

Just a quick reminder. I have published a book entitled “**Liberating the Book of Revelation, Returning to the Source of the Message.**”

Liberating the Book of Revelation is intended to help us all know what the Spirit said and how He said it. This book is focused not so much on interpreting the book of **Revelation**, that is what this podcast is for, but on accurately representing the book of **Revelation** in the manner in which the Spirit originally spoke it to John.

I encourage you to go to amazon.com and you can find the book either under the title “**Liberating the Book of Revelation, Returning to the Source of the Message**” or by my name as the author: **Stephen Villanueva**. It is available in hardback, paperback, e-book format, and the *audible* version was recently released.

EP121 Revelation 14 verses 9-12

In our last podcast we addressed the message of the second of 3 angels who make pronouncements that seem different, but in effect are one-and-the-same message. This angel announced the death of religion in the cry, fell, fell is Babylon the Great. This message serves as a **WARNING** for all those who love their religion and who love what comes with the religion: prestige, power, control, respect, deference, money, and so on. It is also a **WARNING** to reject all the ways we measure and divide by contrasting our goodness with that of another. It is a **WARNING** to get sober and drink only the wine of wisdom.

The Angel who Announces the Consequences of Following the Beast

Revelation 14:9-12

Then another angel, a third one, followed them, **now** saying with a loud voice, "If anyone **now** worships the Beast and his image, and **now** receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will in the **future** choose to drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is having been caused to be mixed in full strength in the cup of His furious wrath; and he will in the **future** be caused to be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb."

And the smoke of their torment **now** goes up forever and ever; they **now** have no rest day and night, those who are **now** worshipping the beast and his image, and whoever **now** receives the mark of his name. Here **now** is the perseverance of the holy ones who are **now** keeping the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

Now & Then

Once again, we have an angel who is now delivering his message with a **loud** voice. He simply will not be ignored. If anyone **now** worships the Beast and his image, and **now** receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will dig down deep in his soul and choose, in the **future**, to drink of the wine of the

wrath of God, which having been mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger (wrath).¹

Keeping in line with the fact that the False Prophet is even **now** causing all classes of people to be marked with the name of the Beast or the number of His name, so too this **WARNING** from the third angel is tied to actions done in the *present*—the type of actions which have **future** and un-mitigating consequences.²

God’s wrath has been prepared in “*full strength*” and it is ready and waiting to be poured out on those who **now** receive the mark of the Beast. This angel’s message is a merciful cry to the peoples of the earth to **REJECT** this mark, for the consequences of submitting to the Beast are beyond dreadful.

We learned that this mark is a spiritual mark, but one still must choose to receive or to be given the mark, as “*receive*” is rendered as a *subjunctive*. Yes, people are being marked even now, but again they are not forced to be marked; rather, it is a cooperative effort. They are willing to be marked and so they are marked.

How to Reject the Mark

That begs the question, how does one actively reject the mark? Especially if it is all happening in the unseen world, for it is likely that most people have no idea that they have received the mark. It is not like there is a booth out there where you can go to get your mark, nor is there some company or government that is now peddling the mark. The answer is found in the messages of the first two angels.

First, if a person in this world is willing to simply acknowledge their Creator and thank Him (give Him glory) and worship Him for what He has given to them, the Spirit will begin to teach them the fear of the Lord. He will teach them how to hate what is evil.

Second, if they refuse the clever and boastful seductions of religion, the harlot that would entrap them in apostasy through the worship of another Jesus, false gods, demons, and so on, then they will be actively rejecting the mark.

Consequence of the Mark: The Unforgivable Sin

*“If anyone **now** worships the Beast and his image, and **now** receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will in the **future** choose to drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is having been caused to be mixed in full strength in the cup of His furious wrath; and he will in the **future** be caused to be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.”*

What we know for sure is that once marked, a person’s fate is sealed. There is no turning back—there is no redemption available for this choice, and any subsequent regret or attempt at repentance will be wholly disregarded. In the same way that the 144,000 will experience the same eternal glory as their Messiah, those who receive the mark have they devoted themselves to another Messiah and will face the same fate as their Messiah—eternal doom. As a result, there is no forgiveness available for this sin, it truly is the “*unforgivable sin*” – a sin leading to certain death.

