

CHRIST'S SCRIPTURE PROPHECY ON CONTEMPORARY EVANGELICALISM

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

C. Christ's All-Sufficiency Offered For Great Blessing To Those Free Of Errant Evangelicalism

2. Christ's All-Sufficiency Offered To Give Blessing In Victory Over Worldliness (Revelation 3:21-22)

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. 3:21-22 **finishes** Christ's word on **solutions** for those who have been **freed** of errant Evangelicalism:

II. Christ's All-Sufficiency Offered To Give Blessing In Victory Over Worldliness, Revelation 3:21-22.

- A. As Christ offered to let persecution yield a mature faith in Him (gold), separation from errant fellowships (white garments) and insight (eye salve) in Rev. 3:18, **three** of the **five needs** in Rev. 3:17 are thus met.
- B. Then, we learned Rev. 3: 20 depicts victory over rule by the sin nature ["wretched" (KJV)], so Rev. 3:21 must tell of victory over the **world** ["miserable" (KJV)]. This fact is ratified by Christ's Rev. 3:21 words: there victors overcome as **Christ says He Himself** did, and the **only other passage** where **Christ claimed** to do **that** is in John 16:33 where **He said He** overcame the **world** (Moulton & Geden, A Conc. to the Grk. Test., p. 665-666); Rev. 3:21 thus tells of victory over the **world** as Jesus overcame it (in John 1:1-16:33).
- C. Also, we learned in Part III, B, 2 of this series that "miserable" (KJV) critiques the errant Calvinistic and Arminian views that teach God's election results in justification where it really results in post-justification blessings. We also learned this **error** has led to a tendency for **worldliness** in current Evangelicalism.
- D. We thus exegete Rev. 3:21-22 for insight on God's way of victory over **worldliness** in Evangelicalism:
 - 1. Last lesson, we learned the **only other** N.T. passage where a **superior knocks** to gain entrance from a **subordinate besides** Revelation 3:20a is Luke 12:36; Ibid., Moulton & Geden, p. 563.
 - 2. Coupled with that passage is the **related** parable of Luke 12:41-48, cf. Bib. Know. Com., N.T., p. 239, and **that** parable alludes to a master offering a great oversight reward like Christ offers in Rev. 3:21!
 - 3. That steward's job is **expanded** for refusing to abuse his master's **other** servants [under the steward's oversight] even if taxing circumstances sorely tempt him to do otherwise to meet his worldly lusts:
 - a. The word "sensible" KJV, *phronimos* describes the good steward in Luke 12:42, and elsewhere in Luke's writings exists **only** in Luke 16:8, Ibid., Moulton & Geden, p. 995. There a steward who was about to be fired made the most of his days on the job to secure his welfare for the future!
 - b. The steward is faithfully to ration out his master's food allowance to the house servants, Lk. 12:42.
 - c. The steward fails and is punished if he hoards the food and beats the master's other servants to meet his worldly lusts rather than do his job out of a sense of accountability to the master, Luke 12:45-48.
- E. We now arrange this information in view of the Rev. 3:21 context to discern its **message** as follows:
 - 1. If a **pastor starts** to heed Rev. 3:18-20, he must **KEEP** gently, faithfully rationing out God's Word versus indulging his **worldly** lusts (cf. 1 Jn. 2:16) by abusing God's people.
 - 2. As a result, **Christ** promises **Himself** to **extend** the pastor's influence over **all He Himself** rules! Psalm 110 in light of Rev. 3:21b indicate this includes **God's** subduing this pastor's opponents, giving him supportive subordinates and encouragement in his own ministry efforts.
 - 3. Also, as we saw that "I counsel" in Rev. 3:18a referred to Jn. 18:14 & 11:47-51 where Caiphas foretold Jesus would die to save (in one the scattered) people of God, Christ implies (3:18a with 3:21) a pastor applying Rev. 3:18-21 in self-sacrificially accepting its trials would be used by God in a fashion as was Jesus Who submitted to the cross -- to salvage the true unity of God's people worldwide!
- F. **Verse 22 applies this Rev. 3:14-22 passage to the churches, or the man in the PEW! (see below)!**

Lesson: By accepting the "cross" of submitting to God's Rev. 3:18-21 program of suffering and gently, faithfully feeding God's Word versus pressuring people to meet his lusts, God will give a pastor ministry influence over ALL the flock of God worldwide to its blessing and unity!

Application: (1) May pastors yield to God's program in Rev. 3:18-21 and minister His Word gently and faithfully versus fulfilling their worldly lusts! (2) May those in the PEW also heed Rev. 3:14-22 by staying true to God's will and praying for and encouraging our leaders to heed this passage. Amen.