

SELFISHNESS AGAINST GOD AND HIS WORD

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REVELATION 3:19-22

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

AN EXPOSITION OF THE SEVEN CHURCH AGES - 3 - THE EPHESIAN CHURCH AGE

The fervent desire to please God, the passion to know His Word, the cry for reaching out in the Spirit, all begins to fade and instead of that church being on fire with the fire of God it has cooled off and become a bit formal. That is what was happening back there to the Ephesians. They were getting a bit formal. The abandonment to God was dying out and the people weren't too careful about what God thought of them as they began to be careful about what the world thought of them. That second generation coming on was just like Israel. They demanded a king to be like the other nations. When they did that, they rejected God. But they did it anyway. That is the history of the church. When it thinks more of conforming to the world instead of conforming to God, it isn't long until you see them stop doing things they used to do, and start doing things they wouldn't do initially. They change their manner of dress, their **attitudes and their behaviour**. They get lax. That is what "Ephesus" means: relaxed — drifting.

58-0112E - THE DOOR TO THE HEART

6 In the book of the Revelations of Jesus Christ. And the—the 3rd chapter and the 20th verse, I wish to read this portion. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

10 He has for you healing for your body. He has joy for your sorrow. He has peace for your troubled mind. He has hope for your doubts, faith for your fears, **incorruption for your corruption, Life for your death; and still we turn Him away.**

11 But you might say to me, "Brother Branham, I've already did that. When Jesus knocked at my heart, I let Him in." Well that's good. But when He come into your heart, did you welcome Him to your entire being?

There's many people that will welcome Jesus in as Saviour; but can He be your Lord? "Lord" is "ownership." The Lord has complete control. You would plentily welcome Him to keep you out of hell and torment. You would welcome Him as your Saviour, but are you willing to welcome Him as your Lord to take over full control?

In the heart there is little doors, like in your house. If I come to your house to visit you, and you welcome me in, and said, "Brother Branham, I give to you this house and all that's within it," but then you take me by the hand, and you say, "You see this door? I don't want you going in there. And you see this place? Now, don't go in there. And this place, don't go in there," then I'm just partially welcome. And that's the way people usually receive the Lord Jesus, as partially welcome. But He wants to come in and be welcome.

12 Now, let's examine some of these doors. One of them is a little door of self. You know, that's an important little door. You say, "Oh, yes, Jesus, I will receive You as my Saviour; but now, don't meddle in my business." That's the attitude of lots of Christians, so-called. "Now, I want to live my own life. But I don't want You... I want You to keep me from hell. But don't meddle in my affairs." Well then, Jesus can't have the preeminences. Jesus can't be your Lord, because you want to be your own ruler. And He wants to rule in your place. But as long as you keep the door shut, though you have accepted Him as your personal Saviour, yet you haven't fully give Him preeminence in you—your life. And oh, churches, isn't that a truth in all the world. They won't let Him have Lordship.

13 And then there's another little door. It's called the door to selfishness. Oh, how we like to guard that little door with a big padlock. "I'll go down if there's anything in it for me, or if it's for me and my church, or for me and my denomination. I'll be willing to go if I get anything out of it." That's selfish. You ought to open that door and let Jesus come in. Oh, it's an important door.

Now, I don't mean to be rude, but I only mean to be honest. And then there's a little door that's found in the heart of both men and women; it's a little door of pride. And in that you'll say, "Come in, Lord. I'll join your church, and I'll—I'll pay my tithings. I'll help buy the widow some coal, buy the orphan some food or some clothes. But I just don't want to surrender my pride. I think I'm just a little bit better than so-and-so." Jesus can't be Ruler then of your being.

55-0807A - PRIDE

44 You say, "Brother Branham, I'm no prostitute." I don't altogether mean sexually. Prostitution's on a higher level. You can prostitute your time. How much time do you give to Him? Prostitute your own selfish motives, going around saying, "Well, I belong to this church, I'm better." No you're not. You can prostitute otherwise than sexually. The Holy Spirit will speak to your heart, and you'll say, "I want nothing to do with that." You blind Pharisee, prostitute. What's the matter with you? Committing adultery with the world, that's what you're doing. Oh, you say, "I belong to church," and so cold and indifferent. Oh, you say pretty prayers. Oh, I hate that Pharisaic thing.

