

A TIME OF APOSTASY

By Brother Mike Sutherland

Turn in your Bibles to:

³ Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, ⁴ 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 the creation. *2 Peter 3:3-4*

We are living in a day when scoffing false prophets and scoffing false teachers have tried to turn every thing upside down so that things are right in their own eyes. It is mass confusion and God is not the author of confusion. We live in a time when God and his word are mocked because right is called wrong and wrong is called right. God is not happy about it either. God said in *Isaiah 5:20-21*:

²⁰ Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! ²¹ Woe unto *them that are* wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! *Isaiah 5:20-21*

We are also living in a time when Christian men and women just will not stand up and be counted for God. The greater responsibility and judgement for this situation lies with the men because God has ordained that Christian men should take the spiritual leadership role both in the home and in the church. Many of these so called Christian men and women are really not Christians, but merely have a profession that is without the presence of faith and the power of the Holy Ghost. Elijah asked the nation of Israel a very apt question for the professing Christians of today. He said in *1 Kings 18:21*:

²¹ And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD *be* God, follow him: but if Baal, *then* follow him. And the people answered him not a word. *1 Kings 18:21*

We have an effeminate Christianity today that is not willing to fight the fight of faith. The Bible says that Christians are to earnestly contend for the faith (*Jude 3*). Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong (*1 Corinthians 16:13*). Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ (*2 Timothy 2:3*). When all things are considered, it really is a question of faith. When the Lord Jesus Christ asked the question in *Luke 18:8* “when the Son of Man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?”, it was really not a question, but rather a statement of conditions that would exist on the earth when he returned. Those that do not have faith will wither and fade away in the heat of the battle. In the battle that is set before us, those that suffer from a spirit of fear cannot win the victory. *2 Timothy 1:7-8* says:

⁷ For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. ⁸ Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me

A TIME OF APOSTASY

his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; 2 *Timothy 1:7-8*

Many professing Christians today act like they are ashamed to be Christians. This ought not to be so. For we should not be ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth. For, I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. Hallelujah!

Why is it that we are living in an age when professing Christian pastors, preachers, and teachers fear man more than God? Why is it that we are living in an age when most professing Christians are ashamed of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ? It is because most professing Christians today are not possessors of salvation. They hold to a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof. They have no true knowledge of God for they have no fear of God and his word. Therefore they can have no knowledge that counts for anything with God. The Bible says in *Proverbs 1:7*:

⁷The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction. *Proverbs 1:7*

Our churches and pulpits are chock full of a mixed multitude of unbelievers, apostates, scoffers, and scorners. Yes, this apostate group even includes some Christians that have no backbone because they have not been properly disciplined. We have churches that are full of people who cannot and will not be taught because they have pastors and teachers that are more concerned with self esteem and their paychecks than they are with the glory of God. They cannot teach the word of God with authority because they do not believe it. These spineless preachers, pastors and teachers are more concerned with telling their congregations what the congregations want to hear than what God wants the congregation to hear. If the preachers, pastors, and teachers would just stand up and proclaim the word of God it will do that which God has sent it to do. *Hebrews 4:12* says:

¹²For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. *Hebrews 4:12*

Isaiah 55:11 says:

¹¹ So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it. *Isaiah 55:11*

If God has not sent it, then it is worthless anyhow. If God has sent it forth, it will accomplish the purpose for which he sent it forth.

The reason our churches and pulpits are chock full of a mixed multitude of unbelievers, apostates, scoffers, and scorners is that the word of God is NOT being boldly proclaimed without compromise. I love each and every one sitting here, but I would never sacrifice the word of God on the altar of

A TIME OF APOSTASY

your feelings or mine. The word of God is not politically correct. I would rather offend man than to offend God. Why are most people not coming to genuine Bible believing salvation? We are living in a time of easy prayerism. We deceptively manipulate to stipulate that someone is saved by a faithless sinner's prayer. I cringe every time I hear the sinner's prayer. Salvation is more than a sinner's prayer. Repentance is more than a sinners prayer. The so called sinner's prayer is based upon the actions of the publican in *Luke 18:9-14*. I would venture to say that at least 95% of the sinner's prayers that are prayed at the end of shallow presentations of the gospel are not accompanied by the obvious sincerity, humility, and repentance of the publican in Luke chapter 18. There must be repentance. There is a heart felt prayer of a sinner that God hears. It is a prayer of faith and repentance. When there is no faith, there is no repentance. Where there is no repentance there is no salvation. Professed salvation without repentance is a ticket straight into the fiery pits of hell. If you do not repent, you are going to hell. Most presentations of the gospel do not emphasize the need for repentance. Repentance is not being preached from our pulpits. Repentance is not being presented as necessary for salvation. The book of Acts places a very strong emphasis on the absolute necessity for repentance in salvation. Check it out for yourself in *Acts 2:38; 3:19; 5:31; 8:22; 11:18; 13:24; 17:30; 19:4, 20:21; and 26:20*.

