

PETER'S OLD MAN STRUGGLE

Our passage reveals one of the most spectacular events of the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ. It is called the Transfiguration of Jesus Christ.

The occasion of the Transfiguration is the background for this lesson. Next week we will study the details of the Transfiguration.

The Transfiguration occurred a week after Jesus taught His disciples the details of the doctrine of the Suffering Servant (the gospel of Church age) (Mark 8:31-33; Matt.16:21-23).

When Peter rejected this doctrine, Jesus taught a second doctrine on the requirements for becoming a Follower of Christ (Mark 8:34-9:1).

The Transfiguration took place a week after this bible conference. "After six days, Jesus took Peter, James, and John with Him and led them up a high mountain, where they were alone. There He was transfigured before them." (Mark 9:2)

This lesson will study SEVEN aspects of Peter's Old Man Struggle.

1. Let's examine the doctrinal concept of Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus thinking (Eph.4: 22-24).

Old Man (4:22) – "In reference to your former manner of life, *you lay aside (apotithemai/ a.m.infin) the old man (palaios anthropos)*, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit." (Eph.2:1-3)

Renewed mind (4:23) – "And that *you be renewed (ananeomai/ p.p.infin/ renovate)* in the spirit of your mind." (Rom.12:1-2)

New Man (4:24) – "And *you put on (enduo/ a.m.infin) the new man (kainos anthropos)*, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth." (Col.3:7-11)

False teaching can be a source of religious old man cosmos diabolicus thinking (1 Tim.4: 1-5,16; 2 Pet.2: 1-3,10; Phil.3: 1-10)

2. Peter's conflict with Jesus is a conflict of beliefs. It is a conflict between old man cosmos diabolicus thinking (OMCD) thinking and new man divine viewpoint thinking (NMDV). (Matt.16: 21-23).

Peter's OMCD thinking is causing negative volition (NV) to be expressed toward the presentation of relevant spiritual truth for his life.

For a Jew who looked for signs to confirm spiritual truth, Peter couldn't have received a bigger one than the Transfiguration (1 Cor.1: 22).

Peter has made himself incapable of accepting new truth no matter what the source whether empiricism and rationalism.

3. God Himself taught Peter the same doctrine in the Transfiguration and still Peter failed to accept it. The question to ask is why?

Jesus taught it to Peter and Peter rejected it (Mark 8:31-33).

God taught it to Peter and Peter rejected it (Mark 9:1-13). We know because of Peter's denial (Matt.26).

During God's part of the Transfiguration, He used the SHEMA formula (Deut.6: 4) to emphasize the doctrinal importance of it to Peter, James, and John – "Listen to Him (akouo/ p.a.impv/ hear and obey) (Mark 9:7).

4. Peter embraced the popular rabbinical teaching regarding the doctrine of the Coming of Christ (Messiah).

Peter had been taught only one Coming of Christ. The Old Testament taught two Comings but it was difficult but not impossible to discern doctrinally. Jesus is teaching this aspect of the Coming of Christ to His disciples at this time.

Peter believed in a crown WITHOUT a cross for the messianic age.

Peter believed that Jesus was the Messiah. He had left everything to follow Him (Mark 10:28). But Peter and the rest of the disciples believed in the crown WITHOUT a cross (Matt.20: 20-24).

5. Jesus Christ was teaching two Comings of Christ. In fact, the Transfiguration also taught it.

The First coming of Christ would involve the CROSS (Savior/ Heb.9: 28).

The Second Coming of Christ will involve the CROWN (King/ Rev.19:16).

However, this doctrine didn't jive with the popular Jewish teaching that Peter has embraced. The important question is which one is correct? God entered Peter's space and commanded SHEMA to the teaching of Jesus.

Yet Peter wasn't willing to put off the OMCD thinking, by the renewing of his mind in order to put on NMDV thinking regarding this doctrine (John 4:23; 8:32; 14:6; Eph.6: 14/ TRUTH).

6. Peter believed that Elijah must precede the Coming of Christ based on Mal.3: 1 and 4:4-6.

If Jesus is going to die as the Messiah, how can Elijah precede His return?

What possible connection does the resurrection of Jesus have with this doctrine? (Mark 9:9-13)

God sent Elijah and Moses to the Transfiguration bible conference for these three disciples (Mark 9:4-5).

7. Peter, James, and John were being given special instruction on the doctrine of Two Comings of Christ.

The herald of the First Coming of Christ was John Baptist (John 1:19-34; Luke 1:17,76-77) – CROSS (Savior).

The herald of the Second Coming of Christ will be Elijah and Moses (Rev.11) – CROWN (King).

Clarity will come with the mystery doctrine of the Church age following the resurrection-ascension of Jesus Christ (Eph.3: 3-10; 5:32). The church age would occupy the time and custodianship of evangelism and word of God between the First and Second Coming of Christ [John1:14; 2 Pet.1:16-21].