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## *The Doctrine of Shame*

Philippians 3:19 “Whose termination is destruction, whose god is their emotion, and whose glory is in their shame...” As we continue our study of Philippians chapter three, we have been studying the doctrine of the reversionistic loser believer, and we have come to another characteristic of the reversionist with the phrase “whose glory is in their shame.” Feelings of shame will be the unfortunate experience of many born-again believers at the Judgment Seat of Christ after the Rapture of the Church.

After the Rapture (resurrection) of the Church, every believer is assembled at the event known as the Big Genuflex, Philippians 2:9-11, Romans 14:10-12. At this time, the entire Royal Family of God will identify Jesus Christ as the Head of the family, to the glory of God the Father. (To “genuflect” means to bend the knee in worship, to be humbly obedient and respectful.) At this time, all members of the Church in their resurrection bodies will make a formal acknowledgment of the Father’s function in the resurrection, ascension and session of Christ.

The Big Genuflex occurs immediately after the Rapture and before the Judgment Seat of Christ. Romans 14:10-12 “But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we shall all stand before the Judgment Seat of God. For it is written, “‘As I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.’” So then [or literally, after that] each one of us shall give account of himself to God.”

Philippians 2:9-11 “For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name [title] which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Jesus Christ becomes your Lord at salvation, irregardless of your lifestyle, when you are entered into union with Him through the baptism of the Spirit. However, we do not have full cognizance of the lordship of Christ until we advance to spiritual maturity. During our lifetime, the lordship of Christ is really a matter of our priorities.

If Bible doctrine is most important in our life, then Jesus Christ has highest priority as our Lord, for Bible doctrine is the thinking of Christ. If not, we become losers and will not

recognize Jesus Christ as Lord until we are in a resurrection body. Our time of glory then, will be a time of shame, only momentarily, but still a time of shame and regret.

Philippians 2:11a “And that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord...” After this unforgettable moment, there will no longer be any equality in the Royal Family of God. The Big Genuflex is the moment of maximum perfect happiness (“+H”), which will be perpetuated forever. Following the Big Genuflex, however, is the Judgment Seat of Christ, in which tremendous differences will be seen among believers in resurrection bodies some with fantastic decorations, but most with nothing to show for their entire life on earth. The chronology of events so far looks like this:

- The Rapture, 1 Corinthians 15:51-58, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.
- The Big Genuflex, Philippians 2:9-11.
- The Judgment Seat of Christ (during which the Tribulation occurs on earth), 2 Corinthians 5:10, Rom 14:10.

The Big Genuflex is the interim event between the Rapture and the Judgment Seat of Christ. It is a time of total appreciation and glorification of the Father’s plan and the recognition of our Lord’s battlefield royalty, which was bestowed on Him at His session. Our Lord’s royalty demands the resurrection of His Royal Family. We must have a resurrection body as He does because we are His Bride and His family.

However, this great moment of emotion and joy is followed by the Judgment Seat of Christ, at which the loser believer’s glory will become an experience of shame and regret. Winner believers fulfill their happiness by receiving their eternal rewards and decorations, whereas, in Philippians 3:19, loser believers, in what would have been their time of glory, will be regretting their lost opportunities. Many will say “I could have, but I didn’t!” Perhaps Proverbs 5:12-13 will come to their minds: “And you say, ‘How I have hated instruction! And my heart spurned reproof! And I have not listened to the voice of my teachers, nor inclined my ear to my instructors!’”

Remember, however, that even the worst loser of all will never lose the permanent perfect happiness of God for all eternity, even though he received no rewards because of his failure to live the spiritual life in time.

1 Corinthians 3:15 “If any man’s work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire.” This moment will be the fulfillment of all the Bible doctrine we have perceived, metabolized, and applied, and the realization of the purpose of our new birth. We will each personally praise the strategic victory of the angelic conflict and relate it to our very purpose for living. A complete look at the chronology is as follows:

- The Rapture, 1 Corinthians 15:51-58, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.
- The Big Genuflex, Philippians 2:9-11.
- The Judgment Seat of Christ, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Romans 14:10. (Will your time of glory be a time of shame and regret or a time of thankfulness for the decisions you made in this life?)