Faith and repentance are the two faces of salvation on the same head. I liken salvation to a two sided coin. Faith is on one side of the coin and repentance is on the other side of the coin. They cannot be separated. If either faith or repentance is missing, then it is a counterfeit salvation. Faith and repentance in salvation is just like the sun (Son) and light. The sun (Son) never shows up without there being light. Christ said in *Luke 13:3- 5*:

³I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. ⁴Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? ⁵I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. *Luke 13:3-5*

Repentance is evidenced in a change of attitude toward sin. Repentance is a turning from sin and Satan and a turning to God and holiness. Godly repentance is not a work of the flesh. Repentance is a work of God the Holy Ghost. The difference between a godly soul, saving repentance and worldly repentance is presented clearly in *2 Corinthians 7:9-10* where we read:

⁹Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. ¹⁰For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. *2 Corinthians 7:9-10*

If you do not respond to God with a Godly repentance, it will work eternally suffering death in you.

You cannot repent without first exercising faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. **You can have neither relationship or fellowship without repentance.** You become a child of God (establish an eternal relationship) through faith and repentance. As a child of God, you maintain fellowship through

A TIME OF APOSTASY

living by faith and the repentance and confession of sin. Once you become a child of your mother and father, you will always be their child regardless of what you do. Once you become a child of God, you will always be a child of God regardless of your performance, but there is a sin unto death for a Christian. We know that from *1 John 5:16* and *1 Corinthians 11:30*. Sin hinders the prayers and the working of the Holy Ghost in the Christian. *Isaiah 59:1-2* says:

¹ Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: ² But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear. *Isaiah 59:1-2*

One last thing in the area of salvation before we move on. After an individual makes a profession of faith, I never assure them of their salvation. That is the ministry of the Holy Ghost. My assurance might give them a false sense of security in something that is not real. That is deception. However, I will tell them that the Bible says that if they have exercised a genuine faith in the Lord Jesus Christ that Christ has saved them. All of my ifs are based upon the conditions that the Bible sets for salvation. No amount of my assurance can be substituted for the eternal presence or absence of the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost is the assurance of our salvation. The Bible says in *1 John 5:7-12*:

⁷ For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. ⁸ And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one. ⁹ If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. ¹⁰ He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. ¹¹ And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. *1 John 5:7-12*

If I am saved, you will not be able to talk me out of it because you are trying to talk God out of me when God has said "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee". *Romans 8:16* says: "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. You can know and will know that you are saved by the witness of the Spirit. My question to you today is do you have the Son? Do you know my Jesus? But, more importantly does Jesus know you?

Jesus does not know most of the wicked men and wicked women of America who wickedly occupy the pulpits of our churches and the churches of the rest of apostate Christianity. I would say that the overwhelming majority of them are lost and on their way to hell. How do I know they are lost? *Titus 1:15-16* says:

¹⁵ Unto the pure all things *are* pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving *is* nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. ¹⁶ They profess that they know God; but in works they deny *him*, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto

A TIME OF APOSTASY

every good work reprobate. *Titus 1:15-16*

These are the natural brute beasts of 2 *Peter 2:12-22* and *Jude 8-13* that shall perish in their own corruption in eternal blackness. There has never been a more clear and accurate description of the filthy actions and eternal destiny of these filthy dreamers that control apostate American Christianity. The apostate American church is the perfect picture of the harlot of *Revelation 17*. These descriptions were given almost 2,000 years ago and look like they were pulled off the pages of today's pagan American newspapers and today's **pagan** American "Christian" periodicals. The leaders of this harlot Christianity have the backbones of jelly fish. They definitely do not have the convictions of the Holy Ghost. They will not preach the truth. They cannot touch the truth of the word of God because their fingers and hands are too busy massaging and scratching the ears of their congregations while smoothly bribing them with false doctrine. I quote from an article by Independent Baptist preacher David Cloud:

"Hillsong Church, the headquarters for the popular and influential Hillsong music ministry, is the largest church in Sydney, Australia, and has a 3,500-seat auditorium. The senior co-pastors are Brian Houston and his wife, Bobbie. The church features a 12-piece rock band with five back-up singers and a positive, prosperity message. In 2002, the church took in \$10 million in tithes alone, not to speak of the sale of music and materials. Brian Houston's book "You Need More Money" teaches the way to prosperity through giving and "kingdom living." Houston says, "If you believe in Jesus, He will reward you here as well [as in Heaven]".....When asked by the *Sydney Morning Herald* reporter why the church is so successful, Brian Houston replied, "We are scratching people where they are itching.

