

## Checkin' Out My Walk

### #33 Laodicea - Deception Of Dominionism /Kingdom Now

Col. 2:18-19 Let no one cheat [beguile] you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, [God is remote; worship angels to reach Him> Bible forbids worship of angels] intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,[man-made religion] and not holding fast to the Head, [Anyone who teaches about God without being connected to Him by faith speaks falsely about Him.] from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase *that is* from God.

Amplified: Let no one defraud you by acting as an umpire *and* declaring you unworthy and disqualifying you for the prize,

Beguile: To declare unworthy of a prize > Athletic term: The umpire disqualifies the contestant because he has not obeyed the rules. Note: The contestant does not cease to be a citizen of the land, but he forfeits the honor of winning the prize.

II Tim. 2:5 And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

Consider: A Christian who fails to obey God's directions does not lose his salvation. But he does lose the approval of the Lord and the rewards He has promised to those who are faithful.

I Cor. 3:8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

Danger: Our lives today can rob us of reward and glory tomorrow.

1. The danger Paul had in mind was Eastern mysticism, the belief a person can have an immediate experience with the spiritual world, completely apart from the Word of God or the Holy Spirit.

2. The false teachers in Colosse had visions and made contact with angels. In bypassing the Word of God and the Spirit of God, they opened themselves to all kinds of demonic activity.

Satan knows how to give counterfeit experiences to people. [II Cor. 11:13-15]

The word translated "intruding," a technical used by the mystical religions, meant "to set foot in the inner shrine, to be fully initiated into the mysteries of the religion." As Christians, we do not have to go through an initiation ceremony to get into the presence of God.

Heb. 10:19 having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,

Heb. 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace,

Heb. 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? Angels are our servants.

Note: Mystical ceremony was wrapped up in a false humility that expressed itself as pride. The Gnostic would say: "I am not good enough to come directly to God. I will start with an angel."

He is substituting man-made traditions for the Word of God.

Col. 2:18 ... vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind -his unspiritual mind puffs him up

Truth: True worship humbles a person. A true spiritual experience leads to submission.

1) The mind is awed by the greatness of God

2. The heart is filled with love for God.

3) The will is submitted to the purpose God has for my life.

Truth: Trying to reach God through anyone or anything other than Jesus Christ is idolatry. He is the ONLY mediator between God and man. [I Tim. 2:5]

Laodicea Can Be Identified With Many Modern Christian Movements:

Laodicea represents churches that exist in the last days just prior to the rapture.

1. They are materialistic churches who are poor spiritually.
  2. They have watered down the true gospel.
  3. They provide an entertainment center for the flesh in order to make Christianity acceptable to everyone.
  4. They provide for every need of the flesh but there is little Bible based spiritual enrichment offered.
  5. Many of the methods now used to reach people are not based on teaching Biblical truths but are based on psychological concepts that work in the world's most successful corporations.
- Note: The assembly at Pergamos was corrupted by the world political system. [Constantine] In Laodicea the church is corrupted by the Madison Avenue techniques of the world market place.
6. Laodicea also includes possibility thinking and word of faith churches that make themselves the creators of what they believe and say.
  7. The church of Laodicea includes some TV ministries, traveling self-anointed healers and all those who fleece the flock by living extravagant life styles on the offerings of others.
  8. It includes some who think they are rich spiritually but are spiritually bankrupt because they have actually embraced new age pagan theology and doctrines of demons.
  9. Others have embraced human emotionalism with altered states of consciousness as being spiritual riches from God.
  10. Seeker-friendly, Purpose Driven, Joel's Army, Manifest Sons Of God, Charismatic & Pentecostal > Many deny various teachings & prophecies in God's Word as literal Truth.

Many promote the following false gospel:

1. We will transform the world for the common good.
2. We encourage a "working together" to bring about social justice on planet earth.
3. Through modern marketing techniques and business management skills a global agenda of faith, commerce and government is being orchestrated for churches to partner with other faiths for world peace and unity.

