



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 12) (Dr. Thomas Strouse)

The following is **part 12** 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. 12

CHAPTER 12

Background

Chapter Twelve continues the parenthetical material, summarizing Israel's history and revealing Satan's fall from heaven and pursuit after the Lord's remnant in the last three and a half years. Predominate personages in this chapter and the next are the woman, the child, the dragon, Michael, the remnant, the first beast and the second beast.

Exposition

Rev. 12:1-17

The History of the Remnant Nation (Rev. 12:1-6)

Harking back to Gen. 37:9, the vision summarizes the history of the Jewish remnant from Joseph to the birth and resurrection of Christ, to the current Great Tribulation persecution.

The Heavenly Expulsion of Satan (Rev. 12:7-11)

Although Satan lost his position in heaven with his initial sin (Isa. 14:12-15; Ezk.28:12-18; cf. Job 1:6), he will not lose his place until the mid-point of the Tribulation, when he does not prevail against Michael. Those in heaven will rejoice that salvation will be completed since the accuser is expelled.

The Satanic Persecution of the Remnant (Rev. 12:8-17)

As there will be joy in heaven with his expulsion, there will be woe on earth. Satan's Antichrist will intensify his persecution on the believing Jewish remnant.

Theological Concerns

During the Tribulation, believers will have and keep the commandments of God, presumably the Scriptures. This truth recognizes that the Lord has made available His inscripturated revelation in every dispensation.

Textual Issues

Rev. 12:14—the words “half a time” are omitted in Codex C, but this omission does not affect the *KJV* or many modern versions.

Summary of Chapter Twelve

Satan's long-time hatred for Israel will culminate in his pursuit to persecute and destroy the believing Jewish remnant, whom the Lord will protect.

Repentance and Easy Believism (Part 3)

(Repentance is the Willful Choice to Turn from Sin and to God) (By: Bro. Tim Dunkin)

Repentance is the Willful Choice to Turn from Sin and to God

By Tim Dunkin

“For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.” (I Thessalonians 1:9-10)

It is often alleged by those belonging to the easy believist persuasion that repentance is nothing more than “feeling sorry for sin” or “realizing that you need Jesus.” Defining repentance as the turning to God and away from sin is considered by these folks to be “works salvation.” They will readily agree with the first half of the common definition given, that repentance is “a change of mind...,” but they will refuse to accept the last half of this common formulation, “...that leads to a change in direction [i.e., to God and away from sin].”

Yet, is their approach to repentance really scriptural? It’s easy to simply define something you disbelieve in (and often, as I’ve seen from experience in dealing with them, fail to understand) as “works salvation” or “adding to grace.” It’s a whole different ballgame, however, trying to get around the plain, scriptural message of repentance as more than just “a change of mind,” but as the conscious choice on the part of a lost sinner to reject the sin that has captivated them for so long, and to choose instead the God Whom they spurned all their lives.

Indeed, this is what we see in Scripture – that repentance unto salvation is an act of the will that requires the conscious choice by a lost sinner to reject sin and turn to God. As shown previously, sin is what separates us from God in the first place. A lost sinner cannot be reconciled to God through salvation without first dealing with the reality of the fact that sin is what is keeping them from being right with God.

Now, there are many, especially Old Testament, passages used by anti-biblical repentance folks to try to define repentance merely as “a change of mind,” one that does not imply or demand “a change in direction.” Many of these involve places where God repented of something. For instance, passages such as God repenting of His stated decision to destroy Israel after the Golden Calf incident in Exodus 32; the Lord repenting of making Saul king over Israel in I Samuel 15:35; or Jonah 3:10 where God repents of His judgment of destruction upon the city of Nineveh, are often used to make the case that repentance means nothing more than “changing one’s mind.”

There are two problems with this argument, however.

First – trying to point to God while defining a normative definition of repentance *as it relates to dealing with sin and salvation* is misguided. God cannot sin, and therefore does not need to turn from it;

neither does God need to be saved. However, the scripture repeatedly tells us that repentance is necessary for salvation of the souls of men. Drawing a definition of repentance solely from how it is expressed by God will completely miss the point of what it says about those of us who are NOT God, and about whom the Scripture presents a whole separate vista with respect to the concept of repentance. Their argument here is almost one of comparing apples to oranges.

Second – even if we were to grant that the sort of repentance that applies to God is normative for man, we would STILL see that the argument that repentance is merely “a change of mind” and not coupled with “a change in direction” is refuted by the passages that the anti-biblical repentance folks rely upon. Reread each of the passages mentioned above from the Old Testament. In each one, we see that, really, God did more than just “change His mind.” There was a corresponding change in the projected action that God said He would do. He stated that He would destroy Israel and make a new nation out of Moses; when He repented of this, He refrained from that course of action – His choice was followed by a definite consequence and action. When He repented of making Saul king, He acted to eventually remove Saul from the kingship and replace him with David. When God repented of His judgment upon Nineveh, He went from a place where He was going to destroy the city to one where He spared it. In each case, the change of mind was followed by a definite action that was in line with and the natural consequence of the change of mind.

