

“THE MANIFESTATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT”

- a. It is imperative that every believer comes to understand one paramount truth, and that is, God has dealt with people differently at various times though out history.
- b. Without understanding this truth, there is no way for people to accept “guaranteed salvation”.
- c. The truth leads us to admit that God has periodically changed the “rules” by which He expects people to live.
- d. Theologians call these different time periods of specific rules “dispensations” or “administrations”.
- e. The systematic theology that admits to these different administrations or dispensations is referred to as “Dispensationalism”.

{LESSON 16B} {1/25/2009}

“SALVATION IS GUARANTEED PERMANENT”

PART II

“DIFFERENT ADMINISTRATIONS – DIFFERENT RULES”

XXXII. There are many examples of God changing the rules from administration to administration.

- A. Because of the failure of the Church to teach this, Christians everywhere are mixing the administrations of God together along with the rules and have become very confused.
 1. In the Garden of Eden, God told Adam and Eve to eat plants only (Gen. 1:29).
 - a. Because of God giving this rule in the Garden, many people today believe that they should also eat plants only.
 2. But after the flood, God changed the rules and allowed man to eat meat also (Gen. 9:3), and He still allows us to eat meat today.
 - a. At first God only allowed certain meats to be eaten, then in a latter administration He allowed all meats to be eaten.
 - b. Because man has mixed all of this in one pile, there are many today who have gone back to eating the Hebrew diet of certain meats only.

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- c. Are they living any longer? I doubt it.
 3. Another example concerns the Sabbath. Before the Mosaic Law, there was no specific law concerning the Sabbath.
 - a. When God gave the Law to Moses, He changed the rules, and commanded that anyone who worked on the Sabbath should be put to death (Ex. 31:14), and Moses did execute a man who was caught working on the Sabbath (Num. 15:32-36).
 4. Today in the Administration of Grace (the Sacred Secret), God has changed the rules again, and it is not a sin to work on the Sabbath (Rom. 14:5; Col. 2:16, 17).
 - (1) And no one has the right to charge (judge) a person for working on the Sabbath.
 5. When Christians do not recognize or understand the “administrations” in the Bible, then the Bible abounds with apparent contradictions.
 6. There are at least eight different administrations in the Biblical history of mankind.
 - a. Four of the eight administrations are in the past, and we live in the fifth Administration (the Administration of Grace or the Sacred Secret), and three of them are foretold in the Bible and will be fulfilled in the future.
 - b. Knowing the different administrations, when they begin and end, and the rules distinctly associated with each one, is indispensable if one is to explain many of the apparent contradictions in the Bible.
 7. It is also indispensable in understanding how we Christians must live in order to obey God.
 - a. A person who does not understand the Administrations can become very confused if he thinks that all of God’s commands should be followed. Why?
 - b. Because the commands are different in different administrations, and can even contradict one another.
- B. Almost 100 years ago, Bible scholar Martin Anstey wrote: “...the golden rule

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is, **‘Distinguish the dispensations and the difficulties will disappear.’”**

1. Never is that more true than in regard to the permanence of our salvation.
2. If one does not understand what parts of Scripture are written to whom, he will never grasp the truth of God’s Word about the permanence of salvation.
3. Throughout the years, the majority of scholars and teachers have believed that salvation is not guaranteed for Christians.
4. I have found the most common reason for this is that they read the Old Testament, the Four Gospels, and the book of Revelation and then say, “See, salvation is not guaranteed, the Bible says so.”
5. They believe because salvation is not guaranteed during those administrations, it stands to reason that it is not guaranteed for Christians today.
6. I have no problem agreeing that salvation was not guaranteed during the Old Testament, Four Gospels, and the Tribulation period (which comes after Christians are taken to heaven at the Rapture).
 - a. But I absolutely disagree with them when it comes to Christians and their salvation.
7. I believe the truth is that on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2) God started a new administration, one so dominated by an outpouring of God’s grace that He refers to it as “the administration of God’s grace”.
8. This is supported in Eph. 3:2-5 AMP: **“Assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace (His unmerited favor) that was entrusted to me [to dispense to you] for your benefit, V3, [And] that the mystery (secret) was made known to me and I was allowed to comprehend it by direct revelation, as I already briefly wrote you. V4, When you read this you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ. V5, [This mystery] was never disclosed to human beings in past generations as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles (consecrated messengers) and prophets by the [Holy] Spirit.**