

CHRIST'S SCRIPTURE PROPHECY ON CONTEMPORARY EVANGELICALISM

Part I: Identifying Revelation 3:14-22 As Christ's Message To Contemporary Evangelicalism (1950-now!)

I. Introduction

A. Though all Scripture is God-breathed and equips us unto doing every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17), it would be very important for us to **heed God's comments to us in our era WERE** He to have *made* them!

B. I believe Christ has **prophetically** addressed *current Evangelicals* in Revelation 3:14-22 as follows:

II. Identifying Revelation 3:14-22 As Christ's Message To Contemporary Evangelicalism (1950-now!)

A. First, Revelation **contains some** prophecy about *every* believer between John and eternity, cf. Rev. 1:1, 3:

1. Rev. 1:1,3 shows the Revelation is God's message to His servants on what will occur in the **near term**!

2. Well, John wrote the Revelation over 1900 years ago (Ryrie Study Bible: KJV, 1978 ed., p. 1785), so for the Revelation to be **near term** for **some** of God's servants, there **must** be **sections of prophetic messages** in the book of the Revelation that address *each Christian's ERA* in **Church History**.

B. Second, **very reputable** prophecy experts, Dr. John F. Walvoord and J. Dwight Pentecost **respectively** note the Revelation 2-3 churches can or do represent **seven successive eras** of **Church History**, and that beginning with the Apostolic Church era (B.K.C., N. T., p. 932; Pentecost, Things To Come, p. 151-153).

C. Third, **each** Rev. 2-3 message begins with the Greek words, *Tade legei* which elsewhere in the entire N.T. appear **only** in Acts 21:11 for a **prophetic** announcement by the Holy Spirit for a **near term** event, cf. UBS Grk. N.T., p. 844; Analyt. Grk. Lex., p. 396; Moulton & Geden, A Conc. of the Grk. Test., p. 683. This signals the seven Rev. 2-3 messages are **prophecies** of **consecutive ERAs** of Church History.

D. Fourth, the phrase "he that hath ears to hear, let him hear" appearing in **each** Rev. 2-3 message signals **each** message is in **parable form** to be **Biblically clarified** for the **godly**, cf. Matthew 13:9, 10-17.

E. Fifth, using such **Biblical clarification**, we identified seven eras in our "Thru the Bible Synthesis" with the Philadelphian Church of Rev. 3:7-13 being the **6th** era of Fundamentalism [ending at WW II].

F. Sixth, in viewing Rev. 3:7-13 in that study, we saw the world would be tried to judge 20th century Liberal Theology's promotion of uniformitarian evolution, a belief also denying the 2 Peter 3:4-9 prediction **Fundamentalist's** held, that the world would pass away with great heat. So, the close of WWII with the atom bomb was God's evidence of the **truth** of the 2 Peter 3:4-9 prediction to **support Fundamentalism**.

G. [Note: Teachers often treat the **7th** era, the Rev. 3:14-22 **Laodicean Church** as unregenerates who enter the Tribulation, meaning believers **only** up to the Fundamentalist era are **raptured** (Ibid., Pentecost, p. 212f). Yet, Rev. 3:19 shows Christ treats the Laodiceans as **God's true sons** (Heb. 12:6-8), so Laodicea pictures **true Christians**, so the rapture comes at Revelation 4:1 (to start the "hereafter").]

H. Seventh, **after** WWII, around 1950, "new evangelicals" tried to **boost outreach** by (1) **abandoning Fundamentalism's separation** from the world (2) and asserting a presumed **more marketable** Reformed **posture** (3) and interact **intellectually** with the lost, Armstrong, The Coming Evangelical Crisis, p. 29-31.

I. Eighth, the **result** has been an **unedifying** advance of the **Calvinist-Arminian SPLIT**, Ibid., p. 32-33:

1. Charismatics, who are **all Arminian**, **reacted** to Calvin's predestinationism in the Reformed **posturing**, going **deep** into **false experience** (Quebedeaux, The New Charismatics, p. 30f; Ibid., Armstrong, 179).

2. Their preoccupation with philosophy in "New Arminian" evangelicals trying to evangelize intellectuals led them to react to Calvinism as did **old Liberals** and create similar **deep** error, Ibid., Armstrong, 33f!

J. Well, Christ's Rev. 3:15-16 complaint the Laodiceans are **neither** the **desired** "cold" or "hot" water (Rev. 3:15) **MATCHES** this **significant twofold classification** of **evangelicals** that **follows Fundamentalism**:

1. Archaeology and Rev. 3:15f indicates Laodicea piped cold water from Colossae and hot water from Heliopolis using conduits laid **overland**. Yet, this **exposure** left **both lukewarm**, New Bib. Dic., 717.

2. Similarly, the **Calvinist wing TRIES** to advance **doctrinal vibrancy** (the **desired** "cold water") and the **Arminian wing TRIES** to advance **experiential vibrancy** (the **desired** "hot water"). Yet, as we will display in future lessons, there are **grave** deficiencies in **both theologies** and their **effects** on life and ministry (lukewarm)! [That something big is amiss is evident as **even 14 Reformed belief leaders** have called for a **big change** in the movement to avoid a "potentially lethal" crisis, Ibid., Armstrong, p. 18.]

Lesson: Christ's word to the Laodiceans of Rev. 3:14-22 is a **critical call** to 1950-current Evangelicals!

Application: Thus, we ALL must **HEED** it for blessing in **OUR** lives **NOW** (Rev. 3:22 and "churches").