

**Bend The Church
And Bow The World**
by Derek Prince

— Study Note Outline —
BCW1

Six Tape Series

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God Holds The Church Accountable
4404

Proclamation: Psalm 100:5

I. Two Premises

- A. When the Church is established in a nation, God holds the Church accountable for that nation
- B. To change the nation, we must change the Church
Evan Roberts: “Bend the Church, bow the world”

II. Principles About The Church

- A. Jesus is the *Head* of the *Body* (Eph. 1:22, 23). He carries out His redemptive purposes through its members, e.g., Mark 16:15; Matt. 28:19
- B. Jesus is also *Head* of the *ecclesia* (the governmental body)
 - 1. Illustrate from Athens (*decrees* but not *laws*)
 - 2. Specifically, He restrains the working of Satan in the world through the *ecclesia*
- C. *Apostasy* in the Church will open the way for Antichrist (2 Thess. 2:3)
- D. Therefore *judgment* must begin at God's House (the Church) (1 Pet. 4:17)
- E. “If My people . . . I will heal their land” (2 Chron. 7:14)

III. BUT Who Are The Church?

- A. Make *disciples*—not Church members (Matt. 28:19)
- B. Disciples called Christians (Acts 11:26)

IV. Who Are Disciples?

- A. Deny – take up – follow (Matt. 16:24–25)
- B. Hate father, mother . . . his own soul (Luke 14:26–27)

Judgment Must Begin At God's House 4405

I. Apostasy And Idolatry In God's Temple (Ezek. 8:10–12, 14, 16–17)

* Quotation from book: *Spirit Wars: Pagan Revival in Christian America* by Peter Jones (see below).

- A. Ezek 9:1–6, 9–11
 - 1. v. 6—Begin at My sanctuary
 - 2. v. 4—Those to be spared marked out – who sigh and cry – compare:
- B. Luxury, sensuality—but no grief for God's people (Amos 6:3–6)

II. A Land Not Cleansed By The Latter Rain (Ezek. 22:23–31)

- A. The problem
 - 1. Prophets, priests, princes, people
 - 2. Prophets represent God—interpret His will and His ways
- B. Contrast between *true* and *false prophets* (Jer. 23:16–18, 21–22)
- C. Two tests from Deuteronomy
 - 1. Draw people away from the Lord—even if their supernatural signs are fulfilled—must be put to death (Deut. 13:1–5)
 - 2. Make unfulfilled predictions—must be put to death (Deut. 18:20–22)
 - a. Many false prophets at the close of the age (Matt. 24:11)
 - b. In a culture ripe for judgment, false prophets multiply
- D. Vs. Elijah: 450 Prophets of Baal, 400 of Asherah (1 Kings 18:19)
- E. Vs. Michaiah: 400 *More* False Prophets (1 Kings 22:6–8, 19–23)
- F. Priests rule by the power of false prophets (Jer. 5:31)
- G. False prophets are popular (Luke 6:26)

III. What Is Needed: (Ezek. 22:30)

- A. To build a wall = Restore *absolutes/authority*
- B. To stand in the gap = Intercession

IV. Broken Separating Walls That Precede Judgment

- A. *Noah*: Angels vs. human (Gen. 6:1–3)
- B. *Lot*: Male vs. female – “Unisex” (Gen. 19:4–7)
- C. Distinctive clothing for men and women (Deut. 22:5)
Microsoft person – spouse

* Quoted from *Spirit Wars: Pagan Revival in Christian America* by Peter Jones, published by Wine Press Publishing, Mukilteo, WA 98275, also available from Nelson Distributors at 1-800-251-4000.

Sin, Righteousness, Judgment 4406

I. Three Unchanging Realities: Sin, Righteousness, Judgment (John 16:8)

- A. Righteousness is the plumb line (compare our antique clocks) (Is. 28:17a)
- B. All unrighteousness is sin (1 John 5:17)

II. The Apostles Preached Judgment First:

- A. Peter: Judgment, then forgiveness (Acts 10:42–43)

- B. Paul: Judgment, therefore repentance (Acts 17:30–31)
- C. Jesus: Repentance, then forgiveness
 1. Faith without repentance is a *counterfeit faith* – producing *counterfeit fruit*
 2. God’s order: *Judgment – Repentance – Forgiveness – Faith*

III. Two Scenes Of Judgment

- A. The great white throne (Rev. 20:11–15)
- B. The judgment seat of Christ (Rom. 14:10 + 2 Cor. 5:10 + 1 Cor. 2:11–15)
 1. Not for condemnation, but for assessment of service (Rom. 8:1)
 2. Either good or bad – nothing in between (2 Cor. 5:10)
 3. Either gathering or scattering (Matt. 12:30)
 4. *Talents* – according to ability (Matt. 25:14–30)
 - a. 100% increase: “Well done”
 - b. No use: Rejected

