



Hunger For Truth

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HUNGER FOR TRUTH
MINISTRIES

Proverbs 7:2 – Matthew 5:6 – John 8:32 – II Timothy 3:16-17 – Hebrews 4:12
“Let us Hunger For Truth”

Please note that back issues of Hunger For Truth are viewable and printable at:
www.studytoanswer.net

It is our desire that Hunger For Truth edifies, blesses and encourages you in your walk with the Lord. Thank you all for taking the time to read this and for your prayers for us. We greatly appreciate your comments and we praise God for each and every one of you.

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The Book of Revelation (Chapter 2) (Dr. Thomas Strouse)

The following is **part 2** of a study on the book of Revelation by Dr. Thomas Strouse who is Pastor of Bible Baptist Church and Theological Seminary in Cromwell, CT (www.bbc-cromwell.org). It is a syllabus written by Dr. Strouse. It is the HFT editors desire that this study helps you grasp the deep truths within this incredible book! Please look for a chapter from this syllabus posted in upcoming issues of Hunger For Truth. We trust this will be edifying and convicting as well as a blessing and encouragement to readers. Thank you for reading. We praise God for the privilege of being able to share this study with you. May God richly bless!

The Book of Revelation / Thomas M. Strouse / “The things which are” / (Rev. 2)
CHAPTER TWO

Background

This chapter presents the cities (Ephesus [vv. 1-7], Smyrna [vv. 8-11], Pergamos [vv. 12-17], and Thyatira [vv. 18-29]) in which four of the seven churches to which Revelation was written, focusing on the message to each angel/pastor.

Exposition

Rev. 2:1-29

The Church at Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-7)

The Lord revealed to the pastor of the Ephesian assembly His commendations for the church's service and for her (i.e., the *ekklesiy* hatred of the Nicolaitanes, but also His condemnation for her leaving her first love (cf. Eph. 1:4, 15). He gave soteriological promises to those who would repent and overcome.

The Church at Smyrna (Rev. 2:8-11)

Christ commended the church at Smyrna because of her works in spite of poverty and tribulation, and warned of ten days of more tribulation, encouraging her to be "*faithful unto death.*" Overcomers would not be hurt by the second death, He promised.

The Church at Pergamos (Rev. 2:12-17)

The pastor of the church at Pergamos received Christ's strong redress for her toleration of the doctrine of Balaam and the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, since the church was situated in Satan's stronghold. The remnant within was to repent and overcome for eternal soteriological blessings

The Church at Thyatira (Rev. 2: 18-29)

The Lord Jesus, omniscient about the assembly at Thyatira and the member's faithful service, nevertheless condemned severely the woman teacher Jezebel (cf. I Ki. 16:31 ff.; 21 :25; II Ki. 9:7) who espoused her doctrinal and practical errors throughout the assembly. The remnant was to hold fast the truth until the Lord comes back.

Theological Concerns

The meaning of "overcoming" involves both the position and practice of the believer. John revealed that the Christian has the position as overcomer,' since he identifies with Christ Who overcame the world (cf. In. 16:33), and the power to overcome since he is born of God (I In. 5:1-5). Those who overcome are true Christians which will receive the soteriological blessings in heaven. Those who do not repent, even though professed Christians in Baptist churches, will perish since their profession is not genuine.

The assemblies were still the Lord's candlesticks until He determined they no longer had the status. Even though some churches had severe doctrinal and practical errors, the remnant was to repent and overcome, and hopefully purify their respective assemblies with biblical doctrine and practice. The words of Christ's message were to the respective pastors, who were held in His right hand of power and control, but the whole congregation was entreated to hear and respond appropriately to maintain candlestick status.

Textual Issues

Verse 13-CT (and modern versions such as NASV, NIV, etc.) omits "thy works. "

Summary of Chapter of Two

Three of the four churches (Ephesus, Pergamos, and Thyatira) received Christ's condemnation and warning of loss of candlestick status. Only the church at Smyrna received commendation alone, and it was impoverished and persecuted. In all cases, both the pastor and assembly members had the responsibility to respond to the Lord's instruction.

