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Loving the Lord Jesus Christ and avoiding Anathema!

“If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.” (1 Cor 16:22)

Blessing or Cursing

- Anathema
  - Originally meant to be set apart for God's blessing or curse
  - Negative aspect prevailed: things that are cursed or banned; it means to be separated or rejected from communion; those banned were to be excommunicated
  - Used to describe temporal rather than eternal destruction
  - Accursed: under God's ban and off limits

Accursed

- Warning: Joshua 6:18-19
- Sin & consequences: 7:1-9
- Explanation & cure: 7:11-15
- Premature Death 1 Cor 11:29-32
- Don’t associate with brethren who are accursed (5:5, 11-13; 15:33)

Centrality of the Kingdom

"The Kingdom of God is, in a certain and important sense, the grand central theme of all Holy Scripture. In approving this affirmation we are not forgetting the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ… but as we contemplate Him and His manifold glories as revealed in the Word of God, we shall inescapably come sooner or later to the Kingdom of which He is the divine center. For it is in this Kingdom that the Father's eternal purpose in the incarnate Son shall be certainly and completely fulfilled." Alva J. McClain, *The Greatness of the Kingdom* (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1968), 5.

Seeking the Kingdom

- First and Foremost – pursue the Kingdom – it is God's command (Matt 6:33)
- Obtaining Heavenly Wealth is endorsed and commanded by Jesus (Matt 6:19-20)
- Inheritance – ownership in the coming Kingdom is our goal (Eph 1:18; Heb 1:14)
- Ruling with the Lord Jesus Christ in His kingdom is our destiny (Heb 2:5; Rev 3:21; 22:5)

Blessings revealed in 1 Corinthians

- Skillful building will be rewarded (3:15)
- The saints will rule the world (6:1-3)
- Victors will be eternally crowned (9:25)
- Resurrection is the ultimate victory (15:57)
- Maranatha – our glorious, powerful, and majestic Lord – the King of kings and Lord of lords – is coming (16:22)

The Corinthian’s Sins

- Division’s over Bible Teachers (1-2)
- Carnal an immature (3)
- Prideful and disrespectful of authority (4)
- Allowance of gross immorality (5)
- Lust and greed (6)
- Liberty at the expense of the weak (8-9)
- Lustful & murmuring (10)
- Unruly women and spineless men (11)
- Profaning of the Lord’s supper (11)
- Abuse of spiritual gifts (12-14)
- Doubting the resurrection (15)

WARNINGS

- To warn is to show concern and bring to light impending danger
- Warnings are given out of love
- Love does not ignore the truth
- God’s love wants to forgive
- God’s justice requires fairness

1 Corinthian's FIVE warnings

1. Loss of reward (3:7-17)
   - Primarily applies to pastors/teachers
2. Loss of inheritance (6:9-11)
   - Applies to all believers
3. Loss of crown (9:24-10:13)
   - Applies to all believers
4. Loss of physical life (11:23-34)
   - Applies to all believers
5. Loss of fellowship (16:22)
   - Applies to all believers

Anathema – banned from **intimate fellowship** with the Lord Jesus Christ

- Matt 25:14-30
- A picture of the Judgment Seat of Christ
- An evaluation our works
- Commendation for good and faithful service
- Condemnation for evil and lazy neglect
- Exclusion from the joy of the Lord – the glory of His kingdom

Loving the Lord Jesus Christ

- Deut 30:11-20
- Love the Lord and receive the reward of the good life
- Turn from Him (hate Him) and receive the curse – death
- Heaven and earth witness the charge
- Choose to LOVE and receive LIFE!

Loving the Lord Jesus Christ

- How can I not Love Him!
- He has saved me from Eternal Death
- He has given me hope of Eternal Wealth
- His Holy Spirit dwells within me to comfort, strengthen, and guide me
- He has directed His angels to be my ministers
- His body ministers to me
- He has given me **all things** I need
- His eternal love has given and wants to give me so much…how can I not love Him!