

“A COMPARISON” NATURAL CHURCH AND SUPERNATURAL CHURCH

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Having sought in three previous articles to convince the Bride that our Father God is the controller of all our infirmities, reproaches, necessities, persecutions and distress, we thought it good to now offer some consolation and comfort to those who are so deeply troubled by the same. It is a fact that the precious Bride of Christ are the most “stressed out” people on the face of the earth. In comparison, they fall far below nominal Christians in what would seem to be a calm, peaceful life. Although it is true that when we yield to the voice of our inner man, we have a **“Peace that passes understanding”** and are made to **“Rejoice with joy unspeakable.”** Still our souls are often cast down because **“With the flesh we still serve the law of sin”** (Rom. 7:25). Seeing and experiencing our bondage to this **“Law that is in our members”** (Rom. 7:23), we **“Groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body”** (Rom. 8:23).

It is according to the plan of God, that Christians live in “Satan’s Eden.” This world around us is a **“Great howling wilderness”** (Deut. 32:10). God’s Elect are so affected by the spirits in the land that they too, at times, fall into sin and error. Nothing so distresses a born-again Christian as when he has been tricked or tempted into

sin. They can, in fact, become so troubled that they are made to doubt that they are real Christians.

Seeing his doubt harassed, Satan tormented people, God spoke to His prophet Isaiah and said, **“Comfort ye, comfort ye MY PEOPLE”** (Isa. 40:1). Though trapped into some sin or other and tormented by the lies of Satan, God still refers to us as **HIS PEOPLE**. He has placed in us a repentant heart, and we cannot rest with known sin hanging over us, while in comparison, others see no need to repent. Even after repentance, and knowing our Lord has forgiven us, we are heavy hearted, knowing we failed Him. It is then that we have a hard time understanding the light heartedness of some other Christian professors. They seem not to experience the sadness that takes hold of us. The failures that put us on our faces in the dust apparently do not so affect them. They remain light hearted and care free. They hate anything that is solemn and sober, reminding them of the Holiness teaching of scripture. They will not receive the WORD that searches the heart and strips

away pride, and would lay them in the dust.

While the sin-distressed Bride grieves over their own sins, and the sins around them, these light and frothy Laodecians mock them for their solemn and often tear-streaked faces. These light ones appear to have the blessings of God. They often have a great knowledge of the LETTER OF SCRIPTURE. They can explain in a moment any question that may arise. Prophecy is no mystery to them. They already have it figured out.

While the Bride searches in the corners of the already gleaned out harvest fields for one more person who is willing to lay his whole life on the altar, these religious ones go forth with beaming countenances and win hundreds of souls to the Lord. Preaching a prosperity message, they entice the people with dreams of riches. They build Mega churches with steeples that reach in to the sky. But, their converts are not converted. The stench of the world remains on them.

They seem to have no problems in their Christian walk. They never doubt but what they will leave in the Rapture. They

have no **“Messenger of Satan”** to trouble them and no **“Thorn in the flesh.”** Providence smiles on them, and they go on a straight course with light hearts and smiling faces.

When the born-again Christian who is made so aware of his failures, his weaknesses and his ignorance, sees this contrast, he is tempted to envy them, for they testify about being given all their hearts desire. When the Bride has a desire that would not add to her spiritual growth, she is denied the request. (Thanks be to God for His watchful care of us.)

Yes, our prophet said these Laodecians are well pleased with their *peacock feathers*. **“Pride compasses them about as a chain”** (Ps. 73:6). They do not understand humility and claim that it is weakness. They are totally unaware that God sees their *stuck in feathers* as a pile of filthy rags (Isa. 64:6).

The Bride of Christ is oppressed by her corruption, by her many failures, by the accusations of the devil, by her acknowledged lack of faith, by her lack of love and her insincerity in prayer. But these *peacocks* speak highly of themselves, bragging of their peace, joy and victory.

