

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. Nearly every book in the New Testament has something to say concerning the Last Days (the time prior to the return of Jesus Christ). The little Book of Jude, just one chapter is no exception. In Jude 17-19, "But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; how that they told you there should be *mockers in the last time*, who should *walk after their own ungodly lusts*. These are they **who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.**"

As we consider these warnings we are first reminded to consider the words of the apostles of Jesus who gave similar warnings, specifically those that would mock the things of God and walk (live) after their own ungodly lusts. The Apostle Peter wrote in 2 Peter 3:1-4, "Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."

Jesus also warned us that as it was in the days of Noah and Lot when the people were warned of God's impending judgment they responded with cruel mockings and ridicule. So how does this line up with what is going on in our day?

Outside the church we have men like Richard Dawkins and a number of others that say that anyone that believes in the Bible is "stupid". Others are not so strong in their criticism of Christians but they scoff at the possibility of the Bible is true and relevant for today. It is understandable that there would be those outside the church that would mock and ridicule the truth but what about those inside the "church". Could it be that in the "last days" there would be those who call themselves Christians that would mock and ridicule the truth of God's Word?

Absolutely! We are seeing this in record numbers among those that consider themselves to be Christians. A few weeks ago I cited some statistics and would like to cite a few more to prove my point. The following are a compilation of findings by a number of reputable surveys taken by Barna Group, Alan Guttmacher Institute, and others: 45% of those "professing" to be born-again Christians believe that gambling is morally acceptable; 49% believe that living with someone that you are not married to is acceptable; 49% we comfortable with entertaining sexual thoughts and 53% visit internet porn sites each week; 33% believe that killing a baby while still in the mother's womb (through abortion) was okay; 49% do not believe in the literal existence of Satan; 25% dismiss the idea that the Bible is accurate in all of the principles it teaches; 41% say the Bible, Koran and Book of Mormon are just different expressions of the same spiritual truths. I could unfortunately list several more but I think you catch what I am saying.

God and His Word are mocked by those "professing" to be Christians as they say they believe one thing (God and His Word) and then live contrary to the way of God; it is a mockery (we also call it hypocrisy). The work hypocrite comes from a Greek word that was used to describe a theater actor, one who is "playing a part". There are many "imposters" in what is called the church today.

In Titus 1:14-16, “To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled. They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.”

In conclusion, we are warned of coming judgment, in 1 Peter 4:17-18, “For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Now "If the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?" Dear ones, in which of the two camps are you in? The imposter camp or the genuine one?

Drew Macintyre is associate pastor of Calvary Chapel of Alpine and can be reached at 619-445-2589, or ccalpine@juno.com