¹ “worships” and “receives” are both rendered in the *present active indicative* and “drink” is rendered in the *future middle indicative*

² **Revelation 13:16-17**

1 John 5:16-17

If anyone sees his brother **now** sinning a sin not to death, he shall in the **future** ask and, in the future, will give him life to those who are now sinning not to death. There **now** is a sin to death; I now do not say that he should make request for this. All unrighteousness is **now** sin, and there **now** is a sin not to death.

There are fateful consequences for those who have or will receive the mark of the Beast. It is important that we shake from our minds the **fiction** that the mark of the Beast is something that is only reserved for the Tribulation. The Spirit is clear, people have received and even now are being marked.

The Spirit listed two **future** consequences: 1) to drink from the cup, **and** 2) to be tormented with fire and brimstone. The second one we get, as that is consistent with the eternal judgment associated with the Lake of Fire, the **Second Death**. But as to the first, if someone today, or the today of 1,000 years ago, receives the mark, then how will they in the **future** choose to drink of the wine of the wrath of God?

The Cup of Anger

Probably the best way to understand this picture is to look at an analogous image from the **Codex** that deals with this same *cup of His furious wrath*, but which is applicable at a nationalistic level instead of a personal level.

The **Codex** reveals that God, in effect, has a cup – the cup of His hot passionate anger (“*thumos*” and not “*ogre*”). He has a cup for every nation or people group. This cup starts out empty, but over time they fill up their cup with their evil and iniquity. And if, or when, a nation or people repent of their evil and iniquity, it serves to drain the cup before it becomes full and overflows, requiring judgment.

However, when their cup overflows, God in turn pours out His wrath on that nation or people group, draining the cup, sometimes in whole and sometimes in part. This is played out in such earthly drama as invasions from foreign armies, civil war, plagues, pestilence, natural disasters, diseases, and other health issues, and so on. In fact, God literally raises up some nations and takes down others all based on their having filled their cup of iniquity or their having repented and drained their cup.

Some nations or people groups fill up their cup quickly and others quite slowly. However, God is extremely merciful, for He restrains His anger giving peoples and nations time to choose to repent and drain their cup.

We see an example of this dynamic when **Yahweh** gives Abraham a glimpse at the future and says that after 400 years, and a stint in captivity, his descendants would return to the land that God gave to him, the land of Israel. Then **Yahweh** added: “*for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete.*”³

It was not yet time for Abraham’s descendants to be used as a tool to judge the Amorites, for the Amorites had not yet filled up their cup with abomination and evil. And it took multiple centuries for that cup to be filled, but after worshiping and sacrificing so many children to demons, the cup of the Amorites not only filled, but it overflowed.

An example of a people group that repented comes from the book of Jonah. Ancient Nineveh had filled

³ **Genesis 15:16**

their cup with wickedness; therefore, God sent them a prophet, Jonah, with a plea for them to repent before He had to send His judgment upon them. When Jonah arrived in the city, he told them they had 40 days, and counting, to repent. Unlike the Amorites, when the Ninevites heard the message of Jonah, they repented in dust and ashes.

Jonah 3:5-10

Then the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them. When the word reached the king of Nineveh, he arose from his throne, laid aside his robe from him, covered himself with sackcloth and sat on the ashes. He issued a proclamation and it said, "In Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let man, beast, herd, or flock taste a thing. Do not let them eat or drink water. But both man and beast must be covered with sackcloth; and let men call on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in his hands. Who knows, God may turn and relent and withdraw His burning anger so that we will not perish."

When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do it.

Now as for this cup, the **Codex** gives us some additional insight.

Psalm 75:7-8

...but it is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another. For in the hand of **Yahweh** there is a **cup** with foaming wine, well mixed, and he pours out from it, and all the wicked of the earth shall drain it down to the dregs.

Psalm 11:4-7

Yahweh is in his holy temple; **Yahweh's** throne is in heaven; his eyes see, his eyelids test, the children of man. **Yahweh** tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence. Let him rain coals on the wicked; fire and sulfur and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their **cup**. For **Yahweh** is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face.

