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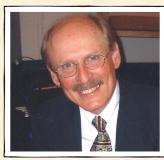
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Bible Study — Pg I

Acts 13

Paul and Barnabas Are Sent to the Gentiles

1¶Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

2As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

3Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.

Preaching in Cyprus

4¶So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

5And when they arrived in Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They also had John as their assistant.

6¶Now when they had gone through the island to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus.

7who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man called for Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God.

8But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

9Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him

10and said, "O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord?

11"And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time." And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand.

12Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

At Antioch in Pisidia

13¶Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem.

14But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down.

15And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, "Men and brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say on."

16¶Then Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said, "Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen:

17"The God of this people Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He brought them out of it.

18"Now for a time of about forty years He put up with their ways in the wilderness.

19"And when He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land to them by allotment.

20¶"After that He gave them judges for about four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet.

21"And afterward they asked for a king; so God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years.

22"And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.'

23"From this man's seed, according to the promise, God raised up for Israel a Savior—Jesus—

24"after John had first preached, before His coming, the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

25"And as John was finishing his course, he said, 'Who do you think I am? I am not He. But behold, there comes One after me, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to loose.'

Bible Study – Pg 2

26¶"Men and brethren, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to you the word of this salvation has been sent.

27"For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know Him, nor even the voices of the Prophets which are read every Sabbath, have fulfilled them in condemning Him.

28"And though they found no cause for death in Him, they asked Pilate that He should be put to death.

29"Now when they had fulfilled all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb.

30"But God raised Him from the dead.

31"He was seen for many days by those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are His witnesses to the people.

32"And we declare to you glad tidings—that promise which was made to the fathers.

33"God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm: 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.'

34"And that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken thus: 'I will give you the sure mercies of David.'fn

35"Therefore He also says in another Psalm: 'You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption.'

36¶"For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption;

37"but He whom God raised up saw no corruption.

38"Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins;

39"and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.

40"Beware therefore, lest what has been spoken in the prophets come upon you:

41'Behold, you despisers, Marvel and perish! For I work a work in your days, A work which you will by no means believe, Though one were to declare it to you.'"

Blessing and Conflict at Antioch

42¶So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath.

43Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

44¶On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God.

45But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul.

46Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles.

47"For so the Lord has commanded us: 'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.'"

48¶Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

49¶And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region.

50But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region.

51But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium.

52And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Honest Questions

Last week I received several excellent questions from those of you who are a part of our weekly Bible Study, and I am excited to have the opportunity to respond. I solicit more of your questions in the coming weeks — questions which you may find relevant to your faith experience, and which may also weigh upon the minds of many others who need to see the reality and reward of a faith in the Bible and in a God they can trust.

I have chosen to address two of the questions in this issue which you submitted, and I hope to make "Honest Questions" a regular part of our newsletter in the weeks to follow.

Honest Question: How does one face the challenge of believing that the Bible is truly the authentic Word of God instead of just an erroneous book of religion inspired and devised by man?

Bible Answer:

All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16, 17 RSV.

Above all, you must realize that no **prophecy in Scripture** ever came from the prophet's own understanding, or **from human initiative**. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God. 2 Peter 1:20, 21 NLT.

Comments:

The weight of evidence that the Bible is inspired by God, and not a creation of mortal man, is abundant. Only someone wanting to discredit the Bible or contest its authority for personal reasons would seek to put the Word of God on trial. The Bible tells the story of the creation of the heavens and the earth and all that is in them, including the human family. There is no other "story" or theory contrived by man which can explain the marvelous workings of a human eye, heart, brain, kidney — the electrical impulses that keep a heart beating, or a nervous system that controls the physiology and function of the entire body of a man or woman — from conception to death! There is no other intelligent, reasonable explanation for how the complex genetic code of a baby can cause that baby to reflect the likeness of his parents, or how a man and woman can "create" a new life from an "act of love," the emotion of love itself having its origins in the heart of God. It takes more faith to believe that life came from nothing than to admit that the power, the works, and the providence of a divine Being is the cause for all we see and experience in this earthly reality!

Another evidence of the divine origins of the Bible is the plan of salvation it describes, conceived by God to save a lost race. This amazing plan **does not** bear the marks of the mind of man. Only a divine heart could love a lost race. Only a divine mind could conceive a plan that does not compromise His righteousness and yet can save a sinner!

