

When will enough be enough...finally?

There is an idiom from our neighbors in the Middle East that goes back thousands of years that refers to a camel laboring under a tremendous load of straw, but the camel's greedy owner insisted on putting on its back just one more little piece of straw. And that did it. It was the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back. **"The idiom "the straw that broke the camel's back", describes the minor or routine action that causes an unpredictably large and sudden reaction, because of the cumulative effect of small actions., alluding to the proverb "it is the last straw that breaks the camel's back." This gives rise to the phrase "the last straw", or "the final straw", meaning that the last one in a line of unacceptable occurrences causes a seemingly sudden, strong reaction."** And I will add to that, an irrevocable reaction. There is no remedy for a camel's back being broken. The only thing that can be done to a camel with a broken back is to put it out of its misery.

The visible church in our day is quickly reaching that point where all it is going to take is just one more heretic adding his or her damnable and egregiously false teaching or false prophecy to the burgeoning back of the visible church, breaking its unredeemed back, and that without remedy. The Bible has a name for that, the apostasy.

We are in the beginning years of the great apostasy Paul warned the church about in his second letter to the Thessalonians. Follow me on this, **2 Thessalonians 2:1** *Now we request you, ^abrethren, with regard to the ^{1b}coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our ^cgathering together to Him,*

² that you not be quickly shaken from your ¹composure or be disturbed either by a ^aspirit or a ^{2b}message or a ^cletter as if from us, to the effect that ^dthe day of the Lord ^ehas come.

*³ ^aLet no one in any way deceive you, **for it will not come unless the ^{1b}apostasy comes first, and the ^cman of lawlessness is revealed, the ^dson of destruction,***

⁴ *who opposes and exalts himself above ^{1a}every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, ^bdisplaying himself as being God.*

⁵ *Do you not remember that ^awhile I was still with you, I was telling you these things? (2 Thess. 2:1-5 NAU).*

That has not occurred yet in its final sense. The man of perdition or lawlessness has not been revealed yet and as I have pointed out before, when he is revealed we will see him and then we will be raptured out of this world. What restrains him, or rather “who” restrains him is the Holy Spirit indwelling the body of Christ.

“A clear and present danger.”

⁷ *For ^athe mystery of lawlessness is **already at work**; **“Already at work.”** That lets the disciples of Christ know that the apostasy is already at work on planet earth among those who reject Christ.*

If you think for a moment that the large number of false teachers in our nation today is just a harmless phase the visible church is going through, think again. These thousands upon thousands of false pastors and teachers and apostles are leading people by the scores straight to eternal damnation. Jesus and Peter both warned the true church that these people will garner an outrageous following. They said that many will be deceived by them. And the apostle Paul said that these deceivers are fit only for destruction and cursing.

So-called “Christian television” has become the almost exclusive property of men and women who are contributing their part to the ever-increasing apostasy. Beginning in the ‘60’s with Pat Robertson’s 700 Club which gave birth to Jim and Tammy Bakker’s Praise the Lord Club which morphed into the PTL Club and Heritage USA and then the egregiously wicked TBN owned and operated by two clowns known as Paul and Jan Crouch followed by hundreds of wannabe’s. Fathered by the likes of Oral Roberts and Kenneth Hagin and Charles Capps and the new godfather of heresy, Kenneth Copeland, the leaven of heresy is so engrained in the hearts and minds of millions of the deceived that they have passed the point of no return.

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The apostle Paul likened such people and movements to leaven, they will infect the body of Christ if they are not stopped. ¹⁰ *For there are many ^brebellious men, ^cempty talkers and deceivers, especially ^dthose of the circumcision,*

¹¹ **who must be silenced** *because they are upsetting ^awhole families, teaching ^bthings they should not teach ^cfor the sake of sordid gain.*

(Tit. 1:10-11 NAU)

And back to our text,

only ^bhe who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way.