Please keep in mind, this "**cup**" is a picture, and image, a metaphor, such that a physical cup is not passed around whereby everyone literally takes a sip. Nevertheless, like the mark of the Beast that is unseen, but which results in real life consequences, so too does this unseen cup of wrath.

Jeremiah 25:17-18, 27

For thus **Yahweh**, the God of Israel, says to me, "Take this **cup of the wine of wrath** from My hand and cause all the nations to whom I send you to drink it. "They will drink and stagger and go mad because

of the sword that I will send among them."

Then I took the cup from the **Yahweh's** hand and made all the nations to whom **Yahweh** sent me drink it: Jerusalem and the cities of Judah and its kings and its princes, to make them a ruin, a horror, a hissing and a curse, as it is this day; Pharaoh king of Egypt, his servants, his princes and all his people; and all the foreign people, all the kings of the land of Uz, all the kings of the land of the Philistines (even Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron and the remnant of Ashdod); Edom, Moab and the sons of Ammon; and all the kings of Tyre, all the kings of Sidon and the kings of the coastlands which are beyond the sea; and Dedan, Tema, Buz and all who cut the corners of their hair; and all the kings of Arabia and all the kings of the foreign people who dwell in the desert; and all the kings of Zimri, all the kings of Elam and all the kings of Media; and all the kings of the north, near and far, one with another; and all the kingdoms of the earth which are upon the face of the ground, and the king of Sheshach shall drink after them.

[It should be apparent that Jeremiah accomplished this in the Spirit, as there is no record of Jeremiah traveling to all these nations, much less causing, for example, all the peoples of Egypt to drink from a cup, etc. Given the list, it would take more than a lifetime, especially given the ancient modes of travel.]

You shall say to them, 'Thus says **Yahweh Sabaoth** (the Lord of hosts), the God of Israel, "Drink, be drunk, vomit, fall and rise no more because of the sword which I will send among you.'" And it will be, if they refuse to take the cup from your hand to drink, then you will say to them, 'Thus says **Yahweh Sabaoth** (the Lord of hosts): "You shall surely drink! "For behold, I am beginning to work calamity in this city, which is called by My name, and shall you be completely free from punishment? You will not be free from punishment; for I am summoning a sword against all the inhabitants of the earth," declares the **Yahweh Sabaoth** (the Lord of hosts).'

Therefore, you shall prophesy against them all these words, and you shall say to them, **Yahweh** will roar from on high and utter His voice from His holy habitation; He will roar mightily against His fold. He will shout like those who tread the grapes, against all the inhabitants of the earth. 'A clamor has come to the end of the earth because **Yahweh** has a controversy with the nations. He is entering into judgment with all flesh; as for the wicked, He has given them to the sword,' declares **Yahweh**."

Thus says **Yahweh Sabaoth** (the Lord of hosts),"Behold, evil is going forth from nation to nation, and a great storm is being stirred up from the remotest parts of the earth. Those slain by **Yahweh** on that day will be from one end of the earth to the other. They will not be lamented, gathered, or buried; they will be like dung on the face of the ground.

In much the same way as all these nations to which Jeremiah was sent, each person who has taken the mark of the Beast will in the **future**, *on the day of judgment*, in effect choose to drink of this cup as evidence of their eternal sentence.

Full Strength

"... which is having been caused to be mixed in full strength in the cup of His furious wrath ..." This idea of it being "**full strength**" just means that this wine is not diluted. Culturally, wine was a common drink,

but it was often diluted with water so that everyone was not walking around drunk all the time. But this wine will be full strength, with nothing to temper its result.

Eternal Consequences

“... and he will in the **future** be caused to be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.” Those who are marked, those who will in the **future** choose to drink from this cup of wrath, will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. “And the smoke of their torment **now** goes up forever and ever; they **now** have no rest day and night, those who are **now** worshipping the beast and his image, and whoever **now** receives the mark of his name.”

The word we have translated as “tormented” could also be translated as “tortured.” And they will be tortured with fire and brimstone for all eternity. This is a reference to the **Second Death**, the Lake of Fire which burns with brimstone. Thus, those who choose to receive the mark of the Beast are choosing their eternal destiny in this treacherous place.

