

Meat From The Masters

The Philadelphian Church age produced men of God who were able to discern the "meat" doctrines from the Word of God. Men such as Govett, Lang, Panton, Pember and Taylor knew there was more to the faith than salvation. The following is a brief glimpse from their writings:

On carnal believers Hudson Taylor wrote:

"They have forgotten the warning of our Lord in Luke 21:34-36, *"And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares, For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."* and hence are not accounted worthy to escape: they have not 'counted all things but loss,' and hence do not attain unto that resurrection; which Paul thought he might miss. **We wish to place on record our solemn conviction that not all who are Christians will attain to that resurrection or thus meet the Lord in the air.**"

D.M. Panton and G.H. Pember added:

"Thus the **cry of urgency should now ring through the whole Church of God.** Why? Because (1) To withhold the warning is to rob the Church of the very truth which is to deliver from the peril . . . (2) the coming judgement of believers is a revelation leveled specifically at the flesh in the believer & therefore can never be popular. (3) The peril, however imminent, has not yet fallen. "Lukewarm Laodiceans can be roused before it is too late." (Panton)

"To those who believe on Him, but go no further, the Lord does, indeed, give eternal life; but the fruition of it will not begin until the Last Day, until the thousand years of the Millennial reign are ended. **Such persons will not, therefore, be permitted to enter the Kingdom of the Heavens.**" (Pember)

Robert Govett affirmed their teachings:

"One great aim of the epistle (Hebrews) is to prove the possible **loss of the Kingdom by the converted.** Those in whom God has no pleasure cannot be of those accounted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from among the dead.

Regarding the separation that will take place, D.M. Panton wrote:

"The proof of separate raptures becomes overwhelming when we are actually shown by the Holy Spirit servants of God upon the earth, left after others have been caught up to the Throne of God.. Here, without question, there is a rapture-"unto God, and unto His throne"; and a rapture which totally delivers from the Great Tribulation...If the whole of saved Israel escapes into the wilderness, and the whole of the Church escapes into the heavens, no believing Jews, and no Christian believers are left throughout the habitable earth.." "But the reverse is here revealed as the truth. *"And the dragon waxed wroth with the woman, and went away to make war with the rest"*--the remnants, the remainders; the Greek is plural--"of her seed": two remnants--(1)"they which keep the commandments of God," a characteristic of God's earthly people; and (2)"they which hold the testimony of Jesus," a description confined in the Scripture to the Church... Here are the **disobedient** of both Peoples **exposed to the full blast of Tribulation wrath.**"

"Paul says to Thessalonica: *"Ye are not in darkness that that day should overtake you as a thief"*"; Christ says to Sardis: *"If thou shalt not watch I will come upon thee as a thief"*:...combine the two statements, and we **obtain the whole truth**; that all believers in the spiritual attitude of Thessalonica and Philadelphia are **certain of rapture**; and all believers in the spiritual attitude of Sardis and Loadicea are **certain to be left.**"

The Question for Today is....Which Church are you in?