**God the Spirit is the One who now restrains.*

⁸ *Then that lawless one ^awill be revealed whom the Lord will slay ^bwith the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the ^cappearance of His ¹coming;*

⁹ *that is, the one whose ¹coming is in accord with the activity of ^aSatan, with all power and ^{2b}signs and false wonders,*

¹⁰ *and with ¹all the deception of wickedness **for ^athose who perish,** because they did not receive the love of ^bthe truth so as to be saved.*

¹¹ *For this reason ^aGod ¹will send upon them ^{2a} ^bdeluding influence so that they will believe ³what is false, After all, it's what they wanted.*

¹² *in order that they all may be ¹judged who ^adid not believe the truth, but ^{2b}took pleasure in wickedness. (2 Thess. 2:7-12 NAU)*

The thousands and thousands of false teachers and false prophets and false apostles and false evangelists and false pastors that have inundated this planet are evidence that God has already sent that deluding influence among the haters of light and righteousness.

Talk about a deluding influence, talk about believing what is false, have you ever watched Jesse Duplantis' trip to heaven, in its everchanging forms? Thousands of people just eat up his ridiculous tall tale.

Now, notice this. Paul is describing religious people. He is describing people who go to church or synagogue or temple or mosque. They at some point in their lives were seduced by the spirit of antichrist

and denied the deity of Christ and His coming to earth as God in the flesh.

Read this, **2 Peter 2:1** *But ^afalse prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be ^bfalse teachers ^camong you, you who? The visible church. who will ^dsecretly introduce ^edestructive heresies,* those secretly introduced destructive heresies are the voices Jesus spoke of in John 10. ³ *"To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear ^ahis voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and ^bleads them out.*

⁴ *"When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know ^ahis voice.*

⁵ *"A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know ^athe voice of strangers." (Jn. 10:3-5 NAU)*

And back to 2 Peter,
even ^fdenying the ^gMaster who ^hbought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

² *Many will follow their ^asensuality, and because of them ^bthe way of the truth will be ^cmaligned;*

³ *and in their ^agreed they will ^bexploit you with ^cfalse words; ^dtheir judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. (2 Pet. 2:1-3 NAU)*

Peter lumps all the deceivers of our time under the heading, "false teachers." And when we go back to 2 Thessalonians 2, that's what we find reigning in the visible church and in religion all together.

But, did you catch that from 2 Peter 2? *who will ^dsecretly introduce ^edestructive heresies, even ^fdenying the ^gMaster who ^hbought them.* They are not going to outright deny "the Master who bought them," but they do in fact deny him in secret. And for the discerning ear of the disciple of Christ, it is there in plain sight for those who have eyes to see and for those who have ears to hear. For instance, Kenneth Copeland, the "grandfather" of the word faith movement said this, "When I read where Jesus said 'I am,' I just smile and say, 'I am too.'" And when Steven Furtick stands before millions and pounds his chest and says, "I am God Almighty." And when Furtick says that "when God said to Moses, " I

Am, that I Am,' he was saying just as I am, so are you.” And when Furtick says, “God broke the law for love,” he was making God a sinner. And when word faith teachers say Jesus had to be born again and that the demons in hell jumped up and down on His puny, emaciated self, in hell, they are all denying the Master who bought them. Beloved, those are the voices of strangers.

If you should ever entertain the notion that we are not in the apostasy, think again.

How many heretical and egregiously blasphemous and false teachings does Steven Furtick and Kenneth Copeland and the Pope have to utter before we in the body of Christ finally throw up our hands and renounce them all? When will someone within the true church take a universal stand before this lost and dark world, not just the choir, and slam those who have literally gotten away with blaspheming the Holy Spirit? When will the members of the true church finally say, “Enough is enough!”

I will be numbered with the apostle Paul when he wrote this to the churches in Galatia, ⁶ *I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting^a Him who called you¹ by the grace of Christ, for a^b different gospel;⁷ which is really not another; only there are some who are^a disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.*

⁸ *But even if we, or^a an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel¹ contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be^{2b} accursed!*

⁹ *As we^a have said before, so I say again now, ^bif any man is preaching to you a gospel¹ contrary to what you received, he is to be^{2c} accursed!*

¹⁰ *For am I now^a seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a^b bond-servant of Christ. (Gal. 1:6-10 NAU)*

We are witnessing the war between the voice of the Good Shepherd and the many voices of strangers. And what does the Bible mean by “voices?” It means the teachings. The teachings of the Lord Jesus and the teachings of the false prophets and teachers.