And finally, the ability to foretell hundreds and thousands of years in advance the ultimate history and the details of the future (and even names) of people and powers can only come from "One whose goings forth are from the days of eternity" Micah 5:2. Paul says in Romans, "Since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they (the ungodly who suppress the truth in unrighteousness) are without excuse" Romans 1:18, 20.

Honest Questions

In the end, the choice to believe or disbelieve in the credibility of the Bible and the God who inspired its pages is given to every individual. No amount of evidence can convince the one who refuses to believe, but in this matter, to err can determine how one spends eternity!

Honest Question:

What does it mean to be made in the image of God?

Bible Answer:

Then God said, "Let <u>us</u> make man [literally "mankind] in <u>our image</u>, after <u>our likeness</u>; and let <u>them</u> have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created <u>man</u> in <u>his</u> own image, in the image of God <u>he</u> created <u>him</u>; male and female <u>he</u> created <u>them</u>. Genesis 1:26, 27 RSV.

When <u>God</u> created <u>man</u>, he made <u>him</u> in the <u>likeness of God</u>. Male and female <u>he</u> created <u>them</u>, and <u>he</u> blessed <u>them</u> and named <u>them Man</u> when <u>they</u> were created. Genesis 5:1, 2 RSV.

Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. Genesis 2:22-24 NIV.

Comments:

According to the verses above, God ["Us," "Our," "His," "He"] made man ["them," "him," "they"] in His own "likeness"/ "image," "male and female." And when the man and the woman were given to each other," "they became one," in the same way that God is one!

Likewise, when the believer is united with his Savior through faith, he becomes "one with Christ!" Marriage between a man and a woman illustrates this oneness of Christ with the believer — a likeness that the devil has sought to erase in the human experience! Paul likens the believer's oneness with Christ to marriage:

Husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Ephesians 5:28-32 NKJV.

Jesus bound Himself to us and became "flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone" in Bethlehem. He walked the earth **as us**, lived a perfect life **as us**, died our death **as us**, and was risen **as us** — as the "first fruits" from the dead. Baptism is the outward declaration of our oneness with Christ in death, burial and resurrection, and Paul says that as a believer we now sit at the right hand of God in Him! (Rom. 6:3, 4; Col. 3:1-3).

Honest Questions

Backing up a bit, God made us in His image in a number of ways. We are capable of a love like His, the ability to reason as He does, to communicate with Him and each other as He does, to bear the traits of His character in our lives as His Spirit lives with in us, and in many ways we may not fully comprehend until we see Him face to face. John says,

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be **like Him**, for we shall see Him as He is. 1 John 3:2 NKJV.

But the most magnificent way in which we are created in the image of God is in that union of man and woman in an intimate relationship of marriage as God intended it to be. The union of a man and a woman, not just physically but emotionally, is like that of God's own oneness as Father, Son and Holy Spirit — one God manifest in three Persons. God must find His greatest pleasure in seeing in us a likeness to Himself, just as parents look into the face of their baby, a creation born of their love for one another, and see in that little person a likeness of themselves. There is no greater joy! And after God had created a beautiful earth, filled with majestic creatures and colorful flowers and delicious fruit, He had one more act of creation to perform before He rested from all His work. It was to create a man and a woman and unite them in marriage! When God was done, He saw Himself in His creation!

Two Final Observations

- It wasn't until Eve, a woman created from a rib from the body of Adam, was brought to the man and their union sealed by God Himself that the image, or likeness, of God was fully manifest in His creation! Only then could it be said that "mankind was created in the likeness of God!" It is in the blend of male and female that the image of God is found in humanity, and without the two in intimate union with each other, the likeness to God is incomplete!
- God has imparted to man His own creative power. It is out of the love between a man and woman that the creative attribute of God is shared with the ones made in His image. The conception and birth of a baby in the likeness of its parents is a sacred gift God has given to us that is perhaps the most remarkable way in which the likeness of God is found in the human experience!