The Beast and the False Prophet will be thrown into the Lake of Fire, and eventually so will Satan, death, and hades. Moreover, anyone whose name is not written in the Lamb’s Book of Life, or whose name was erased from the Lamb’s Book of Life will also be thrown into this Lake of Fire burning with brimstone.⁴ And there is no escaping this place, this is an eternal destiny with no rest from the torment, day-or-night.

By the way, the Lake of Fire was originally prepared for the devil and his angels.⁵ But at some point God decided to use it for those who committed the “*unforgivable sin*,” and chose to reject the sacrifice of the Lamb, and for those who will not even thank Him as the Creator, and instead choose to worship the dragon, the Beast, and his False Prophet, the “*sin leading to death*,” all evidenced by the mark on the forehead or their right hand.⁶

Who Gets to See It

“...in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.” It is fascinating that this torment does not occur in the presence of the 144,000, but only in the presence of the holy angels and the Lamb. There are a couple of notable implications of this statement.

First, it is important to note that the Spirit is very specific in that this torment will take place in the presence of the **holy** angels, and not the unholy demonic angels. And that is because the **Codex** reveals that at Jesus’s Second Coming, He slays these demons. Apparently, spirits can be “killed,” just like men, which means their version of an eternal soul or being will also be existent in the Lake of Fire.⁷

Second, Jesus is again imaged as the Lamb. Yet, being a passage about judgment, we would expect to see Him seated on a throne, or as a lion, or victorious warrior. The purpose of the imagery, however, is more than clear. Those who will be judged will be reminded, for all eternity, that they had rejected the one who gave Himself as a sacrifice for them. All they had to do was choose to let the fear of God into

⁴ See *Revelation 19:20-21, 20:11-15*

⁵ *Matthew 25:41*

⁶ *1 John 5:16*

⁷ *Revelation 19:21; Psalm 82:7; Ezekiel 28:8, 18-19; Isaiah 14:15-21*

their lives; they only had to be *willing*.

Third, this torment is hidden from the 144,000 (the bondservants of Jesus Christ) because it will be awful (fire, sulfur, wailing and gnashing of teeth) that it would take away from the eternal experience of sheer joy that they have been promised.

Therefore, God in His mercy shields them from the cries of those who have chosen to reject His provision brought about by the sacrifice of the Lamb. This is consistent with the promises that He will remove from the midst of His people all sorrow, and there will be no more death or crying or pain. He will make all things new and nothing evil will ever be allowed to enter their midst.⁸

No Rest: Now & Then

*“And the smoke of their torment **now** goes up forever and ever; they **now** have no rest day and night, those who are **now** worshipping the beast and his image, and whoever **now** receives the mark of his name.”*

This entire passage is rendered in the *present* tense because the fire is even now stoked. The instrument of their torment is burning and smoldering; it **NOW** goes up forever and ever and will **NEVER** be quenched.

They **NOW** have no rest, those who **NOW** are worshipping the Beast and his image, and whoever **NOW** receives the mark of his name.⁹ The idea is that their torment starts now. They simply do not find the one thing everyone, the world over, is always looking for, peace of mind and peace of soul; it is taken from them. They may succeed in their life efforts, but they do **NOT** and **NEVER** will know peace and rest. This is to be understood both spiritually and physically. In fact, even their sleep is taken from them. Their torment occurs in their now.

This is meant to be a point of contrast with those who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. Jesus said, *“Come to Me, all who are now feeling weary and have been caused to being heavy-laden, and I will in the **future give you rest**. You are commanded to take My yoke upon you, and you are commanded to learn from Me, for I **now** am gentle and humble in heart, and you will in the **future find rest for your souls**. For My yoke easy and My burden is **now** light.”*¹⁰

Yet, to all others, He swore in His wrath that they shall not *in the **future*** choose to enter His rest. The Spirit **WARNED** them, *“Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts...that there not in the **future** choose to be in any one of you and evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the **now** living God.”*¹¹

True believers can know rest in this life, and they will rest in eternity, it is their destiny. They have the opportunity to experience quietness in the depth of their soul, regardless of the difficulties of this life. King David once wrote that he had learned to compose and quiet his soul, just like a weaned child on his mother’s lap, all because he had put his hope in **Yahweh**.¹²