- The return of Christ with His Bride at the Second Advent, 1 Thessalonians 3:13, Revelations 19:11-20:6.
- The manifestation of the Bride, Romans 8:19, Col 3:4.
- Operation Footstool, Psalm 110:1, Zechariah 13:2, Colossians 2:15, 1 Corinthians 15:24-25.
- The coronation of Christ, Rev 19:6.
- The Wedding Supper of the Lamb, Revelation 19:7-9.

### **The Shame of the Loser Believer in Time**

2 Timothy 4:6-8 “ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.” There is an embarrassment for the believer who fails to fulfill God’s plan under spiritual freedom and the principle of equal privilege and equal opportunity. This is the result of rejection of such passages as...

- John 3:30 “He must increase, but I must decrease.”
- Luke 14:26 “If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate [“miso,” or “love less”] his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.”
- John 12:43 “For they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.” (They refused to go “against the grain” and followed the world.)
- Acts 5:29 “We must obey God rather than men.” (The loser allows people to intimidate him rather than obeying God. This can include anyone in authority, be it the pastor, boss, husband, parents, or anyone else who has authority in any realm. Adam was cursed when he allowed his wife to manipulate him into making a spiritual decision that he knew was wrong,

1 Timothy 2:14, and Saul was cursed when he allowed the people to pressure him into violating God’s Word, 1 Sam 15:11.) The embarrassment and shame of many believers at the Judgment Seat of Christ will be the result of listening to human viewpoint rather than divine viewpoint. They listened to the voice of men in time rather than the voice of God. When the believer experiences shame at the Judgment Seat of Christ, there is no way to make amends or correct the wrong; it will be too late. The point is don’t wait until it’s too late! As long as you are still alive, God still has plans for you. Regret for time wasted can become a motivation for the time that remains. And again, the shame at the Judgment Seat of Christ is only a temporary shame; there is no sorrow in the eternal state.

Christian losers are believers who fail to execute the pre-designed plan of God in time, even though they had equal opportunity to do so. Loser believers have no glory other than their resurrection body and no blessing at the Judgment Seat of Christ. This is the result of the wrong set of priorities and the wrong scale of values. They will not have what the “twenty-four elders” in Revelation had crowns to cast at the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev 4:10-11 “The twenty-four elders will fall down before Him Who sits on the throne, and will worship Him Who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne [what a great privilege!], saying, “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.” Believers who will have shame at the Judgment Seat of Christ are described under at least seven categories in the New Testament.

- The believer who has “drifted off course from grace”, He began in grace (at salvation), but then allowed himself to be deceived (Galatians 5:4)
- The believer who “comes short of the grace of God,” through forms of backsliding such as bitterness, (Hebrews 12:15).
- The “lukewarm” believer, (Rev 3:15-16).
- The “shipwrecked” believer, (1 Timothy 1:19).
- The “double-minded” (psycho) believer, (James 1:8).
- The believer who fails to metabolize doctrine, (James 1:22-24).
- The “enemy of the Cross,” (Philippians 3:18-19).

The loser believer lives out his life in a state of irrationality under the control of his own emotions. He lives in fear of what others are trying to do to him, in a lifestyle of insecurity and instability. There are at least five categories of the emotion complex of sins that cause the most problems and distractions for the loser believer. These sins produce an emotional reaction that results in an irrational distraction from God’s plan.

Hysteria is characterized by fear, worry, anxiety, panic, confusion, irrationality, dislocation, and garbage in the subconscious.

Hatred is characterized by anger, hatred, bitter jealousy, loathing, animosity, vulnerability to imagined insults or injury, implacability, malice, tantrums, irrational violence, and even murder.

Self-centeredness (the arrogance skills), including self-justification, self-deception, and self-absorption characterized by arrogant self-righteousness, egotistical irrationality, hypersensitivity (concerning self) and insensitivity (concerning others), projection, denial, self-pity, and whining.

