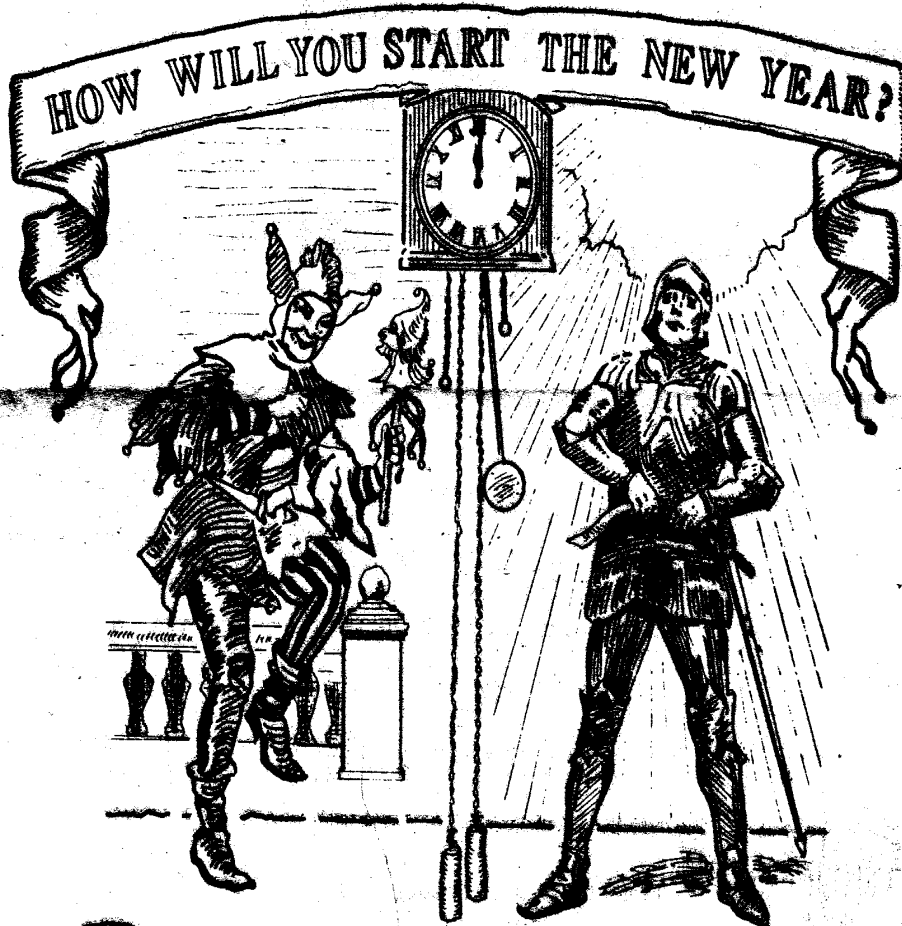


The Christian Training Center Crusader

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LIFE IS A JEST
AND ALL THINGS SHOW IT :
I THOUGHT SO ONCE
. . . -AND NOW I KNOW IT

LIFE IS REAL! LIFE IS EARNEST!
AND THE GRAVE IS NOT IT'S GOAL
"DUST THOU ART, TO DUST RETURNEST"
WAS NOT SPOKEN OF THE SOUL.

THE STEWARDSHIP OF THE PHYSICAL BODY

Dr. Edith R. Grimes

Our bodies house our soul and spirit. We are the temples of the Holy Spirit. It is necessary to keep our body in the best condition so that it can function at full capacity for the Lord. It is our responsibility to maintain our own health. No one else can do it for us. We can either improve it, maintain it as it is, or allow it to deteriorate.

Sad to say, Christian leaders have failed to mention, teach or proclaim, the biblical significance of discipline and care of the physical body.

The body was included in Christ's redemption for us as much as the soul and spirit. The body is restored as an instrument to express God's love, mercy and grace. Without the body our soul and spirit cannot bring worship and praise to God and carry out His will.

The Lord requires that we be as obedient to the requirements in His Word for the care of our bodies as we are in regards to other spiritual requirements. Our body has a definite purpose and function in the Lordship of Christ and His Redemptive work.

Some believe as the Corinthians did that there is no resurrection for the body. That it is just a prison house that is temporary and degenerating. Happily they will dispense with it at death.

Paul teaches us that our body is going to be resurrected and glorified like Christ's glorified body. This should cause us concern as to how we care for our body, that will eventually house our glorified personality (Phil. 3:21). Think of the thrilling destiny of our physical body!

The body is an important part of our human personality. It is by means of our body that we do deeds whether "good" or "bad". Thus it will share in our rewards or punishment. Paul speaks in Romans One of how man uses the body for his unrestrained desires and pleasure. How he dishonours his body and receives both now and at the Judgment Seat of Christ the rewards and penalties for such treatment of his human body (Rom.1:24-27).

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Paul further says that our bodies are members, bodily parts of Christ Himself (1 Cor. 6:15 AMP). If this is so it means my body shares this vital union and is truly obligated to do what is becoming to such a glorious relationship.