God’s repentance, as with that of man, is a change of mind (at least from man’s perspective – I’m not going to get into a discussion about whether God *really* intended to actually do these things to begin with, or was using these to test his servants, etc. etc.) that corresponds with a change in direction.

That this same definition applies to man’s repentance is shown in the passage I started this post with, I Thessalonians 1:9-10. It should be obvious that this passage, with its description of the Thessalonian believers as ones who had “turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,” is not talking about saved people who have backslidden and are now getting right with God. No. The Thessalonians were pagan people living in a pagan society. When Paul preached Christ to them, they rejected their culture with its pagan trappings and turned to God. What’s more, their turning to God was not just one of mental assent – it was accompanied by fruits meet for repentance, the serving of the living and true God, rather than dead idols of wood and stone. The subsequent change in their lives verified the reality of their repentance – it showed that it was more than just “feeling sorry for sin,” but positively choosing to turn to God and away from that sin.

Now, sorrow for sin, a brokenness that comes with the dawning realization of what sin has done, how it offends God, how it separates us from our Saviour – this can be the first step toward genuine repentance,

“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.” (II Corinthians 7:10)

Yet, this sorrow is not itself repentance. The verse says that it “worketh” repentance. It works toward or brings about repentance, but is not the very thing itself. Repentance is not just “feeling sorry for sin” and cannot be expressed unto salvation merely by telling God “I’m sorry.”

An insightful illustration of the reality of repentance as a definite choice of the will can be seen in the coming of the rich young ruler to Jesus. Here, we see a young man who “realized he needed Jesus in his life.” This was why he came to the Lord asking how he could have eternal life (indicating that he knew he did not have it – so this was no “backslidden believer”). Jesus instructed him to obey several of the laws in the Ten Commandments, omitting the one (about covetousness) that was the heart of this young man’s sin problem. The young man was willing to do, and indeed claimed to already be doing, these commandments. However, when Jesus dealt with his covetousness by instructing him to turn away from the money and wealth that he loved more than God, the young man balked and went away, remaining unsaved,

“And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.” (Mark 10:22)

This is a perfect illustration of what I’ve been saying about repentance. This young man had a choice to make. He could choose God or his wealth. He could hang onto that which was an idol in his heart, or he could turn to God from that idol to serve the living and true God. In this case, the young ruler made a willful choice to hang onto sin and refuse to trust on the Lord. But if he had gone the other way, if he had rejected his covetousness and chosen the Lord instead, this would have been just as willful of a choice on his part. He wouldn’t have “fallen into” it. It wouldn’t have been an “accident.” The fact of that young man’s continuance in sin and being under the wrath of God was due to his conscious choice to hang onto and love his sin (covetousness) and the material wealth which facilitated that sin. If he had turned to the Lord, it would likewise have been a conscious choice to choose God over His sin. This doesn’t mean that he would have been saved by the fact of giving away his wealth and following Jesus – those would have been the natural consequences, in this case, of his exercising faith in the Lord and turning to Him in repentance.

Scripturally, there can only be one conclusion – repentance is a turning to God and away from sin. Again, it does not mean that someone becomes sinless, nor does it mean someone has to “stop sinning” before they can be saved. Instead, it means that it is a choice of the heart, the will, the mind, to reject sin and trust the Saviour instead. Without making that choice, one cannot be saved.

Not So Bird-Brained (John 14:6)

NOT SO BIRD-BRAINED (Friday Church News Notes, October 10, 2014, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from www.creationmoments.com, Aug. 29, 2014: "How do you take a much needed nap or get a good night's sleep when you must be alert to danger? Human beings designate people to stay awake and watch for danger when they sleep. Then, they set up warning systems. Since birds are much more vulnerable to danger, God gave them the ability to do these things on a simple scale, and then He gave them one more amazing gift. Many birds are able to put half of their brain to sleep while the other half stays awake and alert. The eye that serves the sleeping half even closes; the eye that serves the waking half of the brain stays alert, searching for danger. After the first sleeping half is nicely rested, it wakes up, and the other half goes to sleep. Of course, these birds can also put both sides of the brain to sleep at the same time, just as we do. Whales, seals and dolphins are among the non birds that can half brain sleep as well. Evidence of the clever design of this half brain sleep ability can be seen in the fact that where two birds sleep next to each other, each bird will put the half of the brain that faces its partner to sleep. Once that half is rested, they change places, so the other half of their brain can sleep. When Scripture tells us that God looked at His creation and declared it 'good,' God's standard for good is perfection. His ingenious design, which would allow birds to protect themselves even when sin and death entered the creation, is part of the goodness of God's creation."

