

# ***Ready Preparedness***

## **In Present Apostasy**

Paul, under the influence of the Holy Spirit of God, believed our Lord Jesus Christ's words as accounted in Luke 8:4-15!

God further develops one of the Parable-of-the-Sower themes through the 1st book of Timothy (quotes taken from the NKJV) ...

- ~ People can suffer "shipwreck" of faith      1:18-20
- ~ People will "depart from the faith" in      4:1  
the latter times (our day!)
- ~ People can and have "strayed con-      6:20, 21  
cerning the faith."

Our LORD Jesus Christ Himself said, "many will fall away" during the time of the end. (Mt. 24:10-13 ; ESV & NASB)

The messages from our LORD in Revelation 2 & 3 caution against the dangers of unrepentance, lukewarmness and mediocrity. He actually also emphasizes "overcoming" the evils highlighted in these letters to the churches ... in these letters to the Church ... in these letters to His sheep in Christ today!

Regarding those who overcome: What do they experience? And those who do not overcome: What might they experience? Read it for yourselves. It's clear to those who have hearts open to God's pressing Counsel!

### **SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM ? ?**

Let's STOP picking and choosing some passages in the Word and rejecting others that don't fit rational, theological schemes of man. Let's allow the full Counsel of God to bring the BALANCE we so desperately need today. (And just how does one define "balance"? Again, the entirety of the Word of God brings humbling illumination. Praise to His dear name!)

When I make these kinds of appeals, I often get response from those who believe passionately in the *other side of the coin*. So, on this theme – apostasy – some respond with this fair question: "So can one lose his/her salvation?" A great question.

Our answer, in part, in light of the full Counsel of the Word of God:

IF God has truly saved, then absolutely NOT! But if one's name has not been written and retained in the Lamb's Book of Life – let's read ALL the passages addressing this matter of names being written in the

Book! – if one's name has not been written and retained in the Lamb's Book of Life, then it's clear even by the Parable of the Seed and Sower (by which we opened this blog) and other Bible passages that one can indeed "fall away from the faith," \* especially today. Again, let's allow I Tim. 4:1 to say what it actually says: "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith ..." (NKJV)

\* NB: The Scriptures also clearly teach the security of the believer in light of God's sovereign call, election, etc. but once again, let's balance these many passages in light of the FULL Counsel of God! (And please do not falsely label me as *Arminian* in theological perspective! And by all means do not call me *Reformed* or a *Calvinist* either! See our Lord Jesus' harsh words on traditions of men in Mt. 15:1-20. We are called to build our *house* on God's authoritative Word, not on partial-truth, extra-biblical opinion-based constructs of man.)

### **So where does this leave us? "How shall we now live?"**

Just like we've been counseled! In part, read Phil. 2:12, 13, Hebrews 13:5 and II Pet. 1:10 (and even I Cor. 15:1, 2 & Romans 8 – please include the many "ifs" in these two passages!). Let's read and heed Mark 13:28-37, Phil. 3:20, 21 and II Peter 3:3-9.

O gracious, merciful Lord of lords and King of kings, please help us rightly divide Your Word of Truth as we seek to heed that to which You've called us: Col. 3:16a. YES, may the Word of Christ dwell in us richly ... and correctly as You have so graciously outlined. May this include faith action – obedience to Your gracious revelation to us. Unto Your glory and praise we act and pray; In Christ Jesus' sweet name. Amen

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