

Revelation 1:13-15: Character of the Glorified Christ

In Revelation 1:13 we see John's attention is now fixed upon the head of the church, the Lord Jesus Christ. He's described as being in the middle of the entire body of Christ, in glorified human form, dressed in clothing representative of his omnipotent majesty, authority and dignity.

Symbolism of Christ's dress

The fact that Christ is seen in a long flowing garment should put to rest claims that a woman wearing pants is an abomination to the Lord. Some teach this is true because Deuteronomy 22:5 says a woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man and 1 Timothy 2:2 says that woman should adorn themselves in modest apparel.

Modest apparel is said by such teachers to mean a long flowing dress. If this is the case, Christ is described in this passage as being dressed in feminine attire: "clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle." Such teachers would have to teach that Christ was dressed like a female to remain consistent with their logic. This logic, however, would make the God they're seeking to please an abomination.

A man's desire for a woman to dress modestly is noble and understandable because of immodest woman who wear tight pants; however, in teaching modesty he shouldn't make harsh judgments based upon improper biblical interpretation.

The proper interpretation of 1 Timothy 2:2 is found in it's context along with proper consideration of it's parallel passage, 1 Peter 3:1-4. These passages teach that the true beauty and value of a woman isn't caused by the passing fashion she puts on; or her ability to capture, conquer and control men. A woman's true beauty lies inwardly in purity of heart. It's inward beauty, not outward beauty, that God values. This purity of heart shows itself in modest dress; quiet trust in God; humble, teachable submission and good works under the headship of her husband at home and male leadership outside the home.

The garment and girdle of Christ described in Revelation 1:13 are reminiscent of the holy garments designed by the Lord for Israel's priesthood. (Exodus 28:1-4, 31, 39-43) In light of this, the garment and girdle of Revelation 1:13 may be representative of the High Priesthood of Jesus Christ whose sacrifice cleanses those who believe in him once and for all from the power and penalty of their sin. (Hebrews 9-10:23)

Symbolism of Christ's hair and eyes

Revelation 1:14 describes the hair of Christ Jesus as being "white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire".

In Luke 9:29 we're told that Christ's garment became glistening white as he prayed and was transfigured into a glorified state. Daniel 7:9 presents a similar image of the Father and Isaiah 1:18 and Psalm 51:7 speak of purity from sin using the same descriptive terminology as Revelation 1:13: white like wool and white as snow.

Daniel 10:6 records Daniel's overpowering vision of the Lord and describes him much like Revelation 1:14-15 does: with eyes as lamps of fire and feet like in color to polished brass. The flaming eyes symbolize his omniscient knowledge of human hearts. (2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 4:5)

The Son of God is described in Revelation 2:18 as having eyes like unto a flame of fire and feet like fine brass. Verses 19-23 which follow this description of Christ describe the good and bad works of the church in Thyatira. They emphasize his complete understanding of everyone's inward motives and outward actions. They remind us of his just promise of wrath to the unrepentant and generous blessings to those that conquer Satan through faith in him. (Proverbs 5:21, 15:3, 16:2, 21:2; 2 Chronicles 16:9)

Symbolism of Christ's feet

The fine brass feet are reminiscent of the brass feet of the cherubim who carried God's throne. (Ezekiel 1:7) They symbolize Christ's brilliant holiness-his beautiful, firm, strong and steady character (Romans 3:15,10:15) exercised in his role as judge of all human life (Romans 16:20; 1 Corinthians 15:25; Revelation 2:23) and as the sole head of his church.

His feet are described as "if they burned in a furnace".

Fine brass is a compound word derived from the Greek word chalkos and the Hebrew word libanon meaning to make white. Chalkalibanon is a unique metal more precious than gold which is made white hot in a furnace.

The word burned, puroo, means to be ignited to a glowing white hot temperature and melted by fire in order to be refined and purged of dross or worthless impurities.

Burned (puroo) is translated in Revelation 3:18 as tried. It's a perfect tense participle meaning that its effect is continuous in force. The significance of this tense lies in the continuous nature of Christ's character. Unlike the lukewarm Laodicean church he was warning, the Lord Jesus Christ is holy, continuously burning white hot in his hatred of evil and pursuit of good works.

