

The church of Babylon

**a fake church
within
The True Church**

The church of Babylon

The church of Babylon is a counterfeit church; it is a worldly church within the true Church of Jesus Christ. The book of Revelation teaches us there are many pressures on the church to conform to the ways of Babylon in the world. Many Churches today have in some ways fallen into the deadly sin of the compromise of the church of Babylon, so we have more of the world in the church than Church in the world.

Evidence of Babylon in 5 churches

The church in Ephesus Rev 2:1-7

The church in Ephesus had lost its passion for the message of the gospel. They had turned their focus on their inner purity instead of their responsibility to take the light of the gospel into the outside world. They had become comfortable with themselves while forgetting they had a mission to reach those in

the darkness so they could also have the chance to walk in the light.

The church in Pergamum Rev 2:12-17

This church is condemned for its permissive spirit and compromise by putting false teaching before God's. Balaam was linked with false teachers who wanted to influence God's people to engage in ungodly practices. This teaching suggested believers could have a closer relationship with the unbelieving organisations and religions; but having a closer relationship with false gods is to commit acts of immorality which was like having spiritual intercourse with the forces hiding behind these organisations and religions.

The church in Thyatira Rev 2:18-29

The Church in Thyatira had given opportunity for a false teacher, a false prophetess, who argued for toleration and compromise of what God saw as evil practices which amounted to illicit intercourse with other gods. This

prophetess and her followers had refused to repent so Christ brings condemnation on the whole Church, for the Church is responsible for maintaining its purity, those who deny God His place as the only one to be worshipped, must be put out. (1 Cor 5:2-5) By looking to the deep things of Satan (Rev 2:24) they were saying it was possible to participate in worship to other gods in order to experience greater spiritual insight and not be spiritually harmed. What she promotes shows she is an unbelieving person working for the dark side despite appearing to be a Christian teacher who is accepted by the church leaders.

The church in Sardis Rev 3:1-6

The church in Sardis was comfortable with itself but shows no evidence that God lives there. They may have known all doctrine but it has little value when it came to being light bearers. They had retreated behind the walls of the Church to protect themselves from persecution, so now they hid their light from

the world. They need to stop compromising their faith in the pagan culture and return to their first love of obedience to Christ.

The church in Laodicea Rev 3:14-22

The church in Laodicea was condemned for its unacceptable nominal spiritual condition. The church thought of itself as being in a really good position because of its material prosperity. But Revelation uses words like rich and wealthy for those who have prospered by associating with the corrupt and ungodly world of men. Rev 6:15; 13:16; 18:3

They had joined with the local economic system which is combining with forces of immorality. Instead of being on fire for God they were lukewarm, they were not rich but poor, they were not visionaries but blind, they were not well dressed but naked.

How do we identify Babylon in the church?

We need to know clearly what the true church is to be like and how to identify the fake.

The counterfeit church wants to be seen as being religious and have the approval of men, but the little worth it has to cover its deception is only skin deep. The true church is to live the Christ life in all things at all times. The counterfeit church cannot exist if its adherents die to self in order to live for Christ.

When the church makes it easier to join by watering down the standard Jesus requires, follows and those who think they belong are deceived by a deadly error. The church of Babylon takes the need to study the word of God away by saying everyone can decide for themselves what is true for them. When the false teachers of Babylon use the Bible they distort it's meaning, only giving part of the truth, so they change the truth for a lie.

God calls us to surrender our love of all things, our love of money, and our love of the approval of men; and what God desires we give up. God requires our sacrifice to all things in the world and the church of Babylon

says that isn't necessary. The church of Babylon is in the world to please man and wants to take the place of God. The problem with the five churches is our problem.

There is a famous saying in warfare, "keep your enemies closer than your friends." This is the war of insurgency, an active revolt, or uprising. This means getting into the homes and lives of the people who are to be conquered. Because of this we now have the enemy in our churches. The enemy within is conducting a war of rebellion, a sneaky war behind the scenes so most don't notice. Therefore we need to have counter insurgency skills to identify the enemy and put them out.

One person with measles can enter a building unnoticed and soon everyone has measles. The true church needs to be on guard to prevent infection. We need to be able to put down every argument that is not consistent with the word of God. (2 Cor 10:5) We need to know what Jesus taught and stay true to Him.

