

All That and a Bag of Chips

Most of us receive the Daily Berean or some other daily devotional. It is a wonderful way to start your day. Hopefully, you do not limit yourself to just one reading as opening and establishing the communication lines with God can set the stage for how your day progresses. Giving the day to God gets us off on the right foot.

As usual, the topics somehow seem to coincide with a particular situation or lesson we may be learning. Even if they are not, they are *all* spot on and may come to remembrance when God's Holy Spirit so chooses to remind us of the context.

Lately, the themes focus on our spiritual condition and our relationship with God. I am confident the approach of Passover is the basis.

In His message to the Seven Churches in Revelation, Christ's message to the Church of Philadelphia represents where most of God's called see themselves or desire to be in that position.

Revelation 3:7-13- "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia, write: These things says the Holy One, the One Who *is* true; the One Who has the key of David,

Who opens and no one shuts, and Who shuts and no one opens. I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, and no one has the power to shut it because you have a little strength, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name. Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who proclaim themselves to be Jews and are not, but do lie—behold, I will cause them to come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. Because you have kept the word of My patience, I also will keep you from the time of temptation which *is* about to come upon the whole world to try those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming quickly; hold fast that which you have so that no one may take away your crown. The one who overcomes will I make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall not go out any more; and I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which will come down out of heaven from My God; and *I will write upon him* My new name. **The one who has an ear, let him hear** what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Definitely characteristics of what God desires of us to become. His warnings for all of the Seven Churches are for all time and applicable for us today. His messages for the churches correspond with the scriptures and warning that Jesus Christ gave His disciples while here on Earth.

Matthew 24:42- “Watch, therefore, because you do not know in what hour your Lord is coming.”

Matthew 25:13- “Watch, therefore, for you do not know the day nor the hour in which the Son of man is coming.”

Mark 13:35-37- “Be watching, therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming: at evening, or at midnight, or at the cock’s crowing, or in the morning; Lest he come suddenly and find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!”

Luke 21:34-36- “Watch yourselves, lest your hearts be preoccupied with high living and drinking and the cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly. For as a snare it shall come upon all those who dwell on the face of the earth. Watch therefore, and pray at all times that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”

There are several definitions of “watch” that are fitting for these scriptures. “Be vigilant, attentive, on guard, observe closely, be alert, and be careful. All are focused on our preparation and our *spiritual condition* for Christ’s return. Our

participation in the First Resurrection is dependent upon this. World events and the evil in this present day and age are not to be ignored and we are certainly cognizant of what goes on around us. Christ gave us information on what is coming and what signs of the times would be. The mystery has been removed for those who are awake and are walking with God (**Amos 3:3**).

Matthew 24:4-8- “Then Jesus answered *and* said to them, “Be on guard, so that no one deceives you. For many shall come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ;’ and they shall deceive many. And you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars. See *that* you do not let *these things* disturb you. For it is necessary *that* all *these things* take place, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines and pestilences and earthquakes in *different* places. Now all these *things are* the beginning of sorrows.”

Mark 13:5-8- “And Jesus in answering them began to say, “Be on guard lest anyone deceive you. For many shall come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ;’ and they shall deceive many. But when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled; for it is necessary for these things to come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and

there shall be earthquakes in different places, and there shall be famines and disasters. These things are the beginning of sorrows.”

Again, we have been foretold. This allows us more time to be spiritually prepared for God’s calling.

In looking back to Revelation 3, a stern warning comes to the Church of Laodicea.

Revelation 3:14-17- “And to the angel of the church of *the* Laodiceans, write:

These things says the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginner of the creation of God. I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would *that* you be *either* cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and *are* neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of My mouth. *For you say, ‘I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing;’ and you do not understand that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.*”

For most who read this scripture, the focus is on the “lukewarm” condition, being neither hot or cold in their walk and obedience to God and His Commandments.

What is being said is essentially that the person is idle in his efforts of worship and seeking God, their hearts are not humble nor contrite before Him. The issue is one

of spiritual blindness and being unaware of their personal condition. It is evident in their demeanor and attitudes towards God and their worship of Him.

So many are duped into believing they are “all that and a bag of chips” because they are “serving” others, are a member in good standing of a church or fellowship and keep the commandments. You were wondering how today’s title would come into play so here it is.

