

Clear Distinction Ministries

Study Notes

Night #15: **“Bread or Wine: The Choice Is Yours!”**

### **The Influence of Babylon’s Wine:**

- In Bible prophecy **a pure woman is symbolic of God’s people, His church** (*Jer. 6:2 & Rev. 12*). When dealing with an impure woman such as the “whore” called Babylon we are seeing an apostate church. This apostate church rides the same beast/kingdom mentioned in (*Rev. 13:1-11*) with seven heads and ten horns. **Note the positioning of this impure woman, this impure church. She rides on top of the beast/kingdom. This symbolizes a joining of church and state in which this church is the master.** This relationship with “the kings of the earth” is called a **“fornication”** because Christ established the principle of separating the church and state (*Mark 12:17*)...*Rev. 17:1-6*
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> angel’s message warns us of the influence of her wine. It makes the entire world drunk and as a result of this wine, Babylon is **FALLEN. In preparing a people to stand, God must sober us from the influence of this wine. Only the Bread of Life can do that...Rev. 14:8**
- In the book of *Daniel 5* Belshazzar, king of Babylon, was killed by Darius the Mede and **BABYLON FELL BY INFLUENCE OF WINE.** History Repeats itself (*Ecc. 1:9*)...*Dan. 5*

- The Bible teaches that Christ has made us kings and queens and **BABYLON’S WINE IS NOT FOR US**. That wine causes men to forget the law of God and that is precisely Babylon’s influence over the world in these last days...*Rev. 1:4-6, Pr. 31:4-5, Pr. 4:2*
- **Wine symbolizes doctrine** in the Bible. The “*abominations*” in her cup represents her **lying doctrines**... *Is. 28:7-9, Rev. 17:4, Pr. 12:22*
- What we need today beloved is **the sobering influence of JESUS, the Bread of Life—the Word of God**...*Matt. 4:4, John 6:35*
- It would not be possible to here list every false doctrine of Babylon but we will evaluate a few and see what the Word of God says concerning them.

## The Wine of Babylon: Popular Beliefs Today!

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| 1. God’s law is no longer binding. ( <i>Matt. 5:17-20, Rev. 22:14-15</i> ) |
| 2. Sunday sacredness.  |
| 3. The Secret Rapture. ( <i>Rev. 1:7, Matt. 24:27, 1 Thess. 4:16-17</i> )  |
| 4. <b>The immortality of the soul.</b>                                     |
| 5. <b>Eternal torment in hell &amp; purgatory.</b>                         |
| 6. <b>Counterfeit baptisms.</b>  |
| 7. Confession of sins to a priest. ( <i>Mark 2:7</i> )                     |
| 8. The co-mediation of Mary with Christ. ( <i>1 Tim. 2:5</i> )             |
| 9. Salvation by works. ( <i>Eph. 2:8-9</i> )                               |

## The Doctrine of Reincarnation & the Immortality of the Soul:

- Reincarnation is among the leading popular beliefs of today not only in the non-Christian world but also amongst professed Christians. Reincarnation is the belief that souls are reborn after death. It is also known as the transmigration of the soul or **the natural immortality of the soul**. In simpler terms, **it is the belief that there is no such things as death because man “shall not surely die.” This doctrine originated with the serpent, Satan in the garden of Eden...*Gen. 3:1-5***
- This teaching is contrary to the Word of God. The Bible teaches that God alone has immortality (*1 Tim. 6:15-16*), the Bible teaches that the soul that sins shall die (*Eze. 18:20*), the Bible teaches that men don't possess souls but **ARE LIVING SOULS** (*Gen. 2:7*), the Bible teaches that when people die their bodies return to the dust and they await the resurrection; they do not haunt us as ghosts (*Ecc. 9:5-6, 1 Thess. 4:16-17 & Acts 2:14 & 29*) and the Bible also teaches that the believer must put on immortality at Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> coming (*1 Cor. 15:51-54*). **According to the Bible there is no such thing as an immortal soul.**

## The Doctrine of Eternal Torment and Purgatory:

“It is beyond the power of the human mind to estimate the evil which has been wrought by **the heresy of eternal torment**. The religion of the Bible, full of love and goodness, and abounding in compassion, is

darkened by superstition and clothed with terror. **When we consider in what false colors Satan has painted the character of God, can we wonder that our merciful Creator is feared, dreaded, and even hated? The appalling views of God which have spread over the world from the teachings of the pulpit have made thousands, yes, millions, of skeptics and infidels. The theory of eternal torment is one of the false doctrines that constitute the wine of the abomination of Babylon, of which she makes all nations drink. Rev. 14:8 & 17:2.** That ministers of Christ should have accepted this heresy and proclaimed it from the sacred desk is indeed a mystery. **They received it from Rome, as they received the false sabbath.”**

**(The Great Controversy pg. 536.2-3)**

- The unbiblical doctrine of the immortality of the soul, reincarnation etc. lays the foundation for today's doctrine of eternal torment and purgatory. Keep in mind that **in order for sinners to suffer eternally they would first need eternal life which is a gift reserved only for those that believe the gospel (John 3:16).**
- The Bible does say that those who receive the mark of the Beast will be tormented with fire and brimstone “for ever and ever” (**Rev. 14:9-11**) but the Bible is very clear that the words “for ever and ever” **apply only to the effects of the fire and not the duration of the burning** even as Sodom and Gomorrah isn't burning today though it burned with “eternal fire”...(**Jude 7, Mal. 4:1**)

- While the souls that cling to sin, perish with their sins, God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked (**Eze. 18:32**). God is love and no tormenter of men (**1 John 4:7 & 18**).

### What Does the Bible Teach About Baptism?

- **The popular tradition of baptizing babies is not supported by Scripture.** The Bible teaches that **an individual must first believe and then be baptized.** Infants are incapable of making that decision at so young an age. This of course does not mean that infants cannot be saved. Infant baptism is not the same as the presenting of our children to the Lord which is Biblically supported (**Luke 2:22-40**)..Mark 16:15-16
- The popular tradition of sprinkling for baptism is also unbiblical. The Bible supports on the method of immersion: the individual must be submerged entirely in the water (symbolizing the death and burial of their old self) and then emerge as Christ did from the water (symbolic of their new life in Christ)...**Matt. 3:13-17**
- Many Christians today claim these sorts of baptisms as valid only because of tradition. Today Jesus is calling His people out of Babylon's confusion and away from the influence of her wine of false doctrines (**Rev. 18:1-4**). If we will hear His voice and follow Him then His desire is to lead us into Truth alone. Wherever we may have been before, the only place for the Christian is where Christ and His truth is. It is Biblical to be re-baptized when the Lord opens our eyes to His truth...**Acts 19:1-5**