

THE MAN OF MYSTERY

"THE DIABOLICAL CONNECTION"

Part 2

By: Phillip Hayes

Our last article concluded with these verses from Galatians:

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. [Galatians 1:6-9]

Notice, the Galatians had been *removed* from Christ by another gospel, which was not another, but a perversion of the true gospel! This was while Paul was still alive and preaching! Now, you can believe what you like, but the fact is, any gospel preached and believed other than what the Apostles originally preached will not save you; rather, *it will remove you from Christ!*

Obviously what you believe is extremely important. Therefore great care should be taken as to what you perceive is the Gospel. *"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall" [2Peter 1:10].* Make your calling and election sure!

Who preached this false gospel that sounded so close to the real that it fooled many that had received the truth from the Apostles themselves?

Paul said it was the serpent, "THE FATHER OF LIES"! *But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.*

[2 Corinthians 11:3-4]

Satan! Preaching another Jesus, another gospel! Oh please dear reader, take heed, there is a gospel being preached in the world today that will damn your soul! Wake up and search God's Word for the whole truth. Don't be deceived, the devil is being manifested behind the pulpits of churches all over the world. He preaches about Jesus, and he tells folks that God loves them, but he perverts the truth just enough to deceive the multitudes. This is the man of mystery being revealed in the last days! Sitting in the temple of God, among the people of God!

Jesus and the Apostles didn't leave us in darkness as to how the enemy operates. Paul went on to further reveal where the deception was coming from:

For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works. [2 Corinthians 11:13-15]

Paul is very bold and crystal clear in this passage of scripture. Satan appears not as an ugly, two horned, forked tail, hideous being of some science fiction writer's mind; but

as *an angel*, an angel of light. Paul reveals that Satan's ministers appear as ministers of righteousness!

Children of God, I want you to see clearly that the enemy is within, not without. Satan's ministers have got the church looking in every direction for the antichrist except where he is really operating; and that is in the pulpit! "Jesus is Lord" is their message, but the image of Jesus they portray is not quite the same. Their message is a watered down version of the message that Jesus and the Apostles preached.

But, they were before of old ordained, and their destiny was foretold by the Lord Jesus:

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.
[Matthew 7:22-23]

Jesus is once again very plain! Many will call Him Lord. Many will prophesy in Jesus' name. Many will cast out devils in Jesus' name. Many will do wonderful works in Jesus' name. But, because they worked iniquity (lawlessness), Jesus refused to let them enter into eternal life!

There should be no confusion that these people were professing Christians that ministered within Christian churches! These poor deceived individuals thought they were the ministers of Christ doing God's service; when in fact, they were the ministers of the antichrist doing the man of sin service. Also they were in the majority, "many will say to me, Lord, Lord."

We have read where Jesus prophesied of the evil that would infiltrate the Kingdom. Paul and the other Apostles witnessed the beginning of the manifestation of the spirit of

antichrist, and they clearly revealed his working in the church.

Also, remember that Paul wrote his epistle in about AD 51-52 to the Thessalonians. We have also read from Galatians and Corinthians very enlightening passages concerning the working of Satan in the early church. Now, let's move on in time about 40 years to AD 90 and read what the Apostle John wrote pertaining to this very same subject of the man of sin. Please note that 40 years had passed since Paul wrote his epistles to the Thessalonians:

Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

[1John 2:18]

Now, let's look carefully at this verse. Notice, John said, *"It is the last time, and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come."* Clearly, the church had been prepared to look for the antichrist in the last days. In our study, we have read where Paul warned about the man of sin being revealed in the last days, and now John, wrote, *"Ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time."*

John said, *"You know it is the last time!"* The antichrist is revealed! There are now *many* antichrists! John went on to reveal where the antichrist came from:

They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

[1 John 2:19]

I hope you can grasp this. John said the antichrist went out from us (the church). They were with us! But they didn't continue with us, *"that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."* At the time of this writing, John fully believed he was living in the end time!