Belief: This man made utopia will usher in the reign of Antichrist and his kingdom, preceding the coming of the True Jesus Christ and the True Kingdom of God on earth. Christians are being seduced away from Biblical Truth and ensnared by methods used by the New Spirituality to usher in the counterfeit Kingdom of God on earth.

Consider: Though it is clearly unbiblical, dominion theology persists and is a great threat to Biblical Christianity. Dominion theology and Christian reconstructionism are now creeping into many Protestant churches and are making a large impact on the beliefs of Charismatic churches.

Spurgeon: "Discernment is not knowing the difference between right and wrong. It is knowing the difference between right and almost right."

As with any teaching we are exposed to, we need to be like the Bereans of Acts 17:11:  
"And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to check up on Paul and Silas, to see if they were really teaching the truth."

#### I. Dominion Theology > Christian Reconstructionism > Kingdom Now Theology

A. Refers to a line of theological interpretation and thought with regard to the role of the church in contemporary society.

B. It is "a false teaching stating that man is commissioned to bring the entire world under the dominion of Christianity, by force if necessary, and then, hand over the Christianized world to Jesus when He comes.

C. "It is the belief that we have a mandate to build the "kingdom of God" on earth, restoring paradise, by progressively and supernaturally transforming ourselves and all societal institutions, through subduing and ruling the earth by whatever means possible, including using technology, science and psycho-social engineering. (man's wisdom, etc.) Then and only then will a "Christ" manifest his presence on earth."

D. Dominion theology's beliefs are based on Gen. 1:28 "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth"

The New Dominion Mandate BY CONTROL Al Dager, *Vengeance Is Ours: The Church In Dominion* >>> He states Dominion theology is predicated upon basic beliefs:

- 1) God gave Adam dominion over the earth.
- 2) *Satan usurped man's dominion over the earth through the fall of Adam and Eve.*
- 3) Jesus defeated Satan and took dominion back in his victory on the cross.
- 4) *THEN He gave dominion back to believers.*
- 5) *The Church must gain control of the earth's governmental and social institutions and establish the Kingdom on earth.*
- 6) *THEN and only then, can Jesus come.*

#1 False Teaching: Dominionists teach The Gospel of Salvation is achieved by setting up the Kingdom of God as a literal and physical Kingdom to be advanced on earth in the present age. Dominionists teach that men must be coerced or compelled to enter the kingdom. They assign to the Church duties and rights that belong Scripturally only to Jesus Christ. This includes the esoteric belief that believers can "incarnate" Christ and function as His body on Earth to establish His kingdom rule. An inordinate emphasis is placed on man's efforts; the doctrine of the sovereignty of God is diminished.

Truth: Traditional Christianity teaches: The Gospel of Salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ and His shed blood on the cross. The emphasis is placed upon repentance and conversion of the individual. The Kingdom of God in this age is *spiritual* and grows through efforts of evangelism

based on teaching the Bible. It is "not of this world" (John 18:36), but a spiritual rule in the hearts of men (Luke 17:20-21). Furthermore, the Kingdom of God is only finally realized upon Christ's second return to Earth, whereby He Himself establishes His literal and physical reign.

The Evangelism Mandate By WORD AND SPIRIT - Matthew Henry, circa 1700- Christ never intended that His gospel should be propagated by fire and sword or His righteousness wrought by the wrath of man. When the high praises of God are in our mouth, with them we should have an olive-branch of peace in our hands. Christ's victories are by the power of His gospel and grace over spiritual enemies, in which all believers are more than conquerors.

The word of God is the two-edged sword (Heb. 4:12), the sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17).

Truth: Matt. 26:52 "Then Jesus said to him, 'Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.'"

Spurgeon: The kingdom of Christ is not a kingdom of this world, otherwise would his servants fight! It rests on a spiritual basis and is to be advanced by spiritual means. Yet Christ's servants gradually slipped down into the notion that His kingdom was of this world and could be upheld by human power.

