

VI. THE DISPENSATION OF THE CHURCH

by Pastor Richard H. Jones

A. Man's Situation in this Dispensation

1. After the death of Christ

a. The law was shown to be powerless to secure _____ for sinful man (Gal. 3:21-22). It had pronounced its _____ upon man (Gal. 3:10) and proved to all to be under sin (Rom. 3:19,20,23).

b. What the law could not do (provide righteousness) because of the sinfulness and weakness of the flesh, _____ accomplished (Rom. 8:3,4).

c. Christ had borne the _____ of the law for sinful man (Gal. 3:13).

2. As far as changes

a. No more sacrifices (which all foreshadowed the perfect sacrifice of Christ) were _____ (Heb. 10:1-18) and the ordinances and ceremonies observed under the law were abolished (Col. 2:14-17).

b. Under the dispensation of the law God had demanded righteousness and blessings resulted from obedience (Dt. 28:1-6). Now God in this new dispensation is dealing in _____ that is - He is giving righteousness to all who _____ in Christ (Rom. 3:21-24; 5:17; 10:5-9).

B. Man's Stewardship in this Dispensation

1. In today's sphere

a. On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came and believers in Christ were baptized into a spiritual organism or body which is the _____. This was in fulfillment of Christ's prophecy (Matt. 16:18; Acts 1:5; 2:4).

b. The Holy Spirit has a ministry of convicting men of _____ or unbelief in Christ (Jn. 16:7-11).

c. Man in today's dispensation is to _____ on the Lord Jesus Christ, become a part of the _____ which is the body of Christ, and be led by the _____ (Acts 10:42,43; 16:30,31; 17:30,31).

d. Those saved and led by the Holy Spirit are not under the _____ (Gal. 5:18) but the Spirit works in the yielded Christian to produce what the law required (Rom. 8:4). The believer who is Spirit-led will not fulfill the _____ of the flesh (Gal. 5:16).

e. Those in Christ have a responsibility also to make Christ _____ to the world (Matt. 28:19,20; Acts 1:8; 4:32,42).

2. Concerning prohibition

- a. Man is not to reject _____ as Saviour (Jn. 3:18).
- b. Rejection of Christ means to die in one's _____ and perish for eternity (Jn. 3:36; 8:24).

C. Man's Sin in this Dispensation

1. As demonstrated in the past

- a. Since the death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ the _____ in every generation have rejected Christ.
- b. Instead of making Christ known, the church, as an organized body, has been corrupted and the _____ has been perverted (Matt. 13:24-43).

2. As demonstrated today

- a. The majority still reject _____.
- b. The church as a whole has lost its _____ and the message of the _____ has been substituted for all kinds of things.

D. Man's Sorrows in this Dispensation

1. For rejecting Christ

- a. Those who die without _____ will perish for eternity without second chances (Jn. 8:24; Lk. 16:19-31).
- b. Those who are alive when the rapture of the church occurs will have to undergo the _____ period for seven years or die a martyr's death (Rev. 4:2-19:10).
- c. At the end of the tribulation period the unsaved _____ (Matt. 25:30) and the unsaved _____ (Matt. 25:41,46) will be cast into everlasting fire and punishment (II Thess. 1:7-10).

2. For failing to make Christ known

- a. Many will be _____ at Christ's coming (Rev. 3:18).
- b. Many will loose _____ (Lk 10:11-26; I Cor. 3:15).
- c. Many dishonor the Lord (II Tim. 2:20-21 and are set on a _____ as far as serving God is concerned (I Cor. 9:27).

E. Man's Shortness in this Dispensation

1. Rule of Life

In the dispensation of the church the rule of life is _____ (Rom. 6:14).
The Holy Spirit illuminates the Word to the believer and guides him in the things of the Lord.

2. Test

The test today in this dispensation is whether man will _____ or
_____ Christ. Also if those who accept Christ will make Him known.

3. Failure

The dispensation of the church will climax with the professing church falling into an
apostate _____ - _____ church over which Antichrist will rule
(I Tim. 4:1-3; II Tim. 3:1-5; Rev. 17).

4. Judgment

God's _____ will be poured out during the tribulation period (Rev. 3:10).

5. Crucial Event

The _____ of the church will close the dispensation of the church
(I Thess. 4:13-18; I Cor. 15:51; Rev. 4:1).

ANSWER KEY

VI. CHURCH

- A. 1. a. righteousness, curse
b. Christ
c. curse
2. a. required
b. grace, believe
- B. 1. a. church
b. sin
c. believe, church, spirit
d. law, lusts
e. known
2. a. Christ
b. sins
- C. 1. a. majority
b. message
2. a. Christ
b. purpose, gospel

- D. 1. a. Christ
 - b. Tribulation
 - c. Jews, Gentiles
- 2. a. ashamed
 - b. rewards
 - c. shelf

- E. 1. grace
- 2. accept, reject
- 3. one - world
- 4. wrath
- 5. rapture