

Robert R. McLaughlin Bible Ministries

The TREE OF LIFE weekly teaching summary from the week ending November 16, 1997

Tree of Life 11/16/97

The Doctrine of Interpretation of History.

This week we began noting the doctrine of the Interpretation of History. The events that are happening in your life are part of contemporary history and your ability to discern the signs of the times gives you knowledge of where you stand in God's plan for your life. To know your place in history you must be able to interpret the events in your life.

There is a system of balances or a standard operating procedure (SOP) for the purpose of our divine protection aiding to steer us in the proper direction. Jesus Christ controls history and as a part of His divine protection He protects the human race from self destruction.<p.

History must be interpreted in accordance to what the word of God says not what emotion dictates. It is not what people have to say or what the visible world teaches us that is truth, but what the Bible says concerning invisible God and His plan. The Bible is the only source of knowledge that is not infiltrated with lies or the opinions of this world. By way of analogy, to the systems of divine protection that the Lord Jesus Christ (TLJC) has devised for the human race, we noted the water tight compartments designed for the protection of naval ships in fact all ships, keeping afloat the vessel regardless of the negative influences or negative decisions made by man.

Water tight compartments are so constructed as to be sealed to water and to maintain the vessels afloat on the sea. Following is a list of 6 water tight compartments or protection categories enlisted by TLJC in protecting the human race from self destruction:

1. The division of languages, Gen 11:6-8, which was God's direct rejection of human power! The Tower of Babel attempt made it clear that there is power in numbers and such power leads only to arrogance. Hence God, needed to bring in different languages in order to separate those numbers. This was done so that man would not become confident in self but rather rely on divine power. The people of the earth before this point all spoke the same language and were putting aside their differences in view of a common cause based on human good and unity for the earth. This goal promoted good in that it's objective was to reach God. But such good is based on man's ability and would only lead to arrogance and destruction. Such good is exactly what Satan promotes! If Satan could get everyone on earth to act in on one accord then he could place himself in charge of this effort. But such "good" is repulsive to God!

2. Nationalism, Deu 32:8; Acts 17:18-26. At any given time in history God has declared the boundaries of nations. God is the One who divided the earth into different countries and declared the boundaries of those nations. Nationalism and freedom is what causes people to grope for God, Act 17:27. Grope meaning to conclude that there is a God and then search for His truth. In view of this compartment, internationalism is against the plan of God.

3. Client Nations to God, Deu 7:6 "out of", not above other nations. God always keeps a client nation afloat to represent Him to the world. In the O.T. there were five client nations to God:

- a. Theocratic (which Moses ruled)**
- b. United (both Northern & Southern kingdoms)**
- c. Northern (when the Southern went into apostasy)**
- d. Southern (when the Norther went into apostasy)**
- e. Judea**

In the N.T. during the Church Age only, Gentile nations function as client nations to God, Luk 21:20-24, since the age of Israel has been interrupted. So you can see that understanding dispensationalism is also important in the protection of the human race.

4. The salvation work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross which divided the human race into two categories, believers and unbelievers, Joh 3:18,36. Every member of the human race through God-consciousness, is offered the same opportunity to believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior regardless of their geographical isolation or

linguistic barriers. Though every member of the human race is offered salvation in Jesus Christ, only believers can contribute to the survival of the human race in history, Mat 5:13-16. It is the mature believer who is the stabilizer of history, for their sake God will keep history going in a direction it would not normally have gone. Therefore, you are never to think your life does not matter because God can use one person to deliver many! God has a plan for your life and can use you in a mighty way.

5. The invisible impact of church age believers and the pivot of mature believers. Every ship has a pivot point located in a highly protected location. The pivot point (mature believers) controls the direction of the ship (human history). This point is well within the ships interior i.e., it is hidden or invisible. It is not seen nor noted by even those in the ship. Whichever direction the pivot goes in is the direction that the ship/ or human history follows. And, although the ship may be tossed about by the sea and storms or pressures of life, the pivot point is where the least of the effects are felt. Hence the believer in adulthood is protected from the stress which comes from life's pressures and testing due to the insulation of doctrine in the soul which places him in a protected location.

Mat 7:24-27 teaches us that earthly things and the ways of this world look good until the trials and difficulties of life prove their vanity. While heavenly or unseen things appear to be inadequate until the trials and difficulties reveal their glory! What the world offers as truth by sight and by its standards is very often a lie. Only that which God provides is truth.

6. Dispensations, which is the division of human history into various compartments or categories for man's protection. Each level of a ship is carefully calculated to carry the right proportion of the total ship weight to produce the optimum stability for the ship. The human race is also carefully calculated, divided, and categorized to produce optimum opportunity in God's plan. Heb 2:12 calls TLJC the captain of our salvation and if our course is not steered according to His directions, we will flounder off course!

A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but just weight is His delight, Pro 11:1 The believer needs to be knowledgeable of the different compartments designed by the Lord for the protection of human history else he will fall easy prey to the deceptions of the god of this world, Satan. The following passages tell us that Satan is the ruler of this world, Luk

4:5-7; John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; 2Co 4:4; Eph 2:2. And you can be sure that Satan does attack the protection compartments TLJC has designed for the human race! He attacks all of them in an attempt to throw off the balance in human history and induce its destruction. Why? Well, since Satan can not control the world, part B of his plan is to destroy it so that God cannot keep His promise to the Jews. But though certain compartments may become weakened at a given time through the assertions of the evil one, Jesus Christ uses the other compartments to keep the human race afloat.

