

The Looking Glass – part I

(Revelation 19 – 22)

Intro: As we begin with chapter 21:1 – 9, we find ourselves coming into the days of the Tribulation and the church is beginning to come back into view. The last time we saw the church was in the first several chapters of Revelation, and then in Revelation chapter 4:3 the church isn't in view any more. Now the Bride of Christ is coming into prominence. The Bride of Christ is comprised of the Redeemed of the Lord or those who came to faith in Christ following His death and resurrection. The church has been raptured out and the Tribulation is about to come to an end, and now the church is coming into view.

Also, coming into view here are some premillennial and postmillennial events. We will be observing 3 special observations that pertain to each of us, because we are part of the Bride of Christ if one is saved.

I. Observation #1 – We decide or chose the _____ of our godliness. Rev. 19:7 – (Ready)

A. Pay close attention to these words in verse 7 – “His wife hath made herself ready”

1. In what way and when is this to take place? (“**made herself ready**”.)
2. We know all the hustle and bustle our wives and bridesmaids deal with on the wedding day.
3. Following verse 7, verse 8 tells us _____, that the bride is the one responsible for how she looks.
4. She is wearing white as it points to the righteousness _____ there by Christ. (**Romans 3:25**)
 - a. We are clothed with His righteousness as we have _____ in and of ourselves. (**Isa. 64:6**)
 - b. How much of His righteousness we possess depends on _____.
 - c. One can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink.
5. We are the one's who _____ how godly we are going to be. (**Joshua 24:14 & 15; I Kings 18:21**)
6. Once we have come to a saving faith in Christ, we have to make a decision as to how godly we want to be.
 - a. How much time we will _____ studying God's Word & meditating on His words? (**Eph. 5:16 & 17**)
 - b. To what extent are we going to _____ our lives over to the control of the Holy Spirit? (**Gal. 5:25**)
 - c. How _____ will I be in this lifetime to serve Christ? (**Rom. 6:13**)
 - d. How hard will we _____ after God? (**Matthew 6:33**)
 - e. How much of my life will ___ allow to be affected by His Word? (**II Timothy 2:15 & 3:16, 17**)

B. Even though we are clothed with His righteousness, we still need to be concerned and focused on how we are living presently.

1. The signs are coming to a sharp _____ concerning His promise to gather us unto Himself.
2. Whether it is an expected or untimely death, or the rapture, none of us has as much time as we may think.

3. Remember, it is the Bride that is _____ herself – **Philippians 2:12**.
 - a. We can't save ourselves, only God can do this. However, our salvation, once we are saved becomes our _____ to put it to work. Christ working in us, the Word of God working in us, the Holy Spirit working in us and our surrender to this work with fear and trembling.
 - b. Why? Because we are going to have to _____ ourselves to Him without spot or wrinkle.
 - c. **Ephesians 5:25 – 27**; "spot" moral blemish.

II. Observation #2 – We have no _____ for being less than God expects us to be.

- A. After Revelation chapter **4:1**, the church has been out of _____ until we get to **chapters 19 – 22**.
 1. From heaven's perspective, the rapture has occurred, **I Thessalonians 4:13 – 17** has taken place and the Redeemed of the Lord are in heaven, and **Matthew 24:22 & 25:31 – 46** and **Zechariah 14:1 – 4**.
 2. Have you ever _____ why God loses Satan for a season following the Millennium?
 - a. **Matthew 25:31 – 34** sheep and goats.
 - b. Sheep nations are permitted to enter the Millennium time period. (Saved – Bodies of flesh))
 - c. The goat nations are sent to hell during this same time period. (Willful unsaved)
 - d. The sheep will bear children during the Millennium who will rebel – Revelation **19:15**.
 3. Amazingly, Satan is bound during this time period, sinners are in hell, Christ is on the throne, and still those _____ will be unsaved, just like it is today. Yet, who does one blame with Satan bound & sinners in hell?
- B. Here is a very important truth if anyone has ever labored with the idea that Satan and sinners are responsible for my lost condition, or my backslidden condition.
 1. Satan can't _____ us do anything we don't want to do.
 - a. He can't keep us from a _____ Christ as our Savior.
 - b. He can't keep us from living a _____ life that please God.
 - c. These are the _____ we make ourselves from either a prideful heart or a carnal disposition.
 - d. God has no pleasure in sentencing the lost to hell – **Ezekiel 18:32 & 33:11**.
 2. The newborns in the Millennium will have to make choices the same as we have to.
 - a. Some will choose wisely and some will choose to rebel.
 - b. So we have ample evidence it has been and always is an issue of the human heart.
 - c. Satan can only take advantage and try his best, but ultimately it is our decision to make.
 3. Some will resist the kingdom rules & policies of Christ in spite of the fact there is no one to lead them astray. (Why Christ will rule with a rod of iron.)
 4. It is an issue of the human heart – **Proverbs 4:23; 23:19; Deuteronomy 4:9; Psalm 139:23 & 24; Jeremiah 17:9**.