In Revelation 3:18 the Lord is providing investment counsel to the church advising them to get real about their blindness because he knows they've sold out to the antichristian world value system in order to enjoy the good life. He points out to them that they should be grieved while undergoing trials for their uncompromising commitment to God's unchanging truth rather than feeling proud and independent because they've compromised truth in order to achieve the financial independence and material success they're enjoying. (Revelation 3:18) He's teaching them that they're living in delusion. This delusion is an illusion based upon their false views.

God tells us that he pities their blind state while the deluded church is excited about their lot in life. (Revelation 3:17) They think he's the one blessing them, when in reality it's their unknowing alliance with the antichristian methods and values of Satan's world system that they're plugged into that are working against them spiritually while prospering them financially. They're clueless to the fact that they're really out of fellowship with Jesus Christ until they're willing to suffer whatever financial loss might occur for thinking, speaking and acting like the Lord Jesus Christ rather than Lord Satan in the workaday. (Revelation 3:20) The bottom line Christ offers is that they can suffer for their allegiance to him now and rule with him later; or they can continue to rule now through allegiance to the world system and suffer later. (Revelation 3:16,21)

The Lord Jesus Christ was continuously zealous of good works. Look at how he condemned the religious, social and economic practices of the religious system and rulers of his day while mercifully reaching out to them. (Matthew 23; Luke 13:31-35) His post-resurrection attitude as Head of the church is no less zealous as the letters to the 7 churches found in Revelation 2-3 reveal.

As our head, Jesus Christ asks his church to be zealous of good works. (Titus 2:14; Revelation 3:19)

To be zealous means to be eager, burning white hot with passion for doing what is right in God's eyes at all times. It involves contending for the truth and desires of the God we love and exposing the destructive evil that he hates. (Romans 12:9; Jude 3)

Being zealous for good works involves knowing, supporting and doing only what is moral and ethical in God's eyes. The idea that God would ever want his people to support the "lesser of two evils" proceeds from lukewarm hearts who are thinking according to the rulers of the darkness of this world. These hearts are in danger of being spewed out of God's mouth in judgment unless they're willing to exchange the temporary benefits they enjoy as a result of Satanic thinking for the temporary grief they'll experience for being zealous of good works and abhorring what is evil. (Revelation 3:15-19; Romans 12:9)

Have our hearts apostasized to the point that we've forgotten that evil is the antithesis of good? I fear that we have because dark philosophies like "the end justifies the means" have become mainstream thinking amongst the professing evangelical church.

Evil is harmful, destructive, troublesome and out of line with the truth of God. It's totally unfit for human use. It seems that Satan's hidden media persuaders and antichristian educational and corporate training curriculums have more influence upon the mind of the church than God's truth does. Is it time we admit the height from which we have fallen and repent?

How do we begin to repent? First, the church must begin thinking biblically. Thinking biblically and thinking conservatively aren't necessarily the same. The church hasn't been too afraid of bad mouthing CNN, ABC, NBC and CBS News for their liberal bias. But isn't it time to consider getting rid of FOX News, the so-called conservative talk radio shows and the host of other media influences infiltrating our minds with hidden persuaders holding us captive to their demonic lies? Listening to these shows to understand what the devil is teaching the church in order to expose his deceit is one thing. Listening to them in order to find truth about what is happening in our world today is programming the mind according to Satan's antichristian world value system and agenda.

Much of the professing American church today is living in delusion. She is unaware of the grave danger she faces of being deceived into following antichrist unless she soon chooses to break off her friendship with the antichristian world system.

