



Endtimes Signs

The Falling Away

In this Endtimes Signs discussion I will be taking a look into the topic of the Falling Away. Here is the scripture verse that will get us started. 2 Thessalonians 2: 1-3

‘Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That 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. Let 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.’ KJV

And here is another translation to consider.

‘And now, what about the coming again of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to meet him? Please don’t be upset and excited, dear brothers, by the rumor that this day of the Lord has already begun. If you hear of people having visions and special messages from God about this, or letters that are supposed to have come from me, don’t believe them. Don’t be carried away and deceived regardless of what they say. For that day will not come until two things happen: first, there will be a time of great rebellion against God, and then the man of rebellion will come—the son of hell.’ TLB

The King James translation calls this sign a falling away, while the Living Bible translation calls it the great rebellion. I like to think about it this way. There is coming a time of great rebellion against God and it will be seen that multitudes are

falling away from the Christian faith.

Now before we take a deeper look into this endtime sign, I want to introduce another scripture verse which reveals a few other signs that actually point to why the falling away will happen. That verse is 1 Timothy 4:1-2 and as usual, I will start with the King James translation and also include another translation.

‘Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.’ KJV

‘But the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some in the church will turn away from Christ and become eager followers of teachers with devil-inspired ideas. These teachers will tell lies with straight faces and do it so often that their consciences won’t even bother them.’ TLB

So let’s see here, we have 5 signs revealed in the passages above.

1. A falling away from the faith which is caused by the following 4 signs
2. Christians giving heed to seducing spirits
3. Doctrines of demons being introduced
4. Speaking lies in hypocrisy going on
5. Individuals having their consciences being seared as with a hot iron

Let’s take a closer look at how they are playing out in society today.

The original word from which falling away comes from, is apostasia. According to Strong's, it means: a defection from truth, apostasy, falling away, forsake. So this falling away, is a forsaking and deflection from truth. Deflection means changing direction and going away from.

There are some that believe the apostasy only applies to the church. I believe the meaning of apostasy used here involves the church but also all of mankind and that a large majority will forsake the truth of what is good and moral.

What would cause people to deflect from and forsake the truth of what is good and moral? It has been said, that if you put a frog into a pot of boiling water, that it will leap out right away to escape the danger. However, if you put a frog, in a pot that is filled with cool and pleasant water, and then gradually heat the pot until it starts boiling, the frog will not become aware of the threat, until it is too late. This is a great analogy and shows one of the ways in which Satan gradually draws people

away from the truth about what is right and wrong.

Little by little, wickedness has crept more and more into society. Almost all systems of communication and mass media have become infected. Most forms of mass media are owned by people with agendas and whatever comes from them, is either filtered or spun to meet their purposes. Even public education has been corrupted so that many children have become adults with warped concepts, not realizing that they were misled. Most parents did not even realize it was happening.

The devil has many modes of operation in the world we live in. Deception is so rampant; one can hardly know which report to believe about anything. More people are willing to deceive others for whatever their agendas are. Political correctness has become like adult peer pressure. People live in fear of offending someone or being ridiculed; and will not speak up at times when the truth needs to be stood up for. Silence is consent. Temptation is more available than ever.

There is an epidemic of the desensitization of sin from the devil's little by little technique. The attitude of self-importance is out of control. There is an epidemic of my wants, my needs, my group, my ethnicity, my rights, including to sin, etc. There are many more tools in the devil's bag of tricks, but these are some that are very obvious.

It seems that often there is little difference in the lives of those who profess to be Christians, and those who do not. The Lord has said, to be friends with the world, is to be at enmity with God. Our carnal, human nature is selfish and directs us to please that nature. It is in direct opposition of seeking to please God. Human nature seeks self-gratification and is even righteous in its own eyes. The darkness in this world, both human and demonic, hate the Light and are getting bolder and bolder in showing that hate.

Why do people not recognize this evil agenda and the toll it is taking? No matter what trick the devil uses, people who reject God are defenseless to recognize the snares set for them and the enemy takes full advantage of it. The more a person rejects the conviction of the Holy Spirit, the more they lose their ability to hear His voice and their moral reasoning, the discernment to recognize right from wrong.

Sometimes it has been described as having a seared conscience. When a person continues in a sin, knowing it is wrong, but loves the sin the most, they begin to justify it and become unable to hear correction for their situation. Usually, the only hope of ever being free, is to be given over to it.

We are slaves to whatever or whoever we obey, and this is especially true to sin.

Sin opens the door to the devil and his demons. He has demons of pride, addiction, hate, greed, lust, rebellion, witchcraft and more. Once those demons have someone, they can only be free if they want it bad enough and sincerely call upon the Lord. This great falling away will be possible because of the love of sin and the refusal to live by their Creator's rules.

We have a spiritually dark planet that is growing darker. This type of apostasy is what happened before the Flood and also led to the Tower of Babel. It will happen again but in a greater measure because multitudes are currently being drawn into the deceptions of Satan that are increasing and permeating every facet of society.

In case you did not realize it, society's view of religion, and in particular Christianity, has been diminishing at an alarming rate. Here is a sobering thought. According to a 2020 Pew Research Center study, about 64% of Americans call themselves Christian today. That might sound like a lot, but 50 years ago, or back in the 1970's that number was 90%.

In closing out this endtimes signs discussion I want to make a final statement based upon 2 Thessalonians 2: 1-3, which is the scripture we started with. From the apostle Paul's insights he shared with the Thessalonian Christians, it appears that Jesus will not be returning until after the man of sin has been revealed. Does that shake up your theological beliefs a bit?

Yes, we are to always be ready for the return of Jesus because he will return as a thief in the night when most all of the world will be taken by surprise. Yet Paul made it very clear that the event of Jesus returning is not going to happen until there is a falling away from the faith and the man of sin, or the antichrist, has first made his appearance. In a way it's kinda simple logic. Until there is a man of sin, the antichrist, on the scene, how can Jesus return to destroy him?

Unless you believe that Jesus is going to have 2 second comings. A pre-trib rapture and a post- trib return.... which has pretty much been debunked over the years. Some still believe that, but I am of the opinion that there is only going to be one return, which will not only surprise an unexpecting world, but also a whole lot of pre-tribbers as well.

‘And now, what about the coming again of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to meet him? Don't be carried away and deceived regardless of what they say. For that day (the return of Jesus) will not come until two things happen: **first**, there will be a time of great rebellion against God, and **second**, then the man of rebellion will come.’ 2 Thessalonians 2: 1-3 TLB