Jesus gives clear directions for all who would follow Him in His Church

Jesus taught that discipleship requires repentance and obedience. At the beginning of Jesus' ministry, He preached a message of repentance. (Matt 4:17) The Bible says, "*He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.*" (John 3:36) Jesus also said that to believe in Him means we obey Him. So, "*Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you.?*" Luke 6:46

We are not saved by a profession of faith. We are not saved by praying the Sinner's Prayer. We are not saved by signing a card or walking an aisle. Emotional fervour is no indication of God's favour. We are only saved by a living and active faith, (James 2:14-26) a faith that reveals itself in a changed life, in obedience and uncompromising love for God and our neighbour in absolute surrender to God.

Jesus says we must count the cost

Jesus knew many people want the benefit of what He did, but were not interested in whom He was and the life He was calling them to live. So He tells us what it takes to be His follower: *“Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’*

Luke 14:27-28

Jesus tells us we must be born of the Spirit

Jesus was God man born of the flesh; He says the man of flesh must be reborn of God to receive eternal life. In order to be reborn, the fleshly nature has to be put away if believers are to live a new life with God, no one can have two natures and no one can live for two kingdoms. Believers must put to death their life in the flesh to be born of God to live in the kingdom of God. *‘Flesh and*

blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.'

1 Cor 15:50

A pig wallows in mud by its very nature and mankind wallows in disobedience to God by its fleshly nature, so in order to get right with God we need to be washed clean and then obtain a new nature so we give up wallowing. We need to believe in Jesus so His death for our sins can wash us clean by the power of His blood. Then we need the eternal life of God that gives us a new life in place of the old way of living. But to gain a new life we must reject the old, the Bible calls this repentance, a definite turning from self rule to be ruled by God.

Jesus said, *“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless they are born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless they are born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”*

John 3:3, 5-7

Being born again means we have given up worldly thinking because we are no longer citizens of the world, our home is in heaven. We no longer struggle for recognition and survival because we trust in God.

Being born again means must live under the control of God's Spirit. The Holy Spirit changes us as He pours out all the loving qualities of God into the hearts of God's children so they can love as Jesus loves.

So the more we die daily to the flesh life of natural man, the more we live the life of Jesus under the control of the Holy Spirit. *'For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.'*

Rom 8:5

As the Spirit of God raised Christ from the dead, He will also give spiritual life to believers as He dwells in them. *'You are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.'*

But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. Rom 8:9

All those born of God's Spirit can live without sin controlling them. The Bible says, *'Walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.'* (Gal 5:16) As we receive God's Spiritual power, we have victory over our human nature by the powerful working of God in us.

Jesus says we must separate from the world

Separation from the world means believers are to walk a narrow way of holiness. Jesus said; *"Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it."* Matt 7:13-14

The narrow way is a way of separation from the world and the things of the world; it causes us to rid ourselves of anything that is inconsistent with the life of Christ in the will of God our Father. The narrow way requires we remove any clutter of the world from our thinking so that no other

opinion is carried about life but that which is consistent with the will of God.

'And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.'

Rom 12:2

Jesus says we must carry a cross to follow Him

Jesus could only save the world by taking up His cross; now He calls on all who will follow Him to also take up their cross daily. Our cross is our key to heaven.

Jesus has clearly declared, *"If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"*

Luke 9:23

Believers are to daily take up their cross of self denial by following Jesus' example; otherwise we cannot follow Him and enter into His life. If we don't take up our cross we will attempt to carry

out our own plan, and we will fail. Jesus showed us the way of the Cross of self denial for our good and for the good of others. So just as He laid down His life for us, He calls us to lay down our life to live and do the work of God.

Jesus says we must obey all His commandments

Saying we believe in Jesus is not the same as doing all He commands. He calls us to believe and obey. We need to give up our plans, and we need to surrender to God's plan if we are to have eternal life. Jesus said, "*Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it.*" (Luke 11:28) *Jesus also said, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice."* (Luke 8:21) "*Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"*

Luke 6:46

"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him." John 3:36

Jesus tells us we must persevere in holiness

Jesus persevered in suffering on a cross for us; now He tells us we need to persevere with our

cross in our walk with Him. Jesus said to those who wanted to follow Him. *“No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”* (Luke 9:62) He also said *“The one who endures to the end, he will be saved.”*

Matt 24:13

The fake church of Babylon

When we become Christians we begin the process of renewal by casting off the ways of Babylon to follow Jesus and His example. The church of Babylon makes no such demands; it offers an easier way, a comfortable way full of the good things of the world. The church of Babylon says there is no need to suffer because Jesus has suffered for all so we can have all we want now.

Babylon is the church that is not changed by the Spirit. It is having a form of religion but without spiritual power. It looks for signs and wonders instead of the wonderful Lamb.

