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The Doctrine of Interpretation of History

This week we began noting the doctrine of the Interpretation of History. The events that are happening in your life are part of contemporary history and your ability to discern the signs of the times gives you knowledge of where you stand in God's plan for your life. To know your place in history you must be able to interpret the events in your life.

There is a system of balances or a standard operating procedure (SOP) for the purpose of our divine protection aiding to steer us in the proper direction. Jesus Christ controls history and as a part of His divine protection He protects the human race from self destruction.

History must be interpreted in accordance to what the word of God says not what emotion dictates. It is not what people have to say or what the visible world teaches us that is truth, but what the Bible says concerning invisible God and His plan. The Bible is the only source of knowledge that is not infiltrated with lies or the opinions of this world. By way of analogy, to the systems of divine protection that the Lord Jesus Christ (TLJC) has devised for the human race, we noted the water tight compartments designed for the protection of naval ships in fact all ships, keeping afloat the vessel regardless of the negative influences or negative decisions made by man.

Water tight compartments are so constructed as to be sealed to water and to maintain the vessels afloat on the sea. Following is a list of 6 water tight compartments or protection categories enlisted by TLJC in protecting the human race from self destruction:

1. The division of languages, Gen 11:6-8, which was God's direct rejection of human power! The Tower of Babel attempt made it clear that there is power in numbers and such power leads only to arrogance. Hence God, needed to bring in different languages in order to separate those numbers. This was done so that man would not become confident in self but rather rely on divine power. The people of the earth before this point all spoke the same language and were putting aside their differences in view of a common cause based on human good and unity for the earth. This goal promoted good in that it's objective was to reach God. But such good is based on man's ability and would only lead to arrogance and destruction. Such good is exactly what Satan promotes! If Satan could get everyone on earth to act in on one accord then he could place himself in charge of this effort. But such "good" is repulsive to God!

2. Nationalism, Deu 32:8; Acts 17:18-26. At any given time in history God has declared the boundaries of nations. God is the One who divided the earth into different countries

and declared the boundaries of those nations. Nationalism and freedom is what causes people to grope for God, Act 17:27. Grope meaning to conclude that there is a God and then search for His truth. In view of this compartment, internationalism is against the plan of God.

3. Client Nations to God, Deu 7:6 "out of", not above other nations. God always keeps a client nation afloat to represent Him to the world. In the O.T. there were five client nations to God:

- a. Theocratic (which Moses ruled)
- b. United (both Northern & Southern kingdoms)
- c. Northern (when the Southern went into apostasy)
- d. Southern (when the Northern went into apostasy)
- e. Judea

In the N.T. during the Church Age only, Gentile nations function as client nations to God, Luk 21:20-24, since the age of Israel has been interrupted. So you can see that understanding dispensationalism is also important in the protection of the human race.

4. The salvation work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross which divided the human race into two categories, believers and unbelievers, Joh 3:18,36. Every member of the human race through God-consciousness, is offered the same opportunity to believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior regardless of their geographical isolation or linguistic barriers. Though every member of the human race is offered salvation in Jesus Christ, only believers can contribute to the survival of the human race in history, Mat 5:13-16. It is the mature believer who is the stabilizer of history, for their sake God will keep history going in a direction it would not normally have gone. Therefore, you are never to think your life does not matter because God can use one person to deliver many! God has a plan for your life and can use you in a mighty way.

5. The invisible impact of church age believers and the pivot of mature believers. Every ship has a pivot point located in a highly protected location. The pivot point (mature believers) controls the direction of the ship (human history). This point is well within the ship's interior i.e., it is hidden or invisible. It is not seen nor noted by even those in the ship. Whichever direction the pivot goes in is the direction that the ship/ or human history follows. And, although the ship may be tossed about by the sea and storms or pressures of life, the pivot point is where the least of the effects are felt. Hence the believer in adulthood is protected from the stress which comes from life's pressures and testing due to the insulation of doctrine in the soul which places him in a protected location. Mat 7:24-27 teaches us that earthly things and the ways of this world look good until the trials and difficulties of life prove their vanity. While heavenly or unseen things appear to be inadequate until the trials and difficulties reveal their glory! What the world offers as truth by sight and by its standards is very often a lie. Only that which God provides is truth.