Jesus's message was: John 3:7 "You must be born again." The rebirth cannot be by force. After the resurrection of Christ, the Apostles did NOT try to establish the Kingdom through force. Most of them were martyred.

#2 False Teaching: In His death and resurrection, Jesus reversed the curse from Adam's fall. He took back dominion, giving to believers the responsibility to restore all that was lost, defeat every enemy, and bring the entire world into the restored "Kingdom."

Truth: The redemption Jesus accomplished on the Cross was complete and will surely result in the restoration of all that was lost. However, the reversal of the effects of the curse haven't yet been implemented. I haven't seen wolves lying down peacefully with lambs yet, have you?

Isa. 11:6-8 "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb...The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole... The weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den..."

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain...

The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea..."

Note: If the reversal of the effects of the curse were able to be implemented now, we would be able to overcome every facet of the curse, including death. OBVIOUSLY, that isn't going to happen before He comes. Although the Lord sometimes sovereignly brings healing, deliverance, and many other manifestations of His Spirit, as well as direct answers to prayer, the implementation of all Christ accomplished in his death and resurrection will be realized only when He comes.

#3 False Teaching Dominionism Supplants Biblical Evangelism - Dale Neill, Pres. Of ICCC (International Christian Chamber Of Commerce) "The Church must grow past the 'Gospel of Salvation' message and understand that it is only when we begin to implement the principles of the 'Gospel of the kingdom' that we will really begin to see change in lives, cities and

nations. The Church has no understanding of this realm. . . The Church must grow up. . .

Truth: John 18:36 "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

Mark 16:15 We were not told to "take the world" or "revamp society." Great commission: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

When it is not received we are not to use coercion.

Matt. 10:14 "And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet."

Matt. 7:14-15 " ...narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves."

#4 False Teaching: "Liberation Theology," a branch of Dominionism, teaches we are to take over the Powers of Darkness; we are to take over the demons; and we are to dominate Satan.

This is the meaning of the terms: "Power Evangelism" and "Power Healing."

Their buzz words: "Binding Satan," "Binding demons," "Pleading the Blood against demons."

Believers are taught they must take dominion over all of the institutions of the world, that are infiltrated and influenced by demons.

Truth: The early church did not do this. The apostle Paul was followed by a girl with a spirit of divination, and for several days he ignored it. Finally he simply commanded it to leave her.

This was defensive, not offensive. Nowhere do you see Paul or any of the Apostles binding demons or having anything to do with them, except to command them to leave.

On another occasion Paul asked God to deliver him from "a messenger of Satan" that was oppressing him. The Lord said no. That ended that.

#5 False Teaching: An elite, new breed army of 'overcomers' will subdue all the enemies of Christ until they gain power and authority throughout the world. The governments of the nations will be upon their shoulders and when all the secular authorities and governments have finally submitted to them, Christ will return and they will present the Kingdom to Him.

Jesus CANNOT return until all His enemies have been put under the feet of the Church.

Truth: The governments and nations will not be upon our shoulders.

Isa. 9:6 "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon HIS shoulder. His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

HE, not we, overcomes all enemies: I Cor. 15:24-26 "Then comes the end, when HE delivers the Kingdom to God the Father, when HE puts an end to ALL rule and all authority and power. For HE must reign till HE has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

Prophecy About Jesus: Luke 1:32-33 - HE will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give HIM the Throne of His father David.

And HE will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of HIS Kingdom there will be no end.''  
Note: When this was prophesied to Jesus's mother Mary, there was no Throne of David. Israel was under Roman rule at the time. This is future. JESUS will rule, from Jerusalem.

#6 False Teaching: His coming is not at an appointed time ordained by God, but he must wait for the subduing of the world by the Church.

Truth: He IS coming at an appointed time: Acts 1:6-7 "Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, 'Lord, will YOU at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?' He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.'" (Not ours!)

Acts 3:20-21"...that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things..."

#7 False Teaching: Scripture says Christ will come for a "glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle." Dominionism teaches we have to make it that way. Things will get better and better, as "we" subdue the world and overcome all, until we're all "without spot or wrinkle."