The phrase “all that and a bag of chips” is an idiom from the 1990’s. The phrase means someone is very "cocky" or thinks highly of themselves. They may not even realize it themselves as they are doing what they “think” is right before God. An attitude of “serving the brethren” or simply being attentive can leave critical factors overlooked with respect to their relationship with God. The closer we draw to God, the more He will reveal to us the work that needs to be done within ourselves.

Romans 12:2-3- “Do not conform yourselves to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind in order that you may prove what is well pleasing and good, and the perfect will of God. For I say through the grace that was given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to

think; but to think with sound-mindedness, as God has divided to each one a measure of faith.”

Unrepentant pride is commonly at the core of this issue. When we try to promote or elevate ourselves, God will humble us. He will do what is necessary to get us in line with His will. It may not be a pleasant experience if we continue to ignore corrections.

Proverbs 29:23- “A man’s pride shall bring him low, but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit.”

Matthew 23:12- “And whoever will exalt himself shall be humbled; and whoever will humble himself shall be exalted.”

When we humble ourselves, God will lift us.

James 4:10- “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you.”

1 Peter 5:6-7- “Be humbled therefore under the mighty hand of God so that He may exalt you in due time; Casting all your cares upon Him, because He cares for you.”

We are to edify one another in our speech and conduct. Contrary to what some believe, edify means to “instruct or benefit, especially morally or spiritually, enlighten, inform, and to uplift. Sometimes edification can be not what ears want to hear. We can call this constructive criticism, but we should not criticize *without* benefiting the hearer. It is up to God to give the good swift kick in the pants if needed. Using the Bible and God’s scriptures are the best way to convey any evaluation or instructions that may be required for correction or encouragement. Being self-elevated, a desire to being right will overshadow being righteous.

Romans 14:17-19- “For the kingdom of God is not a *matter* of eating and drinking; rather, *it is* righteousness and peace and joy in *the* Holy Spirit Because the one who serves Christ in these things *is* well pleasing to God and acceptable among men. So then, we should pursue the things of peace and the things that edify one another.”

1 Thessalonians 5:11-14- “Therefore, encourage one another, and edify one another, even as you are already doing. Now we beseech you, brethren, to acknowledge those who are laboring among you, and are overseeing you, and are instructing you in *the* Lord, And to greatly respect them in love for the sake of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. Now we encourage you, brethren, *to* admonish those who are irresponsible, console the fainthearted, support the weak, be patient toward everyone.”

We should not be personally offended or resentful at the actions of others. This is difficult to overcome if we do not have a humble and contrite heart.

Matthew 11:6- “And blessed is everyone who shall not be offended in Me.”

Luke 7:23- “And blessed is everyone who shall not be offended in Me.”

We will be blessed and in God’s favor when we are not annoyed or resentful when we overlook offenses of others. This should not encourage a tolerance for unrighteous behavior or an acceptance of disrespecting God. We know that David did not tolerate Goliath’s taunting and mocking God’s army (**1 Samuel 17**) and Jesus Himself did not tolerate the money changers in His Father’s House (**Matthew 21:12-13**).

In the area of God's word, there can be no compromise. There was an advertising poster year's ago for Hechler and Koch firearms. It depicted the German SEK (SWAT team) making entry on a hostage situation. The ad read, "In a world of compromise, some don't."

In our walk and devotion to God, we cannot allow any bargains, deals, or shortcuts in God's word. No compromise. This is apparent in most Protestant Churches in existence. While they may think "they're all that" due to their incredible buildings, music programs or huge congregations, they all fall short because they shortchange scripture to fit a doctrine. The Church of God is not immune. Overlooking any portion of God's commandments and expectations will meet with His judgment.

1 Peter 4:17-18- "For the time *has come for* judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it first *begins* with us, what *will be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? And if the righteous are saved with much difficulty, what will become of the ungodly and *the sinner*?"

This especially applies to the Sabbath and our devotion to Him on this day set aside at creation. God requires much more than lip service to meet His standard because of what the Sabbath means to our relationship with Him. Our devoted

worship to *and* of Him is vital in our development into the image of Christ Jesus and entering into His Kingdom.

Our worship becomes a relationship with God. It is illustrated by a humble heart in complete surrender to His will. It signifies our acceptance of being poor in spirit.