God even causes true believers to enjoy their sleep. *“The fear of **Yahweh** leads to life so that one may*

⁸ **Revelation 21:3-5, 27**

⁹ “worship” is rendered in the *present active participle* and “receives” is rendered in the *present active indicative*

¹⁰ **Matthew 11:28-30**

¹¹ See **Hebrews 3:7-19, 4:1-13**

¹² **Psalms 131:2-3**

sleep satisfied, untouched by evil.”¹³ “How blessed is the man who finds wisdom and the man who gains understanding ... When you lie down you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.”¹⁴

Followers of the Beast however are tormented in this life with the absence of rest, and they will be tortured throughout all eternity. Both sides of this equation get amped up to unbelievable magnitudes as it switches from the temporal to the eternal. The believer’s rest will be sweet and glorious, and the torment of the followers of the Beast will be unrelenting and beyond imagination.

Perseverance of the Holy Ones

Revelation 14:12

Here **now** is the perseverance of the holy ones who are **now** keeping the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.¹⁵

First and foremost, it is important to recognize that the Spirit shifted the focus of His attention away from those who are sitting on the earth, and away from those who have taken the mark of the Beast, to the “*holy ones*” – those who comprise the Household of God.

His subject is perseverance, steadfastness, or the willingness to stay under God’s protection. This begs the question, if someone said the “sinner’s prayer” and are “good to go” with their golden ticket to heaven, why is this even an issue or a concern? What does it matter if they persevere or not? Why would the Spirit even raise this concern?

Coming on the heels of a terrifying statement: “*and he will in the **future** be caused to be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment **now** goes up forever and ever; they **now** have no rest day and night, those who are **now** worshipping the beast and his image, and whoever **now** receives the mark of his name,*” it should be clear that it matters.

This is an encouragement to persevere, in the manner of “... *he who has been enduring to the end will in the **future** be caused to be saved.*”¹⁶ This is **now** the perseverance.

NO MATTER WHAT, DO NOT CHOOSE TO RECEIVE THE MARK, DO NOT WORSHIP THE BEAST. PERSEVERE IN FAITH (ACTIVELY BELIEVING THE TRUTH ABOUT YAHWEH) REGARDLESS OF THE REAL-LIFE CONSEQUENCES.

Once again, we are given a huge **WARNING** about the slippery slope of apostasy, the remedy of which

¹³ ***Proverbs 19:23***

¹⁴ ***Proverbs 3:13, 24***

¹⁵ “perseverance” is rendered in the *present active indicative*; “keep” is rendered in the *present active participle*.

¹⁶ ***Matthew 24:12***

is an active faith – to now be keeping the commandments of God.¹⁷

The Commandments

Before Jesus' death and resurrection, before the Spirit was sent, via the New Creation, into believers, Jesus said: "If you **now** love (*agape*) Me, in the **future** you will keep my commandments." "This is my commandment that you **now** love (*agape*) one another, just as I have loved you." "You **now** are my friends if you **now** do what I **now** choose to command you. This is my commandment that you love (*agape*) one another, just as I have loved you. This I command you, that you love (*agape*) on another." "This I **now** choose to command you that you should now love (*agape*) one another."

And since God alone is *agape*, then only He can fulfill His commandments when we let Him live His life in-and-through our lives. Remember, all that matters is faith expressing itself in *agape* love.¹⁸

Encouragement & WARNING

The fact that the Spirit gives this **WARNING** to those who are now keeping the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus, implies that there is a very slippery slope when it comes to apostasy. It also confirms that many who once believed and were faithful will become the very people who will be tormented for all eternity – their destiny is destruction. That is the terrible consequences of listening to the Image speak and following the voice of the False Messiah, all in Jesus' name.

Jesus said that many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another and that most people's love (*agape*) will grow cold or vanish like a breath.¹⁹ This is a chilling indictment against those in the Household of God. Keep in mind, those in the world do not have *agape*, for God is *agape*.

This **WARNING** is for all "believers," and we must not miss this point. One simply **CANNOT** fall away unless they were first a part of something. One would not need to be commanded to persevere unless there were real consequences of not.

