

MODERN DAY, END-TIME APOSTASY
The Defection & Restoration of the End-Time Church

By Apostle Paul M Hanssen

The greatest and heaviest burden that weighs like a ton of bricks upon my heart these days is the spiritual condition of the present modern-day church. If we carefully compare the early Apostolic Church, the church called the HOUSEHOLD OF GOD that was founded and built upon the teaching of the apostles and the prophets (***Ephesians 2:19-20***); compare that to the modern church of today and we see a very sad and disturbing picture emerge. The inspired writings and teaching of the apostles (the ministry of order, structure, and godly authority) and the prophets (current and presently inspired teaching and prophetic utterances from God's presence – [from the bread of His face – the Table of Shewbread]) are the foundation that God placed under the building structure of the New Testament, Apostolic Church. The teaching of the apostle and prophets also reveal to us a detailed description of what the end-time church will look like before God brings about a move of restoration prior to Jesus appearing in the clouds of Glory. Since restoration, revival, and an awakening is evidently needed in today's church it stands to reason that something is broken, deteriorated, and not functioning as it should.

There is a spirit of apostasy in the modern church that has and is working to turn the hearts of God's people away from Truth and lead God's people into deception. One of the first and foremost signs of the end-times is deception (***Matthew 24:4*** – *Jesus said, Take heed that no man deceive you*). So, what is apostasy?

*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; (**2 Thessalonians 2:3**)*

Here, first, God's people are warned by the Apostle Paul of the spirit of deception. The admonishment to "Let no man deceive you" is recorded several times in the New Testament.

Matthew 24:4 – Jesus said, Take heed that no man deceives you.

1 Corinthians 3:18 – Paul said, let no man deceive himself.

Ephesians 5:6 – Paul said, let no man deceive you.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 – Paul said, let no man deceive you.

1 John 3:7 – John said, let no man deceive you.

Clearly, deception is a major issue to be concerned about, especially in this day of easy access to all manner of information, conspiracy theories, and opinions of man. Just because something is written or presented online, doesn't make it true. We must become aware of the spirits of deception that lurk in every corner to lead people astray.

After warning about not being deceived, Paul further prophesies to the Thessalonians of the end-time “Falling Away”. Falling away is translated from the Greek word *apostasia* which means "rebellion, abandonment (to leave, give up, and desert), state of apostasy, defection (to leave one’s place in favor of an opposing side).” Many Christians do not believe that the prophecy of “falling away” relates to them. Unfortunately, this is because they have already been deceived. The spirit of apostasy dominates within the church today. Rebellion and abandonment from the apostolic and prophetic guidance of Truth is widespread and prevalent in the church particularly among church leadership.

Over the past 44 years, I have traveled to 73 countries and have ministered in hundreds of churches: Pentecostal, Evangelical, Charismatic, Baptist, Catholic, and independent churches. Everywhere I have been I have seen the fulfillment of this prophecy taking shape before my eyes. In this present day and moment in time, however, the spirit of apostasy is loud, strong, and more dominant than ever.

The church has abandoned the foundation upon which it was built. It has defected from the divine principles of godliness and holiness. The church has defected from the true breath, fire, and inspiration of the Holy Ghost, and the pure unadulterated teaching of God’s Word in favor of all manner of theories and concepts that are unsubstantiated within the pages of God’s Word. Pastors/teachers have abandoned the two-edged sword preaching of God’s Word in favor of humanistic teaching that makes people feel comfortable and accepted. Sin and rebellion is no longer spoken about, dealt with, or condemned. Churches have become more like theaters and places of entertainment rather than places of prayer and true worship. Platforms have become stages of performance rather than altars of repentance. Pulpits are used to deliver comedy, motivational speeches, and interesting stories that carry no eternal value and have no spiritual impact or power.

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; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

The spirit of apostasy has and is causing the church to turn a deaf ear to sound doctrine (healthy, wholesome, uncorrupted teaching and instruction) and rather draw to themselves teachers (online, on YouTube, and through written material) who feed a person’s preference and particular narrative and who entertain with fables (stories, fiction, myth).

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: (Amos 8:11)

There is a famine in the land, a famine of the hearing of God’s Word. Motivational speakers fill the “preaching space” today tickling the ears of their audience and feeding people’s lust for words that affirm that their immoral conduct, sin, and rebellion against God’s Word and His authority is acceptable. These motivational speakers encourage humanistic rights rather than teaching the Lordship and Kingship of Almighty God. On top of all of this is the

fact that church leaders are rebelling against God ordained authority and leadership in favor of submitting to an independent spirit that will only lead to a pit of death.

