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August 2024 “Are You Falling Away?”

Dear Friend,

In his second letter to the church at Thessalonica, the Apostle Paul wrote this warning,

1Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, 2That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 3Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. (2 Thessalonians 2:1-4)

This is speaking of end-time events which are further described in the book of Revelation. Growing up in church, I was always under the impression that the “falling away” Paul mentioned was in reference to the lost, those who had not yet accepted Jesus as Savior. But years later I meditated much further on that passage and began to wonder, “Since the lost aren’t born again, what could they fall away from?”

As I dug even further, I discovered that the phrase “falling away” comes from the Greek word “apostasía” and it means, “to depart, departure, apostasy, forsake, defection.” To be brief, Paul was explaining that leading up to the anti-Christ/false prophet/beast spoken of in Revelation coming to prominence, there would be a great number of Christians falling away or departing from the truth of the Gospel.

How could this happen? How could Christians make a willing decision to depart from the Gospel? The answer is found in Paul’s second letter to Timothy,

1I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; 2Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 3For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. 5But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. (2 Timothy 4:1-5)

Paul was letting Timothy know that many Christians would turn away from truth and sound doctrine, instead embracing doctrinal error taught by teachers who themselves are greatly deceived. Paul says they will give themselves over to “fables,” which comes from the Greek word “muthos,” from which we get our English word “myths.” In other words, it is a teaching which references the Bible, but twists and distorts the truth to support living in a way which

contradicts what is written. Paul was encouraging Timothy to only preach truth and not allow himself to get caught up in using fables to gain popularity, and that he should endure the criticisms and rejection of those who would rather satisfy their itching ears. This is very similar to the admonition Paul wrote in his first letter to Timothy,

1Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; (1 Timothy 4:1-2)

20O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: 21Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen. (1 Timothy 6:20-21)

The warnings Paul gave to Timothy are critically important for us today. I grew up knowing there are numerous denominations, each with their own perspective on scripture; but never have I known of so many churches deviating from truth, creating their own interpretations of sin, and redefining what it means to be a Christian. New versions of the Bible have been released which are despicable, borderline heretical, and create a narrative that cannot be found in or supported by the Greek or Hebrew writings. Furthermore, it is absolutely shocking how many pastors and lay Christians embrace and use these blasphemous “Bibles” for their teachings and sermons.

Pastors around the world are opening their pulpits to guest speakers who have no business preaching anywhere or teaching anyone. I cannot begin to tell you how many times I have been invited by pastors in Third World nations to preach in their church or hold crusades in their villages and cities. When I ask them how many of my sermons they’ve listened to, almost 100% of them reply that they have **NEVER** listened to even one of my sermons, all they know about me is what they have seen at my church’s website.

I remind those pastors they have been entrusted to shepherd the sheep of God’s pasture. As such, they will stand before God in judgment for who they allow to feed their flock. God wants His children to lie down in green pastures and be led beside still waters, not sit in the midst of thistles and thorns, drinking from rancid, putrid waters. He wants them feasting at a table set with the milk and meat of His Word, not dining on a meal of vomit and defecation (Isaiah 28:7-13).

The first of my three ministry trips to Kenya took place in 2013. Each time there have been many pastors and evangelists attending the services. During each trip I made sure they knew they could access all of my sermons online at no charge. I also informed them they could receive my monthly ministry letters at no charge. The response to all of these conferences was very positive. However, I have noticed on social media that some of them who were very excited and encouraged by my teaching have since returned to unscriptural religious teachings as well as exalting cultural traditions over the standards of God’s Word.

Why has this happened? Primarily, it’s because they have been inundated by the teachings of American preachers who stir emotions with doctrinal error instead of feeding people with biblical truth. Furthermore, so many of these American preachers have delivered terribly imbalanced prosperity messages that have led scores of those pastors away from God’s true Kingdom path to increase. But it isn’t just ministers in Third World nations who have developed itching ears and succumbed to teaching inspired by seducing spirits, the same thing is happening throughout the world, and at one time I was just as guilty.

I began pastoring in 1994 while still in a traditional, Pentecostal denomination. When it came to inviting guest preachers, I was not very cautious about who I allowed in the pulpit. If they were recommended, or pastored a church in the same denomination, I assumed they would only deliver truth. Then, in 1996 I began listening to Pastor Dave Roberson and his teachings about how to properly meditate scripture and how praying in tongues enables the Holy Spirit to teach directly to a Christian's born again spirit. Not only did I listen, but I spent time diligently searching the scriptures to confirm what he was teaching.