He is right, but he doesn't seem to understand that scratching people where they itch is a sign of apostasy. "For 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" (2 Tim. 4:3)."

Today's apostate group of heretics especially do not want anything to do with the King James Bible. They want an effeminate Bible for their effeminate Christianity. Theirs is a money grubbing, positive only, self esteem gospel that is Satanic and demonic. Self esteem is not the solution. Self esteem is the problem. 1 *John 2:16* says: "For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world". The pride of life is self esteem. Self esteem is the chief cause of eternal condemnation and damnation. Self esteem is another gospel. The apostle Paul warned in 2 *Corinthians 11:3-4*:

³ But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. ⁴ For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or *if* ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye

A TIME OF APOSTASY

might well bear with *him*. *2 Corinthians 11:3–4*

The apostle Paul feared that the church at Corinth might well tolerate false doctrine because of the sin and confusion that reigned in that church. Paul's fear has been fully realized in today's church because professing Christianity is preaching another gospel and receiving another spirit that is totally opposed to the Lord Jesus Christ and fundamental Bible believing Christians. We are living in a time when this **other spirit** of the Charismatic signs and wonders movement is being exalted above the Lord Jesus Christ. We know it is a false spirit because our Bibles tell us in *John 16:13-14*:

¹³ Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. ¹⁴ He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you. *John 16:13-14*

This false spirit speaks of and exalts himself in an attempt to deny the Lord Jesus Christ the glory that he is due. This false spirit exalts false prophets and is of THE false prophet. What I have before me is a list of a mixed multitude of false doctrines, organizations, and people that are false teachers, apostates, and heretics that would probably offend most every individual within the sound of my voice. The apostate and heretical American church knows NO denominational boundaries. Over a 23 month period between March of 2016 and February of 2018, I took a list of 183 false doctrines, many of them held across denominational boundaries, and taught on doctrine Sunday after Sunday. The emphasis was upon what you are supposed to believe versus what is taught in many churches. What I mean by supposed to believe is that which the Bible plainly teaches; not what your denomination says you are supposed to believe. You must know what the Bible teaches about any particular doctrine before you can refute any particular false doctrine. Do not rant and rave against a doctrine unless you know exactly why it contradicts the Bible. Over the years, I have heard men rant and rave against a particular doctrine and then when you ask them to explain why it is false doctrine all you get is crickets. Many of those who do respond fall all over themselves and take up stuttering for a part time hobby. Sometimes silence is golden. As a young boy I was taught that most of the time you are better to be thought a fool than confirm it by opening your mouth. These men know what they have been taught, but they cannot defend it from the Bible. Again, I have before me an extended list of false doctrines that was extracted from a much larger list of what I call Christian heresies. I used that list of 183 Christian heresies to teach a 30 lesson series in Sunday School that I titled "The Importance Of Doctrine". That series ran from March of 2016 to February of 2018 and was mixed in with many other topics. Since I finished teaching that series in 2018, America's churches have slid further and further into the sewers of false doctrine and apostasy. There is rarely a month that passes where another false doctrine does not come slithering up out of Satan's crypts of false doctrine and apostasy.

Many men shame themselves when they are called out on their doctrine. The solution to their problem is simple. "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (*2 Timothy 2:15*). The other side of the doctrinal divide is that if you do not know something, then be forthright and admit it. In ignorance there is no shame

A TIME OF APOSTASY

if you are trying to learn your way out of it. However, willful biblical ignorance results in doctrinal stupidity. Pastor Charles Lawson said, “there is nothing you can do about stupidity, but you can cure ignorance through education”.

The false prophet promotes the antichrist, the harlot church of Revelation 17, sodomite (homosexual) same sex unions, sodomite church leaders and pastors, sodomizing and rape of children, rock music in the church, contemporary “Christian” music in the church, priests in the church, the wicked mass and other sacraments, works based salvation, Calvinism, self esteem, worldly dress in the church, women deacons, women preachers, holy laughter, eternal insecurity, and the whole host of other false doctrines. The false prophet is the promoter and/or founder of the Roman Catholic Church, the Mormon Church, the Jehovah Witnesses, the Greek and Russian Orthodox Churches, the Episcopal Church, the United Methodist Church, the Lutheran Church, the Church of England (Anglican), Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Free Masonry, and the whole brothel of other harlot churches and religions.