Then again Paul says "our body is the temple - the very sanctuary of the Holy Spirit who lives within us" (1 Cor.6:19 AMP). The Divine purpose of the body is to be a temple, a holy place, God's sanctuary where the Holy Spirit dwells. What a Holy, healthy concern should be taken in the care of the body for such a Divine privilege!

I have been purchased at a great price and am the property of My Redeemer. I am all His - body, soul and spirit. Therefore I have no independent rights to any part of my being. Even our body is to bring glory to God (1 Cor.6:19,20).

My earthly house, that I do not own, but I occupy. Thanks to my Redeemer who bought me back from a vicious landlord. He desires that I look after it according to His requirements. It will assure me of joy, peace and security. Therefore I want to take care of it and be a good house holder.

God desires that we present our bodies a living sacrifice or a sacrifice that "lives". Every moment of our life is lived fulfilling the Will of God. Paul did not say to present our "souls and spirits" but our "bodies", then our soul and spirit would come along.

Sacrifices were to be free from blemish. Free from defects that would cause the offering to be rejected. It was to be a sweet smelling savor unto the Lord.

The wisest move we can make is to give ourselves to God as a constant sacrifice. It is the most sane and reasonable thing a redeemed person can do. Then He will keep us informed to His Will for us and will keep us in health and repaired until the resurrection.

Satan as a King had ruled over my body causing me to be subject to its appetites. He had used the various parts of my body as weapons in the service of unrighteousness with death as my wages (Rom.6:3). Jesus changed all that. He dethroned the King and delivered me from sin's army. Now the various parts of my body are to be used as weapons of righteousness. Therefore I need to give my body the best care and

treatment so it can be the most effective in it's role in this warfare.

Paul likens the Christian life to running a race or to a boxing match in which he urges you to win. A competitor must have a desire to win and be willing to go into serious training to be in top physical shape. Everything that would hinder must be stripped off. Every little sin that would dog our feet. The race must be run with patience and our eyes on Jesus, who is the source and goal of our faith. (Heb.12:1-2)

The athletes took tremendous pains to win a fading wreath or crown of leaves. How much more should our commitment, dedication and discipline be for an Eternal crown that will never fade?

Paul turns from running to boxing and says he is not a "shadow Boxer" but he really "fights". He masters his body and takes authority over it. If athletes can master their bodies for fleeting glory, how much more should the Christian take authority over habits, appetites and desires that are degrading to our spiritual race or fight! This is not optional for our body is our only means of serving God. To fail is to risk being disqualified.

For the highest well-being of our physical body we must intelligently nourish and cherish it. To nourish we renew the life by strengthening with proper food. To cherish we protect it and preserve the life of it.

It is our God-given duty to nourish and protect this marvelous physical structure that God has intrusted to us. That He may be glorified through His will being carried out and the Holy Spirit having right of way at all times.

When I surrender my body to the Lord as a temple of the Holy Spirit, the new Landlord then becomes responsible for repairs. I can now call on him to repair my body when it breaks down.

Nevertheless, if I do not respect the temple and I miss use it; like a tenant that throws chairs through the windows and diapers down the toilet; then He has every right to charge me for the repairs or let me live in it the way I've made it or tell me to get out.

The Lord will take care of normal repairs as we keep His house in the best possible shape. Very often He will do some repair through His grace even when we do not deserve it.

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True the Lord said " I am the Lord that healeth thee" but there are conditions that go with the promise. There is a balance in divine activity and human responsibility. "If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in His sight, and will give ear to His commandments, and keep His statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians, for I am the Lord that healeth thee". (Exo.15:22-26)

God requests "obedience", "If thou wilt" then "I will". Notice the "if".

The Egyptians were rebels against God's Government. They lived in rebellion, self-will and sinful idolatry. While the Israelites, who lived in obedience to God's Will for them, would experience His healing from the diseases common to the Egyptians.

God graciously instructed His people through Moses regarding the fundamental laws of health. Dr. Roland V. Bingham in his book "The Bible and the Body" lists these laws as given in scripture.

1. Sanitation (Duet.23:12-14)
2. Sterilization (Lev.11:32,39,40; Num.19:11· 31:21-23)
3. Quarantine (Num.5:4; Lev.13:14)
4. Hygiene (lev.11)
5. Physical Culture--every Israelite was a farmer.
6. Recuperation (the Sabbath rests)
7. The Moral Law (Ex. 20:1-17).

Through our ignorance or disobedience to these natural laws sickness and disease has come upon us.

Now under the Lordship of Christ and the proper stewardship of our bodies, we must deal with the Word of God and our own conscience and choose a life style of physical discipline, pleasing to the Holy Spirit and that will meet our needs.

It is necessary to train and educate ourselves in proper principles of physical care, nutrition and exercise. Train your children to eat and live right and they will not have these problems when they are old.

