

"THE WORDS OF THE LORD ARE PURE WORDS, LIKE SILVER TRIED IN
A FURNACE OF EARTH, PURIFIED SEVEN TIMES.
YOU SHALL KEEP THEM, O LORD, YOU SHALL PRESERVE THEM FROM
THIS GENERATION FOREVER." (PSALM 12: 6 & 7)

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“Open Rebellion”

“There are those who rebel against the light; they do not know its ways nor abide in its path.” (Job 24:13)

“I have stretched out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, according to their own thoughts; a people who provoke Me to anger continually to My face;” (Isaiah 65: 2 & 3)

At the outset of this paper, I believe it important that I clarify certain terms used within the context of the message. “Modern day church” is not the same as “The Church” as referred to in Ephesians 5:27 and Hebrews 12:23. The “modern day church” is a collection of institutions that were established by man; they are identified by various names that were selected by man; they are made up of people who meet certain qualifications and agree to “join” the institution, whereby they are referred to as members of the _____ church, while “The Church” is made up of those who were born into it.

The “modern day church” is the church of the “many” that Christ referred to in Matthew 7:22 & 23; while “The Church” is the church of the “few” that Christ referred to in Matthew 7:14. The “modern day church” is the high profile public group that the world sees, and that most of us so loosely refer to as the church.

“The true church”, while not perfect, is in agreement with the Living Word of God, and they acknowledge Jesus Christ as their only Head, their King, and the Lord of their lives. The hearts of those who are a part of “the true church” have been converted according to Jeremiah 31:33 and Hebrews 8:10; they love their King and Lord so much, that their greatest heart felt desire is to obey Him and to be numbered among His “true” friends on the earth. As it is written, they are the wheat among the tares (Matthew 13:27). Unlike the tares, they have a glorious future to look forward to, as it is written:

“Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His Kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the Kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” (Matthew 13: 40 – 43)

Among the whole of those who profess to believe in Christ, there are two classes and two only; the wheat (those who are soundly converted and are in agreement with God), and the tares (those who are not soundly converted and are in rebellion toward God's word); both, profess Christ and are called Christians, but each has a separate final destination ----- one to Heaven ----- the other to Hell!

For the wheat there is hope, "laid up in heaven" according to Colossians 1:5 and Philippians 1:6; while the tares await the fulfillment of Matthew 7:22 & 23 and Luke 13:26 – 28):

"Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name? And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"

"Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets'. But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.' There will be weeping and gnashing of Teeth,....."

Dear reader, you are either numbered among the wheat or the tares, as are all who profess Christ. May God grant us a greater revelation of this truth and bring us into unity with Himself, before the final harvest takes place. The hour is late, spiritual darkness now covers the modern day church like a heavy wool blanket. As it was prophesied in the days of Isaiah, so it is even in this day:

"For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people;" (Isaiah 60:2)

Sadly, man seems doomed to repeating history as he ignores the past, and turns a deaf ear to the Word of God. As it was written, so it is:

"That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun." (Ecclesiastes 1: 9)

This message is intended to be not only an indictment of the modern day church, but also as a warning and call to arms for those who have ears to hear. I praise God for His clear warnings, and I praise Him for the grace to hear ----- what the Spirit of the Lord has to say in these dark spiritual days. I praise our God for restoring "Head" worship as the glory of Jesus Christ is being revealed on a deeper and deeper level; and I praise our Father as He reveals to His own, the things that will soon come upon us. As it is written, so I find it to be:

"When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you." (John 16: 13 & 14)

As it has always been in the past, when God's judgment fell on man, beginning with His people first (1 Peter 4: 17), He has always had a remnant of the whole, that knew what was coming, and allowed God to prepare them. The remnant preserves the holy seed --- the Word of Truth --- which is the very Light and Life of Christ. Man may come and go, nations and civilizations rise and fall, but as it is

written: “all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the Lord endures forever.” (1 Peter 1: 24 & 25)

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.” (Matthew 24:35)

Dear reader, when ever man has chosen to reject, ignore, or approach God’s word irreverently, he has either suffered the loss of God’s blessing or he has been destroyed by God ----- every time ----- with no exceptions! Check the written record for yourself. God regards His word even above His name, as He declares in Psalm 138: 2 -----

“I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name, for Your loving kindness and Your truth; for You have magnified Your word above all Your name.”

When man individually, and the church corporately, turns a deaf ear to the certainty of Matthew 4:4, destruction is certain --- it cannot be avoided. As the blood is to the life of the flesh, so the Word of God is to the life of the spirit. As it is written, so it is:

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.” (John 6: 63) After Jesus spoke these words, He then declared ----- “But there are some of you who do not believe.” (Vs 64a)

Today, as it was then, so it is now. The modern-day church does not believe God’s word, except that part which is selected to support their various “self-serving” doctrines and the traditions of men. The people of God have a long history of rebelling against God’s word, and following the dictates of their own hearts. We have a long history of “adding to” and “taking from” God’s word. Today, our traditions, and those of our fathers are more important to us than God’s word. Our allegiance, loyalty, and commitment are “first” to the practice of our religion, to our church, denomination, or fellowship. We, for the most part, have no fear of God, and little, if any, respect for His word. The “heart of man” has become his god ----- self deception has entered in and bound him in the chains of religious pride. We are quite confident of our good standing before the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, regardless of our past history, and the prophetic warnings of our future ----- we believe all is well with our soul ----- is it?