61-0123 - BE NOT AFRAID, IT IS I

40 But oh, brethren, don't never let that evil thing come on you men. No, sir, brother. Stick together like molasses on a cold morning; just really, really cling together, be thick. That's right. For... Yeah. "Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred mind is like to that above. Before our Father's throne, we pour our mutual prayers; (That's right.) our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares." That's right. That's the way we should be (Yes, certainly.), not greedy, selfish, indifferent, ungodly. The fruits of the Spirit is love, joy, longsuffering, meekness, gentleness, faith, patience. That's it; that's the fruit of the Spirit.

54-1024 - THE UNPARDONABLE SIN

and you're looking to receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and He'll give It to you. Say, "Lord, I'll...Just any way You pour It into me, just so I get the Holy Ghost. That's all I want, is the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Give me Something that will take this selfishness away. Give me Something will take all this fear and doubting away.

56-0101 - WHY ARE PEOPLE SO TOSSED ABOUT?

116 People go to church, and they'll shake your hand in church, and laugh and call you brother. Outside the church, they'd pull a little business deal that wouldn't be just exactly straight, for personal gain. I don't say them people are here in the tabernacle, but I say there is. There is things that people would do, and they get different. **The least little thing will bring that old temper back again, that selfishness**, open up an ear to hear gossip, or do something of that type. That person has never entered into this pot in here. They're outside.

50-0115 - BELIEVEST THOU THIS?

31 I tell you, that's what's a whole lot the matter with the people today. They're not friendly like they used to be. The people has got too selfish, got to a place where they—they think they live in a little world by themselves. You know that's the truth. Why, you know it used to be out on the farm, when—when one of the neighbors would get sick, we'd go out and help do their work, and cut the wood and bring it in. And now, you don't know your neighbor's dead unless you're to read it in the paper. That's right. Selfish...

50-0714 - AT THY WORD

3 A person who lives their life for themselves, lives a selfish life. We must live for others: "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fill full the law of Christ." And we got to have a feeling for one another. And therefore, when you do all you know how to do, then when you do lay down at night, well, you have the consolation knowing that you—you tried your best.

54-1219E - ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

116 When a man is ever born truly of the Spirit of God, and from the crown of his head to the ends of his toe nails, he's been changed by the resurrection Power of the Lord Jesus Christ. And his own selfish

ideas have faded away, and God has got complete control of that man. He'll believe every written Word of the Lord Jesus Christ, and practice the same.

58-0112E - THE DOOR TO THE HEART

17 Oh, we Christians, though alienated from the world, and we are heaven-bound subjects of the Lord Jesus, we should conduct ourselves as sons and daughters of God. Pride keeps us from doing it. We're afraid somebody will say something against us. When the spirit blesses, many are ashamed to say "Amen." There is many who in their office work, the Lord Jesus could have healed them of diseases, and they're afraid to testify to the glory of God because of pride. Many are afraid to stand and say, "I have received Christ as my personal Saviour and been filled with the Holy Spirit.": ashamed.

20 That's when Christians get sore eyes too. When they're asleep in the things of the world, their eyes get sore. You look at too much television, maybe. Anyhow, it'll make sore eyes.

And we used to take this coon grease, and rub it, massage it into their eyes until their eyes come open.

Oh, but in the spiritual realm, God has some holy Oil, the Holy Spirit, and It massages the heart with the power of His resurrection, until the spiritual eyes can fly open and see the glory of the Lord. Oh, how we need a eye massaging, that our eyes of our understanding might be open.

21 Then another thing, when your eyes come open you can see. You might hear. But your eyes come open, you can see. And then when our eyes is opened up, we can see the goodness of the Lord. There's many times that God has walked with you. He kept you from the wreck. He brought you from the hospital, and you go on as if you was like a hog under a apple tree. That's a southern expression.

You know, an old hog can get under the apple tree. And the apples will beat him on the head all day long. And he will just grab them and eat and never look up to where they're coming from.

That's the way many Christians do. The blessings of the Lord falling all around them, and they never get on their knees to recognize that it comes from God. What a pity it is.

25 The goodness of God, **we just take it for granted.** He's so good to come to us in this last days when denominations, and great moves against God, and all kinds of mechanical device-ities, and everything of entertainment to take the place of the church. All kinds of entertainment, and yet they turn their back on Christ. And yet He comes to us in His goodness to reveal Himself to us as the same yesterday, today, and forever.

26 Are you guilty of eating good food, enjoying good sight, wearing good clothes, driving a good car, living in a great nation, going to a—a good school, and all the blessings that we are enjoying, and yet you've never looked up to see where they come from? Are you guilty?