Bride of Christ, we must not be as Asaph in Ps.73. He testified in verse 3, and on down, **“For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.”** Verse 5, **“For they are not in trouble as other men, neither are they**

plagued like other men.” Verse 7, **“Their eyes stand out with fatness, they have more than heart could wish.”** Verse 8-14, **“They are corrupt and speak wickedly concerning oppression, they speak loftily. They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth.....and they say, how doth God know? And is there knowledge in the most High? Behold these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world, they increase in riches. Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency. For all day long have I been plagued and chastened every morning.”**

As the Psalmist saw the prosperity of these people and their freedom from chastisement, he wondered, supposing that God was with them and had forsaken him. Dear Bride, have you ever wondered the same thing? Are we not now seeing the same thing Asaph saw? Modern Laodicea has produced a generation of Christians who are rolling in wealth. They have no ups and downs in their experience, no sleepless nights as they twist and turn on their pillows, sorrowing over a sin committed, or a deed not as yet made right.

Asaph thought, “Have I cleansed my heart in vain? I am not prosperous as they are! I have not attained popularity as they have. They seem to have more peace and more victory than I. For all day long I am

plagued and chastened every morning.”

But, when the Psalmist went into the sanctuary of God and began to pray (Verse 17), then he **“understood their end.”** He saw that these “happy-go-lucky” church members were not so well off as he had supposed. He saw that God had set their feet in slippery places, and that they were bastard children, for they lacked the chastisement that comes to the Elect.

Rather than being among the favorites of God, they were caught up in false religion. They were strangers to true spirituality. What a warning this is to the “stressed out” Bride of this hour! We are not to envy those who do not see the deceitfulness of their own hearts, who groan not **“Being burdened”** (II Cor. 5:4), and who are not crying, **“O wretched man that I am”** (Rom. 7:24).

Instead, be thankful that Christ has made you **“poor in spirit”** and that you have been made to **“mourn”** over a life that is not what you would have it to be (Matt. 5:3-4). Jesus Himself, has pronounced such ones to be **“Blessed.”**

We should not think it strange that we are among that small company who are the most stressed people on earth. Do we believe that we have been called into fellowship with the Lord Jesus? Then we also know that He was **“the Man of sorrows”** while He lived in His flesh body (Isa. 53:3). If He suffered and

sorrowed in paying the sin debt we owed, should we complain because He is using suffering and sorrows to bring us to a perfect, saving faith?

This perfect faith only comes as it is directed toward a PERFECT PERSON. Our mistake is that we try to find in our own fleshly life that perfection that is only to be found in the life Jesus lived. Our Lord leads down paths that will eventually prove to us the hopelessness of seeking salvation through the deeds of the flesh.

QUOTE: HEBREW BOOK, PAGES, 206-207, "Now, first we want to find out, 'Could we ever be perfect?' And, we found out in the scriptures this morning, Matt. 5:28, that Jesus said we had to be just as perfect as God was, or we wouldn't go in. Then we found out that we was every one, '**Borned in sin and shapen in iniquity, come to the world speaking lies.**' And there is not one sound thing about us. So, how could we ever be perfected? Now, here is what we found out then in reading and taking scripture with scripture, that Jesus by one sacrifice perfected forever His Church." (End quote)

The Bride is sometimes discomforted by watching the natural fruits of some who are thought to be spiritual. There is such a thing as the "**goodliness of the flesh, which is as the flower of the field**" (Isa. 40:6). Meaning that their goodliness is destroyed by the coming of adversity. Verse 7 says when the

Spirit of the Lord, "**Bloweth upon it**" it fadeth. Sometimes, we mistake such goodliness for GODLINESS. Some people are meek in their natural makeup. They may be kind and gentle in their natural temperament. They may be cheerful and happy, but it is not of faith in Grace. Proof of this is seen *when the fur is rubbed backwards*.

On the other side, the real Christian, in his natural temperament, may be cantankerous and have a fiery temper, or be gloomy. But, this does not disprove that Grace is being applied to his life any more than cheerfulness proves it is applied in the other.

