

## THE ANTICHRIST NEARS

by

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*He that is not with Me is against Me; and he that gathereth not with Me scattereth abroad* (Matt. 12:30).

Without the Cross, without struggle, there can be no salvation! This is what *true* Christianity teaches. Archbishop Averky<sup>1</sup>

...the chief subject of the Apocalypse is a mystical depiction of the future fate of the Church of Christ and of the whole world.... The aim of the Apocalypse is to depict this battle of the Church and its triumph over all enemies, to show clearly the perdition of the enemies of the Church and the glorification of her faithful children. Archbishop Averky<sup>2</sup>

All of contemporary life, on the public level, is a preparation for the coming of Antichrist: Fr. Seraphim Rose<sup>3</sup>

We are in the last days awaiting the coming of the Antichrist and the Apocalypse at which time the Lord will come the Second and Last time to enter His General Judgment on us. What we must do is get our houses in order; that is, our inner selves, our hearts. Our hearts need to soften for Christ, and we must struggle to do His Way.

We also would do well to consider many of this world's 'activities' to be what they are, harbingers of apostasy. This scenario leading up to the forerunner of Antichrist,<sup>4</sup> the prophet of Antichrist, and then to the coming of the evil imitator of Christ, Antichrist, has been painted by our Lord and is immutable. It is going to happen, in fact, its sketching is apparent now for those who would see. Forerunners of the Antichrist might include Hitler, Stalin & Communism, and, indeed, Freemasonry:

Already, right now there are specimens of religions such as can comprehend all religions – forerunners of the religion of the Antichrist. One such religion is Freemasonry. It has already been embraced by the more *progressive* (emphasis supplied) of the world's leaders. With its syncretism it can reconcile in the minds of fools all the religious antitheses of humanity and overcome all the obstacles and difficulties to union which the various churches will meet. What reason is there, indeed, for exerting so much effort to find acceptable solutions for dogmatic and other differences between the various denominations, and afterwards for the differences between religions,

and not for advancing directly to the union of all religions? To a kind of Freemasonry? Dr. Alexandre Kalomiros<sup>5</sup>

The twentieth century produced the ‘big daddy’ of all heresies, ecumenism. This insidious denial of the unity of the Church worms its way into the consciousness of this world in order to dispute the Truth, which is *not* of this world. The Church being One has not been sundered by these neo-Christian attempts to deconstruct the One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic Church (the True Orthodox Church) into a large number of units, each claiming to be a branch of the Church and thus part of it. Each little (or otherwise) group wants to be considered as a part of the Church, which had somehow lost its organic spiritual unity.

As Dr. Kalomiros forewarned above, the heretical ecumenists are leading a charge, and have been for a number of years, for all religions to be joined. Brethren, stay clear of all such activities. The sole avenue of salvation is through Jesus Christ, and this comes to us directly from Him:

*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me (John 14:6).*

And note the Apostle Peter’s words:

*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12).*

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ proclaimed that He was to be with us always. There never has been a time that Christ was absent from us. The True Church has always been here. Yet, we are expected to suffer for Christ. Christian martyrs lost their earthly existence whilst remaining resolute before their persecutors. This persecution continues today, directly and physically in a large area of the world, and more indirectly, less physically, in nominally Christian countries. Our United States would fit the latter category.

How are we persecuted? Well, oft times it is in the guise of the so-called Church-State separation within our constitutional framework. This has resulted in the most absurd circumstance in which Muslims are allowed to observe their religious ‘customs’ whilst the Ten Commandments are stripped from courthouses and public buildings. If a minority represents ½, 1 or 2% of the populace, it is catered to, but the overwhelming majority, Christians or neo-Christians, are denied the exercise of their religious roots. And, I might add that Christian roots are fundamental to the United States’ moral and historical development, not Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Kwanzaa, etc.

The latest American craze is to attack the celebration of the Saviour’s birth. It is now becoming ‘politically incorrect’ to even say “Merry Christmas” to others or send them Christmas cards, much less Orthodox Christmas cards! After all, you might offend one of them. So the new thing is to say “Happy Holidays” or send a card that includes this message without reference to Christ. Needless to say, we should never send such a card. One might ask “What on earth is going on? Well, for one thing, the Antichrist is coming. He may even be in the foyer, or, at least, near.

