

## Carbonated Christians

### I. Slide#1 **Announce:**

A. Slide#2,3 **Albert** - Missionary from Peru.

### II. **Intro:**

A. Slide#4 Title: *Carbonated Christians*

B. Illust: (shaking up coke) There was a problem with the Thes bel's...they were *All Shook Up*.

1. Sodas are "saturated" with Carbonation (CO<sub>2</sub>). The soda flows into the bottle under 1200 psi of pressure & is capped before the carbonation can escape. As you open the cap, the CO<sub>2</sub> begins to escape, which is *the effervescence, the fizz, the bubbles* coming out of solution.
2. Slide#5 They were **shook up** over: *new prophecies, new letters written in Paul's name, & new things that people said had apostolic authority.*
3. Paul will comfort them by **popping the top**, letting out the pressure of the Thes church.
  - a) Reminding them to stick with what he had **already told them**.
  - b) He also gives them a **sequence of events** (3-10) to assure them/us that the church is destined for **salvation not judgment** (13).

C. **Outline:** I'm all shook up. Paul Pops the Top. Those who Reject the Truth. Those who Receive the Truth.

### III. Slide#6 **I'M ALL SHOOK UP (1,2)**

A. (1) Speaks of the Rapture.

B. (2) **Day of the Lord** – Day of the Judgment.

1. Word had circulated, "*we're in the Day of the Lord*" (because of the persecution that hit)
2. A shaking occurred [**Shaken** = *a restless tossing of a ship*]

C. **3 ways the rumors rolled:**

1. **Spirit** – supernatural revelation.
2. **Word** – in a discourse.
3. **Letter** – a forged letter.
  - a) See 3:17 also.

### IV. Slide#7 **PAUL POPS THE TOP (3-10a)**

A. Paul emphatically advises them, "*It hasn't happened yet!*"

1. Here's the Proof **The Day** hadn't begun [These things must take place 1st]

B. Slide#8 **1st THE FALLING AWAY (3a)**

1. **αποστασία** – Apostasy, the departure. (definite article **The**, not just a departure)

- a) Paul talks about it in more detail in 1 Tim. 4:1-3 **Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.**

C. **Slide#9 2nd THE MAN OF SIN REVEALED** (3b-10a)

D. This is the **start gun** of the Tribulation.

E. **Slide#10a DESCRIBED** (3b,4)

F. He's described 1st as **the man of sin** – speaking of his character as unalterably opposed to God.

G. **Next**, as the **son of perdition** – speaking of his **doom to destruction** like his forerunner (Judas) experienced. Jn.17:12 **Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.**

1. **Perdition** - The Semitic construction meaning “he who is destined to be destroyed”.

2. He is also known as: “The Little horn”; “The prince that will come”; “the willful king”; “The antichrist who shall come”; “The Beast out of the sea”.

3. There were to be other evil men to come along that will be called **antichrists**.

- a) 1 Jn.2:18 **Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. But this one is the personification of evil, the cultivation of all that is opposed to God.***Ryrie*

H. **Slide#10b HIS RELIGION** (4)

1. The Tribulation is surely not **w/o religion** - He's very religious.

2. He becomes an **active member**, & ultimately the leader of **The 1st church of Me, Myself, & I**. [3-Self Patriotic Movement] [**only state-sanctioned** (registered) **Protestant church in mainland China**]

3. **Man was made to Worship**...as is proof here.

4. **Here, he opposes God** (i.e. tries to stand in opposition, **not thwart**)

5. His religious system is connected with the Temple.

- a) In **Dan.9:27** he makes a cov. w/the Jews to open the Temple to them for 7 years. He breaks it in the middle, known as **the abomination of desolation**. Mt.24:13

I. **Slide#10c RESTRAINED** (5-7)

J. (6) **What or who is restraining?** (read 6-8)

K. The debate lies here. **I.D.ing** the Restrainer.

1. **Some say Governments** (their purpose is to restrain evil/Rom.13); **Or, Satan** (doesn't make sense w/vs.7); **Others say the H.S.**

2. It is **neuter** in vs.(6), **masculine** in vs.(7). **This works for the H.S.**

- a) The Greek word for **spirit** is **neuter**. **Yet**, the spirit is a **person**, so masculine works also (Jn.15:26;16:13,14)
- b) **Restrain** means to hold back, hinder. This was 1 of the 1st works of the H.S. recorded. Gen.6:3 **My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.**
- 3. “Ultimately we see the Holy Spirit in the bel.’s. Once the Holy Spirit restraining power through the church is removed, the antichrist will make his move.” ChuckSmith
- 4. Our promise from Mt.16:18 **The gates of hell shall not prevail against His church.**
  - a) **The church** will not go thru **The trib.** because *the restrainer will be removed* before the man of sin is revealed.
- L. (7) **Taken out of the way** – **Problem: How could the Spirit be taken out?** (omnipresence?)
  - 1. Big difference between one’s **residence** & one’s **presence**.
    - a) His **presence** will not be **taken away** from the earth; Just His **residence**...the **indwelling** of the believers.
    - b) Many will be saved during the tribulation (Rev.7:14) & only God can do the work of Regeneration. **God will work as He did in the O.T. times.**
    - c) Ryrie said, *“God’s universal & permanent residence in His people is a distinctive relationship in that day of Grace.”*
- M. **Slide#10d DESTROYED** (8)
- N. This section describes the **power** of the man of sin, **yet** its underlying note is the **Sovereign & Almighty power** of God.
- O. Here is God’s 2-fold military strike: **Consume & destroy.**
- P. **His 2 weapons: His Breath & His Brightness.**
  - 1. **His breath** – from Is.11:4 **He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.**
  - 2. **His Brightness** – His very appearance will **destroy** him (*not annihilate*).
    - a) **Destroy** – *render inactive, to put out of commission.* LKGNT
- Q. **Slide#10e EMPOWERED** (9,10)
- R. The antichrist will be **Satan powered**.

