**In The Last Days**

**The Apostate Is Here – Part 1**

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# SERMON DESCRIPTION/BACKGROND

In the last days most of the church will become corrupted, and the people will depart from the truth. A false religion will emerge in its place with teachings that are anti Biblical. God will always have a remnant of people for His great name. God will never leave Himself without a people that are His witnesses in the earth.

The New Testament calls this time, “the great falling away”. It is an event and process that will occur before the Lord Jesus returns to the earth. In the last days, dangerous times will arise because values will be re-defined. The culture of the world will become toxic, negative, and evil. This will place tremendous pressure on the Body of Christ to capitulate and abandon Biblical principles. This persecution and pressure will have a negative impact on many believers.

This false church and religion will be an “apostate” church because its condition will be morally bankrupt. Christians will leave their first love of Jesus and become cold in their faith. Because inequity will abound the following will occur:

* Some will depart the faith
* Some will corrupt the faith
* Some will grow indifferent.

“Apostate” means to reject or abandon one’s belief and to turn to false teachings and become corrupted from the inside. These are people who once followed Christ but now do not follow the Bible. They identify as Christians but in fact they have lost their way and are on the wrong path:

* They become anti-Christ in their thoughts
* They are more concerned about popularity – they want people to like them rather than follow God. They love the praises of man rather than the praises of God.
* They want to do things that God says should not be done
* They re-define the values of the Kingdom.

But will every Christian fall away in the last days? No! the remnant will be faithful and obey God. In fact, statistics indicate that the Evangelicals and Pentecostals are keeping pace with growth and staying firm to Biblical beliefs. Their voice and influence are still imperative within society. Their faith is backed by reason and the existence of God.

# OPENING REMARKS

* There is a spiritual darkness, an oppression that is over the nation of Canada
* Those in power have opened the door(s) to the diabolical and have accepted and teach the doctrines of demons
* This series is NOT meant to be a political series in any way
* In the last days there will be a great falling away
* Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) technology and the Anti-Christ will be connected.

# SERMON DESCRIPTION

In the last days, the church will grow cold and leave their first love – Jesus. Some people will depart the faith while others will become indifferent, while others will try to corrupt it from the inside. However, God will always have a remnant of people that will remain faithful.

# SERMON QUESTIONS & OBJECTIVES

1. What do they need to know?
* Preparation and knowledge are paramount.
1. Why do they need to know it?
* God does not want His people to be ignorant of Satan’s devices.
1. How should they apply it?
* Watch and pray! Jesus said, “Occupy until I come”, He did not say retreat.

# OPENING LINE

***Jesus said occupy until I come, He did not say retreat.***

# CENTRAL TRUTH

***In the last days, the church will become corrupted from the inside and depart from the ways of God. It will be satisfied to follow false doctrine and teaching.***

# MAIN PASSAGES

**Acts 2:17**

**17**‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams.

**Hebrews 1:1-2**

1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; …

# DESCRIPTION OF THE APOSTATE CHURCH IN THE LAST DAYS

**2Timothy 3:1-9**

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: **2**For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, **3**unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, **4**traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **5**having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! **6**For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, **7**always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. **8**Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; **9**but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.

* Dangerous times will come because the core values of people have shifted in society, and this will impact the church
* The church must be safeguarded from wordily influences – the remanent will be under increased pressure to yield
* People will lose control and their senses
* **The truth is being suppressed and resisted**
* A new gospel will be preached – “the itching ear gospel” which are those who have their own agenda and only want to hear what makes them feel good – Paul called this “itching ears”.

**2Timothy 4:3-4**

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

# MAIN POINTS

1. **Times & Seasons**
	1. The Bible communicates how God’s calendar works when it comes to the last days. Peter writes that one day with the Lord equals a thousand years.

**2Peter 3:7-10**

7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 8 **But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.** 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

* 1. One day = 1000 years

Historical timeframe:

* Adam to Abraham is two thousand years = 2 days
* Abraham to Jesus is two thousand years = 2 days
* Jesus to current time is two thousand years = 2 days
* We are coming to the seventh day when all things will come to completion.
	1. Generations:
* From Adam to Jesus = 62 generations from Jesus until now = 62 generations.
	1. Signs of the times:
* What is currently happening in the world? What are some of the prophetic signs that are coming to pass?
* A two-state solution for Israel – judgement comes from God - the nations will come against Israel
* China and Russia making new alliances
* Ukraine and Russia may bring the world into nuclear war
* China has a 200 million men army

**Revelation 9:16**

Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

* The true church/the Body of Christ is being persecuted at a record pace – more Christians have been martyred in the last 100 years than in the two thousand years since Christ
* The Euphrates River is drying up
* The Dead Sea is coming to life.
	1. Those who have their own agenda and only want to hear what makes them feel good – Paul called this the “itching ears” message. This is the new gospel of apostate church.

**2Timothy 4:3-4**

**3 For the time will** come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth and be turned aside to fables.

* The endurance for sound doctrine will dimmish in the last days
* Self-desire gives place to unsound doctrine
* People are motivated to find and learn from leaders that preach an easy gospel. These spiritual leaders are not only in high demand, but they are readily available in great numbers.
* The truth is exchanged for fables, myths and even lies.
1. **Matthew 24:**
	1. Jesus warned that in the last days because iniquity will abound, and the love of many will grow cold, (i.e., the falling away).

World values will change and become toxic – the pressure will impact the church to succumb:

* Some will DEPART The faith
* Some will CORRUPT the faith
* Some will GROW indifferent.

