



REVELATION 14 – EPHESUS: REMEMBER-REPENT

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Revelation 2:5-7

PROLOGUE – INHERENT TO RULES: FOSTERS SIN

- Paul discusses why rules {Law} causes sin (Ro 7:7-14)
 - Flesh has *sin nature* and it has no expression of Truth (Ro 1:18-28)
 - Sin is rebellion but if there is no rule there is nothing to rebel against
 - Once rule exists, Flesh rebels giving expression to its inherent *sin nature*
 - Expressions of sin, *Works of the Flesh*, **war** against the Spirit and *new nature* (Ro 8:5-8)
- Rules inherent for sinful people to live together to Control the flesh (Ro 13:1-7)
 - Society creates rules, inherent to God's image {Ten Words}, which causes rebellion which requires more rules resulting in more rebellion: Positive Feedback Loop
 - What or Who can break this Loop? Christ! (Ro 7:24-8:4; 1Jo 3:8)

PROLOGUE – PROBLEM WITH RULES: FOCUS AND RESULTS

- Rules, necessary for the Lost, governments: Major flaws (Ro 13:1-7)
 - Laws focus only on the outside; they cannot determine one's heart (1Sa 16:7; Jn 7:17-24)
 - Laws only condemn for failure; they cannot praise for Truth (Ro 3:10-20)
 - Laws only reveal sin; hence, cannot guide into Truth (Ro 7:7-10)
- With no apostles, churches began developing creeds {Laws} to define what *saved* should **outwardly** look like {Morality}
 - Easily deceived by *False Teachers* supported by Immature believers {Jude}
 - Allows for the rise of denominations competing as representations of True Faith: Roman Catholicism;(RCC); Greek Orthodox; Protestantism; Evangelicalism, etc.

RULES – BANE TO LOST: GUIDANCE TO SAVED

- While Rules provoke flesh's sin nature, they do guide our *New Nature* (Ro 7:13-14)
 - *New Nature* foreign to us; we must grow into it, metaphor of *birthing* (Jn 3:3-8; Ro 7:15-16)
 - Ten Words provide guidance, teaching us in which direction to mature (He 5:11-14)
 - Gives believer a plum line, canon, to guide one's maturation
 - Goals given in Beatitudes with Lost's reaction against Saved (Mt 5:2-12)
- Law is Good but despised by the Lost as it reveals their sin: Condemns them
 - Lost try to *live the Law with Sin Nature*; hence, unprofitable Works {*Übermensch*} (Ro 4:2-4; 7:17-21; Ga 5:19-21)
 - Saved guided by the Law into *New Nature* maturation; profitable Works (Ja 2:17-18; Ga 5:22-25)

COMMANDS: REMEMBER – REPENT

- After giving the Ephesians stern warning of the consequences of their change in focus, Christ offers hope:
 - Remember: Command understand the difference between their former state, following Christ, and current state, following rules; i.e., *worthless works* (1Jo 1:8-10)
 - Repent: One cannot repent, turn 180°, unless one understands one's current state which is repugnant to sinners: *Saved and Lost* (Pr 12:15; 14:12; 21:2-3)
 - Repent: repeated {Duality} emphasizing its importance if one is to *return* in submission to following Christ – Love: Obeying His Commands (Jn 14:15; 1Jo 2:3-5; 5:2-3)
 - If Ephesus continues its path, it will leave the faith; i.e., will not belong to Christ: He must remove it from His Presence when it embraces *Apostasy* (2Jo 8-9)

NICOLAITANS: ENCOURAGEMENT OR WARNING

- Christ commends them for rejecting the Nicolaitans; as He does
 - Nicolaitans: Scholars generally believe it to be early Gnosticism
- Platonism-Gnosticism seeped into churches {2nd-3rd century}; legitimized by Augustine {4th century} becoming foundation of RCC and its offshoots
 - Every earthly concept/object has true, complete form in *spiritual* sphere
 - Spiritual: *Higher* Superior knowing over tangible-earthly *lower* Inferior knowing
 - Redemption: Transition from lower to higher knowing {Mysticism added by paganism}
 - Rejects: Christ as God; His death for sin and *New Nature: Übermensch* or *Self-actuating Works* demonstrate one's superiority {*Sin Nature*} over Christians
 - Fosters antichrists in church; viruses destroying the Body of Faith (1Jo 2:18-19; 4:1-3; 2Jo 7)

CAN YOU HEAR? REFERENCE TO ISAIAH

- Isaiah's Mission: Present Truth which will be rejected by Lost as they cannot see or hear Truth due to their *sin nature* (Is 6:9-13; Ro 1:18-28)
 - Paul used metaphor explaining Jewish failure, except Elect, to *obtain* Gospel (Ro 11:7-11)
 - The *one who has an ear* guided by the Spirit and not by one's own knowing (1Co 2:14)
- Isaiah warned Jews their unbelief would leave them desolate, apart from God evidenced by their Babylonian banishment and Roman desolation (Is 1:2-9)
 - Paul warned Christians not to be prideful, sinful, less they too should be *removed* by Christ for their unbelief (Ro 11:17-22)
 - Rituals do not save nor are they repentance; God desires true repentance, changed heart: *Come let us reason together...sins as scarlet...white as snow* (Ps 51:16-17; Is 1:16-20)

REPENTANCE: WHAT IS IT?

- Repentance clearly delineated by Paul though it is foolishness to those who cling to their sin as Philosophy, Psychology, etc.: Saved and Lost (Ro 12:1-2; 1Co 1:18-25)
- Following Christ's example, Saved to offer themselves as *living sacrifices*; not to cleanse from sin but to embrace Good though hated by the World (Lk 18:18-30)
 - Rejecting the World's ways by *resting* in Christ-Spirit-Word lest one becomes like Peter who took his eyes off Christ and began sinking in the sea (Mt 11:28-30; 14:22-32)
 - Renewing your mind; i.e., remembering and repenting from sin via Word and Spirit
 - Grow in *knowing* Christ's will: Good {Christ's commandments}; Pleasing Him, not self, family or world into Completion, receiving our new bodies (1Co 13:12; 15:50-55)

TREE OF LIFE: AVAILABLE TO ALL

- Christ ends His Ephesian letter with a promise available to ALL Saved: Eat of the Tree of Life in Christ's Paradise {Persian loan word: Garden} (Re 22:1-5)
 - Paradise links to Man's original *earthly* state and Babylonian Captivity: Failed Promise (Ge 2:7-9, 15-17; 1Co 1:29; 15:50)
- Ephesians, we, given a clear choice: Mammon or God (Mt 6:24)
 - In their efforts to remain faithful, they chose the World's ways; as church does
 - They were in danger of exchanging Christ's Truth for Satan's Lie (2Th 2:3-12; 2Jo 8-11)
 - Everyone, regardless of motive or sincerity, who leaves Christ's teaching does not love Christ: Lost are antichrist's; Saved who do not *hear* and *repent* will be saved but will smell of the judgment's smoke {That is how close they came} (1Co 3:15; Jude 22)
 - Remaining on their course will bring blindness - rejection; for us also {Laodicea}