This is the same message delivered to those in the church of Ephesus, to those who fell away from God's *agape* love, and whose candlestick was removed.²⁰ This is the same message delivered to the church at Galatia, to those who had fallen from grace and were cut off from Christ for insisting on some "law" to accompany grace.²¹ This is the same message delivered in the book of Hebrews warning the "brethren" to not be found with an *unbelieving heart that falls away from the now living God*.²²

Once again, the Spirit draws a clear delineation between those who think they are believers because they have said the "sinner's prayer" and have tried very hard to be good Christians, to be good for God, and those who in the eyes of God are now worshiping in the holy place, keeping His commandments, convinced that the only thing that matters is faith working through *agape* love (faith working through the One who is *agape* love: the source of all our obedience).

¹⁷ See *John 14:15, 15:12, 17*

¹⁸ See *1 John 4:8, 16; Galatians 5:6*

¹⁹ *Matthew 24:10-12*

²⁰ *Revelation 2:1-7*

²¹ *Galatians 5:2-7*

²² *Hebrews 3:12*

We have seen this same delineation made with the measurement of the Sanctuary and the separation between those priests who are now worshipping in the Holy Place (the “*naos*”) and those who are very busy serving in the temple at large (in the “*hieron*”).

**BELONGING TO THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD DOES NOT ENSURE ETERNITY WITH JESUS,
NO MATTER HOW HARD A PERSON TRIES TO BE GOOD AND DO IT RIGHT.**

The Spirit was very clear about the process. Unfortunately, our Biblical translations obfuscate this issue: “For by grace you are **now** having been caused to **being saved** though faith, and that not of yourself, the gift of God, not of works, lest any man may choose to boast.” God is the one doing the work, and we are now in this process of being saved.

All the translations say that “For by grace you have been saved” but that is **WRONG**, and it is **MISLEADING**. “Saved” is rendered in the *perfect passive participle*, and not in the *aorist passive indicative* or the *imperfect passive indicative*, both of which would connote a completed deed.

In that light, the book of **Revelation** addresses the way Jesus separates, protects, and holds His own through the midst of tribulation and judgment, and brings them home to their eternal residences, to always be with Him.²³ This is the perseverance of the saints.

Yet it is also about separating the lie from the truth, those who are false from those who are legitimate, the wheat from the tares, the wolves from the sheep, and those in the household of God who choose to live as slaves instead of as sons who live free from the law. “You are commanded to cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman will not in the **future** inherit with the son of the free woman.”²⁴

This book of **Revelation** exposes Christian apostasy for what it truly is, while at the same time magnifying the eternal gospel. **Revelation** is about the consequential difference between fruit born by the Spirit of God in the lives of **Yahweh’s** sons and daughters with the rotten fruit born out of religious boasting originating in one’s religious *flesh*.

Now, apostasy does not spring upon a person and catches them off guard. Rather, this road to apostasy starts with desires, the lust of the *flesh* (the need to be good like God – the apostasy of Cain), the lust of the eyes (the desire to be secure and safe – the apostasy of Balaam), and the boastful pride of life (the desire to be seen and known – the apostasy of Korah).

The road to apostasy starts with a person wanting to be protected, wanting to be safe and well provisioned, and wanting to be honored and important, and have found religion as the means to get what they want.

We will find that the religion of Christianity, brought to us by Babylon the great, has already seduced many people to find their place in this world through all that they can do for God, all in Jesus’ name of course. And this is the perfect platform through which people are seduced to the dark side. Their identity,

²³ See **1 Thessalonians 4:17**

²⁴ **Galatians 4:30**

importance, purpose, and validation all come through their efforts to be good for God and more importantly, to be good for God in the sight of others.

Though they may have good intentions and really, really want to please God, they have swallowed a lie and have been seduced by the lust of the *flesh*, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life. Hence, this **WARNING** is for all of us!

*“Here **now** is the perseverance of the holy ones who are **now** keeping the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.”*

Let’s stop here and in our next podcast we will pick up with the message about those who are dead and dying.

I am glad you “tuned in” and have been “ready to listen.”