**Signs Of The End Of The Age**

**Matthew 24:3-14**

**3**Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” **4**And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you. **5**For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. **6**And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. **7**For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. **8**All these *are* the beginning of sorrows. **9**“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. **10**And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. **11**Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. **12**And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. **13**But he who endures to the end shall be saved. **14**And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

* 1. Events that cause love to grow cold:
* Matthew 24:6-7

…wars and rumors of wars. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. {INTERNAL and EXTENAL CONFLICT}

* Matthew 24:7

…famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places {DISEASE and Shakings}

* AIDS
* Monkey pox
* SARS
* Swine flu
* Bird flu
* Covid and variants
* Ebola
* West Nile virus
* Super bugs/viruses.
* Matthew 24:9-10

…deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. {PERSECUTION}

* Matthew 24:10

…many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. {OFFENSES}

* Matthew 24:11

Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many {LIES of SPIRITUAL DIRECTION/FAKE HOPE}

* 1. Commentaries
* Matthew 24:12
* *[The love of many shall wax cold.] By reason of these trials and persecutions from without, and those apostasies and false prophets from within, the love of many to Christ and his doctrine, and to one another, shall grow cold. Some openly* ***deserting the faith,*** *as Matthew 24:10;* ***others corrupting*** *it, as Matthew 24:11; and* ***others growing indifferent about*** *it, as Matthew 24:12.*
* *(from Adam Clarke's Commentary, Electronic Database. Copyright © 1996, 2003, 2005 by Biblesoft, Inc. All rights reserved.)*
* *“…it is too common for professors of religion to grow cool in their profession, when the wicked are hot in their wickedness; as the church of Ephesus in bad times left her first love, Rev 2:2-4. Or, it may be understood more particularly of brotherly love.* ***When iniquity abounds, seducing iniquity, persecuting iniquity, this grace commonly waxes cold. Christians begin to be shy and suspicious one of another, affections are alienated, distances created, parties made, and so love comes to nothing. The devil is the accuser of the brethren, not only to their enemies, which makes persecuting iniquity abound, but one to another, which makes the love of many to wax cold****.*
* (from Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: New Modern Edition, Electronic Database. Copyright © 1991 by Hendrickson Publishers, Inc.)

**Illustrations And Stories**

There are strange things happening in the nation of Canada and elsewhere:

1. Student in Ontario who was suspended for saying there were only two genders who was then arrested for trespassing when he came to school
2. Ten-year-old child giving a speech that she is transgender and non-binary and should be allowed to use any washroom she feels comfortable in
3. The Biden Administration gave the *“International Woman of The Year”* award to a transgender woman
4. Christians being persecuted financially by banks
5. Christians losing their jobs for their Christian beliefs
6. Large prosthetic breasts worn by a high school teacher
7. Student who is transitioning from a woman to a man and wants to join the men’s ministry
8. A Pastor arrested for protesting drag queens reading to children
9. During Covid - Pastors, arrested, fined
	1. Followers of Christ labelled by politicians as bigots, intolerant, ignorant, and haters.
	2. The first step of persecution is marginalization

1. When Catholic churches were being burned and the Prime Minister said it was understandable
2. Brazil – Satan parade where Jesus was mocked.
3. **Signs of a church in an Apostate condition:**
4. There are key descriptors of the church when it is in an “apostate” condition. The Bible communicates factors and signs to look for:
5. The truth is supressed and resisted:
	* World values will change and become toxic – the pressure will impact the church:
* Some will depart the faith
* Some will corrupt the faith
* Some will grow indifferent
1. Sound doctrine is exchanged and not preached – FALSE teaching takes its place:
* Doctrines of demons (false teaching) takes the place of sound Biblical doctrine
* Seducing spirits are communicating - this leads to the worship of demons
* Biblical and godly values are re-defined to accept modern culture
1. Accepting sin and inequity in the church in the name of “tolerance”
* Absorbing popular culture into the church instead of following Kingdom principles
* Tolerance is not a Biblical principle because tolerance leaves people in their condition. The New Testament culture is about compassion

1. **Self-love** and self-fulfilment will replace the love for God
* Lovers of **SELF – MONEY – PLEASURES**
* **The love for Christ is replaced**

1. A church that celebrates “form” and “ritual” but is powerless. In other words, it becomes religious but denies the transforming power of Christ.
2. Sexual immorality will be rampant.
* Unbridled sexuality will be the norm.
1. They seek spiritual signs and manifestations.
2. Increased criticism/attacks of the church.
3. **God will respond, He will not be mocked!**
	1. Mocking God, especially Christ, has become fashionable is some circles. Unfortunately, those that desire to criticize God and the Bible are becoming more abrasive and intentional.
	2. However, the Bible communicates that God will NOT be mocked and He will respond – with judgement.

**Galatians 6:7**

7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

**2Thessalonians 2:8**

And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

**To the Church in Thyatira**

**Revelation 2:18-24**

**18**“And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, ‘These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: **19**“I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and *as* for your works, the last *are* more than the first. **20**Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. **21**And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. **22**Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. **23**I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works. **24**“Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden.

# SERMON CONCLUSION - THE CALL TO ACTION

**Revelation 2:24-29**

**25**But hold fast what you have till I come. **26**And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations— **27**‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’— as I also have received from My Father; **28**and I will give him the morning star. **29**“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’

1. Live a life worthy of the call of God
2. Stay united and push back.