It is attendance without allegiance to Christ. It is friendly without faithfulness. It is grace

without repentance. It has knowledge without knowing. It hears without listening. It is hearing without comprehension. It has sight without seeing. It has practice without perception. It has confession without conviction. It is without discernment. It wants progress without perseverance.

It promotes service without sanctification. It is emotional without endurance. It is living without life. It seeks earthly abundance before eternal life. It promotes human interest before the kingdom of God.

It wants participation without passion. It desires service without sacrifice. It is self-obsessed without spiritual vigour. It is attractive to the sea of humanity that desires all things in the world. It demands conformity with the world and shuns conformity with the life of Christ. It desires acceptance without obedience. It marks its people with a sign of the beast's ownership as they conform the teaching of the beast.

It is selling tickets to heaven when there are no busses coming that will accept their offer. It is a counterfeit of the Christ's bride. This church of Babylon rides on the back of the beast. The beast gives power to Babylon.

It is blinding those who choose its way to the truth of God as the judge of all. Because most people are still aligned with the world they are more interested in the church of Babylon since it doesn't ask them to give up what they hold to be dear, it doesn't ask them to count the cost of true discipleship.

What is Spiritual sight?

Light is personal knowledge of God, from God. God is calling people out of the darkness of self interest and Satan's deception into the light of the kingdom of God. If there is no acknowledgement of personal darkness we call sin, salvation cannot take place. Spiritual light gives light to the one who obeys Christ. Spiritual sight cannot begin until we start to see the darkness that exists in ourselves.

Natural man has no real spiritual sight that sees things as the God of light sees, for light comes only from God. The darkness of natural man reveals a worldly heart desiring that which falls short of the example of Christ. *'Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."*

John 8:12

Awareness of the darkness within should cause us to hate our lives in the world, and move us to a complete turnaround in our lives. Without repentance there will be no self denial, and without self denial there cannot be a rebirth by the Spirit into a new life lived in the light under submission to Christ.

To live without spiritual sight means we think we are accepted by God while we make little effort to obey all He has commanded. A lack of spiritual light means we are unwilling to take responsibility for our sins so we blame others for our problems. The sinners pride

blinds them to the truth of their wretchedness and the fact that they live in the darkness and are really enemies of God.

A true believer lives a life of repentance as they endeavour to discard the old ways to live in the spirit as a child of God who is light. The repentant are learning to deny themselves daily to take up their cross to follow Jesus as His obedient servants. The repentant person welcomes scrutiny while the proud avoid exposure to the light.

The proud person wants to demand their rights; the repentant person has no rights because they have handed them over to God. The proud religious person struggles with finding passion for Christ because it's not in their human nature. Guilt is not something the proud understand to belong to them since they see themselves to be basically good. The absence of humility reveals an un-surrendered heart. No sight no light. If we begin to think we are like Christ we are doubly blind.

'This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.'

1 John 1:5-6

The battle for control goes on

The true Church is the body of Jesus Christ on earth, so it must be filled with His life. If His life dwells in His body, then everything He stands for will have priority in His Church. If He is the King of His dwelling place, then everything will be done according to His will.

While God is working for the salvation of the world, Satan is determined to deny God in all things. The world is Satan's hunting ground. (Eph 2:2) He is the "*ruler of this world.*" (John 12:31) In the world he spreads his propaganda and lies to deceive anyone who might want to know the truth. By confusing people about what to believe, he intends to manipulate all humanity.

As a result, Satan's schemes promote false beliefs that blind the unbeliever to the truth of the Gospel. Satan's world cleverly and persistently tries to manipulate us into conformity with the world's thinking, its values, human organisations, religion and therefore its attitudes and conduct.

The easy christian life of Babylon is really a christian in name only. But true faith results in an immediate commitment and obedience to the commands of Jesus to live a life of holiness according to His teaching.

Evidence of saving faith

To follow Christ means we die to our own way of doing things. (Gal 2:20) We consider our will, our rights, our passions, and our goals to be crucified on the cross with Him. Our right to direct our own lives is dead to us. (Phil 3:7-8) This death involves suffering. The flesh that remains in us does not want to die. Dying to self is painful and goes against our natural inclination to seek our own pleasure.

The life of the natural man must go to the cross, (Rom 6:3-4) and a new man must be born again by the Spirit in order for us to have fellowship with God. John 3:3, 6 1Cor 15:50

The only key to heaven is the cross of self denial and sacrifice as we receive the Spirit of God in following Jesus' teaching and His example of living.

