

November 4, 2010

Repentance, Not Elections, Changes A Nation

*"Righteousness exalts a nation,
but sin is a disgrace to any people"*

(Proverbs 14:34)

Several years ago I (Mike) kept hearing this voice inside saying, "Possibly two more presidents, then dictatorship." When I initially shared this message with people during the early stages of the current Recession, most just laughed it off. Now.... well, the thought of a dictatorship doesn't seem so far off. As some of you may know from history, democracies inherently end up as dictatorships. The signs of when a nation succumbs to a dictatorship are:

- (1). The utter moral decadence of society as sin becomes more widely embraced.
- (2). Colossal national debt.

It may sound unpatriotic, but where this nation ends up isn't as important to the two of us as preparing followers of Jesus to be light before the Dark Days of Chastisement come on this country. The *cold love* you see manifested all around you is only going to become colder as the darkness of sin dominates this land. We encourage you: Guard yourself against cold love by maintaining a repentant heart before our Lord (Matthew 24:12).

As you consider the plight of this nation, you may ask yourself, Why doesn't Christianity (300,000+ congregations in the US) have any influence on our country?

The Bible makes clear that our God does not stand with the unrepentant nor even hear their prayers. Christendom at large is intended by our Father to reveal the Good News of Jesus as Savior and Lord and to help people remain unrepentant before Him out of grateful love for Him. Yet all too often, those who say they are His neglect (or refuse) to represent the Biblical requirements of our holy God — **personal righteousness** that's lived out in His Spirit. Do you see that most of the contemporary, westernized presentation of Christianity has been conquered by the **spirit of antichrist** and the **spirit of lawlessness**?

As you read in the Newer Testament about the spirit of antichrist and the spirit of lawlessness, there's little doubt that these spirits work hand-in-hand. Perhaps they're one and the same spirit. As we wrote in our last e-mail, our recent time away was spent predominantly among people who call themselves "Christian" and regularly attend services. Yet except for some uplifting exceptions, we often found ourselves conversing with the spirits of antichrist and lawlessness in people who've custom-designed their own form of Christianity. (See James 1:22.) The overwhelming toleration for sin disheartened us, especially since their self-proclaimed identity as "Christian" so grievously brings down His holy Name by their rebellion against His Word.

You're probably as saddened as we are by the spiritual delusion so many live under.

The self-deceived go through their religious practices believing that they're okay with God. Yet by their words and their actions you detect *no fear of God* in them nor any appreciation of *why Jesus died* on the cross. The commands of our Righteous God are of no concern to them; one regular church attender even admitted to us that she had no intention of reading the Bible — she preferred to live by her own standards! Since we've been back here, we're hearing from others who recognize this same deplorable mindset among so many in religious, systematized Christendom. This is why we want to encourage you to scrutinize your own life to see if you may have succumbed to the spirits of lawlessness and antichrist.

We know from 2 Thessalonians 2:3,4 that the spirit of lawlessness ***"will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God."*** There is no doubt that the spirit of lawlessness is well-established in many "Christian temples" throughout this nation. You recognize his presence when a person's need to *repent and stay repentant* is minimized or done away with in that system's message and theology.

It appears to us that the spirit of lawlessness prepares the way for the antichrist spirit, which purposes to nullify the importance of the crucifixion of Jesus (1 John 4:1-3). Do you see the connection?

- The spirit of lawlessness convinces Christians that God's Law has been done away with.
- Without His good and righteous Law, there can be no violation against Him; therefore you're not sinning, nor are there any eternal consequences.
- If there is no sin, then there is no need to repent for sins.
- If there is no need to repent for our sins, then there is no need for the atonement of our Lord on the cross to pay the penalty our sins demand.
- This is where the antichrist spirit steps in: to convince people that Jesus has come only to enhance their life and meet their needs. We aren't here to serve Him, the underlying theme whispers, but rather He exists to serve our needs and desires. Rather than being the Atonement for our sins in order to bring reconciliation with our Father, our Lord Jesus is reduced to a "Life-improver." We, then, become our own "god", the chief focus of our existence.

The spirits of lawlessness and antichrist want people to go through life believing that they've done nothing wrong. These folks rationalize that they're no worse than most and a lot better than many (1 John 1:8). Together these spirits have fostered a mass toleration for sin throughout much of this land's understanding of Christendom, and thus cheapen the cross to little more than an icon or piece of jewelry: ***"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God"*** (1 Corinthians 1:18).

The strength of the spirits of lawlessness and antichrist is found in their ability to *deceive*, which is no surprise given that demons serve the master deceiver, Satan. You might say, ***"Deception is the camouflage behind which hell is hidden."*** The demonic battle to nullify the atonement of Jesus has been going on since the time Jesus walked

this earth (see 2 John 1:7). 1 John 2:18 makes clear that "antichrists" were present then. The apostle also declares plainly that which divides mankind: ***"This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God"*** (John 3:19-21).

Don't Let Unconfessed Sin Imprison You In "Christian Delusion"

"The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing.

They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness"
(2 Thessalonians 2:9-12)

How does a person recognize that they are deluded? The answer is simple: *They have no sorrow over their sin* (2 Corinthians 7:10,11). How do you respond when the Spirit of God, or someone He uses, shows you your sin? Are you like the three thousand whom Peter preached to: ***"When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart..."*** (Acts 2:37)?

The deluded also need to know that their prayers go unheard by our Father. He promises to hear the prayers of the righteous (1 Peter 3:12), those in Christ who confess and turn from their sins. And, His answers are very apparent so that He can be glorified in our testimonies (James 5:16-18).

If you have no sorrow over your sins, and your prayers go unanswered, could you be one of those who have been deceived into serving the spirit of lawlessness and worshipping the spirit of antichrist? If you are, confess this and cry out to our Lord. There is hope if you lack sorrow for your sins and have no God-size answers to your prayers. Paul points you to the way out: ***"In the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will"*** (2 Timothy 2:26). To flee delusion you must humble yourself and cry out to our God to grant you the repentance that leads you to truth. You'll never flee delusion without repentance!

*Until there's a sorrowful conviction in your heart about the severity of each and every one of the sins you commit;
Until there's such a deep appreciation for the price*

*the Son of God paid for your sins by His shed blood on the cross;
Until your need for the forgiveness which repentance brings
is more important to you than the next breath you take;
You will be Satan's captive: a "Christian" without fellowship with Christ;
You will be a "Christian" whose prayers go unheard by our Father;
You will be a "Christian" whose life and testimony bring Him no glory.
You will be a "deluded Christian"... Is this who you want to be?*

We write this to encourage you to live in the righteousness which authentic repentance produces. If you're experiencing the Father's answer to your prayers, then this message is a solid assurance that you are *not* deluded but are living to love and serve our Lord.

Hoping each and every one avoids the trap of delusion,
Mike & Sue