

# **Scripture and Prophecy - Understanding, Error, and Its Effect on the Church**

12/30/2024

We remain on the cusp of His imminent next Act, without any further signs indicated prior to commencement.

Maranatha!

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## **An Overview of the Historic Seven Church Periods**

12/30/2024

Jesus clearly addresses the seven distinct Churches in Rev 2:1 - 3:22. Additionally, our study is considering a comparative and possibly prophetic parallel to the Church Ages as well.

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## **If you are new to a Saving faith in Jesus, this is written for you.**

12/30/2024

If, in a full belief (faith) you've said (prayed) to God that you know you've disobeyed

(sinned) against Him, and you've asked Jesus His Son Who died and came back from the dead to forgive you, the Bible says God has now adopted you into His family.

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# True Worshipers are not Created, but Cultivated

12/30/2024

Revelation 7:9-10

I believe we can expect to see something of God's overarching goals in Scripture. We've discussed before how the one thing He chooses not to violate, even as the Almighty over all things, is the sovereignty He allows us in asking for Salvation. He surely uses a variety of means to compel and convince us, but I don't think He has ever been shown to overwhelm our choosing His Saving Grace. This would make sense because it is on this same basis we will be judged for Salvation or Damnation. No one, neither the sheep nor the goats, will be able to say 'God ultimately made this choice for me without my consent'.

In a like manner, God also seeks to ultimately surround Himself with genuine worshippers, those who choose to venerate Him out of their own volition. No forced worship will ever be found around the Throne, once He has completed His plans. These genuine worshippers cannot be created, but must be cultivated. Even though 'the stones would cry out' (**Luke 19:39-40**), we are made as independent personalities who have the aforementioned freedom of choice while under His absolute Sovereignty. These worshippers have been cultivated by His Intent and Grace to come to this conclusion.

The overarching theme of this began with the first Adam who was perfect and innocent. The second Adam offers rescue to Fallen people who understand the sin the first Adam couldn't know about until it was too late. The necessity of a Saving

choice begins with a burden of sin. God chose not to create Adam and Eve as 'genuine' worshippers, but instead through the circumstance of sin, (God is not the Author of sin - **1 John 1:5**) He has undertaken the breathless task of calling us back to Him without violating the sovereignty of our choice to ask for His Grace.

Adam could not have been a grateful worshipper with the mud of prior sin on his boots - he couldn't until after his disobedience. We, however, come to Him from an endless variety of circumstances, necessarily aware of the sin we ask for relief from. In the end, these are the sort of genuinely grateful and sincere worshippers He will nurture to Himself.

He's really taken the hardest path, given that humanity now begins bent against Him in all ways, save our God-given conscience. And to Who is this credit due? It is true each child of God made that choice, but we know it is only because of Him we made the choice. We did not even know we sinned until the Law, says Paul (**Rom 7:7**). He provides His Spirit to convict us. He gives all faith to quicken us. He manages as the Almighty Sovereign God to guide each created soul to His conclusion - all without creating the choice Himself. He actually demonstrates this incredible act of *cultivating* true-choice worshippers without forcing His Sovereignty, but brings it about *through* His Sovereignty. This is a most amazing accomplishment, most worthy of our praise and His Glory.

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## What is our Main Job?

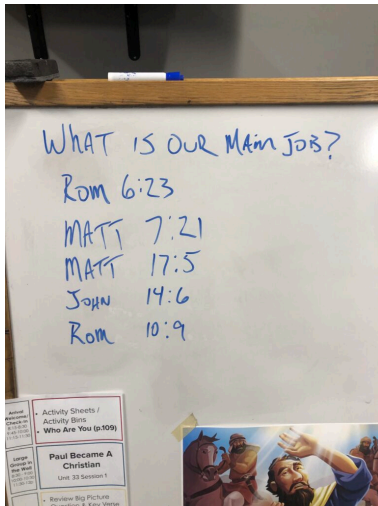
12/30/2024

This Sunday 5/26/24 at 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade Kid's Sunday School, we discussed our Main Job - to obey Jesus unto a Saving faith in Him.

I chose Scripture to discuss with the kids. Our discussions center around the Bibles in front of them as they look up the Verses on a whiteboard. We always begin with prayer to the Holy Spirit to guide us to the truth, and as we discuss the Scripture by

them looking it up, reading it, and looking to explain what it means. Note: We should be horrified at pushing kids into anything concerning Salvation. A false conversion must be avoided with the greatest care. Our discussions always strive to be the truth and what they conclude on their own with our guidance under the Spirit's guidance.

Today, we talked through the following:



What is our Main Job?

## **Romans 6:23**

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord

## **Matthew 7:21**

7 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

## **Matt 17:5**

5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"

Here we discussed the summarized Ten Commandments, of which 1 of the 5 kids

knew of and the others had heard of. Of all of the Commandments we included, they each agreed they had sinned.

Throughout our discussion we used an example of going to a restaurant, knowing we were very hungry. Seated by the hostess, it wasn't until the waitstaff came and heard our request that they would bring us the food promised. Being in the restaurant would not bring the food, nor being seated, nor knowing about the waitstaff and the kitchen. It is only when we ask the one who can bring the food they promise to serve can we expect our meal.

### **James 2:19-20**

19 You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.<sup>20</sup> But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?

### **Romans 10:9**

9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

### **John 14:6**

6 Jesus \*said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

I believe the kids had a firm framing of the discussion, and they confirmed. Asking if anyone had any comments or questions (no), I asked if anyone had asked Jesus to Forgive and Save them (no). Then I asked if anyone was interested in doing so (4 no, 1 yes).

