

September 21, 2024

West Valley End-Time Ministries Newsletter

"The Woman Jesus Loved"

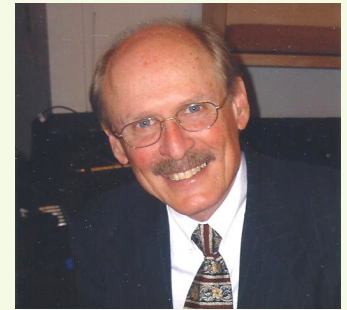
Who are the people in your life you love the most? All of us have a sweet affection for various people we know, but there are some to whom we are drawn more than others. Who are those in your life for whom you have the most tender affection?

There seem to be a number of people in Jesus' life with whom He had the closest bonds — John the disciple calls himself, "the one Jesus loved." There were three of the twelve disciples who were closest to Jesus, experiencing Jesus' visit with Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration, once accompanying Jesus on a mountain alone to pray, going into the room where Jairus' daughter was raised to life, and following Jesus to Gethsemane. None of the other disciples shared in these special moments with Jesus.

Then there was Mary. She is the one who had been literally cast at the feet of Jesus by the self-righteous leaders, rightly accused and fearful of being stoned right then and there. But instead, when Jesus condemned her accusers by the things He wrote in the sand, causing them to slowly flee their "judgment", Mary heard the tender words of the Savior, "Neither do I condemn you." In response to Jesus' love and acceptance of her, she was the one who spent a years wages to buy expensive perfume to anoint the head and feet of Jesus at Simon's feast, the Saturday evening before His death. She was the one who was first to see Jesus after His resurrection and hear him tenderly address her, "Mary." She was the one to announce to the disciples the Savior's resurrection — she was the one.

What was it about these people who commanded the special love of Jesus? What was different about them from everyone else Jesus loved? Perhaps their desperate need of Him? Perhaps their deep heartfelt response to His love for them despite their sin? Perhaps the look in their eyes when their eyes met His, showing the deepest affection of their hearts for Him?

In Him,
Pastor Chilson



Pastor Darrell Chilson

***"We are living in
the season of
Christ's return."***

***Jesus said, "Watch
and be ready, for
the Son of Man is
coming at an hour
you do not expect."***

***The mission of
West Valley Minis-
tries is to help
Christ's followers
recognize the signs
of His approaching
return and be pre-
pared for that
Great Day.***



John 8 – Part 1

“An Adulteress Faces the Savior”

2 Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them. **3** Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, **4** they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. **5** "Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?" **6** This they said, testing Him, that they might have [something] of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with [His] finger, as though He did not hear. **7** So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." **8** And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. **9** Then those who heard [it], being convicted by [their] conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest [even] to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. **10** When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" **11** She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."



- 1) When and where does this story take place?
- 2) Who is this “adulteress”? Is it Mary Magdalene or some other woman?
- 3) Who are her accusers? Were they spying on her? Did they set her up?
- 4) What did the law of Moses say should be done to an adulteress? See Leviticus 20:10.
- 5) What was the motive behind bringing this woman to Jesus? Verse 6.
- 6) Note how unaffected Jesus was at the pomp and authority the scribes and Pharisees were brandishing, even when they pressed Him for an answer!
- 7) What do you think Jesus was writing in the sand with His finger? What would have caused the woman’s accusers to “vanish”?
- 8) Now Jesus is face to face and alone with the woman (verse 10). Describe the scene as this “sinner” faces her Savior.
- 9) Did the woman deserve to suffer the penalty of the law of Moses? Who gave Moses this Law?
- 10) What had changed since God gave Moses the Law on Mount Sinai? Note what John says in John 1:17.
- 11) How have things changed for us since Jesus came?



“THE MARK OF THE BEAST” Part 3

In our last issue, we observed that not only does the Beast have a “mark” used to identify those who are loyal to the Beast, but God also has a “mark” that identifies those who are loyal to Him in the final conflict between good and evil. At the present time, there are people who are decidedly on the side of evil, and there are others who are decidedly on the side of right. But the great majority of people on earth are still undecided as to which side they will find themselves on before the great Battle of Armageddon – the last showdown between good and evil. Currently, there is still a vast majority of the world who are yet to declare their loyalty to either the system of evil or to the camp of God. But in the end, the whole world will be divided into just two groups – “the sheep and the goats,” “the wheat and the tares,” “the saved and the lost.” Every single person alive on earth when Jesus returns will have made their decision for eternity – then there will no longer be any “undecided’s.” And every person will then have received either the “seal” of God in their foreheads or the “mark of the beast” in their right hand or forehead.