The proof of being in Christ is our lives will be motivated by His Spirit so that we begin to live His life under His power and dominion. No Spirit, no life. *"If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him."*
Rom 8:9

However, regardless of the suffering that comes to us; we should embrace it as a badge of honour and a privilege that we, like the apostles, have *"been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name."* *'And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven*

character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.'

Rom 5:3-5

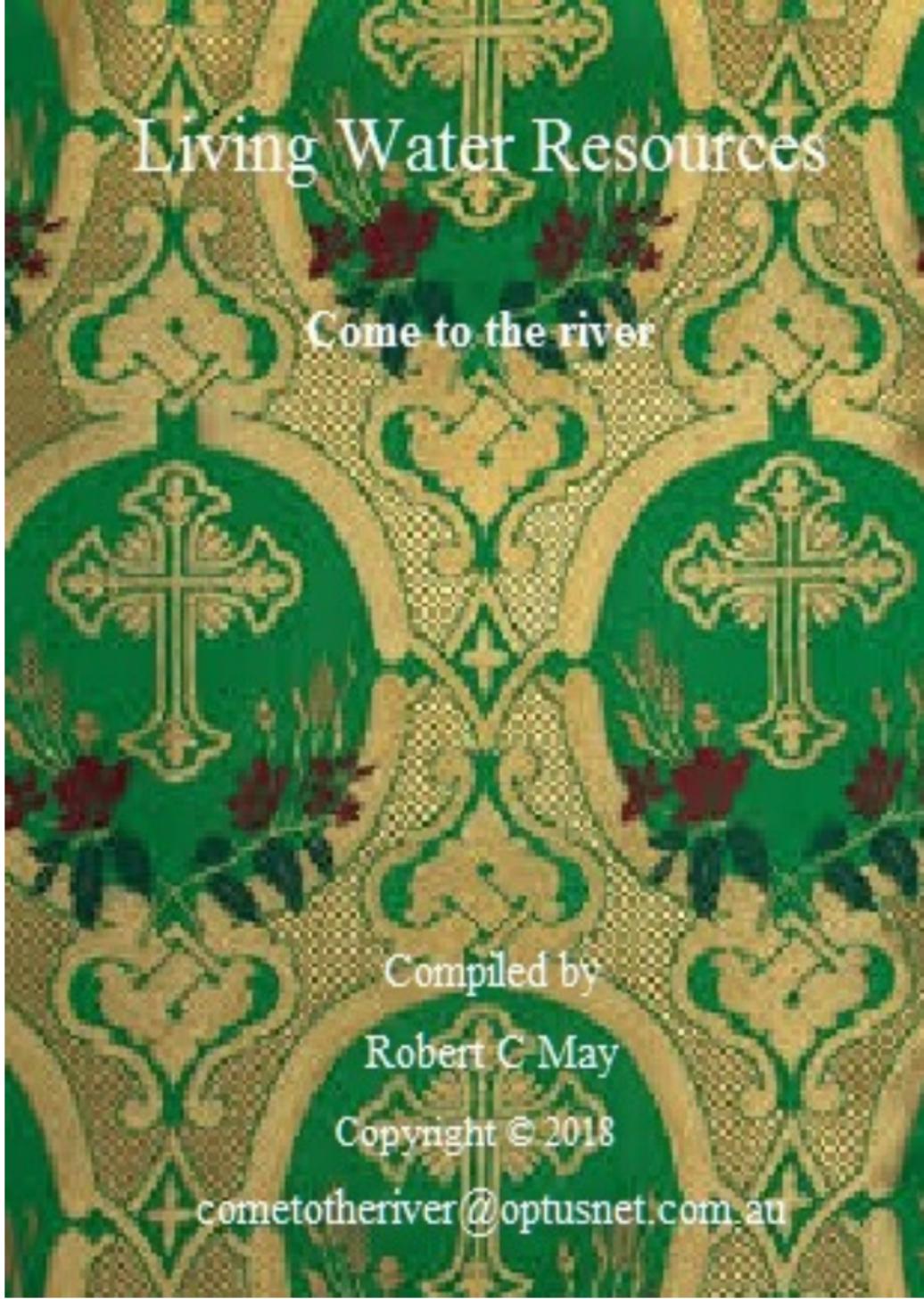
Consequently we are to live no longer according to the flesh of our former life; we are to live according to the Spirit of Christ who dwells in us, who is now our life.

The Church as the body of Christ suffers in its effectiveness as a result of Satan's deception; Satan now attacks the Church from within and casts doubts in peoples' minds as to the real requirements of following Jesus.

'Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision; for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh.' Phil 3:2-3

'But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.'

2 Tim 3:3



Living Water Resources

Come to the river

Compiled by

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