IV. Partaking Of The Lord’s Supper

- A. *A time for self-judgment*
- B. We are accountable for/guilty of the body and blood of the Lord (1 Cor. 16:26–32)
- C. We should *examine ourselves* (1 Cor. 11:28)
- D. Sickness can be *God’s chastening* (1 Cor. 11:30; compare Ex. 15:27) – Three possibilities:
 1. Judge ourselves
 2. Be chastened by the Lord and repent
 3. Be condemned with the world
- E. Also convince of *Righteousness* (John 16:8)
 1. *Justified* – reckoned/made righteous (Rom. 5:1)
 2. *Christ* has become our *righteousness* (1 Cor. 1:30)
 3. *Clothed with salvation* (Is. 61:10) – covered with *righteousness*
Illustrate: On trial in the court of heaven – verdict: *NOT GUILTY!*

Self-Humbling Through Fasting

4407

Proclamation: 1 Peter 5:5b–11

I. Afflict Your Souls

- A. Every Israelite, every year (Lev. 16:29–31)
 1. The Fast: (Acts 27:9)
 2. I humbled my *soul* with *fasting* (Ps. 35:13)
- B. *Grace* to the *humble* (1 Pet. 5:5–6)
 1. *Soul* = self-assertive
 2. *Ego* = I want, I think, I feel

II. Historical Examples

- A. Men of Jabesh Gilead (1 Sam. 31:11–13) from *division* and *defeat* to *unity* and *victory*
- B. Men of Nineveh (Jonah 3:4–10)

- C. Esther and the Jews in Shushan (Esther 4:23–5:2)
- D. Ezra and the returning exiles (Ezra 8:21–23)

III. Fasting in the New Testament

- A. Jesus Himself (Matt. 4:1–2)
 - 1. Filled with the Spirit (Luke 4:1)
 - 2. In the power of the Spirit (Luke 4:14)
 - 3. *When you do charitable deeds . . .* (Matt. 6:2)
 - 4. *When you pray . . .* (Matt. 6:5)
 - 5. *When you fast . . .* (Matt. 6:16)
- B. Leaders
 - 1. Fasted to receive revelation (Acts 13:1–3)
 - 2. Fasted to send out *apostles* (Acts 14:4, 14)
 - 3. Fasted to appoint *elders* (Acts 14:23)
- C. Prophetic call to fasting
 - 1. Call to corporate fasting: *Elders, priests, ministers* (Joel 2:15–17)
 - 2. *Afterward* the Spirit outpoured (Joel 2:28–29)
- D. How to humble ourselves
 - 1. Confess our sins to God (1 John 1:9)
 - 2. Confess our sins to one another (James 4:16)
- E. Personal testimony
 - Since 1941: 3,000 (+) days = 8 (+) years

The Bride Prepares Herself 4408

Proclamation: Matthew 24:14

I. The Bride Is Closest To The Heart Of Jesus

- A. Rev. 19:7–8
 - 1. All heaven is excited
 - 2. The bride responsible for her own preparation, which must already be complete
 - 3. Clothed with *righteous acts* – first *imputed*, then *outworked*
- B. Our light shines when people see our good works (Matt. 5:16)
- C. *Grace* results in *good works* – one without the other is not genuine (Tit. 2:11–14)

II. Examples Of Good Works

- A. Good works for *men* (1 Tim. 3:2–5)
- B. Good works for *women* (1 Tim. 5:9–10)
- C. For both
 - 1. Hospitality
 - 2. Service
 - 3. Well-ordered family
- D. Pure religion: Care for orphans and widows (James 1:27)
 - 1. Distinguish between religion and salvation
 - 2. *Testimony* concerning our family: Ruth the 8th of 10 children – suppose her mother had been sterilized after the first 4

- E. The fruit of the womb is God's reward (Ps. 127:3)
 - 1. Brief dialogue with Gary Bergel
 - 2. Does God hold us accountable for the rewards we refuse?
 - 3. No lack of opportunity in today's world to practice "pure religion" – in Africa 10 million AIDS orphans

Will you have enough material for your wedding garment?

**A Vision Of Holiness
4409**

I. Vision—The Key To Self-Discipline (Prov. 29:18)

- A. The Church (Eph. 5:25–27)
 - 1. Sanctified (made holy)
 - 2. Cleansed by the water of the *Word*
 - 3. Glorious, holy, without blemish
- B. *Glory* = God's presence manifested to our senses (2 Chron. 7:1–2)
- C. God's own holiness – the essence of God (Heb. 12:10)
- D. Not a set of rules (Col. 2:20–23)
 - 1. We have human examples of *love, wisdom, kindness, purity* apart from God – but not of *holiness*
 - 2. *Holy* – the only word applied three times to the Lord

II. Received Only By Revelation

- A. Behavior of seraphs in God's presence (Is. 6:6)
 - 1. No familiarity
 - 2. Four wings for *worship* – two wings for *service*
- B. Likewise the four living creatures (? *seraphim*) (Rev. 4:6–8)
 - 1. We can be *righteous* without being *holy*
 - 2. We cannot be *holy* without being *righteous*
- C. Job the most righteous man of his day (Job 1:1, 8)
 - 1. Job's response to a direct revelation of the Lord (Job 42:5–6)
 - 2. The *end purpose* of God's dealings with him
- D. Worship in the beauty of *holiness* (1 Chron. 16:29; Ps. 29:2; 96:9)

III. Holiness Is Spiritual Beauty

IV. Worship Is Our Response To God's Holiness

- A. Progression to worship: Always a *posture* of the body (Ps. 95:1–6)
- B. Pursue holiness (Heb. 12:14)