

THE CHURCH AND CULTURE pt.2

Greetings precious people, this week we will look at why the Church is NOT having the affect that Jesus Christ desires to have upon the culture through His Body which is known as the Church.

Last week we looked at how the Church is supposed to have the affect of salt and light. In Matthew 5:13-16, Jesus instructs, "You (followers of Christ) are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

As you may remember, salt was used for 2 main purposes, it was used as an antiseptic for wounds; and due to the lack of any refrigeration as we have today it was spread over meat to stop the putrification process. This would cause another affect on the person that consumed such meat; it would cause a person to thirst. And light helps people see in the darkness as well as expose that which are covered in darkness.

Let us first be clear on what is meant by the "Church". To the world it is an all encompassing term including Protestants; Catholics; Mormons; Jehovah witnesses; Lutherans; Methodist; et al. But the Word of God the Bible gives a much different meaning when defining the "Church". The Church is known as "the Bride of Christ"; the "Body of Christ"; those who have repented of their sin; surrendered their life to Christ; in the words of Jesus "born again".

As we look at our society today we see that the affect that Jesus desires His Church to have upon it is minimal at best. The question of "Why" must be asked and answered. Though there are many contributing factors it can be summed up with that which Jesus warned in the previous mentioned verses, "If the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men."

The Church has lost its savor or saltiness. This has occurred by way of compromise. Now compromise can have a good connotation as well as a bad. When 2 parties, say a husband and wife are at a stalemate in making a decision because both want things done their way, it is good to make concessions and reach a compromise so that life can move ahead.

In the case of the Church and compromise, it is to stand firm on the TRUTH, the truth of God and His Word never making concessions because when this happens then the TRUTH is compromised and loses its integrity. Unfortunately the Church has allowed the Culture dictated what is acceptable and not acceptable. The TRUTH has never changed and never will, what was sin 100; 50; 20 years ago is sin today. Because the Church has allowed culture to influence her, it has become all but ineffective and reflects more of the world than its groom Jesus Christ.

There is only one remedy for this. It is the message that was given to 5 of the 7 churches in the Book of Revelation 2 & 3. Remember, Repent, Return, and Do the works that you first did with all of your heart. The last church which Jesus wrote to was the church at Laodicea which many including myself believe is representative of the "last day's church".

Read the terrible indictment that Jesus brings upon this church. Rev. 3:14-20, “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'--and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked... Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”

Dear ones please take these words to heart and act upon them.

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