6. Dispensations, which is the division of human history into various compartments or categories for man's protection. Each level of a ship is carefully calculated to carry the right proportion of the total ship weight to produce the optimum stability for the ship. The

human race is also carefully calculated, divided, and categorized to produce optimum opportunity in God's plan. Heb 2:12 calls TLJC the captain of our salvation and if our course is not steered according to His directions, we will flounder off course!

A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but just weight is His delight, Pro 11:1 The believer needs to be knowledgeable of the different compartments designed by the Lord for the protection of human history else he will fall easy prey to the deceptions of the god of this world, Satan. The following passages tell us that Satan is the ruler of this world, Luk 4:5-7; John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; 2Co 4:4; Eph 2:2. And you can be sure that Satan does attack the protection compartments TLJC has designed for the human race! He attacks all of them in an attempt to throw off the balance in human history and induce its destruction. Why? Well, since Satan can not control the world, part B of his plan is to destroy it so that God cannot keep His promise to the Jews. But though certain compartments may become weakened at a given time through the assertions of the evil one, Jesus Christ uses the other compartments to keep the human race afloat.

Satan can work on the destruction of the human race through either exterior forces or pressures from within. If the believer grows negligent in the area of what is known as PMS (Preventive Maintenance System), the water tight integrity may be lost through apathy and passivity leading to arrogance. When the believer thinks evil in any of the compartments this is considered a "hit from within! This is why Satan's role in human history must be understood. This world is his and is geared to deceive us away from the truth of God and away from the truth of why we are here. 2Th 2:4 gives us Satan's viewpoint in that he exalts himself and wants to display himself above God. Therefore, Satan is the greatest danger to the stability of the human race and we must understand who he really is. Satan's plan is basically founded and layered upon one word... deceit. 1Jo 5:19 tells us "the whole world lies in the power of the evil one." Revelation chapters 12 and 20 all inform us that Satan has succeeded in deceiving the entire world and so we must be able to recognize what Satan uses to deceive us otherwise there will be no proper interpretation of history. In order to discern what is going on in life you must be able to look beyond the obvious. The obvious is projected by the ruler of this world system and is therefore a lie. Satan does not hold to the truth because there is no truth in him, Joh 8:44. And in his lie he promotes human good and great philanthropic works that appear to be godly. His lie is the reason for Christian activism and the three arrogance skills (1) self-justification, (2) self-deception, and (3) self-absorption.

Satan's greatest frustration, even though he is the ruler of this world, is the fact that he is unable to dominate the world that he rules. Still, in light of the lie which Satan promotes and cultivates and though we have partially flooded compartments, the human race will not be destroyed while TLJC retains on the earth the restraining ministry of God the Holy Spirit. But most believers don't have a clue about TLJC controlling history or any ministry of God the H.S.! Believers are no different from unbelievers in regard to their vulnerability to the lie Satan puts forth through this world. Our citizenship is not of this world though we reside for the present time in this world. Our citizenship is a heavenly one and so our thinking should be too. This does not mean that we are to walk around in a spaced out daze, or starry eyed. On the contrary, our thinking is to come from the infallible word of God, the very mind of Christ which is a disciplined and accurate

system of thinking! Only through the protection of truth in the soul do we combat the lies of this world. Note that people do not believe the lie until they first reject the truth. And once you believe the lie, you participate in it. It is a fact that this world system offers only lies hence our reality must come from what the word of God states! Unfortunately many believers think of the word of God as an abstract, intangible, force that they cannot appropriate. This erroneous concept is due to either ignorance or arrogance both stemming from rejection of truth when presented. The average believer today is apathetic, dispassionate, dull of hearing, indifferent, and not interested at all in spiritual matters. They are too busy entangled in this world to dedicate themselves to the real reason for their existence. They are just where Satan wants them... drenched in the lie of the world. Most will never break out of this cycle because they do not want their comfort zone ruffled. They have a system of reality and their mentor is Satan.