Christ's Intercession

Source: 4/22/14 -- David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, PO Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061 , 866-295-4143 - Way of Life Literature, www.wayoflife.org. – fbns@wayoflife.org

The following is excerpted from *The Tabernacle, the Priesthood, the Offerings* by I.M. (Isaac Massey) Haldeman, 1925. Haldeman was the pastor of First Baptist Church of New York City for nearly 50 years, from 1884-1933. Though Haldeman did not have advanced formal theological training, he made up for this with a high native intellect, excellent gifts, a passion for Jesus Christ, a love for God's Word, diligent study habits, and a broad appetite for learning under the Headship of Christ. In recognition of this he was awarded an honorary D.D. from William Jewel College in 1909. He was a theological warrior who did not draw back from the public reproof of modernists and other false teachers, speaking against fellow Baptists such as Harry Emerson Fosdick and against Charles Taze Russell, founder of the Jehovah Witness cult. He was a crusader against worldliness in the churches. Bible teacher James M. Gray called him "the greatest prophet of the Lord now standing in any pulpit in this country." Said to be "the most influential preacher of prophetic themes in his generation," he interpreted Bible prophecy literally and emphasized the imminent return of Christ.

"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such a high priest became us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself" (Hebrews 7:25-27).

What an amazing fact it is, that He who is the Master of Heaven and earth prays for us-- and prays in Heaven on the throne of the Highest.

It may not be that He is praying for just the things we wish, nor even such we dream we need, but the fact that He is praying for us is beyond definition of all it demonstrates of interest in, of grace and care for us.

Believe He is praying for us, and what matter the cloud-covered sky, the tempest

swirling and uprooting all things we hold dear, leaving us neither root nor ranch in those things; what matter though we stand with hands folded, hands of helplessness, and the fragments of shattered plans scattered at our feet; what matter though our soul be filled with darkness and our lips be dumb and faith shivers and begins to grope and at times stops and listens to subtle questions filled with a hiss, the hiss of the serpent; what matter that at its worst if, through it all and at the last, we can believe, and will believe in spite of every increeping fear, that He is yonder back of storm or woe praying for us, interceding for us?

To believe that, gives assurance He will meet us in the blessing such as never could have come had the answer been in response to our own poor, blind, unthinking and wholly selfish prayer.

How often we escape sickness, disease, the assault of circumstance and sudden death because He has prayed, has interceded on our behalf and caused the special providences to be swung over us and along our path, we shall never know till the record of it is read to us when we stand face to face with Him in the glory hour.

If there are times when faith would sink and sink as in the anguish of a drowning soul and then suddenly rises as on a swelling tide which lifts us out of the deeps of dark distress till we find firm footing on the shore of peace and rest again in His Word and truth, it is because He prays for us, because He neither slumbers nor sleeps nor closes His eyelids, but open-eyed and watchful bears us on His heart and lifts us in unflinching petition before the Father's throne" (I.M. Haldeman).

Before Peter stumbled and fell the Lord prayed for him. He told him frankly the Devil desired him that he might sift him as wheat.

It is very startling if you read the record. He did not tell Peter He had prayed for him that he might escape the Devil's assault and snare. Not at all.

On the contrary, He assured him the Devil would succeed in ensnaring and overthrowing him. He prayed for Peter, but for just one thing. He prayed that his faith might not fail. He said, 'I have prayed for thee that thy faith fail not' (Luke 22:32).

Peter went down into the black pit the Devil had prepared for him. The Devil used Peter's infirmity, his self-consciousness, his boasting, and then filled him with fear and arrant cowardice, so that in the hour of trial he marked himself and that hour with indelible shame.

Peter denied his Lord.

He denied Him because he feared he might lose his life if he confessed Him. It would have been hard to have done worse than that.

But the Lord looked at Peter; faith responded to the look and to the prayer that had been offered beforehand. The Lord's look was the emphasis of His anticipative prayer. Out of the darkness Peter came back to be more loyal and more devoted than before, with triumphant faith, but chastened soul. ...

