

CHRIST'S SCRIPTURE PROPHECY ON CONTEMPORARY EVANGELICALISM

Part II: Christ's All-Sufficiency For Evangelicalism Presented

A. Christ's All-Sufficiency For Discipling The Godly (Revelation 3:14b(a))

I. Introduction

- A. If Christ has predicted our **current Evangelical** era of Church History, we should expect Him to comment on effective ministry to His **godly** believers in **our Evangelical Church** era with its **unique** needs.
- B. Revelation 3:14b(a) shows us Christ's All-Sufficiency for discipling the **godly** believer **today** as follows:

II. Christ's All-Sufficiency For Discipling The Godly, Revelation 3:14b(a)

- A. In **preparing to comment** on **today's Evangelical era**, Jesus laid out a threefold **description** of **Himself** in Revelation 3:14b: He is "The Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, The Head of the Creation of God."
- B. The **first** description, "The Amen," shows Christ's All-Sufficiency in **discipling today's godly believers**:
 1. The words "**the Amen**" exist **elsewhere only twice** in the **Greek N.T.** -- once in 1 Cor. 14:16 and once again in 2 Cor. 1:20 (Moulton & Geden, A Concordance to the Greek Testament, p. 51-52).
 2. These passages in their contexts explain what is needed for the **godly** to elicit "the Amen" as opposed to the two major wings in Evangelicalism -- that of the Charismatic-Arminians and that of Calvinism:
 - a. In 1 Cor. 14:(15-)16, **Paul** said for "the Amen" to occur, the speaker must use a **known human tongue hearers logically** discern in the **mind** (*noi*, UBS Grk. N.T., p. 609; T.D.N.T., IV, p. 959)!
 - b. In 2 Cor. 1:18-20, **Paul** said "the Amen" occurs if the speaker is **unambiguous** (not "yes and no").
 - c. Also, **Paul** in 2 Cor. 1:20 NIV taught the **message Christ uses** to **elicit** "the Amen" asserts Christ fulfilled God's Old Testament promises (B.K.C., N.T., p. 557). **Paul elsewhere** reveals if one **holds** this belief about Christ, he **affirms** (a) **dispensationalism**, (b) the **end** of the **Law's jurisdiction** for the **Church** and (c) **living** by the **Spirit's power** (Gal. 3:10-4:7; Eph. 2:11-3:6; Rom. 11:25-29).
- C. Applying this "the Amen" description to **today's Evangelicals** gives us Christ's **commentary** on them:
 1. First, we note two major **errant** belief systems exist regarding discipling the godly in Evangelicalism:
 - a. Charismatic-Arminians try to proclaim God's message in "tongues" that are not known human languages or speak alleged prophetic utterances not agreeing with written Scripture or hold to illogic in beliefs or let ambiguous statements ["yes and no"] occur in the pastoral ministry that thus sabotages the hearing of "the Amen" from the godly (A. Mohler, Jr., "Evangelical: What's In A Name," p. 31-39 in John H. Armstrong, ed., The Coming Evangelical Crisis, reports on this problem in Evangelicalism); thus, they fail to edify the godly. Thus, **claiming** one cannot know **absolute** truth is also in error, a problem also fueled by Arminians
 - b. Also, failure by Calvinistic, Covenant Theology/Reformed Evangelicals to extol Christ's fulfillment of the Abrahamic promises has led to their failing to hold to **dispensationalism** (including a failure to hold to a **consistent** literal, grammatical, historical method of interpretation [cf. Charles C. Ryrie, Dispensationalism Today, p. 86-109; 177-191; J. D. Pentecost, Things To Come, p. 66]; as a result, rather than asserting the **TRUTHS** that Christ ended the principle of rule by law for Jew and Gentile at the Cross, and that He instituted the Church dispensation and offers a victorious spiritual life by **grace** for the believer who depends upon the **Spirit's** power, **legalism** has pervaded Evangelicalism!
 2. **Christ** causes the godly to **say** the "Amen" as the speaker does just the **opposite** (as itemized below)!

Lesson: (1) Christ shows Evangelicals often **FAIL** godly hearers via two main errant theologies: (a) Arminians have used false languages or illogic, or have held to pluralistic views or distrusted Scripture's inspiration or not expounded Scripture, and (b) Calvinists have opposed dispensationalism and promoted false legalism when they should have done the opposite! (2) As the solution, Christ will **CAUSE** the godly to give "the Amen" if the speaker (a) expounds written Scripture (b) as he himself trusts the written Bible to be God's (c) infallible, (d) verbally inerrant, (e) inspired Word, and (f) if he speaks its truth (g) in a known human language (h) that the hearer logically knows, (i) and he thus upholds Christ's fulfillment of the Old Testament promises (j) that assert dispensational truth ((k) so he also affirms the consistent literal, grammatical and historical interpretation method (l) so that he extols freedom from the Law and all false legalism, and (m) upholds victorious living by the Spirit's power!