

Olivet Discourse

(12) Q & A, The Gentiles

2 Cor 4:1-5

Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart, 2 but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. NASU

The following Q&A has been transcribed from the 5/6/2012 class. This class was focused on the GENTILES element of the "End Times Chart, slide #5". Please refer to "Lesson 12" in the "Olivet Discourse" study for the lesson audio. All of the written notes, charts, and recorded lesson can be found at www.timelesstruthfortoday.com.

- What / who is a Gentile?
 - *A Gentile is anyone who is not a Jew (a direct descendent of Abraham). Gentiles are also sometimes referred to as "the nations" in Scripture.*
- Who is '...the god of this world...', IICor.4:4?
 - *This is the name given to Satan. Adam, in his sin, essentially surrendered this 'position' to Satan.*
- What does Paul reveal regarding the power of Satan over unbelievers?
 - *He has blinded the minds (thoughts, reasoning) of unbelievers so that they might not see the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ. IICor.4:4*
 - *His blinding is on unbelievers, both Jew and/or Gentile.*
- Isn't this one significant thing we as believers should pray for when witnessing to unbelievers?
 - *Yes. I believe we should pray for the Lord to open the eyes of unbelievers. Only the Lord can do that.*
- What part / influence does a person's ego have in this blindness?
 - *As far as I'm aware, the Scripture does not define those boundaries. It's unclear whether Satan actually causes us to have an ego. In general, I think sin has produced the ego and Satan twists it to control us.*
- If Satan has the power to blind unbelievers (IICor.4:4), how are we responsible? Do we have a choice (regarding rejecting Christ)?
 - *We look to Scripture to answer this. For example looking at Romans 1:1-18, we find that there is a suppression of the truth by men, despite the overwhelming evidence in nature and our conscience, so that we are without excuse. That evidence is sufficient but it seems that Satan blinds to the glory of the ultimate evidence, the Lord Jesus Christ.*
 - *Satan can't force us do anything. He suggests and encourages rebellion and makes the lies very attractive. He also sometimes overwhelms us with confusing alternatives.*
 - *Our defense is the Word of God empowered by the Spirit of God. IITim.3:16-17, Eph.6:10-20*

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- Are there any Gentiles who survive the Tribulation time?
 - *Yes, Mt.25 discusses this in detail. The separation of the sheep and goats. Note that here the Gentiles are identified as "the nations" (25:32).*
- Does God's wrath (being poured out) start with the beginning of the Tribulation or with the midpoint (of the Tribulation)?
 - *I believe it starts at the beginning of the 7 year Tribulation. It starts with the White Horse (1st seal, Rev.6:1-2) which is relatively peaceful, but it really picks up in intensity at the midpoint.*
- Has 'world-wide destruction' ever happened before?
 - *Oh Yes, the Lord destroyed the whole world in Noah's flood.*
- Why does the world (Satan) try to prove the Flood didn't (or couldn't) happen?
 - *Because if the Flood is true then there is a God who judges! That is too uncomfortable for us, so we'll simply ignore it, explain it away, and most of all ridicule those who believe it really happened. **II Pet.3:3-9***
- In the Mt.25:31-46 passage, what is the 'time' of this event? When does this happen?
 - *This is at the end of the Tribulation, right at the start of the Millennium (Mt.25:31)*
- Doesn't the reference to '...the least of My brethren...', 25:40, mean the Jews?
 - *That is a valid interpretation of this passage. Jesus may mean His brothers (as Jews) but it could also be a reference to the sheep, those saved from among the Gentiles and Jews.*
- If everyone who enters the Millennial Kingdom is saved, where do all the rebellious sinners (Rev.20:7-10) come from?
 - *They come from the children and grandchildren, etc, who are born during the Millennial Kingdom. They all have to choose to believe in Christ. Satan is temporarily removed so we see that he is not the problem. It's that we're all born sinners. We sin because we are sinners. Even in the ideal environment of this 1000 years Millennial Kingdom, there is a host who rebel against Christ.*
 - *This shows again that everyone born of Adam is a sinner (Rom.3:10-12) and chooses to sin without any Satanic influence. It's not our heritage, our environment, our culture. It's our own sin. You must repent of your sin and call upon the name of the Lord to be saved (Rom.10:9-13).*

Rom 10:9-13

9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; 13 for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

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