

Pre-Millennialism

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Delivered:

- There are many perversions of the Bible or principles taught by the Bible in existence today
- 2 Peter 3:16 – *“as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.”*
- To teach these perversions to others, to teach any sort of false doctrine is to their own destruction though
- There is only 1 gospel (Galatians 1:6-9)
 - Anything other than the 1 gospel is no gospel at all
- This gospel is what saves us
 - 1 Corinthians 15:1-4
 - Romans 1:16
- This is why it is ever so critical to study the truths of the Bible and understand them – so that you are able to teach those around you and bring them to Christ
 - But only the truths
 - If you do not know the truth of the gospel, it is in your best benefit to not teach (James 2-3)
 - For example, if you are a believer of the perverted truth of belief only salvation, the book of James suggests that you ought not be a teacher (James 2-3)
 - Lest you lead others astray and be condemned for it (Matthew 18:6)
- As Christians, we should all strive to be teachers (1 Timothy 3:2)
 - But we must know what it is that we are teaching, else we risk teaching false doctrine
 - 2 Timothy 2:15 – *“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*
 - We must know the truth and have the wisdom/understanding to be able to rightly teach others
 - This is the one who is approved of God
- Pre-millennialism is one of the larger perversions of Biblical truth that exists today
- This is what we will study in this lesson
- Pre-millennialism by definition is the following
 - Pre – we are living in a time before the millennialism
 - Millennium – 1000 year period
 - By definition, we are living in the time period before the 1000 year time period
 - Which 1000 year time period? That described in Revelation 20, of course
- So, according to this Scripturally perverted belief, Christ will return to earth someday and serve as an earthly king over His earthly kingdom for a time period of 1000 years
- Let us analyze this idea and some of its implications
- #1 – if pre-millennialism were true, this would imply that Christ’s first trip to earth was a failure

- If Christ's first trip to earth as recorded in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John was successful in Him establishing His kingdom, why would He have to come a second time to establish another kingdom?
- Is He coming back to establish a second kingdom? Or did He fail during His first time on earth?
- The answer to both of these questions is of course not
- There is but 1 kingdom
 - We've already discussed Galatians 1:6-9
 - How there is but 1 gospel
 - Anything else is truly no gospel
 - So the gospel already exists – Christ is not going to come at a future time and establish a second kingdom revolving around a second gospel
 - According to Galatians, this second kingdom would be no gospel at all
 - **1 Timothy 1:3-7**
 - Paul calls Timothy a true son in the faith (vs 2)
 - Paul met Timothy in either Derbe or Lystra – both are mentioned in Acts 16
 - And Timothy was a believer and well spoken of (Acts 16:1-2)
 - And Paul gave him the gift of God via the laying on of his hands according to 2 Timothy 1:6
 - And here in 1 Timothy 1:3, Paul is entrusting Timothy with the responsibility of charging others to teach no other doctrine
 - And 1 Timothy again repeats for us that there is no room for false doctrine in the Lord's church
 - Timothy was entrusted to make sure that nothing unscriptural was being taught in Ephesus
 - 2 Timothy 2:15 – “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
 - To be approved of God, we must rightly divide the word of truth
 - Anything else is fables & endless genealogies (1 Timothy 1:4)
 - If we are teaching something that cannot be found within the written word, we are teaching fables
 - Belief only salvation, once saved always saved, the sinner's prayer – they're all fables
 - They're not found within the written word
 - And they will not be accepted by God as they are fables taught by men (Matthew 15:8-9)
 - So why would Christ return to earth to establish a second kingdom knowing that God would not approve?
- Christ's first trip to earth was certainly not a failure
 - John 19:30 – “So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.”

- Jesus says that His earthly work is finished – does this sound as if He was planning a second earthly kingdom? Certainly not
 - What work was He referring to?
 - Matthew 5:17 – *“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”*
 - Christ came to fulfill the old law – to fulfill all the prophecies of Him, to bring the gospel system of grace, and to establish His church
 - Romans 7:1-6 teaches us that Jesus accomplished this
 - We no longer live under the old law
 - We do not make animal sacrifices, there is no longer a physical priesthood, etc.
 - Rather, we died to the old law so that we could now belong to the perfect law of liberty
 - The new law of Christ – the gospel system – according to Romans 7, this is what we follow today
 - He must have done all of these things, because He says that His work is finished in John 19:30
 - If He was planning a second trip to earth, what would be its purpose if He has already finished His earthly mission?
- #2 – if pre-millennialism were true, this would imply that Christ did not establish His kingdom the first time He was on earth
 - Matthew 16:18 – *“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”*
 - Christ said He was going to build His church
 - Again, in John 19:30 – His earthly work is complete
 - So He must have done this
 - In Acts 2, we see the fulfillment of Jesus’ promise here
 - His church was established
 - His church is His kingdom (Ephesians 1:22-23, Daniel 2:44)
- #3 – if pre-millennialism were true, this would imply that Christ is not currently reigning over anything
 - If Christ has to come back to earth to reign, then He must not be reigning over anything currently
 - But this is false according to the Bible
 - 1 Corinthians 15:24-28
 - Christ already has the kingdom (vs 24)
 - Else, He would not be able to hand it over to God the Father
 - He will reign over His kingdom until He has put all enemies under His feet (vs 25)
 - He must put an end to all rule and authority
 - He must put an end to death
 - These things still exist today
 - They have not been done away with
 - So therefore, Christ is still reigning today
 - Vs 27-28 – God the Father has already given Christ His kingdom

