

We Are Not Ready
Jerry Marek 6/25/10

Introduction

We are not ready. For when the bride of Christ is ready for His return He will come. Therefore, if Jesus has not yet returned, this means we are not ready and thus are in great need of preparation. We must realize, as we will look at later in *2Thessalonians*, that God, (the Lord of Glory, Yahweh) is sending a strong delusion to the earth so that those who refuse to prepare themselves will be carried away by the lies of Satan.

The greatest work we can do, as the Church, the Beloved of Christ, is to prepare ourselves for His appearing. I have no intentions to minimize your personal calling, nor the Great Commission, but if you do not make the primary pursuit of your life the preparing of yourself for the revealing and glory of Jesus Christ, then you have greatly missed one of the most important Gospel messages.

For it says in Revelation 19: 5-9: "And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all His servants, and the ones fearing Him, the small and great. And I heard as the sound of a great multitude, and as the sound of many waters, and as the sound of strong thunders, saying, Hallelujah! For the Lord God omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and we will give glory to Him. For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has prepared herself. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white. For the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints. And he said to me, Write, Blessed are those who have been called to the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true sayings of God."

All who are faithful to the Gospel of Christ in the latter days will find and receive this truth.
I will be sharing tonight about the greatness delusion and the exceeding greatness of love for the truth.

Love the Truth

Read: 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12

We must ask ourselves, what does it mean to love the Truth?

I'm going to share with you a prophetic experience that I had in 2008. During this experience the Lord revealed to me the weight of the delusion and how I must fervently work out my salvation with fear and trembling, seeking the knowledge of God and the revelation of Jesus.

"The Angel of Light"- from the Prophet Song (Summer 08)

I was in the Spirit, standing in an open field. On the horizon, I saw something begin to fly in my direction. It was a bird that looked something like a giant, pure white phoenix. As it flew over my head I saw that this bird had a most beautiful tail. Once the phoenix flew completely overhead, it was as though the vision started over again. The second time the phoenix flew over my head I noticed it also had a rider clothed in red garments. The rider was somehow separate, but also the same as the phoenix. It flew overhead and the scene started over again. The third time this happened, just as the phoenix was making its way past me, I saw a great light and the phoenix began to transform within the light. Then, a fourth time the scene began, but this time the phoenix and its rider had transformed into a glorious angelic being who was both golden and white,

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illuminating a brightness like the sun.

Immediately, a warm, peaceful feeling came over me. "The angel is good. This is a 'good' angel," I told myself. As this was happening I had a vague thought come to mind that I was not to trust the angel of light. Nevertheless, the warm feeling prevailed and I became completely captivated by the splendor of this angel.

"Beware the angel of light. What is his testimony?" These thoughts began to come into mind again, partially removing my gaze from the angel. There began a battle in my mind of Scripture waging war against the angel's influence on my mind and emotions.

As I began writing down the vision, the angel continued in its attempt to captivate me. I wrote, 'If we are not firmly grounded in the Word of God we stand no chance against the cunning of this angel. This is clearly a warning because I am not ready, and I am one of the people called to prepare...' It was at this point as I was writing that the angel's presence caused me to fall asleep. An hour or so later I woke up. When I came to, the Lord directed me to 2 Thessalonians. I came to the place in chapter two where it talks about the coming of the lawless one and the strong delusion. The Lord began to minister to me through these verses.

The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (2 Thess 9-12)

It was obvious to me at this point that the phoenix and its rider represented the antichrist and Satan. The influence of the delusion during the end times will be more alluring and decisive than at any point in history. The only way to overcome the delusion is to cultivate a pure and sincere love for the truth. We must be committed to loving Jesus. Our mental comprehension of truth will not save us. Knowing Scripture will help, but without love and obedience to the Scripture, our knowledge will be a vain hope of deliverance when the delusion comes. As it is written, God will send them strong delusion. To whom does He send the delusion? He sends it to those who take pleasure in unrighteousness. Taking pleasure in unrighteousness is the definition of not believing the truth. If we 'know that He is Lord' but continue in our sins, we condemn ourselves. Knowing that Jesus is LORD will not save you. We must receive the love of the truth and obey it.

We love because He first loved us. If you have not a love for the truth it is because you have yet to receive His love. Jesus walked in the flesh, knowing the powers of temptation, and therefore sympathizes with our weaknesses. Because of this, Jesus continually intercedes on our behalf. He intercedes though, so that we might receive the fullness of His love and walk in purity and righteousness. The degree in which you receive His love is the degree in which you will stand in allegiance to Him on the day of testing. In the latter days it says that the love of most will grow cold. Jesus is looking for the burning ones who burn with His holy flame of love. If we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, we will then burn with the zeal of the Lord Almighty. But if we sin and so deceive ourselves, we lie and demonstrate that we do not have the truth.

We have the opportunity to know Him, but if we do not turn aside from the vanity of this world and give ourselves completely to Jesus Christ, God will send us a powerful delusion so that we will believe the unrighteous deception of Satan.

Good theology will not save us... being able to quote Scripture will not save us. John 17 says that the *knowledge of God* is eternal life. We must **know** the Father and His Christ. We must fix our

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eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

We must become a people who gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and inquire of Him.

We must know His thoughts, His will, His emotions, and His loving faithfulness. For if we know the One who is *chief among ten thousand*, and *fairer than the sons of men*, then we have no need to worry. But we must pursue this Man!

Psalm 24: 4-5

We must trust that gazing upon Jesus and truly becoming a people who intimately know Him is the one thing that is needed to walk in the fullness of truth and love. It says in Matthew 24 that the love of most will grow cold. More than anything, that which needs to be cared for is our love for the truth. If we have not love, all of our ministry, evangelism, sacrifice and service will profit us nothing.

We need to become a people who live and long for the judgment seat of Christ, that we might learn what it truly means to know God, and thus possess a love that will not leave us void and empty on that day.