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"Are We At the End? Chapter 3, Part A2"

"The Money Changers"

By Apostle Jerry Upton

In a day and time 'where anything goes', we have churches that have: darkened their lighting in order to give it a commercial atmosphere (like a concert hall); incorporated fog machines; concert lighting; friendly seeking ambiance; and any other sources that keep them relevant to the times.

As far as it goes in many of our mainstream churches, everything is sold and merchandised. The profit margin made off of books, recordings, cd's, clothing, jewelry and other items make many churches and ministries more profitable than commercial stores located in shopping malls. But the main reckoning behind all of this commercialism is that "we are only doing it for the Kingdom of God." I would be the first to tell you that I have made the same mistakes as others have, **but no more**. I see in the above scriptures that what Jesus was so adamantly against was demonic spirits that were keeping the people from receiving what they needed most, and that was the anointing:

"And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them." **{Matthew 21:14}**

The word of God clearly shows us the danger of having a love of money as noted: "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." {I Timothy 6:10}

Most of the time when this scripture is quoted, it is always quoted wrong by saying that money in itself is the root of all evil; but that is not what it is saying at all. It clearly states: "For the love of money." I know exactly what that means, and it is this: Those who lust after, will do anything to get it, will put money before seeking the face of God, who only want it to fulfill

their own selfish interests and ambitions, who want it in order to have a false sense of security, who refuse to allow God to direct them in how they distribute it, and who constantly sit around thinking about it day and night. When you find people in this capacity, they have the "love of money", and they many times are "flat broke." The proper attitude concerning wealth is identified in {Deuteronomy 8:18-19}.

"And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth."

"But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day." **ALSO {Proverbs 10:22}**

"The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it."

ALSO {Psalms 112:1-3}

"Praise ye the Lord. Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed. Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever."

WEALTH AND RICHES HAVE ONE PRIMARY REASON, AND THAT IS TO: ADVANCE THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." **{Matthew 6:33}**

The demonic spirits that have taken so many ministries, churches, and God's children captive have them:

A. Giving God's resources to those who are operating under the antichrist spirit, while falsely believing tat they are supporting God's chosen people in the land of Israel that are false Jews. **Revelation 2:9** and **Revelation 3:9**}

- B. Spending God's resources on elaborate buildings by going into debt, and becoming slaves to the lender and money changers. God has specifically told us in His Word the fallacy of being in excessive debt. {Proverbs 22:7; Deuteronomy 28:12; Deuteronomy 15:6}
- C. Providing no transparency and accountability in how resources are distributed and accounted for.
- D. Causing many ministries, and churches to stockpile funds while providing little aid and assistance to the poor, widow, homeless, and those in need in their communities.
- E. Creating a spirit of completion in the midst of ministries and churches, in an attempt to outdo each other for social status and prominence.

As I have stated previously, these conditions are due to demonic spirits operating in organized religion, and I am sounding the alarm for the remnant of God to come out of this Babylonian mindset. You may be telling yourself that it is all harmless, innocent, and the way that modern churches and ministries have to operate; but one of the clearest revelations of how destructive this mindset is can be found in: {Revelation 3:14-22} The Church of Laodicea.

- I. Had grown in their fervency and passion for Jesus. Vs. 15-16
- II. Had grown to believe in their own self-sufficiency. Vs. 17
- III. Had grown to believe in their own self preservation. **Vs. 17**
- IV. Had grown blind to their real spiritual position. Vs. 17
- V. Had grown blind to their spiritual nakedness. Vs. 18
- VI. Had been separated from the presence of Jesus. Vs. 20

Jesus instructs this church to be zealous and repent. He also invited them to let Him in, and for them to enter His presence and fellowship with Him as their top priority. **Vs. 19-20. WHAT ABOUT YOU?**