Reaction, which combines the arrogance complex of sins with the emotion complex of sins characterized by jealousy, bitterness, vindictiveness, hatred, vilification, vituperation, malice, revenge motivation and operation, and inordinate ambition and inordinate competition (and Bible doctrine, not psychology, is the answer).

Guilt, a feeling of responsibility or remorse for some real or imagined offense. Religion in general functions by producing guilt in its adherents, which is not the Christian way of life. Guilt is a sin related to repression, which is rejection from the soul of anything that is painful or disagreeable. When you fall into the sin of guilt, you have succumbed to the greatest weakness in your soul. The most help less and mostly easily manipulated people in the world are those that live under guilt.

1 Corinthians 15:34 “Come to your senses [dikaios] righteously [or awake to righteousness] and stop sinning [referring to a specific sin, which Paul will now mention]; for some [believers] have no knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame. [In other words, wake up and understand why you are here after salvation!]” All believers are given God’s very own righteousness at the point of salvation as capacity for blessing in “lag time” until we begin to grow spiritually. This gives us capacity to enjoy lesser blessings in life, such as logistical grace blessings, which provide everything we need to continue in this life and which serve as motivation to keep advancing in the spiritual life. At salvation, God the Holy Spirit entered us into union with Christ, and we now share His righteousness. This is our “wall of fire” (Zechariah 2:5), our protection.

Volition, not environment or circumstances, is the issue in our spiritual life, and the question for all God’s people is, “What are you going to do with all the spiritual assets God has provided for you?” This is revealed by our attitude toward the Word of God and the constant inculcation of Bible doctrine in our souls. The filling of the Holy Spirit has given us all equal ability to understand Bible doctrine, which is the only means (Hebrews 11:6) of avoiding shame in the “day of Christ.”

Philippians 1:9-11 “And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.” 1 John 2:28 “Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.”

Philippians 3:19 Whose termination is destruction, their god is their emotion, [therefore] their glory will be a time of shame.” By way of review, we have already noted, in our introduction to the Doctrine of Shame, that this “shame” is part of an unfortunate experience that will take place for many believers at the Judgment Seat of Christ after the Rapture.

After the Rapture (the “exit-resurrection” of the Church), every believer finds himself at the event known as the Big Genuflex, Philippians 2:9-11, Romans 14:10-12. At this time, the entire Royal Family of God will identify the Lord Jesus of the glory of God the Father. Winners (over comers) will experience gratitude for the positive decisions they made toward the plan of God in time; losers (“lukewarm” believers) will experience a momentary shame for their rejection of that plan.

The Shame of the Loser Believer in Time. The importance of this doctrine can not be overemphasized, as it is a great challenge for us to be prepared for one of history’s greatest events, the coming of our Lord at the Rapture. Our Lord prophesied that because the Jews had rejected Him, they would be scattered throughout the world during the Jewish-Roman war of A.D. 70, Luke 21:24.

He also prophesied that before His return, the nation Israel would return to their homeland, and that is exactly what happened on May 14, 1948. In spite of the constant

disorder and turmoil in the Middle East, the pieces are falling together perfectly for the Second Coming of Christ.

The Second Coming will not take place until seven years after the Rapture. At the Rapture of the Church, Christ does not actually return to the earth as in the Second Advent we meet Him in the air. The Lord promised the disciples and all of us that He would be coming back for us, John 14:1-3. He is coming back soon, to take us with Him, not to leave us here on the earth (later, during His Millennial Reign, winners will rule with Him on earth).

We are also told that just before our Lord comes back there would be much capital and labor conflicts, (James 5:1-6). Scoffers will be everywhere, (2 Peter 3:3-4). Famines, violence, and wars will break out; (Matthew 24:3-8). Violence has become an epidemic; more than 100 conflicts have erupted since 1990, about twice the number for previous decades.

There will also be a rise in lawlessness, (2 Thessalonians 2:7-10), and a rise in occultism, (1 Timothy 4:1-5); Tarot reading and fortune telling grow more popular every day. There will also be a rise in apostasy, (1 Timothy 4:1); today, many Churches deny the eternal truths of Scripture and the power of the Holy Spirit, replacing them with ungodly values.

