

John Newlin Ministries, Inc.
- realizing the power of a life in Christ-

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**FUNDAMENTALS OF JESUS
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**WHAT IS THE CHURCH JESUS IS COMING TO
COLLECT?**

We have read and studied and reread the wonderful scriptures about Jesus' coming in the clouds and calling out his believers, those he collects who meet him in the air.

These are his true believers and they make up his CHURCH – his capital letter CHURCH! A CHURCH of true believers in Jesus Christ. People who in his own words have been born of water and the spirit and who, as Paul described, profess him as Lord and believe in their hearts that God raised him from the dead. People who truly know him.

Now, sometimes you read about others who think the church is perfected as we get close to Jesus' return, that he comes for a perfect church, a unified church. In comments like these the writers or speakers seem to be referring to the collection of all those churches on street corners and elsewhere, with all the hundreds of denominations and all their many differences. And the thought is that somehow before Jesus' return there is somehow a perfection here and a move to a glorious church, a UNIFIED church, an end to division and such.

Here we are today so very near to Jesus' return, and we know that those individual churches and denominations certainly are not unified or glorious or anywhere near being brought together truly. And we see how forced efforts by some toward unity never lead to true unity.

So what are we to make of all that?

Several points, some clearer than others:

- Some expect a great revival as we near the return of Jesus, with many brought to Christ, and thus possibly a move toward true unity in these organizations. I certainly expect there will be another strong move of God as we go to the time of the return, and that there will be continuing such efforts on God's part even through the Tribulation. But I don't think this is the explanation.

- It is interesting to me to hear various theological leaders or large ministry leaders refer to the church and seem to be referring in that to all these individual churches by the thousands and all the denominations. Experience has shown that not only are the churches and denominations diverse, but there is some question that some of these even can be called part of Jesus' CHURCH.

When I first began ministering in one city, a minister friend came to me and said I should know that many pastors/preachers in that place were not even born again. Well, if the pastors of the churches are not born again, they don't know Jesus, and if they don't know Jesus, how can they lead others in knowing Jesus? And it is clear in visiting many churches that many don't teach the full gospel, don't recognize the ministry of the Holy Spirit or the role of the Spirit or the gifts, don't have healings taking place or other such moves of the Spirit, don't really have people truly being born anew. So are they even churches of Jesus? Are there any in those churches whom Jesus will consider believers? Well, he is the one who will answer that, not me, but from all he has taught us and the Bible includes, maybe not, or maybe not many.

- Going further, I recently saw a note that 95% of the churches are not teaching about Jesus' imminent return. A reason for not doing so was given – such teaching would be detrimental to church growth!!! How preposterous and sad. How unimportant is the physical growth of an individual church right now! What is important is everyone – those inside and those outside the individual churches - hearing the truth about Jesus return and hearing the truth about who he is. Just another illustration of how lost many of these individual churches are.

So as a start I think we need to realize that many of these institutions we call churches just aren't full of believers in Jesus. They are full of people who come to the church out of tradition, because their parents did, because it makes them feel good, because it's good for business and social relationships. They are full of people who think coming to the church is what they are supposed to do, and they likely think the weak and minimalist gospel being taught is all there is to the gospel. Many do not know there is so much more to know.

I don't think we have to have a great unity of all these sorts of churches. That is not what is meant by the CHURCH of Jesus. His CHURCH is full of true believers in him, people truly born of water and the Spirit. My thought is that his CHURCH consists of people like this wherever they live and whether they are members of individual churches in physical buildings or not. His believers might live in a rural area of Africa and meet periodically in a small group somewhere or they may not. They might work on a ship or live in London or New York City or attend a huge church or a small country church. They may even be in an individual church where most are not born again, but they are and they are working to help the Lord reach others.

When Jesus comes and calls his believers to join him, these true believers will do so, and that group of people will be unified immediately, because they all know Jesus and they are all filled with the Holy Spirit and guided by the Spirit. It is just like when I walk into a room of people I do not know. It does not take long for me to encounter other Spirit-filled believers in that room, if there are any. That

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common bond of faith brings us together. The Holy Spirit unites us, and it will be the same with Jesus' glorious CHURCH when he collects it from the earth.

THE ANTICHRIST (A/C) AND THE FALSE PROPHET WHO COME IN THE LAST DAYS (Part 2)

Last month we began looking at the man of lawlessness, or anti-christ, who comes in the last days. The newsletter concluded with the first part of a long list of attributes and actions of the anti-christ straight from scripture. Below we continue with the list for the anti-christ and next month we will look at a similar but shorter list about the false prophet. These words come directly from pillars of the faith – Daniel, Paul, and the apostle John. I think we can rely on them. As space allows, I have added a few comments of explanation in parentheses.

THE ANTI-CHRIST (continued from last month)

From Daniel 9:26b-27

1. People of the ruler who will come (the a/c) will destroy the city (Jerusalem) and the sanctuary.
2. End will come like a flood
3. War will continue until the end (so don't expect wars to go away)
4. Desolations have been decreed
5. A/C will confirm a covenant with many (the Jews) for one seven (seven years - This is the peace agreement we have written about in the past, and the seven doubtless refers to the Tribulation period.)
6. In middle of the seven years he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. On a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation...until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.

From 2 Thessalonians 2:3-10 (Paul):

1. Will be revealed when the rebellion occurs (the apostasy, the falling away from God – a very real, serious, and obvious rebellion against God; seems to me we are at this point or nearly there)
2. Will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped
3. Sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God
4. Evil (lawlessness) is already at work in the world; the a/c himself, the lawless one, will be revealed when the one who is holding him back is taken out of the way
5. The Lord Jesus will overthrow the a/c with the breath of his mouth and will destroy him by the splendor of his coming.
6. Coming of lawless one, the a/c, will be in line with the work of satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonder, and every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing (those who refused to love the truth and be saved---e.g., they don't know Jesus and they have refused to do so).

From Revelation chapter 13 [John refers to the a/c here as a "beast" which he obviously is in character and behavior.]

1. Comes out of sea with ten horns and seven heads, and ten crowns on his horns; on each head is a blasphemous name
2. Resembles a leopard, but has feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion
3. Has the power of satan and his throne and great authority

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4. One head seems to have had a fatal wound that has been healed
5. Has been wounded by the sword yet lives
6. Whole world is astonished and follows the beast (the a/c)
7. Men worship the beast
8. Beast utters proud words and blasphemies and exercises his authority for 42 months (3 and a half years – apparently he is at top authority last three and a half years of Tribulation)
9. Beast blasphemes God and slanders his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.
10. Is given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them (those who come to Christ in Tribulation period)
11. Is given authority over every tribe, people, language, and nation.
12. All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast (all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life...e.g., Jesus' book of those who will be with him)
13. Number of the a/c is man's number, 666 (man was created on the sixth day)

From Revelation 11:7

1. Attacks and kills God's two witnesses when they have finished their message in Jerusalem

From Revelation 19:19-20

1. Together with the kings of the earth and their armies at Armageddon, is gathered together to make war against Jesus and his army
2. Captured and thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

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Always stay alert. The Lord really is coming soon. May you live in the blessings of God always.

John

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