## V. **Slide#11 THOSE WHO REJECTED THE TRUTH (10b-12)**

- A. **Slide#12a THEIR CONSEQUENCE** (10b-11)
  - 1. The problem isn’t believing **A** lie, **but THE** lie.
  - 2. *All men are believers in something.*

3. (11) If you refuse Christ in the age of Grace, why do you think you'll receive him during that 7 year space? [note: *God will send...*]

B. Slide#12a THEIR CONDEMNATION (12)

- C. Their judgment is justified: They did not believe the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

1. You can't go any lower than this... *Complete opposition to God & His truth.*

## VI. Slide#13 THOSE WHO RECEIVE THE TRUTH (13-17)

A. "Here is a system of theology in miniature." James Denney

1. Slide#14a Their Source (13a) Chosen, from the beginning. Its end purpose, *Salvation*
2. Slide#14b Their Method (13B) Accomplished through Sanctification.
3. Slide#14c Their Means (13c) Belief. [another blend of divine & human]
4. Slide#14d Their Goal (14) Glory.

- a) Slide#15 John Stott said, "In the eternity of the past God **chose** us to be saved. Then he called us in time, causing us to hear the gospel, **believe** the truth & be **sanctified** by the Spirit, w/a view to our sharing Christ's **glory** in the eternity of the future. In a single sentence the apostles mind sweeps from "**the beginning**" to "**the glory**". There is no room in such a conviction for fears about Christian instability. Let the devil mount his fiercest attack on the feeblest saint, let the Antichrist be revealed & the rebellion break out, yet over against the instability of our circumstances & our characters, we set the eternal stability of the purpose of God." *Wow*

5. Slide#16 Their Responsibilities (15) Stand Fast, Hold the traditions.

- a) Traditions – R.C. use this to support their case for their esteem of *tradition*.

- b) Hold fast to the *soon to be written down* traditions of the Apostles.

(1) Remember this is only the 3rd book out of 27 penned so far (50,51ad).

(2) Bible + Traditions? [*Protesters/Protestants* screamed **NO**, *Sola Scriptura*]

B. THEIR ARGUMENTS *our response*

1. Slide#17a It never says Scripture **Alone**.

- a) *Alone* doesn't have to be in the text for it to be a truth.

2. Slide#17b The Bible teaches that **tradition** should be followed.

- a) *Yes*, it should have been... *till it was penned*.

- b) There is no evidence that all the revelation God gave them to express was not *inscripturated* in the 27 books of the N.T.

3. Slide#17c The bible **can't** be properly understood w/o tradition.

- a) *Yes*, the bible has **perspicuity** *apart from* traditions. (perspicuity = easily understood)

- (1) We do not need an aid to understand it (except the H.S.)
  - b) This says that all doctrines that essential to salvation are sufficiently clear.
  - c) “To assume that oral traditions of the Apostles not recorded in the bible, are necessary to interpret what is recorded under inspiration, is to argue in effect that “the uninspired is more clear than the inspired”.
  4. Slide#17d Tradition & the bible are inseparable.
    - a) The very statement *refutes itself*. [if 2 things are separated, how can they be inseparable?]
  5. Slide#17e Excluding traditions violates the principle of causality [an effect (the bible) cannot be greater than its cause [i.e. the bishops who put together the canon]
    - a) There problem: The Magisterium determined the Canon so therefore they have authority interpreting what it says.
    - b) There false assumption: They didn’t determine the Canon (standard/rule). No, God did by inspiring these books & no other books.
    - c) The church or magisterium discovered which books. God had determined them.
      - (1) The term the original church council used...was *recipimus*, we receive.
    - d) This was done by: The Canon...
      - (1) must have Apostolic authorship.
      - (2) must have been received by the early church.
      - (3) must be in harmony w/the books about which there is no doubt.
    - e) Even Catholic Dogma states “they received & recognize but didn’t cause or produce it.”
  6. Slide#17f Rejecting tradition leads to denominationalism (a splintering).
    - a) Beliefs w/in R.C. vary widely such as [*Dominicans, Franciscans, & Jesuits*].
      - (1) This is self-condemning. Actually those who hold to **Scripture Only** maintain less of a splitting actually.
  7. Slide#17g Rejecting tradition is unhistorical.
    - a) The 1st cent, Christians didn’t have the N.T. to teach them. So, using the bible *Alone* was impossible w/o *apostolic tradition*. But...the apostles were still alive. And they still had the O.T. Also, there was no need of an *apostolic succession* (papacy), they simply had to write down what we know today as *the infallible apostolic writings*, i.e. the N.T.
  8. Slide#18 Their Blessings (16,17) A whole slew of them.
- C. Wrap Up:
1. Slide#19 Don’t be *shaken*. Your not in *the* trib. You didn’t miss the Rapture. You don’t have to deal w/the man of sin. Stand fast. Hold firm. Our Father loves you. He gives eternal encouragement, hope, grace, comfort, strength, in every word & work.