We are also told of the coming New World Order, (Revelation 13). Increased centralization of world, financial, and political power is part of the groundwork for the soon-to-arrive world power system in the hands of Antichrist. The world has entered a time of dramatic and threatening change. Everyone is trying to build a peaceful world, but there is no peace within people's hearts.

We need to understand several sets of principles in this doctrine. We must answer these questions for ourselves (and not someone else):

- When I stand in the presence of the Lord at the Judgment Seat of Christ will He say (Matthews 25:21, 23) to me, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in a few things. I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the perfect happiness of the Lord"?
- Or will I be ashamed that I have rejected the spiritual skills, ignored the divine initiative of grace, and lived in ignorance concerning the pre-designed plan of God? How long has God known my needs?

God, from eternity past, has wisely provided for all my needs, based on His grace and love for me, (Philippians 4:19), "And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." As my Father, He has provided everything for me, so why live a life of anxiety, worry, concern, doubt, and fear, while ignoring His plan for my life?!

God has known about my needs from eternity past and provided for them in my very own portfolio of invisible assets, and I must keep His authority always before me. Therefore, I

will need a wake-up call from divine discipline from time to time, (Hebrews 12:6). The Lord has my best interests in mind at all times because He has always loved me from eternity past.

When God disciplines me to give me that wake-up call, I should simply say to myself, , “I have been disciplined by the Lord and I am grateful, because He wants me to stand in His presence at the resurrection and receive eternal rewards that He provided for me in eternity past, which glorify Him and bless me forever and ever.” I have been the object of His love from eternity past...and still I am now, in spite of myself.

God is aware of my lack of capacity for blessing and He seeks to adjust that capacity through divine principles such as the law of volitional responsibility and divine discipline, (Galatians 6:7, Hosea 8:7). The very fact that we reap what we sow is a manifestation of God’s grace, protecting and guiding us to deliver us from the experience of shame at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

When I reject the correction of God in my life, things only get worse, and what is not restrained eventually becomes lawless. Therefore, in His grace, God corrects me from time to time. The laws of divine discipline and the authority that God has ordained through the laws of divine establishment are designed to preserve me from self-destruction and self-induced misery.

If the Lord does not go before me, I am on the wrong track, (Deut. 31:8). I must also learn that many times it takes divine discipline to discover who is really in charge. The purpose of discipline is to identify the proper authority, and to possess authority orientation as a believer is necessary for spiritual advance to maturity.

I have been given the capacity to love the Lord, and at the same time, the discipline to fear and respect Him. Therefore I can be taught (from authority) to love (from respect). In fact, there is no true love without respect. I have the option of learning and using the spiritual skills to glorify God, or living for myself and my goals and plans. The only people who are truly happy in life are those who have the ability to identify true authority in life.

When I reject authority, I have only pain and suffering from the law of volitional responsibility (Hosea 8:7, Galatians 6:7-8, Colossians 3:25) and the law of divine discipline. Through divine discipline I can learn two important facts of life volition (not circumstances) is the issue in life, and divine punishment is the one alternative to positive volition toward doctrine. As I continue to use the spiritual skills, I learn that God always provides for my needs, (Philippians 4:13, 19).

There is never any reason for me to not trust Scriptures like John 3:16 or Act 16:31, or ever doubt the divine promises and Bible doctrines that teach me what God has provided in grace everything I need for both time and the eternal future. What God does not provide, I do not need. My responsibility is to follow the predesigned plan of God and take the “high ground” of spiritual maturity, through the function of the ten problem-

solving devices deployed on the *defense line* (forward line of troops) of the soul. I can not advance without a personal sense of destiny.

There are numerous warnings of the Lord to the lukewarm believers concerning this doctrine because our Lord knows the seriousness of rewards and blessings in the eternal state and the unfortunate experience of shame and embarrassment. He gives a warning to “lukewarm” believers. In fact, the seven messages to the churches of Ancient Asia in Revelation 2:3 are extremely practical, but perhaps none depicts the present conditions in both Europe and North America as does the message to Laodicea, a church that had become very stagnant and ineffective in its deceptive self-reliance and self-sufficiency.

