

MY GENERATION (part-four of a six-part study)

In 2 Timothy 4:3, Paul details the *underlying cause* of this change for the worse within a particular generation of Evangelical Christianity. But in 2 Timothy 4:4, the initial phase of the downward spiral detailed in v3, finally hits bottom, as the apostle describes for us its *disastrous effect* – “. . . **and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.**” Two different verbs are used to indicate the two distinct sources of this two-fold negative end result. Both occur in the future tense, with the former in the active voice (“turn away”), and the latter in the passive voice (“turn aside”). The grammatical difference is significant! It tells us that this change for the worse will be initiated by a specific group of spiritual weaklings. They will make a conscious decision to actively turn away from the challenge of learning and living sound doctrine. Once that decision is made, a vulnerability sets in which will make them susceptible to the persuasive influence of ear-tickling false teachers; similar to the scenario of a pied piper luring naïve little children astray, in direct correspondence to the warning of Paul in Ephesians 4:14.

So, this vulnerable generation will be acted upon by an outside force: ear-tickling teachers who will take them to the fictional land in which they desire to live. It will be a land of fables and myths. Instead of turning away from such teachers, as Paul encourages us to do in Romans 16:17-18, they will turn away from the truth. Sadly, far too many Christians today have become enamored with and even addicted to, two such falsehoods: the fable of political activism as a means for advancing the cause of Christ in our world; as well as the myth of secular psychology for the purpose of spiritual growth and development. Individuals who call themselves followers of Christ are actively promoting these two unbiblical pursuits, and have successfully persuaded my generation to follow. And it’s getting worse. My fellow Evangelicals have most recently allowed themselves to be even more deeply brainwashed by a multitude of conspiracy theories, promoted by individuals who could care less about teaching the Word of God. As it was in the days of Isaiah, so it is now. Consider how he portrays the Israelites of his day in Isaiah 9:16 –

“For those who guide this people are leading them astray; and those who are guided by them are brought to confusion.”

Extricating oneself from such a maelstrom of delusional influences will not be easy. Yet, by the grace of God at work in the heart of even the most confused and susceptible Christians in America today, a restoration to Biblical sanity is possible. The next two segments will be devoted to providing a “how to” for deliverance, based on 2 Timothy 4:5, and my own personal experience. And if by God’s grace, I could escape from this deception which had clouded my thinking, so can you!