In between the time and eternity is a place of judgment and embarrassment for most, the Judgment Seat of Christ where all our deeds on earth will be evaluated. Note: sins are never mentioned since all sins were paid for at the cross, but works in life will cause many embarrassment. Why? Because the issue is, did you hustle for self all the while remaining in the devil's world or did you bother to inquire why we were placed here and devote yourself to that cause. In the interpretation of history, the concept of time as we know it, past - present - and future, has nothing to do with truth. Determining the nature of reality based on truth is the cornerstone of living. The correct interpretation of history is the key to happiness, contentment, and fulfillment. Our job on earth is:

2Pe 3:18, to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ
 Col 3:2, to set our mind on the things above
 2Co 4:18, to focus on the inward man and the things not seen or eternal
 Mat 6:33, to seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness, not our own
 2Ti 2:4, to be active soldiers of TLJC not entangling ourselves in this world
 Rev 3:12, to become a winner believer and make an impact in history

It is truth that sets one free and truth which protects us from the bondage of the lie offered by the ruler of this world. When you interpret history properly, you will see that TLJC has every thing under control!

The Doctrine of Interpretation of History.

Interpretation of History Continuing our study in the doctrine of the Interpretation of History, this week we covered several indispensable points that, all the decisions the believer makes in life should be based on:

- 1 The Lord Jesus Christ controls history, as we noted last week.
- 2 Understanding the role of Satan
- 3 Understanding the purpose of the human race
- 4 The believer needs to clearly understand his goal/objective in life.

A believer without doctrine resident in the soul actually ends up doing the devil's will in the long end, 2Ti 2:25-26. In so doing, man repeats the original sin of arrogance, being the sin of independence from God, 1Jo 3:8-10. Rather than imitate Christ and the life He has pioneered as we are commanded to do in Eph 5:12, most believers imitate the life and arrogance of the devil, Joh 8:44. Most without even knowing it. They think they are doing "good" but it is not the good entailed in God's plan. God has accomplished everything we need in order to grow in his grace and glorify Him in His plan but without a clear understanding of the assets and power and plan God has provided, Christian activism will be the believer's way of life in one of three categories: a) Human good b) Dead works c) Evil In the interpretation of history the believer must understand five major principles: 1. Why the human race was created and why man was placed on this earth. The answer being, to glorify God, Isa 43:21; Rev 4:11. 2. Why God has allowed evil and sin to remain active on earth. The answer to this is due to the existence of man's free will in accordance with the rules of the angelic conflict. At the cross all sin was judged once and for all, never to be mentioned again. Also, human good was rejected at the cross, Titus 3:5. Therefore, there is no good that humans can accomplish which God will accept. Such production of human good will be judged in the believer at the Judgment Seat of Christ, 1Co 3:11-15 and in the unbeliever at the Great White Throne Judgment, Rev 20:11-15. Human history centers around the cross and that is where God dealt with all sin, Col 2:14-15; Heb 1:4-14; Heb 2. 3. Why God allows disorder, confusion, and chaos to exist on planet earth. The answer again, has to do with the angelic conflict. Satan is the ruler of this world and though he is trying to prove his equality with God he does not have the power to control the inhabitants of earth nor can he produce perfect environment, hence disorder flourishes. Arrogance is the means which Satan uses to establish his kingdom and it only results in chaotic activism, crusaders of morality, human good, evil, socialism, violence, distortion, and disaster. Every program and endeavor of Satan to bless mankind in the devil's world only results in some form of evil, human good, socialism, etc. We are here to make known the wisdom of God not to become drenched in the ways of the world. 4. The believer must understand why there exists, and must exist human suffering. The law of volitional responsibility produces most the suffering we encounter. Only a small portion of the suffering is undeserved and specifically designed for the purpose of spiritual acceleration and blessing. Hence, suffering is necessary to guide man back to God and to put muscle on his spiritual advance. 5. The believer needs understanding of mystery doctrine and the dispensation of the church age, Eph 3:1-11. We are here to make known to angels and humans the grace, justice, and glory of God. That is why we are here! The first One to reveal anything about the church age was our Lord Jesus Christ, Mat 16:13-18. The church age did not come into existence until TLJC died. The church did not begin in Abraham's tent, nor with Moses in the desert, and so on. Many Christians do not understand the uniqueness and assets of the church age and so hustle about trying to clean up a world which God has condemned. The believer's focus should not be in cleaning up the devil's world but in appropriating the power that the word of God offers to the church in the extension phase of the great power experiment of the Hypostatic Union! When TLJC won His strategical victory and defeated the angels at the cross, Col 2:14-15, it terminated His residence on earth but... he left behind the "Church" made up of the Royal Family of God to challenge Satan with the potential of the tactical victory of the angelic conflict. Jesus Christ secured