Truth: As long as we are in fallen, mortal bodies, we will ALWAYS be with spot and wrinkle. If we waited till all believers overcame all to the point of being "without spot or wrinkle" in themselves, eternity wouldn't be enough time to accomplish that.

It's not our righteousness but HIS.

Eph. 5:26-27"...that HE (Christ) might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish.

The only way the Bride of Christ will be without spot or wrinkle, is by the righteousness of Christ imparted to her, and by Christ cleansing her with His Word.

I Thess. 5:23-24 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you *is* faithful, who also will do *it*. HIS action > *not ours*.

John 15:3-4 "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you."

#8 False Teaching - Replacement Theology states:

- a. Israel has no further place in God's plans.
- b. When Israel came into judgment for rejecting the Messiah, they were cut off forever.
- c. The promises made to Israel now belong to the Church. The church has replaced Israel.

Truth: Israel and the Church are distinct throughout Biblical history and prophecy.

God is surely not through with Israel. They have been under parental discipline, but never to be cast off. The restoration of the nation of Israel speaks for itself:

- a. In spite of being dispersed throughout the earth for 2,000 years, not assimilated but preserved as a people throughout the world-wide diaspora, ...

b. After living through nearly constant persecutions, pogroms, crusades, and even the Holocaust in which Satan tried to prevent the possibility of the nation of Israel even being born,  
c. The fact that Israel survived and today is a reborn nation in the very place from which they were driven two millenia ago, is a miracle in our day as great as any miracle ever performed. God's preservation of Israel throughout the time of her dispersion is nothing less than the demonstration of His faithfulness. The children of Israel remain, awaiting their redemption which will take place, as the prophecies of their restoration to their land have taken place. Since the nation of Israel was created in 1948, she has been attacked several times by the combined forces of Muslim nations surrounding her, yet Israel remains. There is no word other than "miraculous" that can describe the survival of Israel.

#9 False Teaching: The authority of Jesus is given over to the Body of Christ on earth, and His functions as Shepherd and King are enacted by "apostles" on his behalf! Thus, it becomes the responsibility OF THE CHURCH to destroy the wicked and establish the Kingdom on earth.

Truth: Scripture clearly teaches a pre-millennial view of the Kingdom of God.

Zechariah 14 describes the coming of the Lord. It is clear it will not be to a subdued earth during a time of victorious peace, but rather at a time when evil has almost completely taken over and the nations have gathered to destroy Israel.

Jesus came the first time as "the lamb of God." Next time >"the Lion of the Tribe of Judah."  
Zech. 14:3-9 "Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives... The Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, *Making* a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south. Then you shall flee *through* My mountain valley, for the mountain valley shall reach to Azal...Thus the LORD my God will come, and all the saints with You.

<sup>8</sup> And in that day it shall be *that* living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, Half of them toward the eastern sea and half of them toward the western sea; in both summer and winter it shall occur.<sup>9</sup> And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be—"The LORD *is* one," and His name one.

Matt. 25:31-34 "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

God clearly intends to implement worldwide reform Himself

Rev. 19:11-20:4 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. <sup>13</sup> He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. <sup>14</sup> And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. <sup>15</sup> Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness

and wrath of Almighty God.<sup>16</sup> And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God,<sup>18</sup> that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all *people*, free and slave, both small and great." And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.<sup>20</sup> Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.<sup>21</sup> And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.<sup>2</sup> He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

To a subdued earth? No, it describes an event similar to a nuclear war: Zech. 14:12

"And this shall be the plague with which the Lord will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, and their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths."

Revelation describes Jesus coming from heaven with armies of believers to an earth so corrupt and devastated that had He not come when He did, "no flesh would survive it." [Matt. 24:22]

The earth is not subdued and conquered. It is not a time of peace; it is terrible tribulation.