I affirmed them all, and asked the one child if he was ready, as three months ago he said so but decided not to proceed with his Dad present. He said yes, so I explained that I would ask his parents to join us and that this would be all on his own. He confirmed it again, so I explained how my simple prayer of confession of sin and asking Jesus' for His forgiveness as God's Son Who rose from the dead was what I wanted. I told him Jesus wants him and would not refuse, and he would belong to

Him in this faith.

Both of his parents arrived and we cleared the room of the few kids and the leaders who were there to relieve me. We all sat down and I asked the child if he would still like to ask Jesus to Forgive and Save him (yes). With that, he prayed in my judgement a very sufficient prayer for Salvation. We congratulated him, and I told him that in this faith I could now call him a brother in Christ, then told him the next decision to work out with his folks would be his Baptism in obedience to the Lord.

This has been a tremendous day for all involved. Linda and I pray often that these children would come to a Saving faith, and today I believe we saw a child whisked to safety. This is the main reason we engage this Ministry, and I praise God for calling him.

Next time I see this child we'll have a Bible for him with a note from us. I'll give it to his parents to give to him with their approval.

Praise God for His Truth and Mercy in Jesus.

### **1 Corinthians 3:6-7**

6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. 7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.

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# **Listen To Him!**

12/30/2024

In a time of world-wide chaos, are we doing our best to understand God's course, and learn to conduct ourselves as He commands, in concert and Faith? This is no time to be doubting or ignoring God; or mocking His prophets or trusting in chariots and horses.

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# Reside in the Now

12/30/2024

We do not fear because we live in the now and we focus on what has to be done today to defeat this evil upon us and we have an Anchor.

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# A Tale of Two Perspectives

12/30/2024

So, Brother, a tale of two perspectives. Are you, 'Bunker Boy,' stocking your MRE or 'Bunch of Baloney Boy,' taking it easy??

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# Honing My Faith

12/30/2024

In a world, gripped by fear, we need to step up and trust Him in trials and demonstrate that God does not relieve us of Challenges.

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# Cover Her with Love

12/30/2024

The absence of fear is not normal and simple contentment is not natural. Indeed, the Apostle Paul says that contentment is learned. (Philippians 4: 11)

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# A Marred Masterpiece

12/30/2024

Our self-image, whether a bad one or wrong one, is in His hands and the enemy of self-image, satan, attacks our thoughts, polluting them with notions that deviate from God. The friend of our image, Union with Christ, restores and maintains the masterpiece.

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# Posture Before God

12/30/2024

Anything other than what He has said of us to be is a sin against His declaration, and a disservice to us. It disserves us if we run beyond His declarations of our responsibilities and station, and if we lag behind His declarations in self-imposed spiritual poverty.

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# **Lesson.James 2.19-26**

12/30/2024

Even someone who professes no alliance in faith to anyone or anything has faith that there is nothing to have faith in. The dividing line will not be over whether we possess a faith, for we all do; the question will center on whom our faith lays upon.

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# **Lesson.James 2.14-18**

12/30/2024

If there is a relationship with His Son, then that relationship must produce nothing less than an outpouring in response.

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# **Commentary.James 2.14-18**

12/30/2024

James now turns our spiritual health, a self-examination in order to proof our true Salvation in a reliance upon Jesus. He sets out to challenge us in examining ourselves for the evidence of Salvation

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# **Lesson.James 2.1-13**

12/30/2024

God despises partiality (favoritism) because it is our own judgment on another's value and worth. When we do so it is with self-serving motives, wrongly putting one person above another.

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## **Commentary.James 2.1-13**

12/30/2024

Remember, in considering the faith of the Lord, not to forget Who we are dealing with, nor should we allow ourselves to pervert what the faith encompasses.

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## **Commentary.James 1.22-25**

12/30/2024

James continues, saying that hearing and embracing the Word is not an end unto itself. One who believes he is doing well in just hearing but not doing will be sorely disappointed on the Last Day.

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# **Lesson.James 1.19-21**

12/30/2024

The change God promises is not easy or automatic, but requires our work as well. Dealing with us as His children, He lovingly provides the means to make this happen through the Word and It's conviction in our heart.

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## **Commentary.James 1.19-21(b)**

12/30/2024

James again takes time out to address the reader in his love as a brother in Jesus. He seems to want to continue to encourage his audience, realizing his writing will likely be a rebuke, and one in love.

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## **Commentary.James 1.19-21**

12/30/2024

James exhorts us to stay prepared on all fronts so as to make ourselves most receptive to the work of the Lord in our lives. He addresses all three fronts of our person, circling in from the outer then into the Holy Word's target, the core of our heart.

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# **Commentary.James 1.16-18**

12/30/2024

Do not mistake these trials as something to be scorned, but recognize our Father's loving care in our journey to Glory, including the testing of our faith.

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# **Commentary.James 1.12-15**

12/30/2024

Salvation is free, but our Sanctification, that Perfection of us in our faith by our Lord so we may one day be presented to God as Christ's Bride, takes work on our part.

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# **Commentary - James 1.9-11**

12/30/2024

Commentaries are men's opinions and therefore can be fallible. While they still might be a clear revelation from a heart inspired by the Holy Spirit, they cannot be leaned upon as Holy Canon. They must be compared to the whole council of the Word and against other's thoughts as well.

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# Commentary - James 1.7-11

12/30/2024

The doubting man will receive nothing from the Lord - He requires faith in Him. A double-minded man has competing allegiances - a house divided cannot stand. Being double minded, how can he enter the House of the Lord and ask of Him, if he in fact is a stranger there?

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# Commentary - James 1.1-6

12/30/2024

Trials were a pointed fact in the life of the early Church believer, often at the threat of one's life. James writes to not only acknowledge the work of God through trials, but also expose the deep blessings the Lord seeks to bestow on us through them.