Prophecy In the News

The Emerging Global False Revival

Last Sunday, June 8, 2025, was Pentecost Sunday – a day remembered by Christians as the day, 1,994 years ago, that the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the Church Jesus had established to carry His name and His story to the world. On the Day of Pentecost, 31 A.D., 120 followers of Christ were gathered together in Jerusalem in fellowship and prayer, waiting for the Spirit to come upon them as Jesus had promised just before He returned to heaven. The whole story is recorded in the Book of Acts, chapters 1 and 2 – a story we recently studied in our Sabbath afternoon Bible class. On that day in 31 A.D., the Holy Spirit was poured out in power and abundance upon the Church. People from all over the then-known world were gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, and Peter and the apostles preached to the crowds who were present. The story of the crucified and risen Lord was told, and as a result of Peter's message, which each person heard in the own language, 3,000 people responded to his message in repentance and faith, they were baptized, and the Christian Church was born.

Last Sunday, a Christian group called Baptize America organized what they hoped would be a repeat of the Day of Pentecost across America – and they did! Under the direction and coordination of Baptize America, 650 churches, representing all 50 states, conducted mass baptismal services resulting in 27,000 baptisms across the nation! That morning, Sammy and I watched the worship service of Ocean Church in Irvine, CA as they promoted and prepared their audience for the afternoon baptism at Pirate's Cove in Corona del Mar. As a backdrop to their service, they had the following banner displayed on the screen behind the speaker:



There is a "great awakening" taking place across our land today – from the length of the Pacific Coast to the entire Atlantic Coast, including the Hollywood and Washington D.C. cultures! The "great awakening" has also hit Europe, the UK, Poland, Melbourne, Rome, Norway, France, the Netherlands, Asia and beyond – the whole world!

Many sincere souls have and are responding to the call of the Christian churches of the world to follow Christ and become a

part of a movement that is going global. They are:

- Being water baptized
- Excited and exuberant in their expressions of faith
- Dancing and raising their hands toward heaven in worship
- Marching in the streets, carrying banners and shouting the name of Christ
- Demanding their 1st Amendment rights to publicly evangelize the cities
- Being "baptized by the Holy Ghost" and "slain in the spirit"
- Singing and dancing to Christian rock music with the kind of animation seen at high school proms and secular concerts
- "Miracles, signs and wonders" are being reported
- ◆ There is a mass fervor unlike anything we've seen before on this scale almost a hysteria!



JESUS MARCH TAKING

OVER THE STREETS OF

The Bible speaks of a global revival that is to come upon the world before Jesus returns. There will be divinely equipped, **spiritual** "virgins" (Revelation 14:4; Matthew 25:1), **unaffiliated with any organized church**, Spirit-filled messengers numbering 144,000, whose voices and message will bear a likeness to Moses and Elijah, unstoppable, invincible, and with a power described as "fire proceeding from their mouths, devouring their enemies." Revelation 11:5. These messengers are described as "angels flying in the midst of heaven," proclaiming the last



warning message to those who dwell in the earth, carrying the everlasting Gospel of Scripture, calling the world to worship the Creator, observe His commandments, including the true Sabbath, and cling to their faith in Jesus Christ alone. Their message will be opposed by the religious leaders of the world – Evangelicals, Protestants, and Catholics alike – just as Jesus was opposed and crucified by the religious leaders of His day. The experience of the followers of Christ at the end of time will be the same as that of their Savior and the Church in the 1st Century. They will be persecuted by that ecumenical conglomerate of religion called "Babylon." And their message will be:

- "Babylon is fallen. Come out of her, My people, lest you be partakers of her plagues."
- "If anyone worships the beast [the religion of Rome the false Christ] and his image [the likeness of the religion of Rome as expressed in the Protestant/Evangelical world], they will experience the wrath of God and the plagues which will fall upon them.

The Bible says that as these messengers of God will call the world to the true **worship** of God and to a faith in Christ which manifests itself in the observance of the Sabbath of Scripture. The Spirit of God will fall upon the world, bringing masses to salvation **and to suffering** for their faith! It will be like the days of the Church of the 1st Century and of the Church of the Reformation years "on steroids!"