Because this was all supposed to be happening at the end. Remember what Jesus said about the tares and wheat? *"Let them grow together until the harvest,"* and the Lord went on to reveal that He would send forth His angels at harvest time (the end of the world), and they would separate the tares from the wheat. John was seeing a separation, because the antichrist was becoming more powerful as the years went by!

During those forty years, the early church had been devastated by the antichrist spirit, but there remained a little flock of God in 90 AD that had held on to the Apostle's teachings. In his first epistle, John told the true remnant of his day, *"My little children, these things I write unto you, that ye sin not." I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.*" He went on to confirm to them that God was teaching them by the anointing, and they would not be deceived. John knew that those which received him were of God, because he knew that only those that were truly born of God would receive his teachings. His teachings were God's teachings, and all others he considered antichrist, just as the Apostle Paul did.

The anointing was the difference! Here is how John explained it:

These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

[1John 2:26-27]

John knew that God spoke by Spirit revelation, and although the devil looked as if he were having a field day with the church, the true believers would not be deceived. No doubt he recalled our Lord's teaching of the tares and

wheat, and he knew if they were born of the true seed of God, they would never be a tare, for the devil sowed tares.

He had witnessed with his own eyes the rise of the antichrist, and he had seen how the mystery of iniquity had made havoc in the church. His warnings to those of his day must be heeded by the church of our day if we are to escape the damnation that will certainly come if we fail to obey the Truth. John warned:

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. [1John 4:1-3]

Notice carefully how the Apostle worded his warning! He did not say every man that confesses, but every spirit that confesses. Also, he did not say that the confession was that Jesus had come in the flesh but rather, that Jesus IS COME (present tense) in the flesh.

**JESUS IS COME
IN THE FLESH**

Millions testify every week that Jesus lives in their hearts, or that Jesus has come into my heart. That is man's confession! People confess many things, but the spirit they have received will confirm that Christ is in them, or give them away as being false. It's not who you say you are, but rather, what spirit you are of! If Christ is truly in you, your life will reflect Him.

John said the antichrist would not confess that Jesus Christ *is come* in the flesh! They will talk about Jesus and confess to be Christians, but the spirit within them will not reveal Christ. Although they will appear very religious, their lives will remain unchanged. They will love the world, and the things that are in the world. John goes on to say, "*they (the antichrist) are of the world (worldly), and they speak of the world (materialism, prosperity), and the world hears (follows) them.*

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error. [1 John 4:1-6]

Does what we have revealed so far sound anything like the church world has promoted as the antichrist? Certainly not! Why? Because the antichrist has influenced most of the teaching of the church world! Satan doesn't want to be exposed and he certainly doesn't want you to discover how he operates.

I am revealing the antichrist to you as the scripture says, not as the church world teaches. The antichrist is the mysterious man of sin the Apostle Paul spoke of.

Listen carefully now, for you must understand this: the antichrist's perverted gospel had brought a great falling away from the Apostles doctrine within the early church. Multitudes were turning aside after Satan's gospel! With many of the Apostles still alive as witnesses of the Truth, a separation was obvious. Even in later years with only the Apostle John remaining, he was the witness of the original faith once delivered, and his ministry and the few that clung to him were the only standard against the seducers of that time.

The Apostle Paul had warned of two events preceding the second coming of Christ: a falling away, and the man of sin being revealed. The Apostle John had seen both in his life time! This is why he said, *"It is the last time!"*

I remember several years ago, I was preaching that a great falling away was going to come before Jesus came back. I remember saying, we were seeing it all around us as it appeared that many were falling away from godly living and dedication to God. The Lord spoke to my heart during this time and said, *"You are not in a falling away, you are in the time of restoration."* As I inquired of the Lord about this, He showed me clearly that the falling away had occurred in the Apostles time and that this is why Jude had to write and warn the people to *earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints*. The early church had fallen away from the original teaching of the Apostles. This is what the Apostles had to contend with during their lifetimes.

