

Disfellowship

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possession], and I will spare them as a man spareth his own son that serveth him."

These people thought upon His name, and now he talks about that name or that family of God, and says, "I'll SPARE YOU AS MY OWN SON, because you are my special possession." This is God talking about you. We could take that lightly if we want to. But consider HOW MUCH GOD REALLY DOES LOVE PEOPLE WHO ARE LOYAL TO HIM, and stay in that little remnant, and remember His name, and remember that family relationship that we have. Consider the love God has for us because we REMEMBER what we were taught!

Those people who don't remember, God will correct in love. That is how he saves 50 percent of them.

But to us He says, "I'll spare you as a father spares a son, because you are still acting like my son; you're honoring me as a son, and the others are not!" *It's all a matter of family.*

Malachi 4:5-6 talks about what He is going to spare us from. "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and SMITE THE EARTH WITH A CURSE."

You could legitimately say that OVER 95 PERCENT OF GOD'S PEOPLE TODAY HAVE BEEN DISFELLOWSHIPED! God is telling you

"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy [Spirit]." It takes the Spirit of God to understand God's prophecy.

God has given us all kinds of prophecy. I cannot write it down as quickly as God gives it to me today. Why is He giving it so quickly? Because we have so little time to do what He wants us to do. We're running out of time. Never in the Church have I seen God reveal truth so quickly.

And at the same time, you have to expect that we're going to have problems. But we want to be doing our part.

Going on in chapter 2: "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among YOU, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction" (v. 1). There always seem to be false prophets. This prophecy says these people will be destroyed. It's a very strong prophecy against them. If they bring these damnable heresies,

damnable heresies; God demands, even commands, that we kick those heresies right back out.

"And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of" (v. 2). What are you going to do when the truth is evil spoken of? Many people just sit there, and go along, and listen to people who are speaking evil of the truth. And they follow their *pernicious* ways. That's another adjective that means "the destruction which consists in the loss of eternal life." Would you say that's a pretty big tragedy? And would you say we ought to be urgent about that? We're talking about eternal death!

People can act like that isn't going to happen if they want to. But what do you think when people speak evil of the truth? How do you react? Each one of us has a responsibility. We're soldiers, He says. We're defenders of the FAITH! This is a battlefield. We're fighting for the truth—God's truth. You must realize what your responsibility

Hey, you're defaming my Father! we ought to say. You think I'm going to sit here and listen to that?

they're going to pay a price. God is very concerned about this. Remember, God says it's going to happen to YOU, the family of God. And it's in the context of REVEALED PROPHECY.

The word *damnable* is a really strong word. It's the only time this word is used in the New

is; you have a responsibility, the same as I do. It's God's truth.

Remember, THE LAODICEANS ARE PERISHING BECAUSE THEY DON'T LOVE THE TRUTH. THEY WON'T FIGHT FOR IT. They'll just sit there and listen. "Oh, is that right? Is that what you believe?" And by doing so they are DYING

making MERCHANDISE of you. THEY'RE GOING TO BUY AND SELL YOU LIKE A PIECE OF FURNITURE! They're destroying what you are, what you're about.

God says you are His most special possession. THAT'S THE WAY HE FEELS ABOUT YOU. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT HIM? It's these opportunities where our true feelings are revealed. This is OUR MOMENT. Judgment is on the house of God. And that judgment is very condemning to a lot of God's people.

"Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw yourself from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us" (II Thes. 3:6). How many times have I heard, "Well I just wanted to love him; I just wanted to be there and see if I could help." GOD SAYS GET AWAY FROM HIM! I know you can say something different, but this is what God says! And He's talking about a brother, a family member. It's natural to protect your physical family. God wants it to become natural to protect your spiritual family.

Paul is not saying, "I wish you'd do this." He says, "WE COMMAND YOU to do this; THIS MUST BE DONE TO SAVE THE CHURCH! I'M TELLING YOU, IF THESE PEOPLE ARE WALKING DISORDERLY, YOU QUIT WALKING WITH THEM, OR ELSE!" That's love. That's the only way to save the family. How many families have to DIE before we can learn that? I think we're learning it, but still, we have the frightening specter of the Laodiceans staring us in the face. What a failure that is

decisions, they're going to get in trouble like these people are doing.

Founded on revelation

Notice Revelation 1:1: "The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John." Here's God the Father, giving a message to Jesus Christ; the Father giving it to the Son. I get excited when I remember where the little book came from. Did it come from an angel? No. From Christ? No. It came from God the Father.

Revelation 10 is also all about family, and family love, and protecting the family. Verse 6 shows how Satan has been cast down and everything is at an accelerated pace. Notice verse 7: "But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he [is about] to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets." There is no more delay. God wants us to get the mystery out there. Would it be fair to the world for God to cast down this great spirit being, who is on the rage right now more than ever, and not reveal to the world what Satan's plan is? I think it would be derelict on God's part to do that. The people of the world don't know anything about the devil. Now we have to tell them through *Mystery of the Ages*, and the chapter in there devoted to angels, and the devil and his demons. God, in His love, wants people to know.

"And I went unto the angel

PEOPLE TODAY HAVE BEEN DISFELLOWSHIPED! God is telling you here what is going to happen to them. God will not tolerate what they're doing.

THE VERY ELECT TODAY ARE GOD'S GREATEST ENCOURAGEMENT. God is encouraged by us and what we are doing. That is what He is telling us here, that "You are MINE, and I can do with you what I want to do to get this work done. You will do what I tell you. You don't talk back; you just do it." That encourages God. But on the other hand, the very elect today are Satan's greatest *discouragement*. He doesn't like what we are doing.

