



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 11) (Dr. Thomas Strouse)

The following is **part 11** 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 / Rev. 11
CHAPTER 11

Background

Before the Book of Revelation gives additional sequential activity, the Lord reveals more parenthetical information. Since Chapter Nine revealed events up through the mid-point of the Tribulation, Chapter Eleven summarizes events relating to the close of the first three and half years before proceeding to the Seventh Trumpet Judgment or third woe (11:15 ff.). The two witnesses who had been protecting the Tribulation Temple will be killed by the Antichrist, and subsequently resurrected.

Exposition

Rev. 11:1-19

The Tribulation Temple (Rev. 11:1-2)

The temple predicted by the Apostle Paul that the Son of Perdition will defile (II Thes. 2:4) receives this first notice in the Book of Revelation. John was instructed to measure the temple, but not the court, which will be under gentile dominion for the final forty two months of the Tribulation.

The Two Witnesses (Rev. 11:3-12)

Concerning the two unnamed witnesses, John recorded their length of ministry as 1260 days, their supernatural power, their death, and their ultimate resurrection. These witnesses protected the Tribulation temple from the Antichrist during the first three and a half years, as well as smote the earth with the Seal and Trumpet plagues (9:20), evincing hatred from both Satan and mankind. Their death will bring world-wide rejoicing at the mid-point of the Tribulation, and after three and a half days, the Lord will resurrect them, invoking a similar “resurrection” effort from the Antichrist (13:1-3).

The Third Woe (Rev. 11:13-14)

A great earthquake will occur in Jerusalem, commencing the third woe or Seventh Trumpet Judgment.

The Seventh Trumpet (Rev. 11:15-19)

This pericope will give the heavenly perspective of the seventh angel sounding. In heaven, joy and worship will evince from those in heaven as God will pour out His wrath on those on earth.

Theological Concerns

The Scriptures refer to four temples in Israel’s history: the Solomon, the Zerubbabel-Herod, the Tribulation, and the Millennium temples.

The persistent and contrived efforts by Bible commentators to identify the two witnesses are unnecessary since the Scriptures do not reveal who they are. Although Moses, Elijah, and Enoch have received candidate status, there is no reason not to understand the witnesses as future individuals empowered by God for this task. Commentators seem to put more energy into identifying the witnesses

than in exegeting the passage.

Textual Issues

Summary of Chapter Eleven

As the two witnesses protect the temple and smite the earth with judgments, they will receive fierce hatred for their short three and half year ministry. At the mid-point of the Tribulation they will be slain but then resurrected, commencing the last three and half years of judgment, about which heaven will rejoice.

Repentance and Easy Believism (Part 2) (By: Bro. Tim Dunkin)

If Sin Is What Separates Us From God...

By: Tim Dunkin

...then why do some folks try to say that people can be saved without repenting of their sin and turning from it and to God?

“But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.” (Romans 6:17)

In my previous article, I laid out a basic foundation for the biblical doctrine of repentance and discussed some of the reasons why faithful Christians must accept and believe it, and what some of the reasons are why folks don't. I would like to take the opportunity over the next few articles to explore biblical repentance in more detail. Today, I'd like to dwell on the issue of sin and why dealing with sin has to be part and parcel with getting saved.

Many in the easy believist crowd don't like to deal with sin. While in some cases this might be due to their own feelings of conviction when the issue is brought up because their own sin problem was never dealt with when they were praying the prayer that they believe saved them, in many cases, I think it is due to a misguided program for their evangelism. I think we all know that we live in a society that desperately wants to “do it's own thing.” America today doesn't want to hear about sin – talking about sin means you're “judgmental,” “angry,” and “just plain mean.” Nobody wants to hear that they will stand in judgment for their adultery, drugs, sodomy, or rebellion. As a result, it IS true that when you are dealing with lost souls about the Lord, the issue of sin will be a stumbling block for some. There will be some who reject the Lord if it means they have to give up their sin. They are choosing their sin instead of the Saviour.

