry of this, of letting me take the clothes of the Word, and dress His Bride in the clothes of the Word, and for His righteousness. I hope He will crown me, let me stand on that day, say, "Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world."

(62-0908 - Present Stage of My Ministry)

The True Church of this day is not blind and naked. God has sent sight through a keen-eyed prophet-eagle. That prophet is dressing the Bride, the True Church, with the Word of God

How we ought to be like David

"O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day." (Psalm 119:97)

To love the Word of God is so crucial to the True Church. Without it we are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked and don't even know it.

Assignment: Reading: Pages 345 – 349

Questions

- 1) Wretched comes from two Greek words meaning? _____
- 2) Miserable means: _____
- 3) “Pity those who do not know the _____ of _____.”
- 4) “They are poor” means they are _____.
- 5) Why does Brother Branham say that filled altars and the gifts of the Spirit in operation is not the answer from God? _____

- 6) What does glossolalia mean? (look in dictionary) _____

- 7) Tongues are a sign of _____.
- 8) How can one be blind and naked and not know it? _____.
- 9) Can Scripture fight Scripture? _____
- 10) Does the Bible contradict the Bible? _____
- 11) Can two doctrines of truth in the Word say the opposite or oppose one another? _____
- 12) What percentage of God’s people have learned all Scripture is given by God and all is profitable for doctrine? _____%.
- 13) People became blind because they refused the _____. What did they choose instead?

Memorize: “Now this messenger of Malachi 4 and Revelation 10:7 is going to do two things. One: According to Malachi 4 he will turn the hearts of the children to the fathers. Two: He will reveal the mysteries of the seven thunders in Revelation 10 which are the revelations contained in the seven seals. It will be these Divinely revealed 'mystery-truths' that literally turn the hearts of the children to the Pentecostal fathers. Exactly so.”

Lesson 69 - Laodicea: Final Counsel

"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." (Revelation 3:18,19)

Gold

In the last lesson we talked about the Emperor's New Clothes. As this lesson is about gold, we'll continue the fairy tale theme and talk about King Midas. King Midas was granted his request that everything he touched was turned to gold. At first, he was so joyous as to the riches he was creating, but soon, he grew sorrowful because he realized he could never again hold his daughter.



So many think, like King Midas, that gold and riches are so important, but when it finally comes to where they feel they *"have enough"* they realize with sorrow how much they have had to trade, in character and relationships, to obtain what they felt was *"enough"*. Finally, they realize the price to obtain that gold was very high.

So too has this Laodicean Church, traded the things of God and a true relationship with Him, for riches, big churches, and large congregations. They become the King Midas of churches, rich and powerful, but they can no longer hold their God. He has left their church. Their *"answer"* to problems has been money and programs, but they are devoid of the Spirit.

Here in our Scripture, He is counseling them to buy gold from Him! You see, for Him to say this must mean the church has been getting gold from somewhere – anywhere - but not from Him. That's why He is saying buy from ME, because their gold is no good, and what they have obtained, they didn't get from Him!

Character, the only thing that goes with you.

So what is the gold that we will receive from Him? What is the gold He is saying to buy of me? It's the gold that is *"tried in the fire"*. Brother Branham writes:

*"THE GOLD OF GOD IS A CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER PRODUCED IN THE FIERY FURNACE OF AFFLICTION. THAT IS THE RIGHT KIND OF GOLD."*¹

So, the church of Laodicea is happy about her wealth and affluence in the worldly systems, but that is not going with them when they die. Only the Gold of God, produced in the fiery furnace of affliction, is lasting; the character that is molded in you by the things that you go through. Remember what we read on page 117/127 p27? (*"Character is a Victory, not a gift"* – go read it!) Peter even tells us in his letter:

"But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." (I Peter 5:10)

If our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ had to suffer, do you think we will not have any suffering? The suffering and affliction we endure produces something very valuable. When we suffer the loss of a loved one, we gain empathy for others who have gone through a similar loss.

Christ was even tempted in every way with the same as the temptations we go through. He fully understands us and knows the battle we go through

Imagine suffering a heartbreak or loss of some kind, and having a friend who has never experienced the same thing. Your friend doesn't understand why you are taking it so hard, or struggling with whatever problem you may be facing. Does this help you? No, it doesn't. Then the same friend goes through the struggle later and comes back to you and says, "I didn't understand, but I do now. I'm sorry I wasn't more helpful". Why does this kind of thing happen? Because, through the fiery furnace of affliction your friend has learned *CHARACTER!*

Rebuke, Chasten, Repent

Because this Church Age has gone after a different kind of gold, and building their own "spiritual" house, God is rebuking them. God is chastening them to come back. He's telling them in love they need to repent. What a statement is made in this lesson:

"YES, THIS IS THE AGE THAT MOST NEEDS TO REPENT. BUT WILL IT? WILL IT BRING BACK THE WORD? WILL IT AGAIN ENTHRONE THE HOLY SPIRIT IN MEN'S LIVES? WILL IT AGAIN REVERE JESUS AS THE ONLY SAVIOUR?"

Don't let the mark of this Church Age be on you. Make sure that YOU repent. That YOU buy of God the gold that lasts.

Assignment: Reading: Pages 349 – 356

Questions

- 1) How many hopes does God direct the church to? _____
- 2) Who is that hope? _____
- 3) What is the Gold of God and where is it produced? _____

- 4) What has the church of this age made the criterion of Spirituality? _____
- 5) What is the only thing we can take with us when we die? _____
- 6) *Challenge/Application:* In what ways do you think the church tries to buy out of sin and buy in to heaven? _____

- 7) What price do we pay to be clothed with garments in this “naked and don’t know it” age? _____

- 8) Without the Spirit of God the church will substitute _____ for power and _____ for Word.
- 9) (True/False) It says in Hebrews God chastens the ones that love Him. _____
- 10) “To reprove is to _____.”
- 11) Chasten means to discipline because the _____.
- 12) He desired in _____ a _____ of His own.
- 13) What zeal is God calling for? The zeal to cry _____.

Memorize: “Now this messenger of Malachi 4 and Revelation 10:7 is going to do two things. One: According to Malachi 4 he will turn the hearts of the children to the fathers. Two: He will reveal the mysteries of the seven thunders in Revelation 10 which are the revelations contained in the seven seals. It will be these Divinely revealed 'mystery-truths' that literally turn the hearts of the children to the Pentecostal fathers. Exactly so.”

¹ Page 351/402 p133