Today I realize that what we were witnessing was not the falling away that Paul spoke of. We were witnessing men and women that were fed up with a dead ceremonious religion that didn't bring true salvation and deliverance. They were falling away from the religious standards imposed upon them by carnal organizations. They were leaving these churches because they were hungry for the Truth but couldn't find it in organized Christianity!

The early church was born in power with the pure unadulterated word of God. But, as I have stated before, shortly thereafter, the enemy began sowing his teaching in the church which caused many to fall away from the faith once delivered.

John had witnessed in his lifetime: the ministry of Jesus Christ, the power of Pentecost, the spread of the gospel throughout the known world, the falling away, and the revealing of the antichrist, the man of sin!

We are in the time of restoration, a reviving of the faith and power that was once delivered to the saints! You can't have it both ways. You can't have a falling away and a restoration at the same time!

The second coming of Christ will not occur until the times of restitution.

Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

[Acts 3:21]

The church has already fallen away, and the man of sin has been revealed! What's left is the restoration of all things and the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Children of God, there are two seeds in the earth . . . and these two seeds have brought forth two men in the earth. One is the body of Christ and the other is the body of antichrist. One is the man of righteousness, and the other is the man of sin. The "Man of Mystery" is revealed!

There are two kingdoms, the kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness. These two kingdoms are mingled together, but are soon to be separated. Only then can the kingdom of light shine forth as it did in the beginning. Jesus, speaking of the time when all things that offend would be taken out of the kingdom, said it this way:

Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. [Matthew 13:43]

With each passing day we see the man of sin becoming more clearly manifested. In apostolic times, the mystery of iniquity began with a few, but grew immensely as time passed. Church history gives us a glimpse of the great power the false church acquired after the Apostles had died out. The little flock that was left in 90AD seems to have disappeared completely shortly after John's last epistles and the book of Revelation. We know God sustained a seed

through the dark ages. History records a few men and women that stood against the antichrist spirit of that time.

In the beginning, the antichrist spirit used Judaism and Paganism to weaken the church. Those possessed with this spirit came out of the true church and were manifested. This was the beginning of a religious entity known later as the Roman Catholic Church.

From the third century until today Catholicism has influenced almost every human being on the face of the earth! How? Many of the world's most popular traditions began with Catholicism such as: Christmas, Easter, Halloween, Saint Valentine Day, and Sunday as the Christian Sabbath Day, to name just a few! Daniel had prophesied that the antichrist would change times and laws and would wear out the saints:

"And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time" [Daniel 7:25].

Only the Roman Catholic Church has ever dared exercise the power to actually change God's laws. The popes of Rome have waged war against God and His saints for over 1600 years. Looking back over the centuries it would seem that God's true saints had been defeated. Daniel saw this in a vision 500 years before Christ.

"I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them" [Daniel 7:21].

God is revealing much in these last days. The understanding of the man of sin will be one more step into the glory that God is about to reveal.

*Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.
[Daniel 7:22]*

Praise God, we are about to possess the kingdom! The fullness of God is coming. Babylon is going to fall. Jezebel and her children will be burned with fire. I believe this is the restoration of all things spoken of in the book of Acts.

"And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him" [Daniel 7:27].

God is going to make the tail the head and the head the tail. Falling away? Not me! I'm being restored! Revival is mine! Victory is mine! The Lord has given me the revelation of the enemy. I know what and whom I am fighting against. My warfare is not carnal, but mighty through the pulling down of strong holds. I'm fighting against spiritual wickedness in high or heavenly places!

It's not just Catholicism! There is a diabolic spiritual connection that comes directly from Satan himself, who according to the Book of Revelation has deceived the whole world! The lies, the deception, have always been there! The perversion began in Judaism which infiltrated the Christian Church shortly after Pentecost. Then Catholicism was born which birthed Protestantism, and Protestantism has birthed Pentecostalism, and Pentecostalism has birthed the Charismatic movement, and on and on it goes. They are all from the same seed! That seed is the seed of the serpent! The serpent's seed (which is the antichrist's perverted gospel) has brought multitudes into the image of the beast. The good seed which is the Word of God will bring forth Christians in the image of Christ.