- This transaction if you will, has already taken place
 - It is not going to take place at a futuristic time
- Acts 2:22-36
 - Christ is currently sitting on His throne (vs 30) – therefore, He is currently reigning
 - This is not a futuristic reign
 - God has already made Jesus the Lord and the Christ (vs 36)
 - He is already the King of kings (Revelation 19:16)
 - He is already head over all things the church – His kingdom (Ephesians 1:22-23)
- Since pre-millennialism is not true, what is the explanation of the 1000 year reign in Revelation 20?
 - Notice that we have already proved that Christ is currently reigning over His kingdom
 - So the period of time denoted by the 1000 year reign in Revelation 20 is currently going on
 - This is not a futuristic reign, this is right now
 - And since Christ is not on earth anymore, this is obviously His spiritual reign over His kingdom, the church
 - To further support this, notice the following of Revelation 19 & 20
 - Revelation 19
 - This chapter closes with the defeat of the beast introduced to us in Revelation 13
 - This beast in Revelation 13 bears a remarkable resemblance to the beast described in Daniel 7:7-8
 - So let's briefly look at what we know of the 4 beasts described in Daniel
 - From Daniel 7:16-27
 - The beasts are kings to arise out of the earth (Daniel 7:17)
 - But the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and possess it forever – this kingdom is the church (Daniel 2:44)
 - The Ancient of Days deemed judgment in favor of the saints over the pompous horn of the 4th beast (the same beast described in Revelation 13 that falls in Revelation 19)
 - The 4th beast is a kingdom different from the other 3 (so the other 3 are also kingdoms)
 - This 4th kingdom will persecute the saints of the Most High, but it will be given dominion for time, times, and half a time
 - But its dominion will be removed and the kingdom will then be given to the saints of the Most High – this kingdom will be everlasting (the church that Christ established, Matthew 16:18)
 - So the church was established during the reign of this 4th beast – this 4th kingdom
 - The church was established in Acts 2 while the Romans were in power
 - So this 4th beast is the Roman empire
 - Revelation 19 concludes with some sort of a fall of the Roman empire

- In the context, this fall of the Roman empire seems to be some sort of a spiritual fall of the empire when they crucified Christ and the establishment of His church in Acts 2 rather than it's physical demise
 - God's spiritual purpose for Rome at the worse case seems to have concluded in 70AD when they destroyed Jerusalem (Matthew 24)
 - But worse case, the Roman empire centered in the city of Rome fell in 476AD, and absolute worst case – the Byzantine empire (a sort of continuation of the Roman empire centered in Constantinople) fell in 1453
 - All of these events are now in the past
- Revelation 20
 - This chapter opens after the beast is defeated
 - Whatever the exact fall of Rome being referenced is, I cannot be sure
 - But as discussed previously, at the very worst case – this has already occurred, because all possibilities are historical at this point
 - This chapter opens with some sort of a restriction of Satan (vs 2)
 - Exactly how he is restricted, we do not know
 - We do know that his powers are limited (he had to ask God to allow him to harm Job in the book of Job)
 - Also, demon possession no longer exists
 - The driving out of demons is no longer necessary, because demons do not possess people today, because miracles are no longer necessary (1 Corinthians 13)
 - These things only existed to glorify God, and to prove the message that was being taught, and to guide them through the short time period in which the completed NT was still being written
 - Perhaps this is a way in which Satan is restricted
 - Satan is bound for the same 1000 years that Christ is reigning
 - This is a current reign of Christ as proven previously
 - This is a spiritual reign as Christ is not physically on earth reigning over an earthly kingdom
 - He is currently reigning over His church which was established in Acts 2, however
- Following the 1000 year reign, we see the final judgment
- We have numerous examples that tell us that we must be prepared for this final judgment (Matthew 25)
- We can prepare ourselves by following God's plan of salvation
- If you haven't given your life to Christ, it's time that you do so – why do you wait
- The plan of salvation is simple and will never change
 - **Step 1: Hearing the gospel** – *Romans 10:13-17*
 - Gospel = Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried, arose, and appeared to many – *1 Corinthians 15:1-8, Romans 1:16*
 - **Step 2: Believing the gospel** – *Mark 16:16, John 3:16*

- **Step 3: Confession that Jesus is Lord** – *Romans 10:8-10, 1 John 1:9*
- **Step 4: Repentance of sins** – *Luke 13:3, Acts 2:38*
 - Repentance: a turning away from sin, disobedience, or rebellion and a turning back to God. Change of mind that produces a change in action.
- **Step 5: Baptism into Christ** – *Galatians 3:27, Acts 2:38, Romans 6:1-10, 1 Peter 3:21-22*
 - Baptism: immerse or submerge
- **Step 6: Live faithfully** – *Revelation 2:10*