

INTRO:

SIFTING AND DILIGENCE IN THE LAST DAYS?

I cannot say for certain we are in the last days, the end of times, but I know something is happening that I have not seen before. A parallel to the last days a repeat revolution of it.

There is a sifting happening. A sorting and testing to see what we who profess to be called Christians are made of.

Did you know Paul was afraid of something? Fearful?

And I like Paul am afraid..

- 2 Cor. 11:2, 3,
He spoke like warnings in to the church in Galatia. 1:6, 3:1, 4:11

- Let's look at **Heb. 2:1-3;**
 - Heed: It suggests devotion of thought and effort, to bring a ship to land.. We might say, "bring it home."
 - Drift Away: "to flow past, glide by, to drift by or miss course. "to flow" where the significance is to find oneself "flowing" or "passing by," without giving due heed to a thing, (Only time used in the NT)
 - Phil. 3:14

Now what does the scriptures tell us about these days, what does the Spirit warn us of?

WARNINGS OF EVIL"

- Like the days of Noah: Mt. 24:36-39, But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of ^[a]heaven, but My Father only. ³⁷ But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.
- Gen. 6:11-13; ¹¹ The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹² So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. ¹³ And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

A Falling Away:

- 2 Thess. 2:3; Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first*,
- 1 Tim. 4:1-2; Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, ² speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

- Mt. 24:9-12; 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.
- Mt. 25:1-13 the 10 virgins.

NEEDED DILIGENCE:

- **2 Peter 3:11-14:**
- VS. 12, 13, 14 "Looking for" "to watch toward, to look for, expect", "expecting" in expectation;" The only 3 times used in the epistles.
- Vs. 12: Hastening: earnestly desiring Only time in the epistles...
- 2 Peter 1:5-10; ¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;
- **Mt. 24:42-51.**
- **1 Thess. 5:1-8;** But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. ² For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. ³ For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. ⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. ⁵ You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. ⁶ Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. ⁸ But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and *as* a helmet the hope of salvation.
- Not to sleep: (Vs. 7) of carnal indifference to spiritual things on the part of believers a condition of insensibility to Divine things involving conformity to the world
- But to Watch: (VS. 6) the meaning here is that of vigilance and expectancy as contrasted with laxity and indifference. All believers will live together with Christ, but their spiritual condition and attainment vary considerably. Those who are lax and fail to be watchful will suffer loss
 - (1 Cor. 3:15, 9:27, 2 Cor. 5:10.)
- Eph. 5:14-17; Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light." ¹⁵ See then that you walk circumspectly, (Accurately, 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*

DILIGENCE" Barclay paraphrases it "bend all your energy to the task." Phillips says "you must do your utmost from your side." Wuest renders it "having added every intense effort."

- Diligence refers to eagerness, earnestness, willingness or zeal. It denotes quick movement or haste accompanying the eagerness, etc, in the interest of a person or cause.
- In the Greek it is "speedy diligence" and means quickly obeying what the Lord reveals is His priority. This elevates the better over the good and the more important over the important – with divinely-inspired swiftness.

It is employed, for instance, to describe the eager swiftness with which the Virgin went to Elizabeth after the angel's salutation and annunciation. It is the word employed to describe the murderous hurry with which Herodias came rushing in to the king to demand John the Baptist's head. It is the word with which the Apostle, left solitary in his prison, besought his sole trusty, companion Timothy to 'make haste so as to come to him before winter.'

Spurgeon exhorts us to all diligence...

For we cannot expect to go to heaven asleep. We are not taken there against our wills. It is not our will that accomplishes our salvation; but still, it is not accomplished without our will. "Giving diligence, "yes, but more than that, **"giving all diligence,"**

It is not man's effort that saves him; but, on the other hand, grace saves no man to make him like a log of wood or a block of stone; grace makes man active. God has been diligently at work with you; now you must diligently work together with Him.

Conclusion:

Listen Brothers and Sisters, we are living in the days when it is time seriously time, to get truly committed to the kingdom of God and His God's work.

Let us be **"Church builders, and Kingdom expanders"** with the time we have left.

Rom. 13:11-14