"And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him." The word "worship" in the Strongs is #4352 *proskuneo* which means: to kiss, like a dog licking his master's hand; to prostrate oneself in homage, to reverence, adore. Almost

everyone is aware that many well known ministers and leaders of our time have bowed before the Pope of Rome and kissed the ring on his finger. This is a display of worship!

But what of the worship that is extended to countless ministers throughout Christianity!? Our adoration of men of the cloth is widespread especially among the Pentecostals and Charismatic. Contrary to the scriptures, we give them glorious titles: Father, Priest, Reverend, Rabbi, etc. Men and women have misused and abused the office of the ministry and have exalted themselves as Prophets and Prophetesses, Overseer's and Presbyters. I have heard some lie boldly to the people, "You can't hear from God, unless you hear it from me." "I birthed you into this church, and you can't leave without my permission." They hold their flocks spellbound by their demands that they must be followed, or they will burn in hell. Many that have tried to escape the clutches of these men have been belittled and embarrassed before their peers. They rule with an iron fist imposing their carnal standards to control the people. Instead of Christ being the Head of the church, they have taken that position from Him, thus becoming a manifestation of the man of sin.

They rule contrary to the teachings of Jesus. Jesus said, *"Call no man Father, Master or Rabbi. But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant."* He further decreed:

But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. [Matthew 20:25-28]

Instead of being servants to the body of Christ, many ministers have become lords over God's heritage.

Although you can show them the truths of the Bible, most choose their organization over the Truth. Many stay out of fear, but some have told me that they know the truth, but they love their minister and church so much, they just can't leave! Why, because they worship the creature, not the Creator! The antichrist spirit has deceived them.

When men and women pervert God's Word, they become as God, for God is the Word! Let me say it this way, any person or organization that promotes any teaching that is contrary to the Word of God has exalted themselves above God. They are antichrist!

Today, God has a special command for those that have an ear to hear what the Spirit is speaking. You might presently be a Catholic, a Protestant, Pentecostal or Charismatic, but if the true seed of God has been sown in your heart, there is a still small voice speaking to you. That Voice is saying, *"Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues"* [Revelation 18:4]. Come out of her, MY PEOPLE! I believe God has people in the Catholic Church as well as the Protestant, Pentecostal and Charismatic Churches!

This message is not against the people in these churches! It is intended to reveal the antichrist, the mystery of iniquity, the man of sin, to those that have an ear to hear.

In the beginning, we have learned that the antichrist came out of the true church and manifested itself. Now, in the last days we find God saying *"Come out of her, my people."* Oh, I hope you can see this; the true church (the people) is now enslaved in the false church. The true church must now come out of the false and be manifested.

The "Man of Mystery" is revealed! He is a many-membered corporate man just as the body of Christ is. You hear him every week, you see him, millions follow him, and

most are blinded to this truth. The falling away occurred in the early church! Now is the time for complete restoration!

What will we see in the immediate future? One thing is for sure; you will see the man of sin fully revealed to all that have eyes to see and an ear to hear from God. The rest will never know, for it is not given them to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God.

You will see the Charismatic, Pentecostal, and Protestant churches extend the right hand of fellowship to the Roman Catholic Church, and visa versa for they are all spiritually connected through the power and false teachings of the wicked one. A false love will be the common denominator and it will allow all parties to believe in their various doctrines, but they will give their power to the beast. Catholicism, Protestantism, and Pentecostalism will become one in spirit, and thus the man of sin will be brought to maturity. We are truly seeing this spiritual connection in our time. Who is involved? The answer should be obvious! Open your eyes! Where have the True Protestants gone? Who is left standing against the lies and deception of false Christianity?

I think it fitting that the number of the name of the beast (666) is also the number of a scripture that describes disciples that stopped walking with the Lord: *"From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him" [John 6:66].*

To walk with the Lord is to walk in Truth. God spoke by the prophet Amos and asked, *"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" "Who Are You Walking With?"*

Next month: Part 3 of "The Man of Mystery".

But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. [John 4:23-24]