As we worship Him with a humble heart, we become filled and comforted by His presence through His Holy Spirit. God inhabits the praises of His people.

Psalm 22:3- “Yet You are holy, O You enthroned upon the praises of Israel.”

(Psalm 22:3 (KJV)- “But thou art holy, O thou that inhabits the praises of Israel.”

When we become aware we are in God’s presence we begin to understand true worship. It is not about *entertaining us*; it is about glorifying and honoring God and Him alone. The Sabbath is created for man to do this.

Mark 2:27-28- “And He said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, *and* not man for the Sabbath; Therefore, the Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”

Jesus is referring to the Sabbath as a specific day, not just a Sabbath. The Sabbath was created as a day, a service to all humanity. It is a day when we come together

to worship God and Him alone. Worship is the service we give to Him that He regards most highly. The Sabbath memorializes God and all that He has done and continues to do for us.

The Sabbath is a time of spiritual preparation for His coming Kingdom. It is set apart, sanctified and holy. God puts His presence into the Sabbath for the benefit of His creation. No other day of the week can have the impact on our spiritual growth like the Sabbath. It is one day that we can commune and fellowship with Him. It is a sign between those who follow His commandments and God Himself.

Exodus 31:16-17- “ Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations *as* a perpetual covenant. *It is* a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested, and was refreshed.’ ”

Keeping this day as He instructed, sets us apart and unites us in Him. The Sabbath *enhances* our relationship with Him. It keeps us in the proper mindset for our worship of Him and fellowship with each other. As we grow in His wisdom and knowledge, we become more removed from this world and the ways and influences of it.

Aside from the Sabbath being a sign, it is so we might know God. The Fourth Commandment was given to better empower us to worship our living God. God never changed the Sabbath to Sunday, that was man's doing, a compromise as we know from history. But those who do not keep the Sabbath break the Fourth Commandment and if you break one, you have broken them all.

James 2:10- “For *if* anyone keeps the whole law, but sins in one aspect, he becomes guilty of all.”

It becomes obvious of who really knows God and those who “think” they know Him. The Jews of Christ's time may have kept the Sabbath, but they did not know Him. Just as so many church goers today do not know Him. They go through the motions playing church but have no relationship with God.

God did so many things on the Sabbath throughout the Bible. He set the nation of Israel free from captivity, they fled Egypt on the Sabbath. They passed through the Red Sea on a Sabbath (both during the Feast of Unleavened Bread). He gave His law on a Sabbath (Pentecost). Jesus was risen on a Sabbath. Many events were completed on a Sabbath. We cannot treat it just as any other day. It is a day to remember God, every week!

Sadly, those who think they are “all that and a bag of chips” have diluted His Sabbath and His scriptures, compromising the faith either because they are full of pride, or they simply ignore the truth. In either case, they do not know God. Many who claim to know Him are worshipping Him in vain.

Matthew 15:6-9- “And you have made void the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition. Hypocrites! Isaiah has prophesied well concerning you, saying, ‘These people have drawn near to Me with their mouths, and with their lips they honor Me; but their hearts are far away from Me. For they worship Me in vain, teaching *for doctrine the* commandments of men.’ ”

True worshippers of God will worship Him in spirit and in truth.

John 4:23-24- “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father is indeed seeking those who worship Him in this manner. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth.”

We cannot come to that place of worshipping God in spirit and truth if we do not know Him and completely yield to His will. If there are areas in your life that you

may have questions about or even doubts, ask God in prayer to reveal these things to you. Humble yourself, seek and knock and your eyes will be opened.

Matthew 7:7-8- “ Ask, and it shall be given to you. Seek, and you shall find.

Knock, and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it shall be opened.”

Whether we can physically see God or not, He is among us on the Sabbath during our fellowship.

Matthew 18:20- “For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there, I am in *the* midst of them.”

As He is always here for us, we too are here for Him. God will lift us, He will set us apart, He will unify us in His family. We can only do what His word tells us.

We cannot enhance anything God does. Jesus gave us the example to follow. When we realize how we seek and worship God and its critical importance to our relationship and growth in Him, all we do will become an act of love, adoration, and worship. We are not “all that and a bag of chips” and now is the time to dig

deep with a humble heart, before Passover, to align ourselves with the will of God
Almighty. Amen.

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