Lukewarm/tepid neo-Christians are not waiting for Christ to appear at His Second Coming. No, the gentle, humble Christ, not of this world, Who prepares and charts the Royal Path for us to follow in order to follow Him, is not what they await. They wait for a different kind of messiah, one attuned to the secular world, who marches to their drumbeat, who will pave the way for them to 'succeed' in this life. They want a malleable messiah, one who supports their materialistic desires; one who comes to satisfy them in this life on earth. In short, they want a human Christ who supports and provides for their wealth in the world, who is of the earth. They want a Christ of pleasure who then would 'fit in' with our western conceptions of success in this world. These people are expecting the same kind of messiah as the Jews are.

Remember, that the Jews rejected Christ as their messiah because He was not what they were expecting! They wanted an "earthly king, a world conqueror," an 'Alexander the Great'. Seeing Christ must have been a shock, this humble, gentle soul, Who spoke about what was not of this world and required their denial of this world before they could attain His spiritual kingdom. No one has put it better than Dr. Kalomiros:

When they saw Him poor and humble, meek and full of peace, one who offered no earthly goods but spoke of heavenly things, and not only that, but even asked them to deny the earthly and tangible so that liberated they could reach the heavenly and intangible, they realized that He was not for them. He was not the Messiah they awaited, but exactly the opposite.... And along with the Jews are millions of people awaiting the Messiah of the Jews, and most of them are called Christians. And they have no idea that they await the same Messiah as the Jews.<sup>6</sup>

Christians and neo-Christians who wait for such an earthly king, in fact, wait for the Antichrist!<sup>7</sup>

This world, run by the prince of darkness, is awash in fashionable relativism. Part of the forerunner's plan is to prepare the route for the Antichrist. Some of this involves raising doubts in the people's minds about truth. A major tool of the Antichrist is rationalistic relativism to spread the bald-faced lie that there is no such thing as truth. Don't you hear almost daily comments such as "There are two sides to every story," "Oh, everything is relative," "but it depends...,"? Christ's Truth is the complete Truth. It is not debatable.<sup>8</sup> True Christians do not engage in conversations where compromise is the 'name of the game'. We do not compromise one iota from Christ's Truth. There are no other variants of the ancient Christian Orthodox truth as He proclaimed to the Apostles and His other Disciples and as they and their successors faithfully relayed through the centuries to us. There is only one salvation and that is through Christ. Christ wants us to *confess* him not debate and compromise from His Way.

It is totally irrelevant that True Christians are in the minority. Christ will come again to save His flock, which may be tiny. He came to save us from the world, which was, and is, in the clutches of the evil one. We must decide which path to choose, Christ's or the satanic one of this world:

But Christ did not become man in order to save this world which abides in wickedness. Rather, He came to save His own *from* (emphasis supplied) the world, to pull them away from the ranks of the evil one, to unite them to Himself and to deify them by grace, and with them to save the entire groaning creation. The world is walking the way of death. It is following the ruler of *this* (emphasis supplied) world, the enemy of God. '*I do not pray for the world, but for those whom Thou hast given Me*' (John 9:17).<sup>9</sup>

Brethren, we must not be silent about these matters, about our precious Orthodox Christian Faith. To be silent is to disavow Christ. Say "No" resoundingly, yet not with malice, to those who may attempt to proselytise you away from the ancient Orthodox Church! Don't attend services with members of the 'official orthodox' bodies if they are involved in any ecumenistic prayer activities. If this leaves you with nowhere to go to Divine Liturgy, then stay home and pray and seek out a God-fearing Orthodox Bishop, who will stay the Divine course. In other words, we may have to retreat to the Catacombs to keep ourselves on the Royal Path. Concentrating on our inner selves and developing an Orthodox Heart and praying for guidance from the Lord will pay spiritual dividends. It is much better to pray alone according to the Orthodoxy of the Fathers than it is to place our souls under heretical hierarchs.

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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<sup>1</sup> On "Neo-Chiliasm," Appendix I in Archbishop Averky Taushev/tr/ed. Fr. Seraphim Rose, *THE APOCALYPSE in the teachings of Ancient Christianity* (Second Edition, Second Printing), St. Herman of Alaska Brotherhood, Platina, CA, 1998, p. 286.

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*, Introduction, p. 49.

<sup>3</sup> *id.*, About the Author, p. 20.

<sup>4</sup> Apocalypse 13 :11-13. "In these verses St. John speaks of the helper of the Antichrist – the false prophet – and his activity." Archbishop Averky, *op. cit.*, p. 190. The forerunner of the Antichrist prepares his "path of perdition," *id.*, p. 191.

<sup>5</sup> *Against False Union*, St. Nectarios Press, Seattle, WA, 1967, p. 13.

<sup>6</sup> *ibid.*, p. 10.

<sup>7</sup> *id.*, p. 8.

<sup>8</sup> *id.*, p. 6.

<sup>9</sup> *id.*, p. 7.