

A 6-Minute Sermonette:

Repentance from Apostasy and Renewal in The Church

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2/08/2005 AD

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I. DAYS OF APOSTASY & THE LUKEWARM CHURCH

Friends, we live in a time and place of great apostasy within the Church on earth in this land! Of the seven Churches addressed in The Days of Apostasy by the Apostle Saint John in The Book of Revelation, let us turn particular attention to the Laodicean Church. Recall that the Church at Laodicea was “neither hot nor cold” in their Christian faith before GOD - but simply "lukewarm!" They went along with sin, the world, the flesh and the devil - outside and inside the Church - to get along and not make waves.

They were increased with wealth and goods, but were wretchedly poor. They were blind to wickedness. Their milk-toast faith left them naked, though they knew not to be ashamed. They no doubt had a perfect external form of righteous religious form, but inside their souls were merely lukewarm with a spirituality that lacked zeal for The LORD. Thus GOD promises to cast them away, to “spue thee out of My mouth” if they did not repent and find again their First Love, our Lord JESUS CHRIST:”

REVELATION 3:14-19

14 And unto the angel of the Church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith The Amen, The Faithful and True Witness, The Beginning of The Creation of GOD;

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of My mouth.

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

18 I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

II. TO CLEANSE OUR HANDS AND HEARTS BEFORE THE LORD

My friends, note that The LORD calls the apostate Church to cleanse hers hands and hearts before Him. They are assured by The HOLY SPIRIT writing through The Apostle Saint John - The Revelator of The Holy One - that The Father loves them, and so rebukes and chastens them in order to purify them! The same lesson applies to us today in the Church globally and locally in all times and places, and in our own personal faith lives. When we The Church zealously repent as The Body of our Lord JESUS CHRIST on earth, we are assured of GOD's Mercy and Grace now and forever!

And what of the people of GOD who refuse to repent of apostasy? The ancient Israelites lost The Temple and The Land because their hearts for The Almighty became lukewarm. They, before us, became blind, wretched and naked in faith – even though the sacrifices at The Altar in Jerusalem continued for much of their history before their exiles and the final destruction of The Temple at the hands of the Romans in 68-70 AD. As in The Church today, so the ancient Israelites time and again learned this same lesson: zealously repent of your apostasy and the otherwise impending wrath and judgement of The LOD GOD will give way to GOD's infinite Mercy and Grace!

III. WICKED KING AHAB VS. RIGHTEOUS PROPHET ELIJAH

Let us recall the confrontation between the prophet Elijah versus that wicked King Ahab and the false priests of the false god Baal before the people of Israel. When apostate Christians – the Laity, Religious and Clergy today who remain faithful within The Church – are called to ever greater zealous faithfulness, that we should never cast away The Holy Word of GOD, His Commandments, His Sacraments and righteousness!

Recall how the apostate King Ahab of old, who married that wicked baal-worshiper Jezebel and so infected the people with apostasy - who accused the prophet Elijah of "troubling Israel?" Like Elijah of old, we the faithful today are called to refuse to remain silent in the face of abominations within The Church and society around us today! Yes, the heathen and the reprobate will accuse us, as did wicked King Ahab, with the slanderous address he heaped upon the godly prophet Elijah with the same accusation, "Art thou he that troubleth Israel?"

I KINGS 18:17-18

17 And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel?

18 And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of The LORD, and thou hast followed baalim.

IV. CONFRONTING EVIL IN OUR OWN DAY

Recall the traits of baalism – idolatry, child sacrifice, sodomy, self mutilation and all manner of debauchery. The Devil's counterfeit religions always offer a false form of pseudo-religion, while keeping a form of false piety, directly contrary to The True Religion delivered to us by the Patriarchs, Moses, the Prophets, The Apostles and JESUS CHRIST Himself. This is a clear picture of much of the Church and the society around us in apostate America today. We have only but to open our eyes to see it.

Just as the faithful prophet Elijah confronted those false rulers and false priests of idolatry and apostasy in ancient Israel, are not we who are faithful to GOD in His remnant Church in this day and age called to speak up in the same way? As those of the ancient Israelites who repented in their day in The Holy Presence of GOD – lead by His faithful prophet Elijah and The HOLY SPIRIT – shall we not also claim The Same Hope here and now? Should not we who are still faithful within The Church on earth today seek a time of falling down upon our faces with our apostate brethren and seek GOD's Mercy and Grace for our sins?

I KINGS 18:39

39 And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, He is The GOD; the LORD, He is The GOD!

V. A CALL FOR REPENTANCE AND CONTINUAL CONVERSION

Friends, let us then repent of our sins of idolatry that have tempted us away from our first love - our Lord JESUS CHRIST - and proclaim in our prayers, words and deeds to The LORD, the entire Church and to all mankind, "The LORD, He is GOD! The LORD, He is GOD!" For GOD's wrath and judgment are always tempered by His Love and Grace, that He offers to all who repent and turn from their wicked and sinful ways! Let us then never despair, but pray for renewal and continual conversion with all The Righteous Saints of Old and New that have gone Above before us, as we receive These Words our Lord JESUS CHRIST:

REVELATION 3:20-22

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My Voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.
21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My Throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His Throne.
22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what The SPIRIT saith unto The Churches.

For Whom The LORD loves, He chastises as our loving Father in Heaven! Let then the call for repentance to all The Church and the society around us in our day, calling out with MESSIAH JESUS, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what The SPIRIT saith unto the Churches!" May we be adorned with clean linen, eye salve and purity of zeal for The LORD. And let us "Go Forth" with The Virtues of Fortitude, Temperance, Prudence, Justice, Faith, Hope and most of all Love! AMEN.