We see a God-family context in II Peter 1:16-17, which mentions the Father and the Son. Then, verses 18-19: "And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts." He is talking about prophecy bringing light into your life—the day star arising in your heart. We must be filled with light. Some people can be so excited one day, and then another day they want to leave God's Church. Now if that day star isn't rising in our heart, IF WE'RE NOT LETTING GOD GIVE US HIS REVELATION where we really clearly see, WE BECOME BLIND! What was once really clear becomes very hazy.

"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation" (v. 20). This is fundamental. Man does not reveal God's prophecy. Only God can do that. Verse 21:

ly strong word. It's the only time this word is used in the New Testament. *Thayer's* says it means utter destruction. But the second definition is PERISHING, or the destruction which consists in the LOSS OF ETERNAL LIFE.

We could talk of disfellowshipping and make it sound not quite so strong, perhaps. But WHAT WE'RE REALLY TALKING ABOUT IS ETERNAL LIFE AND ETERNAL DEATH. It is not *love* if you let somebody stay in God's Church who will destroy another person's eternal life. That's the worst kind of hate. God says, *You get them out*. The thing that makes these heresies DAMNABLE is the DAMNABLE DESTRUCTION they bring upon you! Look at God's Church today: 95 percent of the people have been deceived. Is that damnable? There isn't anything to compare with it.

It isn't love to keep people around when they start talking about heresies, but they always do it in "love." I don't think I've ever dealt with one of these people and they didn't talk about their love for the people. At that point, they don't even know what God's love is.

By disfellowshipping, we show love toward God by obeying Him. We show love toward God's people by saving the Church from destruction. And we even show love toward the disfellowshipped person, because that's the only way they're ever going to repent.

We have to realize how Satan can work through people, even ministers at the top, who bring in damnable heresies. It took Satan about five years to destroy 95 percent of God's Church. *Five years!* They bring in

right? Is that what you believe? And by doing so, they are DYING spiritually! That's why God doesn't even call them a son anymore. Because they don't honor Him as a Father.

When a minister is speaking evil of the truth, THAT IS WHEN WE NEED YOU MOST OF ALL. Disfellowshipping is a family matter. *Hey, you're talking about my Father!* we ought to say. *You're defaming my Father!* *You're talking about MY HUSBAND!* *You think I'm going to sit here and listen to that? This is our FAMILY!* Brethren, this is your family, as well as mine. This is not a ministerial responsibility; this is a FAMILY responsibility. (Now, the minister has his role, and you have yours, of course.)

Two times in the 1970s, Mr. Armstrong stood up and saved the Church of God. ONE MAN, through the power of God, stood up and SAVED the Church of God. Mr. Armstrong, by his example, taught us how to stand up and fight for the truth. Now God has taken him out of the way. Why? Because He wants to know what YOU will do! It's an individual matter. He wants to see what His family will do. If you love your family, and your Father, and your Husband, you're going to be FIGHTING MAD WHEN SOMEBODY STARTS TALKING AGAINST THEM, OR ELSE YOU'RE NOT FIT TO BE A WIFE! Christ wants to know what His wife is going to do. He wants to know, *Do you really LOVE ME?*

Notice verse 3: "And through covetousness shall they with *feigned words* make merchandise of YOU"—*feigned words*. They're liars. They talk about love and unity, and it's just feigned words; in reality they're

ing us in the face. What a failure that is. "And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, NOTE THAT MAN, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed" (v. 14). This is just a letter from Paul. And he says, if any man doesn't obey this letter I'm writing, you note that man and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed! You have a part to play in making such a person ashamed. That's your

people to know. "And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and EAT IT UP; and it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey" (v. 9). That is where disfellowshipped ministers make their mistake every time. God is talking specifically about the little book. He wants us to eat it up and digest it. SO THIS IS REVELATION FROM GOD. *Mystery of the*

You have a part to play in making such a person ashamed. That's your responsibility.

responsibility. If you don't do YOUR PART, then he'll think what he's doing is okay. But it's not okay. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT ETERNAL LIFE AND ETERNAL DEATH! It's so easy for us to forget that. Each one of us has a responsibility to make that person ashamed. We're all kings and priests IN EMBRYO. Kings and priests make very definite decisions. They're going to stand up and rule for God if they act like kings and priests today! We have to get prepared for that.

Do I think these problems are going to stop? Of course not. I know they won't, because we still have people who are too casual. Too casual about listening to what God says. Too casual about something that God commands! God doesn't command everything, because He wants to know what you'll do on your own. He's not making little automatons. He wants people to make decisions. If they don't have the character to make good

Ages is also revelation. BUT MEN GET AWAY FROM THAT AND THEY GET INTO CRAZY IDEAS OF THEIR OWN. AND THEY WON'T LISTEN TO THE REVELATION OF GOD. These ministers don't keep people's minds in the revelation. They have "better" ideas. And it causes them to get disfellowshipped.

If we don't found our lives on what God has revealed, we're going to fall away! It's just that simple. Why does God reveal it? GOD REVEALS IT TO KEEP US FOUNDED. If God reveals it, this powerful God of Revelation 1, what does it mean to you? What a SHAME that 95 percent of God's people to SCORN THE REVELATION OF GOD TODAY—not only in *Malachi's Message*, but also in *Mystery of the Ages* and virtually everything else!

There's no excuse for falling away. There's no excuse for being deceived. And so God, out of His love and mercy, disfellowships them, KICKS THEM INTO THE GREAT TRIBULATION, saving