Revelation 3:14-16 “And to the angel [messenger] of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this: ‘I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.’” Here the Lord Himself warns and instructs us against the deadening effects of trusting in material wealth (the details of life) rather than pursuing a vital faith relationship with Jesus Christ.

The Laodicean church had lost its impact on the world because it had become occupied with the world and had left the Lord standing outside. There are very subtle dangers inherent in freedom and prosperity. It is interesting that the seven churches of Asia actually correspond to seven historical stages of the church from Pentecost to the Rapture, and certainly the church of Laodicea illustrates the conditions of the church of this century in a large portion of the world. In Revelation 2:2, “the church in Ephesus” had to deal with those who falsely called themselves apostles; this was a common problem for the early church.

During this time, which historians call the period of Pentecost, many of the major problems had to do with the gifts, especially the temporary gifts. This period is also called the Apostolic Period, Pentecost to A.D. 100. *It was a period when faith was defined.*

Then the church of Smyrna in Revelation 2:9 went through tremendous tribulation and poverty. Many historians present this as referring to the time of the last apostle, John, and the persecution that followed. This is the Roman Persecution Period, A.D. 100-313. *It was a period when faith was defended.*

In Rev 2:13, the church of Pergamum is said to have dwelt “where Satan’s throne is.” This passage is believed to represent the time of Constantine, who said he had actually taken the place of Christ. This is called the Old Catholic Period, A.D. 313-590. *It was a period when faith defiled.*

It was then that prayers for the dead began, as well as the sign of the cross, wax candles, the reverence of angels and dead saints, the use of images, the Mass as a daily



celebration, the doctrine of purgatory, the exaltation of Mary as the “Mother of God,” the priests dressing differently from laymen.

In Rev 2:18-20, the church at Thyatira tolerated the woman Jezebel, “who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray, so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.” Church historians correlate this time to the ascendancy of Roman Catholicism, thus called the Roman Catholic Period: A.D. 590-1517 – *the period when faith was defiled.*

In Rev 3:1-2, the Church of Sardis is told, “I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.” This is said to be a time when the Church woke up, during that great historical event we call the Reformation, the Protestant Period: A.D. 1517-1795 – *the period when faith was rediscovered.*

In Rev 3:8, those at the church at Philadelphia are described as believers that “have a little power, and have kept My Word, and have not denied My name.” This statement makes reference to a time of full restoration of New Testament truths and missionary enterprises as never before, which took place in the 18th and 19th centuries in England and the United States. It is commonly called the Missionary and New Testament Assemblies Period, A.D. 1795-1870 – *the period when faith was discerned.*

Finally, in Revelation 3:14, we meet the lukewarm church of Laodicea, analogous to the Modernist and Ecumenical Period, A.D. 1870 to the Rapture (The Faith Denied). It is certainly no coincidence that the order in which these seven churches are described matches the chronology of events concerning the church of Jesus Christ throughout this dispensation. However, whether one accepts these principles or not, the Laodicean church certainly illustrates the condition of the majority of the church in the 20th century

In another huge “coincidence” (or perhaps by divine design?!) we see something very similar portraying the seven different historical stages of the church in the parables of Matthew 13.

- The “Sower and the Seed,” vv. 1-23 (Ephesus).
- The “Wheat and Tares” (false doctrine introduced), vv. 24-30,36-43 (Smyrna).
- The “Mustard Seed” (unnatural growth, worldliness), vv. 31-32 (Pergamum).
- The “Leaven” (departure from the truth), vv. 33-35 (Thyatira).
- The Hidden Treasure (discoveries of Scriptural truths), v. 44 (Sardis).
- The “Pearl of Great Price” (the Lord’s Name and Word acknowledged), vv. 45-46 (Philadelphia).
- The “Dragnet” (separating the true from the false), vv. 47-50 (Laodicea).

This introduces our current passage in Rev 3:14, and the church of Laodicea. We will study these believers in detail and see that they were a Church whose time of glory will be a time of shame, only momentary, but still a time of embarrassment and regret.

