

THRU THE BIBLE SYNTHESIS
"Part LXIII: Revelation, Section 2 - ('The Things Which Are')
Christ's Edicts For US In OUR Era"

Need: "If Christ will bless us Christians NOW if we DO HIS will, and I want to DO that, then WHAT IS His will for us in OUR era?!"

- I. **From the last lesson we learned that Christ's words to the churches of Revelation 2-3 address Christians throughout Church History.**
- II. **We view each message to understand Christ's directives to us:**
 - A. Christ's Word To "Ephesus," the ***Apostolic Church**, Rev. 2:1-7:
 1. "Ephesus", meaning "Desired", epitomizes the Apostolic Church.
 2. This group was to cease losing its first love in working too hard to preserve the Church's purity for **future** historical eras.
 3. Overcomers would be blessed as Christ used their **foundational** efforts to influence **future** generations from error, Rev. 2:7. This was fulfilled by the Apostolic writings being placed into Scripture.
 - B. Christ's Word To "Smyrna," the ***Persecuted Church**, Rev. 2:8-11.
 1. "Smyrna," or "myrrh", used for burial = the Persecuted Church.
 2. Christ told its believers to face persecution by **faith** for His help.
 - C. Christ's Word To "Pergamum," the ***State-Church**, 2:12-17.
 1. "Pergamum" = "fully wed," is Constantine's State-Church union.
 2. As **Nimrodian paganism** was banned via this union, it **infiltrated** the Church for survival and eventually soiled its worship rituals.
 3. Bible teaching = the answer, 2:12-17; Athanasius overcame here!
 - D. Christ's Word To "Thyatira," the ***Roman Church**, 2:18-29.
 1. "Thyatira" = "citadel of sacrifice," the ritual of the Catholic mass.
 2. This body was to retract its **Nimrodianism** or be judged, 2:20-23.
 3. Overcomers would shatter this unrepentant Church's control over the nations. Luther and others stand out as overcomers, 2:24-29.
 - E. Christ's Word To "Sardis," the ***Reformation Church**, Rev. 3:1-6.
 1. "Sardis" (famed for vitality when it is dead) = Reformation Church.
 2. Christ ordered it to **apply** creedal beliefs by **faith** for spiritual vitality, 3:1-6. Whitfield, Wesley & Edwards were overcomers.
 - F. Christ's Word to "Philadelphia," or ***Fundamentalism**, 3:7-13:
 1. "Philadelphia," or "Brotherly Love," is Fundamentalism that upheld Christ's deity & Bible inerrancy vers. Liberal Theology that came by rationalism, 3:8; Walv., Jes. Chr. Our Lord, p. 12-13.
 2. *Christ awarded rescue from trial for use of 2 Pet. 3:4-9 in teaching His **patience** explained His return's delay **versus** Liberal Theology's uniformitarian evolutionism that **denied** it, Rev. 3:10; *Ibid.*, Walv.*
 3. *This reward was keeping trouble from those who resisted the error, accounting for Germany's defeat in World Wars I & II for apostasy!*
 4. *WW II's atomic bomb was then God's **warning** that the **prophecy** in 2 Pet. 3:4-10 **BOTH** of Liberalism's uniformitarian apostasy that denied Christ's coming **AND** the world's fiery end was **TRUE!***
 5. *Jesus encouraged Fundamentalists while **warning** them to **hold fast** to their **stand** lest anyone rob them of their **crown**, Rv. 3:7,11.*
 6. *An overcomer in this era was J. G. Machan of Princeton, among many other notable leaders in conservative Christian circles.*
 - G. Christ's Word to "Laodicea," Post-Liberal ***Evangelicals**, 3:14-22*:
 1. *"Laodicea" means "The People Rule," showing laymen who transfer their distrust for **past, apostate** leaders to new Bible church ones, resulting in chaotic power struggles in many groups!*
 2. *Christ rejects a pastor's various efforts to **control** insubordinate "laymen" in order to retain their jobs instead of trusting **God!***

- a. Christ rejects "cold" **inhibiting** pressures by doctrinally sound pastors, showing their 5-point fundamentals of doctrine are not applied by such legalistic, carnal efforts, Rev. 3:14-16,17.
 - b. He also rejects the "hot" **uninhibiting** efforts of Charismatic pastors as being **false**, Rev. 3:19 ("be zealous" is a **satire** on the **misuse** of the word, "zealous" in 1 Co. 12 & 14 to push "gifts")!
 - 3. Pastors must trust Christ to control the "laymen" and just teach the Word or suffer removal from leadership, Rev. 3:16! Heeding Christ here will lead to God's expanding their leadership, 3:20-21!
 - 4. "Laymen" must not view **all** pastors as **carnal**, but let Christ reveal **which** men really **are** His spokesmen, Jer. 42:1-44:30 with "faithful & true witness" of Rv. 3:14! Heeding Christ insures His blessing to us via leaders; failure in this cuts off God's blessing to us thru them!
- III. **Revelation 2-3 adds to the "thread of redemption" by showing that believers in TODAY'S era can be blessed by God through heeding Christ's prophetic edicts regarding their CURRENT challenges!**

Lesson Application: (1) For our mainly Laodicean group, we must (a) believe on Christ as Savior (Jn. 3:16) and (b) fellowship with Him by confessing sins (1 Jn. 1:9) & depend on the Spirit (Ga. 5:16-23) to obey Scripture (1 Jn. 2:3-6). (c) Then apply II, G, 3-4 for blessing! (2) For us from Catholic or "dead" Reformation origins, we must apply II, D, 2-3 and II, E, 2 respectively. (3) For us who began in Fundamentalism, we must hold fast (krateo) to our stands on Christ's deity, Scripture's inerrancy & creation (vrs. uniformitarian evolution) against pressures from men to give in on such stands, II, F, 1, 2, 5.

Nepaug Bible Church - <http://www.nepaugchurch.org> - Pastor's Sermon Notes - <http://www.nepaugchurch.org/Sermons/zz19970216.htm>