The Book of Revelation reveals a number of factors which will move everyone to finally choose whom they will serve – which side they will be on. We will take a closer look at these factors in future issues, but following is a preview of what is going to “move the needle” in the hearts of every person as they decide for or against Christ in the final lap of time:


- 1) The threat of being unable to buy or sell unless one has the mark of the beast will cause those who value their personal welfare and security above loyalty to the God of heaven to submit to the mandate of the religio-political powers of the day and receive the mark. Such has been the test of conscience throughout the ages.
- 2) The miraculous signs and wonders to be performed by the forces of evil, as described in Revelation 13:13, 14, and spoken of in other places in Scripture, will deceive many and cause them to be swept into the exciting world of the supernatural and “wonder after” and “worship the Beast.”


On the other hand,

- 1) The horrendous warning judgments of God upon the earth, as described in Revelation 6, 8 and 9, will awake the world to its approaching destruction and the coming of Christ and will cause the sincere of heart to choose loyalty to God above loyalty to the powers of darkness, regardless of the price that must be paid.
- 2) The supernaturally empowered voices of the chosen servants of God (the Two Witnesses – the 144,000) to worship God, at a time when the False Prophet is calling for worship and allegiance to the Beast, will be heeded by many and result in their salvation.

Finally, I would like to call your attention to the last verses of Revelation 13 which speak of the mark of the beast, his name and his number:

He [the second beast/False Prophet] also caused everyone (small and great, rich and poor, free and slave) to obtain a mark on their right hand or on their forehead. Thus no one was allowed to buy or sell things unless he bore the mark of the beast - that is, his name or his number. This calls for wisdom: Let the one who has insight calculate the beast's number, for it is man's number, and his number is 666. Revelation 13:16-18 (NET version).





Some Observations:

- 1) The “mark” of the beast will be on the “right hand” OR on the “forehead.”
- 2) The “mark” is EITHER the “name of the beast” OR the “number of his name.”
- 3) The “mark”/“seal” of God and the **name** of the Father is on the **foreheads** of the saved. Ezekiel 9:4; Revelation 7:3; 9:4; 14:1; 22:4.
- 4) The “number of the beast is that of man”, or mankind. The Greek word for “man”, and in other translations “a man”, is one Greek word *anthropos*, meaning “man” and translated *mankind* in many places in Scripture.

Some Conclusions:

- 1) The mark, or seal, of God is not a visible mark; it is a symbol of God’s ownership on the bearer – the Father’s name written on the heart (forehead) of God’s children (Revelation 14:1; 22:4). The mark of the Beast is not likely a visible mark either – such is unnecessary in today’s world of technology; the “mark” will likely be merely the “digital identity” of the bearer, connected to a “digital profile,” identifying him or her as a loyal subject of the Beast— as does the “seal of God” – visible only to God but denoting the loyalty and allegiance of the righteous to the authority of God and to His commandments — all of them.
- 2) The number of the Beast is 666 – **the number of man/mankind**. The number 6, the day on which man was created, is in contrast to the number 7, the day on which God rested – **the Sabbath** – “seven” being God’s number throughout the Bible, from creation week to the Book of Revelation with all its “seven’s” – seven churches, seven spirits, seven seals, seven trumpets, seven plagues, seven thunders, etc. So many sincere students of these prophecies want to make the number 666 a number representing the name of **A MAN** – which can be calculated to represent any number of people in the present day or in history. (We will talk more of this when we study Revelation 14 as a parallel to Revelation 13). But a proper understanding of this term signifies that the number is “man’s number”, or the “number of man,” not some calculation of the letters of a name that could signify any number of people, including the pope – even though the papacy is the subject of this passage!
- 3) The number of the name of the Beast, 666, is a not only 6 repeated twice to underscore its significance, but it represents the blasphemous power which rises up against “the Most High,” persecuting “the saints of the Most High” and seeking to “change the times and Law of the Most High!” (Daniel 7) – sitting in the place of God, assuming the prerogatives of God – a mere MAN! — a creature seeking to be like God – just as Lucifer did before being cast out of heaven! Isaiah 14:12-14. “6” once is not emphatic enough to describe the blasphemous nature of this “man.”

Just as there is a significant parallel between the “mark” of the Beast on the followers of Satan and his agents and the “seal” of God on the followers of Christ, at the end of time, there are more parallels that must be noted in our next issue – such as...

- 1) The “worship” of the Beast (Rev 13) and the “worship” of God (Rev 14),
- 2) The sign of the authority of the Beast and the sign of the authority of God,
- 3) The convincing deceptions of evil and the persuasive testimony of the servants of God,
- 4) And the parallel time frame in which the Beast persecutes the people of God and the time frame in which the servants of God powerfully proclaim the Gospel in the context of the Judgment hour.

We will seek to address these and other fascinating parallels in our next couple of issues.

Stay tuned!