For the anti-repentance folks, this doesn't fit into their evangelistic program which typically tends to emphasis raking in large numbers of people who pray a prayer and “get saved.” If talking about repentance from sin keeps people from praying a prayer, then genuine biblical repentance needs to go by the wayside. When they believe that “1-2-3, repeat after me” is the extent of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, it's natural for these folks to then view repentance as a “work” that “adds to” the Gospel (even though repentance, as a facet of faith, is actually CENTRAL to the Gospel). However, the anti-repentance doctrine is horribly wrong, and the basis for it is in a “dumbing down” of God that ignores or even rejects His holiness.

God is holy. This is a truism. You cannot find ANYTHING in Scripture which contradicts or calls

this truism into question. Holiness is a fundamental attribute of God – it is in God’s very nature to be holy, and this holiness defines His further derivative traits such as His love, mercy, justice, etc. God is just and punishes sin because of His holiness. God’s holiness equally shows mercy to the repentant sinner who turns to Him for forgiveness through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ that was ordained as the way to be cleansed from sin and made right with God.

So what does it mean when we say that God is “holy”? Holiness, when applied to God, is speaking of nothing less than complete and utter separation from all sin, error, wrongdoing, and wickedness. It means that not only does God not Himself sin, but that He also cannot abide sin in His presence at all. The lost person still in his sins cannot pray, unless he is praying in repentance for salvation, because God will not hear that prayer. God does not even hear the prayers of saved people who are hanging onto some sin that they have allowed into their lives (Psalm 66:18). This is the whole basis for why those who finally reject Jesus Christ go to hell instead of to heaven and why those who reject Him will find themselves put outside of God’s paradise,

“For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.” (Revelation 22:15)

Jesus Himself warned about this,

“I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” (Luke 13:3)

He was warning that those who will not repent and believe on Him will all likewise find themselves excluded from heaven, perishing in the fires of hell.

So we see that sin is something God takes very seriously, specifically because His own holiness is something He guards zealously. As a result of all of this, sin is what separates us from God,

“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.” (Isaiah 59:2)

Sin separates us from God. This is as true for the lost sinner as it is for the Christian out of fellowship with God because of sin. Therefore, sin is what needs to be dealt with before someone can be saved, can enter into the family of God, being in fellowship with Him. John 1:29 tells us,

“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”

I think it should be apparent that it is not scriptural to observe that Jesus, the Lamb of God, came expressly for the purpose of taking away sin but yet affirm that people can be saved merely by praying a prayer when there has been no desire on their part to turn from sin, to be freed from sin, to seek out God to get the victory over it. Repentance involves yielding one’s self to God and desiring that sin will no longer be what controls your life,

“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.” (Romans 6:6)

This is what Paul said took place at salvation – our old man was crucified with Him. We became dead to sin but alive unto God. This was so that we would henceforth no longer serve sin, but would be God’s servants instead. Repentance doesn’t mean a person becomes sinless, but it *does* mean that that they want to turn from sin and to the Lord. If our not serving sin and instead living for Him is the point of our salvation, then what sense does it make to say that someone can be saved who is not repentant of their sin, who

does not desire to turn away from it? Why would we say they have salvation when they're missing the key foundation for what our salvation, from the perspective of who our Lord is, is completely missing?

The scriptures tell us that while sin is completely contrary to the nature and purposes of God, it is perfectly in line with the nature of the devil,

“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” (John 8:44)

“Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.” (I John 3:7-8)

It is impossible to be both in the devil's camp and God's camp at the same time. It simply cannot happen. When a person is confronted with the Gospel truth, they are at a moment of decision – will they repent and yield their life to Him in faith, or will they choose to hang onto sin and reject Him? By failing to present to a lost sinner the need for repentance as part of exercising faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, that person is not being confronted with the true Gospel, and they are being left in the default position of still being in their sins, not being cleansed of their guilt by the blood of Christ.