the strategy in spiritual warfare, the Church is designed to execute the tactics in spiritual warfare. This requires knowledge of the power left to us in this unique church age. As a winner in the spiritual realm you demonstrate the validity of God's original sentence against Satan to the fallen angels in eternity past, Joh 16:11. God demonstrates the fallacy of the satanic lie through people who have been graced out in the church age! It is God's grace extended to inferior man which manifest His glory! And if you cannot see God in fallen man then you will never see Him, since in fallen man is where God's grace abounds. You have been created to fall in love, not with the things of this world, but with the word of God, the plan of God and your Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Of course, whatever God's plan entails the world enforces the opposite. The world "brainwashes" its inhabitants to believe their purpose is to establish success, a good marriage, a family, a nice house, and so on as their main objective in life. Our life is no game nor is it a mere accident. There is an exact reason for our existence and a specific objective to light the way. But you must want to fulfill this objective more than you desire anything else in life. You must crave it with all your mind, soul, passion, and physical exertion. It must be more real to you than any of the traditions the world promotes. Your soul must decrease to your own desires and plans inculcated by this world system while your desire for God's plan increases, Joh 3:30. Paul said he would go through any type of suffering he had to in order to accomplish the objective of Christ Jesus, Phi 3:7-11, that too should be our supreme desire! It is for this purpose that we were "called". The goal of your life should be to look straight ahead and not let anything or anyone distract you from your calling, Pro 4:23-5:1. The word "calling" in this passage is klesis which means a legal summons or a summons to a court case; a call to a long legal witness; to summon one or to subpoena a witness before a court of law; an invitation of special honor or an official summons by a recognized authority. We are called to adhere to a specific objective. We are called to be witnesses for the prosecution (God) in the appeal trial of Satan in the angelic conflict! That is exciting! Your goal in life should therefore be to lose your own desires for the sake of Christ, Mat 16:24-26. Energy in action varies in proportion to the strength of its motive. Are you motivated enough to put all you have into the objective of God's plan for your life? Strength of character does not consist solely in having powerful feelings, but in maintaining one's balance in spite of them, always keeping the objective in view. Clear thought demands focus. Strength of character sticks to one's conviction and objectives. Such firmness cannot show itself if one keeps changing one's mind, e.g., this month I'm serious with doctrine next month something else is more important. Obviously a man whose opinions are constantly changing, even though this is in response to his own reflections, would not be called a man of character or a man who adheres to his objective. Sticking to one's objective takes dedication, devotion, and determination. This is why Pro 4:23 warns the believer to watch over his heart, i.e., the area of one's soul where thought enters. The real you, your real life depends upon what you think. We have the sublime opportunity to act as witnesses for God in further proving God's just sentence against Satan. The time is now, not tomorrow to execute the purpose for which you were created. Jam 4:14-16 tells us of the believer who procrastinates, claiming that tomorrow they will start. They are always waiting until something happens to get serious with God. Now is the time to make the most of your opportunity to glorify God, all else should be secondary in your life. It is contrary to human nature to make an extreme effort, and the tendency is always to plead that a decision may be possible later on. This is the