A short list of the prominent compromisers, apostates, heretics, and unbelievers that are or were caught up in the heresy and apostasy of this end times church would include Joel Osteen, Rick Warren, Robert Shuller and son, Jerry Falwell, Jack and Rexella Van Impe, Kenneth Hagin, Billy Graham, Franklin Graham, Ann Graham-Lotz, any pope, any Catholic Cardinal, any Islamic cleric (imams, ayatollahs) Joyce Meyers, Kathryn Kuhlman, Jim and Tammy Faye Baker, Kenneth Copeland, Jimmy Swaggert, Bruce Metzger, D. A. Carson, James White, Virginia Mollenkott, Marten Woudstra, Kurt Aland, Carlo Martini, John MacArthur, John Piper, R. C. Sproul, Mary Baker Eddy, Ellen G. White, Desmond Tutu, Hank Hanegraaff, Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, Charles Taze Russell, Paul and Jan Crouch, Pat Robertson, Oral Roberts and son, Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, John Wimber, Marilyn Hickey, Rodney Howard-Browne, Benny Hinn, Jack Hayford, T. D. Jakes, Charles and Frances Hunter, Vinson Synan, John Michael Talbot, any Contemporary “Christian” Music performer, any “Christian” rock music performer, and etc.

The list that I just referred to describes an ungodly, anti Christian mixed multitude and their false doctrines that dominates the apostate American Christianity of today We are warned of false shepherds, false pastors, and false prophets time after time in the Scriptures. God has some very special instructions, admonitions, and warnings for those who would be shepherds and pastors. God also has some very specific qualifications for those who would be leaders in local New Testament churches. God also holds the people of those congregations responsible for their actions and doctrines. Turn first in your Bibles to *Isaiah 30:8-11* where we see:

⁸ Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever: ⁹ That this *is* a rebellious people, lying children, children *that* will not hear the law of the LORD: ¹⁰ Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits: ¹¹ Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us. *Isaiah 30:8-11*

Isaiah chapter 30 is a very stern warning to any people that would reject the word of God and seek for themselves false prophets that will tell them what they want to hear. The Scripture in *1 Timothy*

A TIME OF APOSTASY

4:1-3 and 2 Timothy 3:1-4:3 are the New Testament parallel that describe a time which will abound with false doctrine when Christians will heap to themselves teachers that will tell them what they want to hear. The Bible says:

¹ 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; ² Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; ³ Forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. 1 Timothy 4:1-3

¹ This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, ⁴ Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; ⁵ Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. ⁶ For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, ⁷ Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁸ Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. ⁹ But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all *men*, as theirs also was. ¹⁰ But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, ¹¹ Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of *them* all the Lord delivered me. ¹² Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. ¹³ But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. ¹⁴ But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*; ¹⁵ And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. 2 Timothy 3:1-17

¹ I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; ² Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. ³ For 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; ⁴ And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. 2 Timothy 4:1-4

God has many things to say in the Bible about shepherds who will not protect His people, who will not minister to His people, who will not teach His people, who would abuse His people, and who

A TIME OF APOSTASY

are in the ministry for their own gain. God hates hirelings. Those who would be God's shepherds are to protect the flock from false doctrine. Note the following Scriptures from *Ezekiel 34:2-4*; *Isaiah 56:10-11*; *Ezekiel 22:26*; *Ezekiel 44:23*; *Hosea 4:6*; *1 Timothy 3:3*; *Titus 1:7*; and *1 Peter 5:2-3*:

² Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe *be* to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks? ³ Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: *but* ye feed not the flock. ⁴ The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up *that which was* broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them. *Ezekiel 34:2-4*

¹⁰ His watchmen *are* blind: they are all ignorant, they *are* all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. ¹¹ Yea, *they are* greedy dogs *which* can never have enough, and they *are* shepherds *that* cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter. *Isaiah 56:10-11*

²⁶ Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed *difference* between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them. *Ezekiel 22:26*

²³ And they shall teach my people *the difference* between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean. *Ezekiel 44:23*

⁶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. *Hosea 4:6*

¹¹ Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:

¹² And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find *it*. *Amos 8:11-12*

³ Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; *1 Timothy 3:3*

⁷ For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; *Titus 1:7*

A TIME OF APOSTASY

² Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; ³ Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. *1 Peter 5:2-3*

The New Testament warns us time and again about false prophets and teachers in Scriptures such as *Matthew 7:15; Matthew 24:11-12, 24; Luke 6:26; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15*, and *2 Peter 2:1-3*:

