

Discipleship 401 Chapter 07 Apostolic responsibility

Open with insights from the last week on work of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 4:1-6, This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. ² Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. ³ I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. ⁴ My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵ Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.

⁶ Now, brothers and sisters, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "Do not go beyond what is written." Then you will not be puffed up in being a follower of one of us over against the other.

Galatians 4:8-11, Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. ⁹ But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable forces^[a]? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? ¹⁰ You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! ¹¹ I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you.

In the early church Jesus had prepared the apostles to teach walking by faith and to protect the church from being misled. Being misled causes erosion of faith and ability to trust the Lord. Now down through the generations and centuries the church was corrupted and weakened. We will call it the yeast of the pharisees. You know that keeping a good diet and regular exercise will keep your body healthy. But if you have become unhealthy and overweight, it is much harder to get back to what is good. My observations in what I have been told is that since the reformation period and in particular through revivals in the last couple of hundred years, the Lord is bringing an awakening of his church to prepare for his arrival. There is a coming move of God globally to prepare his church for the end. Ephesians 4:7-11 states that he raises up his apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers and evangelists to strengthen the Body of Christ. These must be strengthened before the body can be cleaned up. The Lord is slowly shaking off old religious perceptions. There are some old mindsets that he still has to change, but it is going to start with his leaders working under the inspiration of his Spirit in what is taught, not simply following the teachings that have been handed down from past generations.

In the recent Covid crisis that hit North America, many Christians in different churches started reacting emotionally, stating wild things such as, "the tribulation has started", and many other things. Those things were stated back then as well. The Apostles in the time had to 'refute what was evil and declare what is true'.

Comment on above concepts. Pray for a greater discernment of truth and his will.

In this section we will look at an area that doesn't impact our everyday life but causes a lot of fear and uncertainty for the future. That is certain events spoken of in the Book of Revelation, specifically the tribulation and the rapture. Fear is created because of confusion over what may happen. There is a confidence and security in being in the will of God in faith. It is the responsibility of the apostolic ministry in the church to make sure the church hears the will of the Lord.

Revelation 1:17-20, When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

¹⁹ "Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. ²⁰ The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels^[a] of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Jesus introduces himself as the Lord over his sevenfold Spirit and over his sevenfold church. He is the encourager and sanctifier of his church. He then goes on to describe the release of the Horsemen bringing global catastrophic turmoil on the earth.

Revelation 6:5-6, When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. ⁶ Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, "Two pounds^[a] of wheat for a day's wages,^[b] and six pounds^[c] of barley for a day's wages,^[d] and do not damage the oil and the wine!"

This period of the tribulation is the first half. It is understood that the tribulation is 7 year period and is divided in half. What is described above takes place in the first half. The statement, "do not damage the oil and the wine", refers to protecting those under the anointing of the Lord. By the time of the tribulation the church will walk in the glory of the Lord.

In this time period 6 seals are opened, then a pause comes. A special seal of protection is given to 144,000 and at this time another event takes place...

Revelation 7:13-14, Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes – who are they, and where did they come from?" ... And he said, "These are they that have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb."

After this the seventh seal is opened and things get bad in the second half. God is preparing his church now for what is coming. It needs to walk in obedience by faith. It starts there.

Pray together for him to sanctify his leaders under his authority – teaching his inspiration only.