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MARRIAGE PART 12 - CHURCH OF LAODICEA

Looking at the church of Laodicea in relation to the marriage covenant is a must, if we are serious about our covenantal marriage to Christ. We know the Laodicean church is a picture of the last day's church, and although the church at the end will have some overcomers, the majority will fit this description of Laodicea.

Lao means 'people' and Dicea means 'opinions'. In other words, the church of peoples opinions, thoughts and feelings, not the Word of God.

Not only is the church of Laodicea desperately in need of repentance, but so are the churches at Ephesus, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, and this is also something we must take heed of.

5 out of the 7 churches are in need of spiritual repentance if they desire to be the overcomers and receive their inheritance which the Father promises them, and we are no different.

Let's look at the Laodicean church.

Revelation 3:14-22 *“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this: ‘I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. Because you say, “I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,” and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.*

Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

There is a clear distinction between what Jesus is saying and what the church of Laodicea is saying. Right here is where we see the church of man's opinion in relation to itself, as opposed to the words of Jesus Christ which are spirit and life. They can't be anymore opposing than each other, and I want us to focus on these words in verse 18.

V18 - 'I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white

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garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed'.

Here we see these 'white garments' mentioned again, as we have done throughout the other resources, and the absolute need to have these garments on, so the shame of our nakedness would not be exposed, when He returns.

Remember Jesus is addressing the church here and not non-followers. He is addressing His own people who already have the garment of righteousness on. This should create a massive stirring in our own hearts and one that has us seriously looking at our own spiritual condition before Him now.

To not have the right white garments on, the righteous acts of the saints garment, is to not be able to partake and receive everything the Father has for us as our inheritance. We will be found naked and find ourselves missing out on what we could have received and been a part of.

This is the very reason why Jesus Christ, the Word of God, is advising the church to buy from Him gold refined by fire. If this wasn't needed then Jesus wouldn't be addressing this with the church, but unfortunately it is very much needed, and I am afraid today is no different.

The casualness and comfort that has descended upon the church today, I fear, is no different to this Laodicean church, the church of the last days, so the correlation will be the same.

The lack of spiritual sight is the reason for this very poor spiritual condition of the Laodicean's, hence Christ mentioning to them to receive from Him eye salve to heal their blindness and open their eyes. Jesus is using a physical typology to speak of a spiritual truth.

Verse 19 is the key to the Laodicean's spiritual condition changing and it is the same for you and I, if we too find ourselves in the same condition.

Verse 19: Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent

Jesus gives the church the solution to their spiritual condition before He returns so they can be found wearing the white fine linen garment. It is His hope that God's people will heed this invitation before it's too late. Too many have been raised on a false gospel that says there are no consequences for your spiritual condition and the life you live as His follower. This can't be any further from His Truth.

There will be loss for all those who don't live the kind of life Jesus died and rose again for them to demonstrate.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15 "For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus

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Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."

There will be no excuses, so it is essential we have our spiritual eyes opened to this now, through spiritual repentance, and be found not only wearing the garment of righteousness, but our white fine linen garment.

QUESTIONS

1. What are you being made aware of in relation to the need to have the appropriate garments on?
2. Why is having spiritual sight so essential in our relationship with God?
3. How important is God's spiritual discipline to us as His followers?
4. What spirit is being released from the church of Laodicea in relation to its own spiritual condition?
5. What will the church miss out on - suffering loss, if she is found without the appropriate garments on?

Watch the accompanying You Tube videos here: https://youtu.be/A5yxkH_4G-8