

WHAT ARE THE DANGERS FACING THE CHURCH TODAY?

REVIEW:

- We talked about the 4 pillars of the early Church.
- The mold/pattern
- Where is music???
- Bethels calling...
- How are we doing?

WHAT IS THE CHURCH FACING TODAY? Jude 3...

- What would you say are the greatest dangers facing the church in America?
WORLDLINESS, BUSINESS PROSPERITY, NARCISSISM, EASE, DECEPTION, MAN CENTERED GOSPEL, COMPROMISE:
 - THESE ATTACKS WILL COME IN MANY FORMS. (Attacks on the soul.)
 - We must see these things now. Recognize them as real now!
 - We must begin to make the needed corrections and sacrifices NOW!
- First know this, there will be a FALLING AWAY!
- I see a falling away and a decrease in holy zeal for God, of true spirituality.
 - "Falling away." Apostasy, defection, to forsake.
 - Matt. 24:12; 13, ¹² and because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But he who endures to the end shall be saved.
 - 2 Thess. 2:3, Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,*
 - 1 Tim. 4:1, 2, 16, Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, (Depart: o cause to depart, to cause to revolt," to stand off, or aloof) ² speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron. ¹⁶ Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.
- Worldliness:
 - 1 JN. 2: 15-18,
 - James 4:4; Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
 - Rom. 12:2,

- **Busyness:**

- 2 Tim. 2 3-5, you therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴ No one engaged in warfare entangles ("to weave in) himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier
- Mk. 4:18-19; ¹⁸ Now these are the ones sown among thorns; *they are* the ones who hear the word, ¹⁹ and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

- **Narcissistic Christianity. Man centered, watered down gospel. Entertainment based..**

- 2 Peter 3: 3, ³ knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,
- 2 Tim. 4:3-5, ³ for the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, (to hold up against a thing, to hold one's self erect and firm) 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.
- 2 Tim. 3: 1-5, But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: (times of stress) 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,
- **Entertainment:** *An evil is in the professed camp of the Lord, so gross in its impudence, that the most shortsighted can hardly fail to notice it during the past few years. It has developed at an abnormal rate, even for evil. It has worked like leaven until the whole lump ferments. The devil has seldom done a cleverer thing than hinting to the church that part of their mission is to provide entertainment for the people, with a view to winning them. (Spurgeon.1885)*
- "A time will come when instead of shepherds feeding the sheep, the church will have clowns entertaining the goats" – C. H. Spurgeon
- AM I PURSUING HOLINESS.....OR HAPINESS

- **Deceit/Deception:**

- 2 Tim. 3:13, 14; but evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*,
- 2 Peter 2:1-3, But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction. ² And many will follow their destructive

ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. ³ By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words;

- **Ease - leisure - comfort.**

- Eph. 5:15-17, ⁵ See then that you walk carefully, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*.
- Lk. 12: 19, 20, ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, *and* be merry." ' ²⁰ But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?
- *"Comfort, that stealthy thing that enters the house as guest, and then becomes a host, and then master. And then it becomes a tamer, and with hook and scourge makes puppets of our larger desires. Though its hands are silken, its heart is of iron. Verily, the lust for comfort murders the passion of the soul, and then walks grinning to the funeral."* (Kahlil Gibran.)
- Mt. 25:24-30, the man with one talent buried it. (SLOTHFUL VS 25)

- **Compromise.**

- James 4:4, 5, Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?
- Balaam: Numb. 22, 2 Peter 2:15,16
- Rev. 3:16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither ^[a]cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

- **Persecution. IS COMING...**

- **John 15: 19, 20;**
- 2 Tim. 3: 11-14, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of *them* all the Lord delivered me. ¹² Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.
- **Gina Carano:** fired by Disney/Lucas films. *"Jews were beaten in the streets, not by Nazi soldiers but by their neighbors... even by children... Because history is edited, most people today don't realize that to get to the point where Nazi soldiers could easily round up thousands of Jews, the government first made their own neighbors hate them simply for being Jews. How is that any different from hating someone for their political views?"*
- Church history teaches us that the martyrs who died were persecuted because they were labeled, "agnostics."
- Rome, Inquisition, Reformation in England.. etc..

- **Alex Kendrick: God is about to do something that shocks the nations! Stand firm in your faith and trust in Him.**
- **Remember, God did not save Daniel from being thrown in the lion's den, but WHEN he was in the lion's den.**
- **God did not save the three young Israelites from being thrown in the fire, but WHEN they were in the fire.**
- **God did not part the Red Sea before the Egyptians were bearing down on His people, but WHEN they were trapping them.**
- **God gets the glory when there are no more options and man cannot get the credit! He's telling this story for His glory. This is not about one man, but God's purposes and plan.**
- **The Lord is sifting His church and getting the dross off the silver. He's making us choose to trust Him or choose fear and defeat. He's bringing judgment on the church and America, which He loves. But there is a REMNANT that is standing firm in fasting, prayer, and repentance.**
- **In the coming days, there will be testing, pressure, and chaos. There will be shocking news and developments. It will be unlike anything we've seen in our lifetime. But afterwards, there will be a move of God that will shake the world. There will be BOTH judgment and revival.**
- **So prepare your heart now! Seek the Lord now! Fast and pray now! These are incredible days. But in the end, those that are right with God will stand strong and see the redemption of the Lord. Watch and pray.**
 - **1 Peter 4:12-18**

CONCLUSION/APPLICATION:

- **Mordechai...**
- **Oh believe it, we are in a war. The enemy is coming after Christ's Church, His Bride!**
- **But remember we fight not against flesh and blood. Eph. 6:12 BUT FIGHT WE DO!**
- **Lk. 9:57-62 putting his hand to the plow:**
- **LK. 12: ³⁵⁻³⁷; ³⁵ "Let your waist be girded and *your* lamps burning; ³⁶ and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. ³⁷ Blessed *are* those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching.**