What grace, what assurance is that. Again and again when the believer is on the edge where it seems the next step would make him slip, plunge and fall into the black abyss of unbelief, there comes as directly out of Heaven itself a touch of power that repudiates even the thought of doubt or question and gives him a vigor of faith such as he never dreamed ever could be his.

Yonder at the throne He has seen our special need and prayed for us. ...

Our Lord as High priest, not only lifts up His prayers in our behalf, but takes our own prayers and presents them like incense before the Father's throne.

Scripture gives us a very dramatic illustration how He does this. As it is written:

‘And another angel came and stood at the altar, (the altar of incense shown in heaven) having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne’ (Revelation 8:3).

What a picture that is. Like that angel the Lord takes the prayers of the believer and presents them before God in the fragrance of His high priestly character and on the basis of His perfect sacrifice.

Without His intercession not a single petition of ours would ever ascend to the Court of Heaven. No prayer of ours would ever reach the Father. He says so, ‘No man cometh unto the Father, but by me’ (John 14:6).

As the horns of the golden altar of incense were stained once a year with the blood of atonement from the brazen altar (Exodus 30:10), so the priesthood of Christ and His work of intercession on our behalf rest wholly in the blood of the cross. His priestly intercession for the believer on the basis of that blood is a demonstration that the blood has been applied, has been accepted on our behalf, and we are accounted with our Lord as members of the family of God.

Only Jesus Saves! (John 14:6)

Testimonies of Christ's Sinlessness

Source: 4/23/14 -- David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, PO Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061 , 866-295-4143 - Way of Life Literature, www.wayoflife.org. – fbns@wayoflife.org

Two thousand years ago a man walked this earth who was like no other man who. His birthplace was a stable in the tiny town of Bethlehem in Israel. He lived on this earth for about 33 years and was crucified by the Roman government as a criminal. His life was under the microscope of human observation. He did not live in secret. His ministry was public, and his every word and deed was examined by those who lived at that time. And the record of His life has been examined by the world ever since. No man has been as intensely examined as Jesus of Nazareth.

Before His death Jesus issued an amazing challenge that has never been answered, a challenge that only an insane or a sinless man could offer. He said, “Which of you convinceth me of sin” (John 8:46). The word “convince” means to bring an accusation that can be proven, a charge that can stand.

Though He was accused of wrongdoing by those who hated him, the accusations were blatant and obvious lies. The Roman governor himself said that Jesus was innocent of all charges. He wasn’t crucified because of any sin He had committed. He was crucified because of the jealousy of false Jewish teachers and the idolatry of the Roman Empire with its Caesar worship. But far more than that, He was crucified because He came to “seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). He came as the Son of God to make atonement for man’s sins so that men might be reconciled to God.

The fact of Jesus’ sinlessness proves that He was the Son of God. Every man since Adam has been a sinner by nature, by thought, and by deed. Children don’t have to be taught how to sin. We don’t need schools to educate children in how to lie and cheat and dishonor their parents and disobey authority.

I believe that the Bible is the Word of God for many reasons, and one of those is that what it says rings true to what can be observed in life. The Bible says, for example, that “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). I can observe that in my own life, and I can see it everywhere in the world today and everywhere in human history.

Everywhere except in Jesus.

Following are some of the testimonies to Jesus’ sinlessness:

The testimony of Pilate

Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault *at all*. (Joh 18:38). See also John 19:4, 6.

When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but *that* rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed *his* hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye *to it*. (Mt 27:24)

The testimony of Pilate’s wife

When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him. (Mt 27:19)

The testimony of the thief on the cross

But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. (Lu 23:40-41)

The testimony of the centurion

Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man (Lu 23:47)

And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God. (Mr 15:39)

The testimony of the apostle Paul

For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. (2Co 5:21)

The testimony of the apostle Peter

Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: (1Pe 2:22)

The testimony of the apostle John

And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. (1Jo 3:5)

The testimony of God the Father

While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. (Mt 17:5)

:) Children For Christ :)

The Opposite of Sin

Memory Verse: Hebrews 10:17 – “And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.”