In reality, God has chosen many of the very worst of Adam's fallen race as the objects of His indescribable Grace. "**For ye see your calling, Brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise, and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are might, and base things of the world, and things which are despised hath God chosen, and things which are not to bring to naught things that are. That no flesh should glory in His presence**" (1 Cor. 1:26).

When these unlikely ones are brought in, they still have their evil habits, and they often are not delivered in a day.

Unless the thoughts of these converts are directed to the

scriptures, they are sure to lose their new found peace as they begin to learn that their salvation did not rid them of the "**Law of Sin**" in their flesh (Rom. 7:23). To fail to claim our regeneration because we are not totally delivered from failures of the flesh, is a grave mistake. The new birth does not change the flesh. It only gives a new nature that hates all sin and whose DESIRE is to be perfect.

After the Elect has received He, Himself, into his heart (Which is the token), he becomes a hundred fold more aware of the vileness in himself.

Until he is instructed in the Word so that faith in God's plan for his RIGHTEOUSNESS is daily exercised, the failures of his flesh will drive him to despair. It is not at all uncommon for some of us to live for years under condemnation. But eventually, because we are His and he refuses to give us up, God uses this very despair to drive us to His FAITH PLAN for righteousness.

Every temptation we encounter, every defeat we suffer, every trial we face is God's invitation for us to exercise our faith in His masterful plan of redemption. He leads His own down the path that will produce saving faith. We complain that we are still the subject of sin and that it hinders our work for God. We often feel that we are just one big sin pile. When we try to pray, evil thoughts crowd our minds. When we try to fast, a lust for food takes us over.

Other worldly lusts seek to take us over, and are quite often successful.

We beg God for help in being more humble, and pride rises higher. We ask for patience, and before the prayer is hardly out of our mouth, we have failed again. We struggle to love an enemy, and the hurts they did us are the things uppermost in our minds. What has happened to our God? Is he on a journey? Has He closed His ears to our mournful cries? No, never! He is only teaching us that **“There is no good thing in our flesh.”** But, what is our Father’s purpose in teaching such a drastic lesson through such drastic measures? The answer is that our eternal destiny depends on our FAITH being transferred altogether from self and its abilities, to Christ (Php. 3:3).

If we have really come to the Lord Jesus as incurable and hopeless sinners, bankrupt because of our sexual birth, and helpless within ourselves, and have put our confidence in His sacrifice, then scripture affirms

that God has made Christ to be **“Sanctification to us.”** (1 Cor. 1:30)

The Christian who feels that he is a complete failure and is very conscious of the fact that he daily violates the law of God, this is the Christian that will draw nigh unto God with a faith born out of desperation. Two things go hand in hand in the experience of a true believer: a growing discovery of the Satanic origin of SELF and a deepening love and appreciation for The Man Jesus Christ and the fact that we are **“Complete In Him”** (Col. 2:10).

“He must increase, but we must decrease” (John 3:30). The more we grow in Grace the more of our faults we see, and the more will self loathing take hold of us. As the Holy Ghost grants more light, we are less and less willing to boast of our own achievements. This comparison is to be especially noted when we observe the Natural and Supernatural Church. As we draw closer and closer to Him, the brighter does His light be-

come, and the more our imperfections stand out in dark contrast to His perfection.

The closer our fellowship with Christ the more **“We that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened”** (II Cor. 5:4). But the natural mind sees this situation and assumes that we have slid away backwards. Our corruptions are not to separate us from Him, but rather should they deepen our faith, knowing He is our only hope of a rapture.

Saving faith is that which gives us a desire to walk in all the light that has been given us. And, the greatest grief of the one who possesses it is the fact of his many failures to accomplish that feat. But, those very failures are the testings of our faith and should daily drive us back to Jesus for fresh cleansing.

Our prayer for writer and readers is, “Lord increase our faith.”

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