As I began applying and doing what he taught, it changed my life and ministry. Verses, passages, and entire Books of the Bible began opening up to me like never before. In the process, I began to realize that so many of the preachers I had been listening to were teaching a mixture of truth and doctrinal error. One by one, I stopped listening to those preachers and reading their books. I also became extremely cautious about who I allow to preach in our church. For almost 28 years now, the preachers I've listened to the most (outside of fellow ministers in our church) are Pastor Dave Roberson, Gary Carpenter, Tim Stemple and Pastor Bronc Flint. Pastor Dave is now with Jesus, but his teachings are still available at his website. (I have included the websites of these ministers at the end of this letter.)

You need to understand that just because someone preaches salvation through faith in Jesus does NOT mean he or she is stable in the rest of their theology. It is important that we all take seriously what God has said in His Word about those we allow to speak into our lives.

17Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. 18For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple. (Romans 16:17-18)

Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.
(1 Corinthians 1:10)

6I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.
(Galatians 1:6-9)

O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? (Galatians 3:1)

6Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us. 7For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; 14And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. (2 Thessalonians 3:6-7, 14)

3If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; 4He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, 5Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. (1 Timothy 6:3-5)

10A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; 11Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.
(Titus 3:10-11)

19Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.
(Ephesians 2:19-22)

14That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 16From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. (Ephesians 4:14-16)

(I strongly encourage you to study James 3:1-2, 2 Peter 2:1-22, 1 John 2:18-29 and Jude 1:1-25)

Some pastors in other nations have referred to me as “papa,” or “daddy,” or as a “father in the faith,” yet they rarely ever listen to my sermons. Making it worse, they (as well as Christians in the United States) run to and fro from one conference and crusade to another, opening themselves up to untold winds of doctrines which have no true foundation in Kingdom truth. Sadly, too many ministers and lay Christians are captivated by “Prophet So-and-So,” “Apostle So-and-So,” and “Evangelist So-and-So,” and see it as a status symbol if they can fellowship with them or have them preach in their church.

The great falling away is happening **RIGHT NOW**. Occasionally, people who should have more spiritual discernment have sent me links to sermons or prophecies by preachers I do not – and will not – follow unless they get their doctrine corrected. Christians more than ever are turning step-by-step away from truth, rejecting sound doctrine, and following after teachers who are in no way helping them fulfill Colossians 2:6-7,

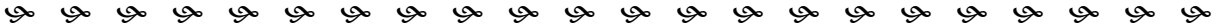
6As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: 7Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Where are you in your Christian life? Who are you listening to? You may be born again and even filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, but who are your teachers? Who is your pastor? Do you ever take the time to search the scriptures to confirm that what

you're hearing was first delivered by those who wrote the Bible? Are you sure the prophecies you find so exciting are genuinely birthed by the Spirit of God? In 1 Corinthians chapter 3 the Holy Spirit, through the Apostle Paul, gives a very sobering, no-nonsense warning to all Believers concerning what they accept as truth and the judgment they will face; I suggest you read that chapter. Guard yourself against falling away. Be willing to turn from anyone who is not feeding you with the unaltered Word of God. Stay on the narrow path of eternal truth and be prepared for a joyous welcome into eternity with your Heavenly Father.

In His Grace,

Jim



WEBSITES OF MINISTERS

Pastor Dave Roberson: daveroberson.org (Tim Stemple's teachings can be found at this site.)
Gary Carpenter: garycarpenter.org
Pastor Bronc Flint: broncflint.org

NEW TEACHING SERIES

I am in the midst of teaching a new series titled "Financial Breakthrough and Revival." It is not about obtaining massive amounts of wealth by following the instructions heard in many popular prosperity sermons. Instead, this series explains the five reasons Believers need money, the four methods to approaching increase, and the Kingdom principles for increase.

One of the reasons this series is needed is the way American preachers have taught a false gospel of wealth in Third World nations, including throughout the African continent. Additionally, far too many pastors in those nations have been trained to depend on American preachers for financial support instead of how to trust God for needs to be met.

The sermons in this series are available at our website in MP3 format, or you can watch the videos of each sermon. Believe me when I tell you that this series may be unlike any teaching on financial increase you have ever heard.



____ Please send me a CD of the companion sermon to this letter, *Deception is Getting Worse*.

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