Please match the sin (*the wrong against God*) (to your left) to the opposite of the sin (*the right or the good that pleases God*) (to your right). Then write down on a piece of paper how doing right pleases God and keeps you from sin.

<u>The Sin</u>	<u>The Right</u>
1. Rock music	Witnessing
2. Bad language	Godly music
3. Mean to parents	No bad language
4. Not witnessing	Kind and loving to parents
5. Not praying	Praying
6. Not reading your Bible	Going to church
7. Not going to church	Reading your Bible
8. Unkind to others	Kind to others

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“Consider well what He hath done for you. He made you at the first like unto Himself, in wisdom and holiness, and when you were by sin made like the devil, and must therefore have been condemned to hell torments, God sent His only son who taking unto him a body and soul, was a man and suffered great wrong and shameful death, to secure your pardon, and to buy you out of the devil’s bondage, that ye might be renewed to the likeness of God ... to the end ye might be fit to keep company with all saints in the joys of heaven” (Richard Kilby, KJV translator, sermon “The Burden of a Loaden Conscience,” cited from Paine, *The Men Behind the KJV*, p. 48

Friday Church News Notes – May 2, 2014, www.wayoflife.org,
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“... the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abraham: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward’ (Gen. 15:1). This promise opens out to general truth that God Himself is the true reward of a devout life. There are many recompenses for all sacrifices for God, some of them outward and material, some of them inward and spiritual, but the reward which surpasses all others is that by such sacrifices we attain to greater capacity for God, and therefore possess more of Him. This is the only Reward worth thinking of —God only satisfies the soul” (Alexander MacLaren, *Expositions of Holy Scripture*).

“You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us.” – C.S. Lewis

**“Love saw the guilt of sin, and sought a basis of pardon. Love saw the alienation of sin, and sought a ground of reconciliation. Love saw the defilement of sin, and sought a way of cleansing. Love saw the depravity of sin, and sought a means of restoration. Love saw the enslavement of sin, and sought the instrument of emancipation. Love saw the malady of sin, and sought a balm of healing. Love saw the condemnation of sin, and sought a method of justification. Love saw the death of sin, and sought a way of life. Love sought, and love found.” – J.C.M.
(Romans 5:8)**

Praises

- Praise God for the blessed old book!

Prayer Requests

- Job and living situation needs for Bro. Craig and Andrew
- Wedding for Brother Craig and Sister Tash on May 2, 2015
- Abby Lafreniere (ALS) (Wife of Pastor John Lafreniere, church planter to Fairfield, CT)
- Dr. Michael Thompson (Member of Heritage Baptist Church of Norwood, MA) (Brain cancer)
- Pastor Gary Freeman (Race Street Baptist Church in Catasauqua, PA) who is battling colon cancer.
- Needs of New Hope Baptist Church of Lynn, MA
- Needs of Chester Baptist Church of Chester, MA
- Missionary Tim Hawes (To Papua New Guinea) (Church Planting, Bible Translation, Agricultural Development)
- Brother Bill Moore of Heritage Baptist Church (Health needs)
- Those affected by the Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines
- The condition of this nation following the abomination that has occurred with the DOMA decision.
- Needs of the body of Heritage Baptist Church
- Salvation and needs of those affected by the tragedy in Boston, MA on April 15th 2013
- Salvation of Brother Andrew Lacroix’s family
- Salvation of Wendy and friend Ben, Jacob, Kaitlyn, Sybil and Bernice (Family of Craig Glickman)

Hunger For Truth is a bi-monthly e-newsletter publication edited by Craig Glickman and Andrew Lacroix who are members of Heritage Baptist Church of Norwood, MA where the Pastor is Steve Hathaway.

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Thank you for reading this. We praise God for all our dear brothers and sisters in Christ and we greatly appreciate your prayers. May each and every one of you be richly blessed as we serve our precious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

His Servants,

Craig Glickman Andrew Lacroix

Prov. 3:5-6

1 Thes. 5:18