Deceived by the deceitful financial philosophy of capitalism into a love of the material benefits and luxurious pleasures of the American way; the majority of the professing American church readily accepts government propaganda promoting the killing and war necessary to perpetuate her greedy lifestyle. In her loving embrace of the antichristian values promoted by the world system in corporate America's schools, businesses, media, and churches; the church has been blinded to her true spiritual condition as a lukewarm enemy of God on the verge of his judgment unless she chooses to humble herself in suffer in uncompromising commitment to think, act and speak like Jesus Christ in the world. (James 4:1-10; Revelation 3:14-22)

Prior to the gathering of the church with the Lord their will occur a falling away from truth. (2 Thessalonians 2:1-3)

As antichrist reveals himself, God will send into the minds of those who've refused to believe the whole truth about Christ a strong delusion. (2 Thessalonians 2:3-12) This strong delusion is a mass psychosis in which there

will exist a strange division between normal individual thought and action and group behavior. Faithfulness to the truth won't govern people's lives because their priority will be to be accepted by the group. This strange dichotomy currently exists today between the way a lukewarm professing christian talks about their beliefs with a wholehearted follower of Christ and the way the same person acts among others for the sake of acceptance with a group or individual that benefits their career and finances. Professing christian workers throughout America live in fear of speaking out against the injustice, evils, and antichristian values present in the churches and institutions in which they work which hurt others. Yet these same professing christians will thank and praise God for the freedom of speech we enjoy as Americans. The blindness continues because of our love of the benefits of the American version of Satan's world system.

The whole world, America included, is and will always lie in wickedness. (1 John 5:19) The love of money is the root of all evil and war is caused by the spiritual blindness of this love. (1 Timothy 6:10; James 4:1-4)

Many researchers have found that Satan's totalitarian goal of an Antichristian one world system or New World Order is an axle powered by the drive train of the world's demonically empowered banking dynasties serving mammon, not God. (Matthew 6:24) This drive train powers the two wheels connected to the opposite ends of the New World Order axle. The two wheels are the antichristian philosophies of communism and capitalism. These two worldly philosophies are merging together into the prophesied totalitarian New World Order of Antichrist the beast 666. The cost of war is immense and is fuel for the loans beneficial to the bottom line of the banking dynasties.

In 1980, 33rd degree Freemason and ex-NFL star quarterback conservative Republican politician Jack Kemp wrote in the context of American foreign policy on page 148 of a chapter entitled 'Exporting the American Idea' in his copyright 1979 book, "An American Renaissance":

"Militarily there was no alternative: Democratic nations are not warrior nations. Pre-emption, "first-strike" wars of tactical advantage are repellent to them."

Approximately 25 years later professing American christians zealously support President Bush's "pre-emptive strike" doctrine and possess a warrior mentality after having been deluded by a professing christian president and the conservative media mouthpieces under his control.

Since President Bush told us on May 1, 2003 via American media that the Iraq War was over, this quagmire has blossomed into a chaotic Islamic civil war and breeding ground for terror cells to spread throughout the world. What else other than demonic power would influence President Bush to fight this pre-emptive war as one portion of a preemptive world war on terror under the guise of spreading democracy while simultaneously promoting a vision which places terrorist

regimes within the land promised to the true Jews of Israel by God? The majority of the professing christian church has blindly supported this blasphemous deceit because the lesser of two evils benefits our lukewarm American nightmare we call freedom.

Should we be surprised at our deception? The shepherds of the lukewarm American church jump in bed with antichristian values if these values are packaged conservatively enough and will benefit their bottom line. The true head of the church, however, the Lord Jesus Christ has his feet, unlike those of the lukewarm, continually shod with the gospel of peace, not war. (Ephesians 6:15)

Christ's voice

Revelation 1:15 also tells us that Christ's voice is as the sound of many waters. The deep sound of the ocean echoes with predictive, powerful, yet gentle, rhythmic regularity that drowns out competing noises and summons its listener to meditate upon the eternal. There's an ageless, tireless, all encompassing, natural surround sound inherent in the oceans which point to the eternal, omnipotent God who created them, the Lord Jesus Christ.

This voice is the one that is calling out to the deluded, lukewarm American church of the 21st century. The longsuffering counsel of the Lord Jesus Christ reaches out to us today longing to open our eyes to the delusion that will damn the deceived:

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. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. 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. 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. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. (Revelation 3:18-22)