justification of a fool. We are in the midst of a battle. We are involved in spiritual warfare and need a clear understanding of the objective to which we have enlisted. Thereafter we need to submit to and endeavor with all our might to reach this objective. Only those general principles and attitudes that result from a clear understanding of the objective can provide a comprehensive guide to action. The difficulty is to hold fast to the objective in the torrent of opposition and distractions. The one who teaches truth will make enemies, Gal 4:16; Joh 7:7; Pro 9:8. The one who is devoted to the truth will receive opposition, but for the glory of God, Eph 3:13. Paul was devoted to God's plan and the unveiling of Satan's lie, hence there was great hatred and enmity against him from the principalities and powers of the air and from the religious crowd as well as from the majority of believers alive at that time, 2Ti 1:15; 4:11. Paul became the object of hostility from both angels and humans, 2Co 12:7. Yet such suffering does not cause the mature believer to feel sorry for himself since he understands the purpose for which he was created and the importance of suffering in reaching the objective, which is to glorify God! Warfare is the realm of physical exertion and suffering and for the believer it becomes his environment. This is why all decisions in life must be based upon: 1. TLJC controls history 2. Understanding the role of Satan 3. The purpose of the human race 4. The goal/objective of the believer

The physical exertion and suffering of warfare will become our demise unless through knowledge of doctrine we can make ourselves indifferent to them while using suffering to accelerate our spiritual growth, and for this we must be trained! Daily training gives us the skill to discern the truth and the courage to follow it. In the dreadful presence of suffering and danger, emotion can easily overwhelm the conviction of one's thought pattern, and in this psychological fog it is so hard to form clear and complete insights hence changes of view become more commonplace and the objective becomes blurred. Therefore, adherence to one's main goal or objective means not being unbalanced by even the most powerful of emotions. If the mind is to emerge unscathed from this relentless struggle with the unforeseen, two qualities are indispensable: first, a thought pattern that even in the darkest hour retains some glimmerings of the understanding of truth; and second, the courage to follow where truth leads. The first is known as discernment the second as determination. The role of determination is to limit the agonies of doubt and the perils of hesitation which fog the motives for action toward the believers objective. Satan wages war against us, his strategy involves a trinity composed of violence, hatred, and enmity. These are used to unbalance the believer and keep him from understanding why he is here and/or to keep him distracted from fulfilling the reason why he is here. We must keep before us at all times the light of the reason for which we are here. There is a specific means by which we glorify God. How do we glorify God? You do so by making withdrawals from your escrow account! 3Jo2 commands us to prosper, but (and that's a big BUT) as our soul prospers. The first thing that God did for us in eternity past in the order of decrees was to bless us and in so doing He supplied the means for us to glorify Him. Hence it is not what we can do for Him, but what He has done for us that is needed in the execution of the tactical victory for the church in the glorification of God. We know that God wills His highest and best for us as believers, but it is only when we actually receive His highest and best from our escrow account that we glorify Him. For God to will His highest and best for His creatures He must also supply equal opportunity and equal privilege in Christ. Note that glorifying God is not giving up sin, it is understanding the objective and adhering to our divine goal. Unfortunately most

settle for that which is least and pass up the best, which best, is waiting in our escrow account. But before we can go out and perform action and make withdrawals from our escrow account we need to be trained. The means of glorifying God is found in our understanding of the mystery doctrine found in the N.T. epistles. It is attaining spiritual adulthood which is where momentum in the spiritual life is gained. And, until we appropriate what God has done for us we cannot take the life beyond gnosis to the life beyond dreams as stated in Eph 3:19-21. We are our own worse enemies in that we lack the capacity needed for the justice of God to distribute our escrow blessings. Our decisions for this world are our decisions against God. The big question is, does your security come from God or from money, your mate, your job, your house, etc.? It is what God has accomplished, not what we accomplish that we should be overwhelmed with! And, if uplifting the Lord Jesus Christ requires effort, so be it. We should be grateful to have a part in God's plan. Glorifying God is not something we should approach with a lazy, familiar, or indifferent attitude, after all, it is the very purpose for which we were created!

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