And the Lord Himself said this about those same people, ²¹ *"aNot everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.*

²² *"aMany will say to Me on ^bthat day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many ¹miracles?'*

²³ *"And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; ^aDEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'^(Matt. 7:21-23 NAU)*

Fake disciples and apostles abound these days and at the present are getting away with their damnable lies. Their deaths will resolve that problem and the second death will finish it once and for all.

Men and women who make a pretense at being Christian are daily adding to the written word of God through their so-called "revelations and visions."

How can the true church recover?

First, "It will only come about as the faithful preach Christ and Him crucified."

Never mind what the person sitting in the pew next to you thinks. No matter what their opinion may be on what the Bible says, or what they think it says or what they have made it say or what they hope it says, what does it actually say?

"The only spiritual safeguard against error is truth."

Second, "It will only come about as the faithful expose those who love darkness and preach what is detestable and perverse."

¹¹ *^aDo not participate in the unfruitful ^bdeeds of ^cdarkness, but instead even ^{1d}expose them;*

¹² *for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.*

¹³ *But all things become visible ^awhen they are ¹exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. ^(Eph. 5:11-13 NAU)*

Third, “There is nothing to save lost souls but the gospel of Christ properly preached.”

¹⁶ *For I am not ^aashamed of the gospel, for ^bit is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the ^cJew first and also to ^dthe Greek.*

¹⁷ *For in it ^athe righteousness of God is revealed ¹from faith to faith; as it is written, ^{2b}BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.” (Rom. 1:16-17 NAU)*

Fourth, “There is no other name given under heaven, given among men by which one must be saved.”

¹² *“And there is salvation in ^ano one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12 NAU)*

Fifth, “There is only One Way for sinners to be saved.”

John 14:6 has been turned into a useless cliché. It’s just something we have memorized and think it’s the cat’s meow when we try to “share” the gospel. But what is the context of John 14:6? Was it spoken in the context of evangelizing the lost? No, it wasn’t. It was declared by the Lord Jesus as a word of encouragement and exhortation to His apostles and it was written for our sakes. John 14:6 is the God-breathed word of God. It serves as notification that there is only One Way to the Father and not a hodge podge of religions to get anyone there.

And what is the gospel? It is the good news that God the Father and God the Spirit has done for this sick, dead-in-their-trespases-and-sins-separated-from God-and with-no-hope-world in and through Jesus Christ what was impossible for sinners to do for themselves. Jesus paid the debt we all owed to our Creator/God for having embraced and loved darkness rather than light. ⁴ *But God, being ^arich in mercy, because of ^bHis great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were ^adead ¹in our transgressions, made us alive together ²with Christ (^bby grace you have been saved),*

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⁶ and ^araised us up with Him, and ^bseated us with Him in ^cthe heavenly places in ^dChrist Jesus,

⁷ so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing ^ariches of His grace in ^bkindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

⁸ For ^aby grace you have been saved ^bthrough faith; and ¹that not of yourselves, it is ^cthe gift of God;

⁹ ^anot as a result of works, so that ^bno one may boast.

¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, ^acreated in ^bChrist Jesus for ^cgood works, which God ^dprepared beforehand so that we would ^ewalk in them.

¹¹ Therefore remember that ^aformerly ^byou, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called ^c"Uncircumcision" by the so-called ^c"Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands--

¹² remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, ^{1a}excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to ^bthe covenants of promise, having ^cno hope and ^dwithout God in the world.

¹³ But now in ^aChrist Jesus you who ^bformerly were ^cfar off ¹have ^cbeen brought near ^{2d}by the blood of Christ. (Eph. 2:4-13 NAU)

Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Have you been born again?

Have you been born of the Spirit?

Did you change dramatically when you first believed? Or are you still the same dead-in-trespases-and-sins wicked gossip and slanderer and back-biter, adulterous unregenerate you were?

^aRepent, and each of you who have realized in this moment that you were never saved, be ^bbaptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

³⁹ "For ^athe promise is for you and your children and for all who are ^bfar off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."

⁴⁰ And with many other words he solemnly ^atestified and kept on exhorting them, saying, ¹"Be saved from this ^bperverse generation!" (Acts 2:38-40 NAU)