

# CHRIST'S SCRIPTURE PROPHECY ON CONTEMPORARY EVANGELICALISM

## Part IV: Christ's All-Sufficiency Applied For Victory

### A. Christ's All-Sufficiency Offered To Wean Us From The Idol Of Evangelicalism To Himself

### 2. Christ's All-Sufficiency Posed To Use Evangelicalism's Persecutors To Wean Us From It To Himself

#### c. Christ's Offer To Let Persecutors Shift Our Beliefs From Evangelicalism's Errors To His Truth (Revelation 3:18b[c])

#### I. Introduction

A. If Christ predicted our current Evangelical era of Church History and critiqued our errant actions and beliefs thereby, we should expect Him to offer His **specific solutions** to these needs.

B. Rev. 3:18b **continues** Christ's words offering **solutions** in changing our **errant beliefs** in Evangelicalism.

#### II. Christ's Offer To Let Persecutors Shift Our Beliefs From Evangelicalism's Errors To His Truth.

A. Jesus counsels Evangelicals to "buy from me . . . salve to put on your eyes, so you can see," 3:18b[c] NIV

B. In the previous two lessons, we learned that to "buy" anything from Christ means to gain blessing by way of God's grace, cf. T.D.N.T., vol. I, p. 126. Hence, such insight is to come by God's **grace**.

C. To understand this process of gaining "eyesight" by **grace**, we view the historical and Scripture contexts:

1. The Laodiceans made a **poultice** from mineralized tablets that were sliced from a cylinder, reduced to powder and smeared on the eyes for healing, W. Ramsay, The Letters To The Seven Churches, p. 429.

2. Elsewhere in Scripture, **only** in John 9 did **Christ** (as posed in Rev. 3:18b[c]) use a **poultice** on one's **eyes** to give **physical** sight, cf. Ryrie Study Bible, KJV, 1978 ed., p. 1887.

3. As we learned from Rev. 3:17 that the "sight" **needed** in this context is **spiritual, not physical**, we study John 9 (KJV) to discern how Christ in grace would want to give us **spiritual insight** as follows:

a. To heal a man who had been **born blind** in John 9:1-7, Jesus made a clay **poultice** of spittle and dirt, smeared it on his eyes and **sent** him to wash it off in the pool of Siloam ("Siloam" = "sent").

b. When the Pharisees learned of his healing, they tried to get him to discredit Jesus for healing him in violation of their rules. He replied, "How could a man that is a sinner do such miracles?" (9:13-16)

c. When asked **again** about Jesus, the healed man told the Pharisees, "He is a prophet," John 9:17.

d. Still trying to find a way to discredit Jesus, the Pharisees asked him again to tell how he was healed, 9:24-26. Frustrated, the man replied, "I have told you already . . . wherefore would ye hear it again? will ye also be his disciples?" a comment that resulted in his being **reviled** by the Pharisees, 9:28.

e. In continuing to interact with the Pharisees, this man said, "Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. If this man were not of God, he could do nothing," a remark that cost him excommunication from the synagogue by these Pharisees, 9:31-34.

f. Jesus later met the oppressed man to ask if he believed on the "Son of God," a reference to His **deity**, John 9:35 with John 5:18. Already believing Jesus to be a prophet, he asked Jesus who that was. When Jesus replied, "Thou has both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee," this man believed Jesus was God, and so **worshipped** Him as such as a believer with **eternal life**, 9:36-38.

g. Hence, by use of the poultice, Jesus **arranged** for the blind man to come into a **theological conflict** with the **Pharisees** so he would inadvertently expose their error by his own observations, only to be persecuted for it, and by Christ's aid go from viewing Jesus as a mere "man" all the way to trusting Him as God for salvation, 9:11-38. **Jesus said this fit His goal to give spiritual insight, Jn. 9:39.**

D. Thus, similar to the cases of the last two lessons, Christ counsels us to ask **Him** graciously to **arrange** for **us** to be "**cornered**" into theologically **conflicting** with errant Evangelicals so that we **inadvertently expose** their **errors** by our own observations. That results in their **persecuting** us. This persecution **pain** leaves us no recourse but to look to Christ for discernment of the truth (1 Corinthians 2:11-15 and 2 Timothy 1:13-14) to handle the pain, so Christ gives us His insight with its great, resulting blessings!

**Lesson:** (1) Christ counsels us to **ASK Him to ARRANGE** for us ("**eye salve**") to be **CORNERED** into interactions with **ERRANT Evangelicals** so we will **inadvertently EXPOSE** their error by our own observations to the **IRRITATION** of the carnal. (2) This leads to our being **PERSECUTED**, producing a reliance on the Lord for discernment to ease the pain of persecution, so we gain His blessed insight!

**Application:** May we ask God for "**eye salve**" to grow in our **INSIGHT** of His **TRUTH** for **BLESSING**!