Only Jesus Saves! (John 14:6)

The Genuine Believer (John 17:1-25)

By: Pastor Cas Reeves (Source: 9/7/14 Heritage Herald)

One of the great passages of the Bible is Jesus' prayer of intercession for all believers. We can learn many lessons from this prayer. In a day of easy-believing and false profession, one of those lessons is the identification of true believers.

- I. They know both God and Jesus (vs. 3)
 - A. They perceive
 - B. They understand
- II. They keep the Word of God (vs. 6)
 - A. They guard - statement of conclusion - emphatic
 - B. They obey
 - 1. They were given the Word
 - 2. They received the Word
 - 3. They believed the Word
- III. They glorify Jesus Christ (vs. 10)
 - A. Through a oneness (vs. 11)
 - B. Through a security (vs. 12)
 - C. Through a joyfulness (vs. 13)
 - D. Through a separation (vs. 14-15)
 - E. Through a sanctification (vs. 17-20)
 - F. Through a unity (vs. 21-23)
 - G. Through a hope (vs. 24-25)
 - H. Through a love of God in them (vs. 26)

Many people believe in Jesus Christ, but it is only head knowledge. Do you know if you are a genuine believer in Christ Jesus, a believer with your whole heart? The identification is here! If you are not, then you can ask Jesus to save you. If it is real, then tell someone what you did and what Jesus did for you!

:) Children For Christ :)

'Multiple' Choice (Part 1) (By: Bro. Craig Glickman)

Memory Verse: Romans 3:23 – For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

Please answer these multiple choice questions about duos (two people together) in the Bible:

1. One offered his son Isaac as a sacrifice and the other pitched his tent toward Sodom?
A. Abraham and Lot B. Jacob and Joseph C. David and Jonathan
2. One denied the Lord thrice and the other was saved on the Damascus road?
A. Abraham and Lot B. Peter and Paul C. Moses and Aaron
3. One dropped the Ten Commandments and they broke while the other made a golden calf?

- A. Ruth and Boaz B. Moses and Aaron C. Samuel and Saul
4. She gleaned in the fields and the other was the kinsmen redeemer?
A. Rachel and Jacob B. Samson and Delilah C. Ruth and Boaz
5. One went to heaven in a whirlwind while the other saw bears destroy children who mocked him?
A. Elijah and Elisha B. Samson and Delilah C. Saul and Jonathan

...to be continued :-)

<p>CHALLENGE BY A PASTOR (Friday Church News Notes, October 10, 2014, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from a message sent to me by Chris Lipscomb, Sr. -- "[Once upon a time] the idea of a woman wearing pants was as unthinkable to the church member as a man wearing a dress. ... Somewhere the pressure from carnal women in the church became more than the preachers could survive. Somewhere church members began deciding to get up and walk out of church services at such offensive preaching. Somewhere church members decided to move their membership over this one subject. Somewhere it became too costly for preachers to defend any longer. Somewhere it became impossible for a pastor to get a church unless he would let go of his conviction. How did this happen? When did right preaching become wrong? When did Godly standards become legalism?"</p> <p>...continued other side of page</p>	<p>... Do the arguments not make sense anymore? Of course they do; we are just willing to suspend them in favor of being accepted by the lost we seek to save. The ungodly have made a very successful run at blurring the distinction between gender specific garments. Women's garments are more masculine and men's garments are more feminine than ever. That is by design, a design to prove God wrong about the differences between the roles of men and women. I know the masses do not move by their own design, but they are being moved by someone's design. ... Did we get beaten or did we surrender? ... In my area of the country there is no understanding among church members of how to salvage or preserve the Christian home. Every man and woman does that which is right in his own eyes and excuses the results because everyone seems to be going through these struggles these days. The point is that we should not be, and we do not have to be. Does it all hinge on what the women are wearing? No, it hinges on an attitude of submission to God's idea of what our roles are. Men refuse to submit to their role in leading, and women rebel against the men. The fact that pants have become the common garment is the evidence that we have surrendered to the world whether on purpose or not. It is a symbol of the success of the feminist movement in America. If you do not believe this, try changing into a dress from now on and see what reaction you get, ladies."</p>
<p>“The American Republic will endure until the day Congress discovers that it can bribe the public with the public’s money.” <i>Alexis de Tocqueville, 1805-1859</i> <i>Political Thinker, Historian</i></p>	<p>Praises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praise God for the beauty of fall and the vibrant colors that show a Great Creator! (Gen. 1:1) <p>Prayer Requests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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

Prayer Requests continued:

- 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

