

How is Your Spiritual Vision? “Anoint Your Eyes with Eye Salve”

Jesus said to the Laodicean Church, “I counsel you to... **anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see**” (Rev. 3:18 NKJV).

The first thing we notice is that this anointing of our eyes is something Christians must do! How can we, as believers, treat our own vision problems? And with what should we anoint our eyes? What is this eye salve Jesus spoke about? Why do Christians have problems seeing?

Most of our vision problems have come as a result of being lazy. The attitude of being passive Christians has left the average believer with poor, spiritual vision. Jesus hit the preverbal “nail on the head” when He said we are lukewarm. Christians, as a whole, are not on fire with zeal to serve the Lord. Many can be classed as halfhearted (spiritless) Christians.

Jesus explains this in detail in His parable of the bridesmaids. Because the bridegroom tarried, they all went to sleep (spiritually). And when the cry went out that the bridegroom was coming, only half of them had enough of the Holy Spirit to be invited into the wedding banquet before the door was slammed shut. The sad part of this parable is, after trying to get spiritual (obtain more of the Holy Spirit), the lazy believers were so pathetic that Jesus didn’t even recognize them as being Christian! By this Christ warns believers everywhere, “Watch [be awake and alert] therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh” (Matt. 25:13).

The Church nowadays has a chronic, spiritual condition known as “dry eye.” This is a state where a Christian does not “naturally” produce enough of his own tears. The Church has, for a long time, considered everything to be “peaches and cream” with no need to shed any tears. After all, “God loves me, Christ died for me on the cross, and there is nothing left to do but to wait around to ‘go to heaven.’”

The need for deep repentance has been far from the minds of most Christians; even for those who consider repentance as part of their original conversion process. They don’t see the need to have a continual attitude of repentance and humility in their relationship with God. Many preach “come as you are,” while Jesus taught “**Repent** and believe the Gospel.”

Jesus said of the Church, “...you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked” (Rev. 3:17 NKJV). The need for repentance and change has not been stressed as a condition that is important for a proper walk with God.

The Church doesn’t know its own spiritual state! This condition of “chronic dry eye” exists because of **a lack of repentance and a deep desire to seek God!**

James wrote to the twelve tribes of Israel which are scattered around the world today, “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, ‘The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy’? But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, ‘God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.’ **Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil,** and he will flee from you. **Draw nigh to God,** and He will draw nigh to you. **Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep:** let your laughter be turned to mourning, and *your* joy to heaviness. **Humble yourselves** in the sight of the Lord, **and He shall lift you up**” (Jas. 4:4-10).

Far too many who call themselves Christians are in relationships that are adulterous. They are sleeping with someone who is not their mate by marriage, and they come into the house of God as if all is well. Jesus said of our time, “...the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet **repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts**” (Rev. 9:20-21).

This adulterous condition is also carried on spiritually. Many want to have one foot in the world and enjoy all the sinful pleasures of society around them and still call themselves Christian. Men desire to adopt all the licentious ways of pagan religions and put them into practice in their worship of God. This is not how to be “virgins” spiritually! Nor is this the way to keep ourselves “unspotted from the world” (Jas. 1:27).

“‘Therefore also now,’ saith the LORD, ‘**turn ye *even* to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:**’ And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for He *is* gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth Him of the evil. Who knoweth *if* He will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind Him; *even* a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God? **Blow the trumpet in Zion [the Church], sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, ‘Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not Thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, ‘Where *is* their God?’”’” (Joel 2:12-17).**

It is time for all of us in the Church to repent and return to God with all our hearts, minds, and beings! God is giving the Church a warning and instructing us to recognize the error of our ways! If we will only turn to Him with all our hearts, He may yet, at this late hour, allow us a way of escape from His plans to punish the Church!

There is a way of escape! Jesus said, “And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. [This is speaking of The Great Tribulation!] **Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man**” (Luke 21:34-36).

Jesus revealed to us in Revelation that an, “...angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God... cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, ‘**Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.**’ And I heard the number of them which were sealed: *and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel*” (Rev. 7:2-4).

Servants are not lazy; they are willing to do the will of the Father.

In the twelfth chapter of Revelation, Jesus goes on to show that before The Great Tribulation begins, the woman (part of the Church that will be awake and on fire with the zeal of the Holy Spirit to obey the Father) was given protection from the ravages of Satan. “And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood [armies] after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood [armies] which the dragon cast out of his mouth. And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Rev. 12:14-17).

The remnant of the body of Christ is the rest of the Church that were too lazy to respond to the work the Father asked them to do. These believers figured they had plenty of time to get ready to meet Jesus later. But Satan will be allowed to test these believers during the three and one-half years of The Great Tribulation.

God has shown a way to escape the horrors of The Great Tribulation. But to flee the trials to come, we must be willing to partner with the Father in announcing the Second Coming of His Son Jesus Christ! If we want to sit back and do nothing as we see the troubles coming, then we will not escape!

Realize the attitude of repentance is coming to the Church! But how it comes is up to us! We can either humble ourselves now, by anointing our eyes with the spiritual eye salve of repentance, or be forced to repent under much persecution and suffering during The Great Tribulation. The choice is ours to make!

The Church, as a whole, may not experience a large movement to repent until it is too late. Therefore, it must suffer through three and one-half years of The Great Tribulation.

BUT YOU CAN TURN TO GOD NOW AND AVOID THE TIMES OF PUNISHMENT THAT WILL COME UPON THE CHURCH!

Because of our Laodicean attitude, God is going to spank the Church! Jesus said, “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and **repent**” (Rev. 3:19). The same spiritual condition was described in Matthew 22 and because of the lack of response—of not being prepared, the Father said, “...Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there shall be **weeping** and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few *are* chosen” (Mat. 22:13-14). Many have been called but few will be found worthy and chosen to escape the hard times ahead!

Now all of this has been an interesting revelation from Jesus through the Holy Spirit. But the big question for us today is, WILL WE HEED CHRIST’S WARNING AND REPENT! Or will we simply roll over and go back to sleep? The choice is up to each of us! It is time for all of us to fall on our knees in deep repentance before God! If we turn to God with all our hearts and deeply repent, God will have mercy on us and allow us a way to escape the awfulness of the Tribulation to come!

My heart cries out to all God’s people everywhere. I wish all Christians and Jews would come to deep repentance! My desire is that all believers would surrender their will to God!

Do you want God to look to you? He says, “...to this *man* will I look, *even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at My word*” (Isa. 66:2). If you humble yourself before Him and come to Him with deep respect for His Word, He will hear your cry!

God doesn’t want His people to suffer. But because He loves His children, He will rebuke and chasten them. Jesus is calling out to all believers to REPENT!

Jesus is standing at the door of your heart today saying, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me” (Rev. 3:20 NKJV). You can improve your relationship with Jesus and the Father if you only repent and open the door of your heart to Them! God wants the very best for His children. “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ says the LORD. ‘They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. **In those days when you pray**, I will listen. If you look for Me wholeheartedly, you will find Me. I will be found by you,’ says the LORD...” (Jer. 29:11-14 NLT).

IT IS MY HOPE THAT YOUR PRAYER TO GOD OF TRUE REPENTANCE WILL COME IN TIME TO ESCAPE THE DREADFULNESS OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION AND THAT HE WILL GRANT YOU SAFETY AND PROTECTION DURING THAT DIFFICULT TIME!

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