

CURRENT EVENTS AND THE BIBLE

Greetings precious people, this week we are going to examine another of today's events and how it relates to the Word of God the Bible. Last week we considered the subject of deception and this week I would like to continue on in this vein in regards to how it will be seen in what is known as the "church".

We are told in the Word of God the Bible that one of the marks that will identify the "Last Days" and usher in the anti-christ will be the Apostasia also known as the Apostasy, the falling away from the faith. In 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5 we are told, "Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day (the day of Christ's return) will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?"

This is directed toward those who consider themselves to be "Christians", church goers. The falling away has to do with "the faith". The Bible is very careful to qualify Biblical saving faith from just any other faith. Everyone has faith in something or someone whether it is a rite, ritual, formality, person (including one's self) etc. But only the faith of Jesus Christ that is given as a gift as revealed in Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." can and will save a person from the penalty of Hell for sin.

We are warned by the Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 4:1-2 "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." And 2 Tim 4:3-4, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables."

The obvious implication which I am sure you can see is that in order to fall away from "the faith" one has to have had held to it previously at some point in time in one way or another. The above verses give us some of the reasons for this. "deceiving spirits; doctrines of demons; lies; wanting their own desires satisfied; wanting to feel justified in one's own sin.

We are seeing which has just been described to us from these verses in great degrees as we look at what is known as the "church". Most main line denominations which once held to the inerrancy of the Word of God have abandoned this for the vain and empty philosophies of man. We are warned in Colossians 2:8, "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ." The word "cheat" in this verse comes from the Greek word that means to take a person captive.

How descriptive this is of most of those who call themselves Christians today. As there has been an exodus from the Word of God to the philosophies of man such as

humanism; psychology; sociology; narcissism; et al and the traditions of men these have become in terrible bondage to the very thing Christ came to set us free from, namely: sin, Satan, and self.

Let me cite some statistics taken of those who consider themselves to be “born again” Christians. The Barna Group in 2009 found that among individuals who describe themselves to be Christians nearly half do not believe that Satan is real; 1/3 contend that Jesus sinned while here on the earth; 2/5 say they do not feel a responsibility to tell others about Jesus; 1/3 believe it is acceptable to kill a baby while still in the mother’s womb; ¼ dismiss the idea that the Bible is accurate in all of the principles it teaches. I could cite many more statistics from other sources that are as troubling but space does not permit.

Where are you dear one? Jesus and His Word are not like the Home Town Buffet where you can take what you like and refuse the rest or taste a little and if you don’t like it throw it away. He demands that you take it all or leave it.

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