

THE RIGHT KIND OF FAITH (Apostasy – A Sign of the Times)

The first coming of Christ marked the coming of the “last days” (cf. Heb. 1:1). This whole last days’ period is defined by increasing apostasy until it gives way to the ultimate apostasy under Antichrist. The New Testament consistently implies that as we get closer to the end of the church age, the PROGRESSION of apostasy will become worse and worse.

2 Timothy 3:13 (NKJV)

13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

1 Timothy 4:1 (NKJV)

1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

1 John 2:19 speaks of those who went out from the apostles, in effect abandoning the faith. In that context, John speaks of characteristic last days’ apostasy, which was already present in his day.

1 John 2:18 (NKJV)

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.

How do we know it is the last hour? Because MANY ANTICHRISTS HAVE COME! This is what defines the LAST HOUR. The spirit of Antichrist is really the spirit of Apostasy. It will become increasingly strong, until it gives way to the reign of Antichrist.

Apostasy is defined as a “**departure from the faith.**” Paul defines it in the context of those who still have “a form of godliness” but deny its power (2 Tim. 3:5). They keep the God-talk and go through the motions of religion, but in practice, they are APOSTATE. According to Paul, this will define “last days’ perilous times.” We are there! Both Paul and Peter address this issue of APOSTASY at length in their last letters (cf. 2 Tim. 3-4; 2 Peter 2-3). In dealing with “last days” issues, the first thing Jesus says to the disciples is, “**Take heed that no one deceives you.**” (Mt. 24:4).

In a context emphasizing prevailing prayer, Jesus says:

Luke 18:8 (NKJV)

8 “I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”

We know from the whole counsel of God that when the Son of Man comes, He will find a remnant holding to the faith. However, as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be; and as it was in the days of Lot, so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed (cf. Lk. 17:26-30). Jesus is saying that what will define the last days is APOSTASY – a godless society that has no thought for God. Yes, there will be a remnant, but it will be a comparatively small remnant, even as in the days of Noah and Lot.

The closing days of the church age will be marked by increasing apostasy (2 Tim. 3-4); and the Tribulation Period to follow will be marked by climactic apostasy! Welcome to last days' MADNESS!

In the context of warning about apostasy, the writer of Hebrews instructs the believers to be “exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Heb. 10:25).

How do we see the Day approaching? Well, one KEY way is in observing an increasing level of APOSTASY. This is what will characterize the perilous last days. This is where we live. We see THE DAY approaching!

General widespread apostasy is one of the clearest “signs of the times” (cf. Mt. 16:2-3) that the end of the Church Age is at hand and yet we dare not set any dates (Matt. 24:36). Hence, the exhortation to LIVE READY!

LIVE READY my friends, LIVE READY!