God did not promise to heal us of our own sinful self-indulgence. Laziness will keep us from changing our present indulgent life-style. Let's care for our bodies in a God-glorifying way and experience that Abundant Life, physically,spiritually and mentally. Be a faithful steward of the Gift of Life God has given us. End

THE REVELATION

By Dr. Albert Grimes
Part Three

THE VISION EXPLAINED

In Rev.1:12-18 John first saw seven golden candlesticks or lampstands. The interpretation of these symbols is given in Rev.1:20 "the lampstands which thou sawest are the seven churches". These churches were the light holders and dispensers of the light. John also saw the Son of man in a highly symbolic form in the midst of these seven candlesticks or lampstands.

This symbolizing goes beyond the fact of Christ being just an High Priest as in Heb.4:14. "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God..."

We see Him as in His exalted state, with all power, all knowledge and everywhere present, judging the Church, evaluating its every work; scrutinizing its every action and estimating its spiritual value. In Rev. 1:13,14 "And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle;" speaking of His high Priestly qualities. "His head and His hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and His eyes were as a flame of fire"(relating to his antiquity, eternal existence, wisdom; His eyes of fire, Divine anger).

Then in Heb. 4:13 it says, "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight: but all things are naked and open unto the eyes of him, with whom we have to do". In Rev. 1:15,16 we read "And His feet like fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace (brass speaks of judgment) and His voice as the sound of many waters (speaking of His authority). And He had in His righthand seven stars". These stars related to the seven lampstands and the seven lampstands are representative of the seven churches.

The word relates itself then to the rulers and teachers of the congregations. These are compared to the Priests that teach the Law of God as in Mal.2:7 "For the Priests lips should keep knowledge, and they shall seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts".

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The same statement is made in Mal. 3:1 regarding John the Baptist as being the messenger of the Lord.

This then relates to the responsibility of those who are the teachers and leaders of the churches. They are held in the righthand of the Lord and are responsible to God as Rev. 1:16 relates "And out of his mouth went a sharp two-edge sword, and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength". The sword out of his mouth is spoken of again in Rev. 19:15 "that with it He shall smite the nations and shall rule them with a rod of iron". The sword evidently relates to judgment.

He then radiated the full glory of a glorified being. The vision overcame John and he fell at His feet as one dead. "And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last". Christ in His presentation of the Triune God. "I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and death". Rev.1:17,18.

It is the same statement that He made to His Apostles in Matt. 28:18, "All power is given to Me in Heaven and in Earth".

2. THE THINGS WHICH ARE

The messages relate to the church at the end of the Apostolic age. In regards to time this would be about seventy eight years after Pentecost.

Let us repeat again the principals relating to these messages. These messages were written to seven local churches, to meet the needs that existed in each church. Each one of these particular needs had a historical application relating to the church age.

These messages revealed the various kinds of individuals and churches throughout the age.

Seven types of believers, both true and false. Every professor of Christianity is either an Ephesian, a Smyrnaite, a Pergamosite, a Thyatirian, or a Sardian, a Philadelphian or a Laodicean. It is of these seven sorts that the whole church is made up. Every local church has some of all these varied classes. These messages give a direct application to every believer and the professors of every age.

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There is also a Prophetic revelation as to the course of the age in these messages. They predict the successive stages through which the Church will pass. From the time John saw the vision until the Lord would come.

1. THE MESSAGE TO EPHEBUS

The Church at the end of the Apostolic Age: Rev.2:1-7.

In the beginning of each message we must notice how Christ introduces Himself to each church, for this relates to the type of message presented. Rev.2:1 "Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;"

In this first message relating Himself to the condition of the Ephesus individual local church or age. We see Christ in His exalted state with all power, all knowledge, and everywhere present, judging the churches, evaluating its every work, scrutinizing its every action and estimating its spiritual value.

The recommendations given to this church is in Rev.2:2,3. "I know the works and labour and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and that thou hast tried them which say they are Apostles, and are not, and hast found them lairs "

There was works and labour and patience and a strong discipline in regards to the believers walk and ministry. "And hast borne, and hast patience and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted".

It is quite evident that this Church had in it much activity, all done in the Name of Christ. It is this that brings upon them the charge.

The Charge Against This Church:

Rev. 2:4 "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love." It is possible for Churches to get so caught up in the mechanics of religion and become so busy working and labouring for Christ, that as an individual they forget Him altogether.
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This first love relates to the love we had for Christ, when we were first saved. He was first before anything else and we spent time with Him.

Does this relate to the meaning of the word "Ephesus" which means "beloved or relaxation"?

If we as believers would spend more time in Christ's presence, we would not have to work and labour as much as we do. There would be more done in the power of the Spirit and less with human activity and sweat.

The Judgment:

Rev.2:5 "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent".

There are many such churches who have drifted into this condition and their lampstand has been removed; there is no real light going forth from them, no results spiritually. They are caught up in a humanistic religious activity that has caused them to lose sight of Christ.

(to be continued)

GOLDEN NUGGETS

Commit each day to the Lord then recognize each conversation as a God appointed encounter.

Whenever you meet a person look for and listen for verbal and non verbal signs of deeper needs. Learn to read not only their conversation but tone, attitudes, eyes and heart.

Partnership is a key to true spiritual greatness.

"Crusader"

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