“And you have done worse than your fathers, for behold, each one follows the dictates of his own evil heart, so that no one listens to Me.” (Jeremiah 16:12)

“You have done worse than your fathers! You follow the dictates of your own evil heart! No one listens to Me!” What about you dear reader, are you listening to God? Are you following the dictates of your own heart, or that of your preacher, church, denomination ----? I fear that many of us have been caught in the snare of “self deception” and like our fathers, are prisoners of the traditions of man. We are filled with self-confidence, believing that we are spiritually rich and numbered among the “King’s kids” ----- we boast about who we are in Christ as we continue to have an adulterous affair with the world, and fellowship with the spiritually unclean ----- at the same time, on the appointed day, at the appointed hour, we clean up and show up at the designated place and practice our varied forms of religion ----- we mix within ourselves some truth, along with lies, producing a spiritual being that is lukewarm, wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked ----- near to being rejected by God! (Revelation 3:14 – 22)

Dear reader, this is the overall condition of the modern day church, even in this hour, as I pen these words. Sadly, just as it was with our forefathers, so it will be with the present generation: We will become worse and worse as we drift further and further away from the “highway of holiness” (Isaiah 35:8), finally being rejected by God and marked as the generation of His wrath. Listen carefully, dear reader ----- listen very carefully:

“This is what I commanded them, saying, “Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you. Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but followed the counsels and the dictates of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward.”

“----- I have even sent to you all My servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them. Yet they did not obey Me or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck. They did worse than their fathers. Therefore you shall speak all these words to them, but they will not answer you.”

So you shall say to them, “This is a nation that does not obey the voice of the Lord their God nor receive correction. Truth has perished and has been cut off from their mouth. ---the Lord has rejected and forsaken the generation of His wrath.” (Jeremiah 7:23, 24, 25b, 26, 27, 28, & 29b)

(Also see 2 Corinthians 6:11-18 & 7:1, Romans 2:4-9, 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12, 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10, and Revelation 18:4&5)

The modern-day church of the “many”, has now moved out of the shadows and is in Open Rebellion against the authority of God. Webster defines “rebellion” as: “resistance to authority ----- defiance.” Webster also defines “open” as: “not secret or hidden.” Again, I declare that the modern day church is in Open Rebellion against the authority of God’s word. She openly mocks God’s word, while at the same time she irreverently uses His name, and claims all of His covenant blessings as if they were hers; forgetting that it is written:

To the wicked God says: *“What right have you to declare My statutes, or take My Covenant in your mouth, seeing you hate instruction and cast My words behind you?”*
(Psalm 50:16 & 17)

As a student of Father’s word, I cannot find one example of God’s people having escaped His severe judgment, when they rebelled against His word, as we are rebelling today. Do not be deceived, dear reader, God is serious about His word, and any man who says that He is not serious is a lying devil and an enemy of your soul.

For those who think it a small thing to ignore God’s commandments, judgments and precepts, I warn you ----- that is exactly the attitude that Adam and Eve had and, they received the penalty of death (Genesis 2: 16 & 17 – 3:1 – 24); and so will all who follow their rebellious attitude toward the Word of God ----- including every generation until our Lord returns, as He promised He would (Mark 13: 24 – 27). For those who believe that our Lord’s cross freed us from “obedience to Him, through love”, I can only say ----- May God have mercy on your soul!

Dear reader, if you do not remember any thing that I have shared with you in this letter, please --- please --- remember this: Man's love of Jesus Christ is proven by only one thing ----- "Obedience" ----- Obedience to His Word. Please see Matthew 28:20, John 14: 15, 21, 23 & 24, 1 John 2:3-6. To think otherwise, is to be marked as one of the "tares".

I conclude with a few words of encouragement for those who are numbered with the wheat. Please do not be discouraged by the condition of the modern day church, nor by the fact that she will become worse and worse with each passing year; as I have pointed out through Father's word, it could not be otherwise. What God has declared, so it will be. There is not one thing that we can do to change what God has declared will be. We need only to be humbly in agreement with Him, pleading for His mercy, as we realize that except for His grace, we too would be numbered among those who are in open rebellion against His word.

Secondly, never forget that Father's grace and mercy, through the shed Blood of Jesus Christ, covers our imperfections ----- our inability to walk in perfect obedience. This grace and mercy flows to us as we grieve over our having violated God's commandments, precepts and judgments, and walk before Him in love and a true state of repentance (1 John 1: 8-10). However, God's grace and mercy, apart from repentance, leaves those who are in open rebellion, to be numbered among the tares ----- the goats -----the condemned.

The door is yet to be shut ----- the voice of the Watchman, while faint, can still be heard by those who are 'the called' and have ears to hear. Now is the time, this is the season, to turn away from the courts of rebellion and flee to the safety of "Thus saith the Lord".

"Seek the Lord, all you meek of the earth, who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility. It may be that you will be hidden in the day of the Lord's anger." (Zephaniah 2: 3)

Your brother,

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Thomas

"EVERY WORD OF GOD IS PURE; HE IS A SHIELD TO THOSE WHO PUT THEIR TRUST IN HIM. DO NOT ADD TO HIS WORDS, LEST HE REBUKE YOU, AND YOU BE FOUND A LIAR." (PROVERBS 30:5 & 6)