Key Points: 3 Sects Of Evangelical Dominionism

#### I. MISSION AS TRANSFORMATION MOVEMENT:

a. The Dominionist's focus is not traditional one-on-one evangelism. One-on-one evangelism is replaced with "kingdom building," corporate activities for cities, regions and nations.

b. The Dominionist's "kingdom" must of necessity gain control of business corporations, government agencies, and social and Church institutions.

They are forming partnerships within each of these interests in order to implement dominion.

"Dominionists have carefully selected leaders to be trained as "change agents" for "transformation" (dominion) in an erudite manner that belies the media stereotype of southern-talking, Bible-thumping, fundamentalist half-wits." [Quote from Apologetic Ministry]

#### II. SPIRITUAL WARFARE PRAYER MOVEMENT:

a. The Kingdom of God must be advanced on Earth through hyper-spiritual "warfare" activities against the devil using prayer techniques such as chanting, walks, and marches.

b. Believers are told their prayer power creates spiritual "canopies" over regions, preparing the way for "revival."

Note: Recently the Contemplative Prayer movement - which includes meditation, labyrinths, etc, has been brought into the spiritual warfare prayer "arsenal." Promoting these prayer warfare activities are hyper-charismatics from the "signs and wonders" movement, which include self-appointed "apostles" and "prophets" who are preparing to govern the world through their "New Apostolic Reformation."

### III. PATRIOTIC AMERICAN MOVEMENT

a. Patriotic Dominionists teach the church must advance the kingdom of God in America through political action. The Coalition On Revival, or COR, is a key player in this strategy.

Jay Grimstead's (founder) COR Steering Council letter, dated May 1993:

1. The Kingdom of God was inaugurated and the King was installed and seated in the First Century A.D. We need not wait for the King's second coming to start the Kingdom on earth.
4. At this moment of history, all humans on earth, whether Jew or Gentile, believer or unbeliever, private person or public official, are obligated to bow their knees to *this* King Jesus, confess Him as Lord of the universe with their tongues, and submit to His lordship over every aspect of their lives in thought, word and deed.
5. Biblical evangelism according to the Great Commission of Matt. 28:18-20 is not truly accomplished unless that message of Christ's lordship from point #4 above is given to the person being evangelized so that they know that an attempt at personal neutrality before King Jesus is sin and treason in this universe.

It excludes from the 'one world kingdom' all those who disagree with Dominionism teaching. In effect, it disinherits all other Christians from the Body of Christ. Some Dominionist fellowships teach that their Church is the only valid one. The door to salvation is through the Church, (not Jesus Christ the Savior!) and that everyone outside of the system is outside of the Kingdom of God.

In addition to being clearly unscriptural, it leads to human arrogance and rivalry, and replaces obedience to God with submission to men.

Reasons To Reject Dominionism: It rests upon a distorted view of Scripture.

1. It requires a universal Kingdom of God on earth.
2. It robs the Jews of their inheritance.
3. It removes awareness of the Lord's return. It is no longer imminent; watch and prepare
4. It denies Scriptural prophecies of the end times.
5. It denies the sovereignty of the Godhead.
6. It requires religious unity.
7. It rests on human ability and wisdom.
8. It requires a structured Church system based on human leadership.
9. It replaces Jesus with the Church.
10. It draws from corrupt roots.

It is right and good to want to see justice done and Biblical principles upheld (Psalm 33:5; Amos 5:15; Micah 6:8). We are to do everything as unto the Lord (1 Cor. 10:31). We are salt & light. (Matt. 5:13-16), and it is perfectly reasonable for Christians to hold jobs in government and all other areas of society. But "bringing the kingdom of heaven to earth" is not our commission. Ours is to tell people about the wonderful news that, despite the sick, sinful condition of our souls, God has provided salvation by sacrificing His own Son on our behalf (Romans 5:6-8). Our job is to "rescue those who are perishing; to hold back those stumbling towards slaughter" (Proverbs 24:11). Christian Dominionism seeks to perfect this world by political clout, but it is the Spirit who must bring change (Zech. 4:6). One day, Jesus will bring His kingdom to earth, in justice and true righteousness, and it will signify the end of this world's system.