¹⁵ Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. *Matthew 7:15*

¹¹ And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. ¹² And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. *Matthew 24:11-12*

²⁴ For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect. *Matthew 24:24*

²⁶ Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets. *Luke 6:26*

¹³ For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works. *2 Corinthians 11:13-15*

¹ But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. ² And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. ³ And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. *2 Peter 2:1-3*

Matthew 24:24 and *2 Thessalonians 2:9* tells us that the end times will be marked by a false signs and wonders movement whose objective is deceit. Verse 3 of 2 Peter chapter 2 is what nails many television ministries whose constant appeals are for money and not the salvation of souls. They want you to sew your monetary seeds into their ministries, but when it comes time to minister to your sick and preach the funerals of your dead loved ones they are no where to be found. God's command is to tithe to your local church.

Much of professing Christianity is caught up in the heresy of allowing women to be preachers,

A TIME OF APOSTASY

pastors, deacons, and teachers in mixed groups of adults that include men. The Southern Baptist Convention churches regularly fall into this heresy. If you are a woman sitting under the sound of my voice, God has not, and will not, call you to be a preacher, pastor, deacon or teacher where you would have men under your authority or teaching. God would not violate his word to issue you a special call that would contradict the Scriptures. Many women who preach before men and hold a pastorate over men insist that they have been called of God. That cannot be. The Bible says:

¹² But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. *1 Timothy 2:12*

¹ This *is* a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

² A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; *1 Timothy 3:1-2*

⁵ For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee: ⁶ If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. *Titus 1:5-6*

1 Timothy 2:12 should silence all women preachers and pastors who insist they are scripturally qualified to teach and pastor men. *1 Timothy 3:2* and *Titus 1:6* also rule out women being pastors and teachers of men since women cannot be the husband of one wife. Women false prophetesses are not without condemnation in the Bible. Looking at *Ezekiel 13:17-23* and *Revelation 2:20* we see:

¹⁷ Likewise, thou son of man, set thy face against the daughters of thy people, which prophesy out of their own heart; and prophesy thou against them, ¹⁸ And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe to the *women* that sew pillows to all armholes, and make kerchiefs upon the head of every stature to hunt souls! Will ye hunt the souls of my people, and will ye save the souls alive *that come* unto you? ¹⁹ And will ye pollute me among my people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, to slay the souls that should not die, and to save the souls alive that should not live, by your lying to my people that hear *your* lies? ²⁰ Wherefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I *am* against your pillows, wherewith ye there hunt the souls to make *them* fly, and I will tear them from your arms, and will let the souls go, *even* the souls that ye hunt to make *them* fly. ²¹ Your kerchiefs also will I tear, and deliver my people out of your hand, and they shall be no more in your hand to be hunted; and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD. ²² Because with lies ye have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and strengthened the hands of the wicked, that he should not return from his wicked way, by promising him life: ²³ Therefore ye shall see no more vanity, nor divine divinations: for I will deliver my people out of your hand: and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD. *Ezekiel 13:17-23*

A TIME OF APOSTASY

²⁰ Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. *Revelation 2:20*

What is God's remedy for false doctrine and false teachers. We are not to fellowship with false teachers and heretics. Nor are we to wish them God speed. Reading from *Romans 16:17-18*; *2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1*; *Ephesians 5:11*; *Titus 3:10*; *2 John 9-11*; and *Revelation 18:4* we have:

¹⁷ Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. ¹⁸ For 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*

¹⁴ Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? ¹⁶ And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ¹⁷ Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you, ¹⁸ And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. ¹ Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. *2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1*

¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*. *Ephesians 5:11*

¹⁰ A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; *Titus 3:10*

⁹ Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰ If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into *your* house, neither bid him God speed: ¹¹ For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds. *2 John 9-11*

⁴ And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. *Revelation 18:4*

It does not matter what you or I think or feel about separating from those who hold to false doctrine. God commands us to come out from among them. We are not to hold hands with those who deny

A TIME OF APOSTASY

doctrines of the Bible. That means that you cannot participate in joint ventures with apostates and heretics and that especially includes evangelistic crusades. The most frequently corrupted doctrine man-ward is the doctrine of salvation. The most frequently corrupted doctrine God-ward is the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. Both corruptions can and do condemn lost sinners to hell! I will close with the following. What you hold to for doctrine is of the utmost importance to the Lord Jesus Christ. We close with this. The Lord Jesus Christ said this about doctrine in *Matthew 15:9*:

Matthew 15:9

⁹ But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.

IF YOUR DOCTRINE IS CORRUPT, THEN YOUR WORSHIP IS IN VAIN!!