

CHRIST'S SCRIPTURE PROPHECY ON CONTEMPORARY EVANGELICALISM

Part II: Christ's All-Sufficiency For Evangelicalism Presented

C. Christ's All-Sufficiency For Reaching The Unsaved

(Revelation 3:14b(c))

I. Introduction

- A. If Christ predicted **our** current *Evangelical* era of Church History, we should expect Him to comment on effective ministry to the **unsaved** as this is such a *key* goal for **Evangelicals** (see Part I in this series).
- B. Revelation 3:14b(c) shows us Christ's All-Sufficiency for ministry to today's *unsaved* people as follows:

II. Christ's All-Sufficiency For Reaching The Unsaved, Revelation 3:14b(c).

- A. In preparing to comment on **today's Evangelical era**, Jesus gave a threefold description of *Himself* in Rev. 3:14b(NIV): He is "The Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, The Ruler of the Creation of God."
- B. His **third title**, "the **Ruler** of the **creation** of God" (NIV) shows Christ's All-Sufficiency for *evangelism*:
 1. In the Greek N.T., **only** in Rev. 3:14 **and** Col. 1:15-18 are *archay* ("Ruler" NIV) & *ktiseos* ("creation") used to show Christ's relation to creation, Moulton & Geden, A Conc. to the Grk. T., p. 110-111, 564.
 2. The Col. 1:15-18 context [with Rev. 3:14b(c)] reveals Christ as the Preeminent Source of **evangelism**:
 - a. Col. 1:15-18 is couched between verses describing the salvation of the Colossians, cf. 1:13f, 19-23.
 - b. Then, Col. 1:15-18 with Rev. 3:14b(c) shows Christ is the Preeminent Source of their conversion by way of the term, "Firstborn": (a) In Col. 1:15, Jesus is the "Firstborn of all **creation**" (*ktiseos*). (b) Then, in Col. 1:18, He is the **same** "Firstborn" put in apposition to the "Beginning," or *archay* rendered "Ruler" in Rev. 3:14b(c)(NIV). (c) Well, the Col. 1:15, 18 title, "Firstborn" expresses Christ's **Preeminency**, Col. 1:18. (d) So, as Col. 1:15-18 pictures Christ as the Preeminent Source of all things in the context of the salvation of Paul's Colossian readers, Col. 1:15-18 with Rev. 3:14b(c) details Christ's role as the Preeminent Source of **evangelism** in ministry to the unsaved!
- C. Using Col. 1:15-18, we can thus discern the needs and solutions for evangelism in the Evangelical era:
 1. We itemize the **unique needs** in Evangelicalism's efforts to evangelize the unsaved (as follows):
 - a. Some Evangelicals have relinquished belief in pure creationism in favor of evolution or theistic evolution to evangelize, but Christ **counters** He is the Cause & Sustainer of all creation, 1:16a, 17b.
 - b. Some Evangelicals have **themselves** tried to defeat demons in outreach (using "strategic-level spiritual warfare," etc.), but Christ **counters** He is the Cause and Sovereign over all spirits, 1:16b.
 - c. Some Evangelicals have modified their theism to hold to an impotent God in reaction to Calvinism for evangelistic efforts (Armstrong, The Coming Evangelical Crisis, p. 33-36), but Christ **counters** He existed before creation, and made all things through & for Himself as Almighty God, 1:16c-17a.
 - d. Some Evangelicals have tried manipulation for outreach **results**, but Christ **counters** this: He is the Head of His Body, the Church, Col. 1:18a, a title explained in the **assuredly sister** Ephesian epistle (cf. Guthrie, N.T. Intro., p. 492-493) at Eph. 1:22-23; 4:15f. There, ((1)) Christ **rules** and ((2)) **gifts** ((3)) **each believer** ((4)) so the **Body** can **comprehensively** and ((5)) **effectively minister**, cf. 4:7-16.
 2. Thus, the **solutions** to Evangelicalism's outreach needs are these: (a) we must hold to belief in Christ's absolute Preeminence as Sole Cause and Sustainer of the universe and thus His All-Sufficiency in evangelism, and (b) thus align with His Word for effective outreach (1) by **individually** in **local churches staying at** those ministries that utilize **God's spiritual gifts** (Rom. 12:1-6a), (2) by heeding God's **geographical assignments** (Acts 16:6-10; Jas. 4:13-15), (3) by **trusting** God's **power** to live a **winsome** life before the lost (Gal. 5:16ff; Col. 4:5-6), (b) by **praying** for **opportunities** to witness (Col. 4:3), (5) by **praying** for **God's enabling** in witnessing to give the **Gospel**, the **power of God** (Col. 4:4; Rom. 1:17), (6) by **trusting God** to convict the lost (Jn. 16:8-11) and (7) by **trusting God** to save the lost without our trying to manipulate believers, the lost or evil spirits toward that end, cf. Col. 1:18.

Lesson: *Evangelicals have DEEPLY erred in seeking to reach the lost in their OWN methods and means (see Part I in this series). As only CHRIST is the Preeminent Entity in ALL effective evangelism, we must yield to HIS Biblical methods, means and theology for ALL effective outreach.*

Application: *Evangelicals must REPENT from self-help evangelistic efforts and heed Christ's lead!*