Satan can work on the destruction of the human race through either exterior forces or pressures from within. If the believer grows negligent in the area of what is known as PMS (Preventive Maintenance System), the water tight integrity may be lost through apathy and passivity leading to arrogance. When the believer thinks evil in any of the compartments this is considered a "hit from within! This is why Satan's role in human history must be understood. This world is his and is geared to deceive us away from the truth of God and away from the truth of why we are here. 2Th 2:4 gives us Satan's viewpoint in that he exalts himself and wants to display himself above God. Therefore, Satan is the greatest danger to the stability of the human race and we must understand who he really is. Satan's plan is basically founded and layered upon one word... deceit. 1Jo 5:19 tells us **"the whole world lies in the power of the evil one."** Revelation chapters 12 and 20 all inform us that Satan has succeeded in deceiving the entire world and so we must be able to recognize what Satan uses to deceive us otherwise there will be no proper interpretation of history. In order to discern what is going on in life you must be able to look beyond the obvious. The obvious is projected by the ruler of this world system and is therefore a lie. Satan does not hold to the truth because there is no truth in him, Joh 8:44. And in his lie he promotes human good and great philanthropic works that appear to be godly. His lie is the reason for Christian activism and the three arrogance skills (1) self-justification, (2) self-deception, and (3) self-absorption.

Satan's greatest frustration, even though he is the ruler of this world, is the fact that he is unable to dominate the world that he rules. Still, in light of the lie which Satan promotes and cultivates and though we have partially flooded compartments, the human race will not be destroyed while TLJC retains on the earth the restraining ministry of God the Holy Spirit. But most believers don't have a clue about TLJC controlling history or any ministry of God the H.S.! Believers are no different from unbelievers in regard to their vulnerability to the lie Satan puts forth through this world.

Our citizenship is not of this world though we reside for the present time in this world. Our citizenship is a heavenly one and so our thinking should be too. This does not mean that we are to walk around in a spaced out daze, or starry eyed. On the contrary, our thinking is to come from the infallible word of God, the very mind of Christ which is a disciplined and accurate system of thinking! Only through the protection of truth in the soul do we combat the lies of this world. Note that people do not believe the lie until they first reject the truth. And once you believe the lie, you participate in it. It is a fact that this world system offers only lies hence our reality must come from what the word of God states! Unfortunately many believers think of the word of God as an abstract, intangible, force that they cannot appropriate. This erroneous concept is due to either ignorance or arrogance both stemming from rejection of truth when presented. The average believer today is apathetic, dispassionate, dull of hearing, indifferent, and not interested at all in spiritual matters. They are too busy entangled in this world to dedicate themselves to the real reason for their existence. They are just where Satan wants them... drenched in the lie of the world. Most will never break out of this cycle because they do not want their comfort zone ruffled. They have a system of reality and their mentor is Satan.

In between the time and eternity is a place of judgment and embarrassment for most, the Judgment Seat of Christ where all our deeds on earth will be evaluated. Note: sins are never mentioned since all sins were paid for at the cross, but works in life will cause many embarrassment. Why? Because the issue is, did you hustle for self all the while remaining in the devil's world or did you bother to inquire why we were placed here and devote yourself to that cause. In the interpretation of history, the concept of time as we know it, past - present - and future, has nothing to do with truth. Determining the nature of reality based on truth is the cornerstone of living. The correct interpretation of history is the key to happiness, contentment, and fulfillment. Our job on earth is:

2Pe 3:18, to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ

Col 3:2, to set our mind on the things above

2Co 4:18, to focus on the inward man and the things not seen or eternal

Mat 6:33, to seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness, not our own

2Ti 2:4, to be active soldiers of TLJC not entangling ourselves in this world

Rev 3:12, to become a winner believer and make an impact in history

It is truth that sets one free and truth which protects us from the bondage of the lie offered by the ruler of this world. When you interpret history properly, you will see that TLJC has every thing under control!

Tapes available this week: 0190-126 Doc: Interpretation of History,prt 1. Phi 1:19;Joh 15:15-19;Gen 11:1-9;Act 17:24-27; Deu 32:8; 11-09-97

0190-127 Doc: Interpretation of History, prt 2. 1Pe 2:9; Mat 7:24-27; Pro 11:1;Rev 12:9-10; 20:1-3,7-8; Joh 8:32 11-09-97

0190-128 Doc: Interpretation of History, prt 3. Mat 5:13-16; 7:24-27; Pro 11:1 11-11-97

0190-129 Doc: Interpretation of History, prt 4. Satan's role must be understood. Rev 12:3-12; 20:1-3,7-8; Joh 8:44; 2Th 2:4; 1Jo 5:19 11-12-97

0190-130 Doc: Interpretation of History, prt 5. The deceitfulness of this age.1Jo 5:19; 1Jo 3:10; Joh 8:44; 18:38 11-13-97

0190-131 Doc: Interpretation of History, prt 6. History is the continuation of the conflict. 2Th 2:7-12; Isa 43:21; 1Co 6:20; 2Co 4:18 11-14-97

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