This is not some new doctrine. Indeed, preaching repentance unto salvation is the historic Baptist position, and has been all the way back to the Apostles. The entirety of the New Testament's message on salvation is that it involves turning FROM sin and self, and turning TO God the Father through the Lord Jesus Christ, making the choice to believe what God's Word says about our sin and about our lost condition because of that sin, and trusting on Him to take it away from us and to change us,“

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (II Corinthians 5:17)

God will change us and make us a new creature as He sanctifies us as we yield to Him more and more fully in a practical way. But before this can begin, we first have to exercise faith in what He did for us on the cross of Calvary – which includes the willingness to repent of the sin that angers Him and separates us from Him, and yielding to Him as the Master of our lives.

...Look for part 3 of this study in a future issue of Hunger For Truth

Only Jesus Saves! (John 14:6)

What Is Faith?

By: Pastor Caswell Reeves

Text: Hebrews 11:1-10

Faith is belief in its simplest form of understanding. The Bible defines faith in Hebrews 11:1 as “...*the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*” This more technical definition of faith reveals that our faith is the substance or confidence we have in something or someone which we cannot see but expect is there (hope for). As well, faith is the evidence or practices (Gk. *pragma* from which we get the English word *pragmatic*) of things not seen or without evidence by sight.

When you believe in God, who you cannot see, you are revealing your confidence or the substance

of your faith. When you put your faith to work or practice your faith in God (by receiving what He says, receiving His Son, praying, going to church), you are showing the evidence of your faith.

The faith that God is pleased with produces in you a good report or testimony (11:2). It gives you an understanding about the creation of all things (11:3). It causes you to obtain righteousness (11:4). It gives you favor with God (11:5-6). It can aid in the salvation of your family (11:7). It causes obedience to God and gives a real and lasting inheritance (11:8). It causes you to look for heaven (11:9-10). Do you have this kind of God-pleasing faith?

:) Children For Christ :)

CHOICES

Memory Verse: Psalm 27:11 – Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path...”

Please select from the following choices the things that will honor God and write on a blank piece of paper why those things honor God and why the others do NOT honor God.

1. Rock Music ____
2. Witnessing to others about Jesus ____
3. Hollywood Movies ____
4. Violent Video Games ____
5. Reading Your Bible ____
6. Praying ____
7. Attending Church ____
8. Praising God with godly music ____
9. Serving God in your church ____

<p>“The Spirit-filled life is not a special, deluxe edition of Christianity. It is part and parcel of the total plan of God for His people” -- A.W. Tozer</p>	<p>“Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can” -- John Wesley</p>
<p>“I am resolved never to do anything which I should be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life” – Jonathan Edwards</p> <p>“The need itself is not the call. “ -- Charles E, Hummel</p>	<p>Praises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praise God for a successful move for Bro. Lacroix 9/27 to Foxboro, MA! <p>Prayer Requests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bro. Craig looking for apartment/house to rent. • Missionary David Cloud (Recovery from pancreatitis) • Job needs and permanent housing for Bro. Craig in CT. • Sarra Family (Missionaries to Zambia Africa) (John – Health needs – back, liver) • Wisdom regarding developing the new location for Heritage Baptist Church in Norwood, MA center.

Prayer Requests Continued:

- Sherrie (Sister of Bro. Craig's Fiancee Tash) (Lymph Nodes) (Heart issues)
- Wedding for Bro. 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 the body at First Bible Baptist Church of Plainville, CT
- Needs of the body at New Hope Baptist Church of Lynn, MA
- Needs of the body at 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 at Heritage Baptist Church of Norwood, MA
- 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 Bro. Craig Glickman who is a member at First Bible Baptist Church of Plainville, CT where the Pastor is Thomas Benson and Bro. Andrew Lacroix who is a member 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