Before this last day manifestation of God's Spirit upon the earth, there will be a false revival which mimics the genuine – a revival which appears Christian in nature, manifests supernatural powers, and "deceives, if possible, even the **elect**" – those who are trusting in Christ alone and using the Word of God as their only source of truth, faith and experience (Matthew 24;24). The fruit of the first revival will be a deception of the masses. The fruit of the last revival will be the salvation of multitudes, as described by John in Revelation 7:9, 10, 13, 14:

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ... Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

An "Honest Ouestion"

How can the revival we see today – the first of the two revivals – be a false revival? People are coming to Christ. Thousands are being baptized. Millions are excited about their new fearless desire to proclaim and celebrate the name of Christ, and the community in which they are finding a common religious life. Many are experiencing supernatural manifestations of the spirit. The doctrinal differences that have separated Christians into hundreds of denominations are being set aside so Christian unity and love can triumph over division and self-righteous claims to a superior faith that is often hypocritical and sterile!

The Bible Answer

Deception is the master strategy of demons! Deception is making something bad look like something good. Deception is covering a lie with truth – clothing a wolf in sheep's clothing – it's like "the devil coming as an angel of light!" Deception is mixing truth with lies to deceive the sincere and unsuspecting, to snare the unwary, destroy the undiscerning. Deception is the tactic Satan has used from the beginning!

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Revelation 12:9.

And the LORD God said to the woman, "What [is] this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." Genesis 3:13.

But I fear, lest somehow, as **the serpent deceived Eve** by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 2 Corinthians 11:3.

And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. 1 Timothy 2:14.

And deception is what Satan will use at the end of time to sweep as many as possible into the lake of fire with him – a lake of fire "prepared for the devil and his angels." Matthew 25:41.

And Jesus, answering them, began to say: "Take heed that no one **deceives** you. For many will come in My name, and will **deceive** many. ... 22 "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to **deceive**, if possible, even the elect. Mark 13:5, 6, 22.

And he [the False Prophet of Christian America] **deceives** those who dwell on the earth by those **signs** which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast.... Revelation 13:14.

Then **the beast** was captured, and with him **the false prophet** who worked **signs** in his presence, by which he **deceived** those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were **cast alive into the lake of fire**. Revelation 19:20.

He cast him [the devil] into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. ... and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. Revelation 20:3, 8.

The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone [with] the beast and the false prophet. Revelation 20:10.

Comments

- Many who are currently being drawn to the global revival now emerging will be saved! They are sincere in heart and have no other place to experience Christian fellowship and express their faith in Christ but in the churches that exist today. And rather than choose to attend a church that is musty and sterile, they flock to the churches that are vibrant, friendly and accepting and offer worship and small group services for the whole family.
- The "remnant" Church of Jesus Christ is still to rise as a visible community of believers. It is currently comprised of individuals who have no where to go to find fellowship with other Christians who count truth, sound biblical doctrine, and an unadulterated atmosphere for worship on the true Sabbath. But as the Spirit of God falls upon the earth and the voice of God's messengers is heard throughout the earth, calling God's people out of "Babylon", the visible eschatological Church of Jesus Christ will

rise to prominence – and persecution! And as the call is made to "Come out of Babylon," a multitude will come out and be separate from the false religion of the world. God says of them, "They will be Mine on the day I make them My jewels, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him. Then you will again discern between the righteous and the wicked …" Malachi 3:17, 18.

- The global revival emerging today is being used by Satan to bring the world together under his deceptive spell. He doesn't care if Christ appears to be getting the glory. He doesn't care if Christ's name is being promoted and championed, people being baptized, the Bible being quoted. Even he quoted the Bible to Jesus in the wilderness of temptation to deceive Him into falling for his lies! Satan built a false Christian church from the original Christian Church at Rome, which today is considered to be a Christian church because it claims to believe in the Trinity, the virgin birth of Christ, His saving death and resurrection, and the Bible. But the Church of Rome is not what it appears to be! It is the system of Antichrist and has "the blood of the saints and the martyrs" on her hands. Revelation 17:6.
- ♦ The final revival, which is to follow the current revival, will truly be of God and inspired by His Holy Spirit. We will definitely know when God's Spirit descends upon the world. God will call His people to come out of Babylon, return to Him and be saved, and receive of the fullness of His Spirit something of a very different nature than what is seen now:
 - * The animated "hype" of the current revival, inspired by loud music, group energy, humorous and sometimes irreverent preaching, and manufactured fervor, will be in stark contrast to the way in which God's Spirit will fall upon the human heart. Then there will be a deep sense of one's sin, a consuming response of sincere repentance, a desperate claim on God's forgiveness and grace, and an abandon to an uncompromised allegiance and obedience to His commands.
 - * The revival that is to come will not be popular. It will not be hailed as wonderful in the news or on social media. It will bring scorn and persecution upon the one who embraces the wonder and preciousness of God's presence upon the bearer!
 - * When God's Spirit comes in end time power upon His people, there will be no drama. There will be an unmistakable mark of God's presence, not that of demons. It won't be with dramatic shaking, falling to the floor, and breaking into guttural sounds of an unintelligible utterance that characterizes being "slain in the spirit" as in the current manifestation of the "baptism of the Spirit." This demonstration of being overcome by "the spirit," though certainly supernatural, is not of God's Spirit but of another! We are told that "spirits of demons performing signs" will be active in our world as we approach the coming of Jesus. Revelation 16:14. And Paul warns us,

Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the

son of perdition, ... The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie. 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 9-11.

We must not miss this important warning!

Being "Slain in the Spirit"

- * When God's Spirit falls, there will be visions and dreams among God's people. But they will not originate from man's efforts, nor will they bear the mark of a false religious experience.
- * The revival of today has been orchestrated by man promoted by groups attempting to create revival and unity within the Christian community. It is part of an ecumenical movement which discards sound doctrine for a common cause of social justice, the global establishment of Christian values, and a unified "Christian" church. There is a desire to break down all the barriers that have separated denominations from one another in the past, and from the Church of Rome to unite all faiths into a
 - cooperative effort to evangelize the world, and bring a oneness among professed Christians that includes everyone. What will happen as a result of the success of this movement, according to prophecy, is that everyone will unite, except those followers of Christ who are unwilling to compromise their love for truth and an allegiance to Jesus Christ alone. They will refuse to comply with the mandate to join the rest of the world, receive the mark of the beast, and "worship



the beast and his image," and they will suffer persecution for their stand against system of false religion and corrupt government!

* And finally, the music which will be born of the true worship of God's people as they gather at the end of time will come from hearts overcome with God's grace. Their music will be inspired by God's Spirit and will be much different than that which is common in churches today! It will not be offensive to God and will have none of the antics and show that is prevalent in the worship music of today's church! The common worship music of today does not glorify God as it pretends to do. It is offensive to the ears and nerves of those who come to have an encounter with God, and it is offensive to God, creating more of a secular rock concert than a time of worship!

Concluding Remarks

It's important for my readers to understand that even as I have laid out the stark realities of what now is, as I have done above, I know the story isn't over yet. There are numerous sincere Christians who are soon going to respond to the call of the true Spirit of God through the messengers He has "on deck." They will heed the call to come out of Babylon — the religious system now in play — when they see the contrast between what they believe with what is true. Today, they have no where to go but to the churches which currently represent organized Christianity — including the "Christianity" of Rome! Many have grown up in the churches they still attend. Others have sought out the fellowship of other Christians where there is a resemblance of the faith of the Bible. Don't forget, the prophecy of John in Revelation 13:11 says that the False Prophet will "look like the Lamb," and for most people who have a faith in Christ and a desire to experience His presence, not only at home but in a church setting, they go to the places of worship that to them look most like authentic Christianity! Personally, I too have looked for a place to experience a fellowship where I don't have to constantly filter out false doctrine mixed in with biblical teaching, the offensive music, political agendas, ethnocentrism and hypocrisy which is found in every church today! But I haven't been able to find a single one! So Sammy and I have chosen to worship at home and online until "the true Church of Jesus Christ" — the "remnant" of Revelation 12:17, rises, becomes visible, offers true fellowship, and calls the world back to the truth and faith of God's Word! It is an exercise in patient endurance that many will have to experience until God raises up His "Church militant" before His return. The good news is that prophecy is unfolding before our eyes, and the time of "waiting" and "delay" is about to end! Don't let go of the hope we have! God is faithful, and His promises are sure!

¹ Like remarks about the rapture, the Lord's Day [Sunday], the dead being in heaven, etc.

² "Wait": Luke 12:36; Romans 8:25; Hebrews 9:28 — "Delay": Matthew 25:5; Revelation 10:6