And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God... (Revelation 3:14-20)

Laodicea is the seventh and final church dispensation. It is a lukewarm, materialistic, dead, proud, self-centered church that Jesus warned that He would spew out of His mouth. Laodicea means *“The rights of the people”*. This is one of the main issues of contention today – everybody has rights; however, I find few who seek to know what God desires for His people. Instead of loving God mankind has become overtaken and filled with a love for himself.

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth (2 Timothy 3:1-7).

I cannot emphasize the seriousness of Paul’s prophetic utterance concerning the end-times. What you read above is what is taking place within the Household of God. God’s people are forever learning but not coming to the knowledge of the Truth. This is reality because so few have a “love for the Truth”.

As if this is not enough insult to God and His House of prayer, this story gets even darker.

And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD's house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the Lord, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east. (Ezekiel 8:16)

Twenty-five men, the ancients (vs.12), who were leaders, priests, and men of authority, turned their backs towards the Temple of God and faced the East as they worshipped creation rather than the creator. The east has to do with Eastern religious philosophies, teachings, and mindset along with new age teachings, practices, and spirituality that are flooding the church today while church leaders turn their backs on God’s Temple and His house of prayer. This also encompasses Jewish mythology, Old Testament practices from the Law that were fulfilled by Jesus, and Judaism that has taken the place of the New Covenant. Christians are worshipping creation (trees, stones, the wind, the earth, and the celestial bodies of the heavens). Yes, God is in everything! However, His creation is not to be worshipped. He alone is to be worshipped! Those that worship the father MUST worship

Him in Spirit and in Truth (**John 4:24**). These behaviors within the church is the representation of true apostasy – turning our backs on God in favor of something more satisfying to the flesh and the carnal appetites and feelings of man.

An alarm is sounding in the Spirit. A voice is heard within the hearts of those who have an ear to hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches. A knock is sounding upon the door of the hearts of the people of God (**Revelation 3:20**) – “let me in, allow me to enter again into my own house, allow me to take the throne of authority and be God in your midst.” This will only take place when the people of God begin to repent. He that has an ear to hear let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

*Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began (**Acts 3:19-21**).*

Restoration is promised to the people of God before Jesus returns. However, before restoration comes it must be **preceded by repentance**. Repentance causes the heart to bow in submission to God. Repentance is the evidence of a heart that is broken and contrite before God. Repentance moves God’s hand. Repentance opens doors. Repentance brings life. Repentance changes things. Repentance is the key to revival and restoration.

To the lukewarm Laodicean church Jesus said:

*As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me (**Revelation 3:19-20**).*

What an unheard-of message – **be zealous and repent!** How often have you been zealous about repentance? To be zealous means to have hot passion, to be jealous like a husband is for his wife, to boil with feelings, and to have a fervent mind. If the church began to pray and repent with such zeal and passion, I know we will once again see God’s people filled with the breath, fire, and inspiration of the Spirit of God!! God’s glory will return to His house once again!

REPENT YE THEREFORE...!! Repent and ask for the old paths wherein is the good way of God (**Jeremiah 6:16**). Don’t abandon the foundation of Truth! Ask for it – seek for it – build on it.

Further scriptural evidence of the End-Time apostasy within the church:

- Isaiah 24:5–6: Isaiah predicts an apostasy
- Amos 8:11–12: Amos predicts an apostasy
- Acts 20:29–30: Paul warns that people will turn away from the gospel
- 2 Thessalonians 2:1–4: Paul warns that people will turn away from the gospel
- 2 Timothy 4:3–4: Paul warns that people will turn away from the gospel
- 2 Peter 2:1–3: Peter warns that people will turn away from the gospel
- Galatians 1:6–8: Paul warns of growing apostasy within the church
- 1 Corinthians 1:10–12; 11:18–19; 2 Timothy 1:15: Paul warns of growing apostasy within the church
- Revelation 3:14–16: Jesus warns of growing apostasy within the church
- Hebrews 3:12: Paul warns against an evil, unbelieving heart that could lead people to fall away from God
- 2 Timothy 3–4: Paul describes the wickedness and apostasy that will exist in the present day