

## CHAPTERS TWO AND THREE – SEVEN LETTERS TO SEVEN CHURCHES

### ADDENDUM – THE LETTER TO THE CHURCH OF SMYRNA – REVELATION 2:8-11

#### REVIEW

The main body of men leading the church during the Smyrna church period (175/200 – 325 AD) at this time are referred to as the Ante-Nicene Church Fathers (*The Bible forbids us call a religious leader father – Matthew 23:1-12*); some of the key players are: Origen, Cyprian, Hippolytus, Clement, Athanasius, and Didymus. Because the leaders began to deviate from sound words during the previous Ephesus period, these men during the Smyrna period make additional \_\_\_\_\_ errors:

- 1) The corrupt teaching that God is finished with the Jews; the Christian has replaced the Jew; the church has replaced the nation of Israel
- 2) A doctrinal error concerning the millennial reign of Christ:  
-What they believed about the Jew effected what they believed about the millennium (Rev. 20:1-7).
- 3) Other false doctrines develop when you lose sight of the \_\_\_\_\_:  
-Baptismal regeneration  
-Apostolic sign gifts (I.E. Healing by the laying on of hands; speaking in *unknown* tongues, etc.)  
-No eternal security

#### BE CAREFUL – DON'T LOSE SIGHT OF ISRAEL

##### The doctrinal error of Baptismal Regeneration

- There are many churches (*Catholic, most Orthodox, many protestant churches, Church of Christ, Christian Churches, Disciples of Christ*) that believe baptism has either a major or minor role in completing salvation; emphasis on either role is a heinous error that corrupts the gospel and is a reproach to the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Personal belief in either role is enough to send an individual on a one way eternal trip to the lake of fire.
- The key passage is Acts 2:38:
  - The context is \_\_\_\_\_. There are \_\_\_\_\_ Gentiles present – any Gentiles that are present have been converted to Judaism, which makes them \_\_\_\_\_ (*proselytes*) – Acts 2:1-38
  - Interesting details concerning Acts 2:  
There were no known Christians in Acts 2 – Acts 11:26.  
The 12 disciples/apostles were not baptized according to Acts 2:38, but were baptized under Luke 3:4-16.  
The plan of salvation for a lost man is not clearly presented as it is in Romans 10:9-13.  
There are six other methods of water baptism found in Acts that are different from 2:38 (8:5-17; 26-39; 9:1-18; 10:44-48; 19:1-6; 16:25-33).  
What they did ask – What shall we do? Acts 2:37; Luke 3:4-16  
What they did not ask – What must I do to be saved? Acts 16:30  
The baptism of Acts 2:38 took place in Jerusalem and concerned only Jews; it was the result of them crucifying their Messiah – Acts 2:36; John 1:11. It was necessary for the remission of Israel's sins which included everything surrounding their denial of and crucifixion of Christ – see Matthew thru John.
- Other passages used to prove baptismal regeneration have also been removed, by the perpetrators, from their proper context – Mark 16:16; John 3:5; Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Peter 3:18-22

### The doctrinal error of Apostolic sign gifts

- Although this has been practiced throughout the centuries by Roman Catholic priests and while Pentecostal and Holiness preachers have also propagated this blunder – The modern day Charismatic movement has brought this error to the surface. Today, most people are aware of such things like: the laying on of hands for physical healing, words of knowledge and prophesy (premonitions), and speaking in unknown tongues. Although this does not necessarily constitute a false gospel, error begets error. These signs lead to other errors and ultimately takes away from evangelizing the lost, a proper presentation of the gospel, edifying of the believer through the preaching and teaching of the truth, and the equipping of saints to make true disciples in the entire world.
- All the sign gifts were to the \_\_\_\_\_:
  - 1 Corinthians 1:22; 14:22
  - Deuteronomy 18:15, 18; Acts 3:22; 7:27
  - Exodus 4:1-9; 28-31
- Note: God can and does heal the sick and infirmed. However, He no longer uses human instrumentality at this time in history. Jews still do indeed require a sign – the OT signs performed by Christ and his apostles are now documented and revealed to them in the written record of the NT (Matthew-Acts) and must be believed by faith!

### The doctrinal error of no eternal security

- This diabolical error is used by the devil to defeat God's saints by removing them from the true riches of the mercy and grace of God to pardon sinners. It is a reproach to the cleansing power of the shed blood of Jesus Christ.
- This error is ultimately motivated by ignorance and conceit concerning the nation of \_\_\_\_\_, and is propagated by privately interpreting God's working with the \_\_\_\_\_ - Romans 11:25
  - Key passages used to prove that a Christian can lose salvation are taken from transitional books and from books primarily dealing with the Jew such as Matthew, Acts and Hebrews.
  - A key passage is Matthew 24:13 – The context takes place during the "time of Jacob's trouble" (*the tribulation period when God is dealing with the Nation of Israel*) and does not concern a Christian from the church age – Matthew 24:1-51
- Note: Just because a person does not believe they are eternally secure – If they have been genuinely saved, they are eternally secure.

### Conclusion

- Why make a big deal out of this stuff?
- Why name those who believe these things?

*While we cannot make a perfect personal judgment on one's salvation – we can perfectly judge one's doctrine or what they say they believe...*