

THE PARABLE OF THE TARES AND THE WHEAT (Part 5 of 6)

You have had time to decide whether or not we are at the end of the Church Age with the tares of Satan's deception being fully at work, not only in our lost and fallen world, but within the Christian faith itself. My decision is that we are indeed living in this time of apostasy spoken of by the apostle Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:3. And this is not just any falling away from the faith, which has plagued the Church throughout its history. Paul makes it clear in v3 that just prior to the Rapture, initiating the Day of the Lord, the Church will experience "THE APOSTASY." The final one, at the very end of the Church Age, will be the worst one.

It will be one where the tares are in full bloom, being used by the devil and his demon host to wreak havoc with sound Biblical doctrine. Specifically, it has resulted in a departure from the Great Commission mandate left to us by our Lord, recorded in Matthew 28:18-20. Instead of emphasizing evangelism and discipleship, the focus has been on politics and psychology; creating oxymoronic hybrids known as Christian Political Activism and Christian Psychology, in direct contradiction of Paul's teaching found in 2 Corinthians 10:3-4, as well as Colossians 2:8-9.

These two heresies have worked in tandem with one another. Christian Psychology has drawn believers away from a lifestyle of learning and living sound doctrine. This in turn has allowed for Christian Political Activism to capture the attention of many, so that they are no longer focused upon the essence of the Great Commission, namely, evangelism and discipleship. Instead, under the guise of something that has come to be known as "Christian Nationalism," their energy and enthusiasm is being directed toward theocratic nation building. Unless I am completely mistaken and misguided about the last days of the Church Age being right here and right now, it is difficult for me to imagine any other development within the Christian faith, qualifying as THE APOSTASY.

The tragic irony of it all is that this apostate movement will give rise to the Biblical Antichrist. The apostle Paul makes this unmistakably clear in 2 Thessalonians 2:3. The apostasy will come first; then the Antichrist will be revealed. The former will give rise to the latter. How? Just as Peter and his fellow apostles were looking for a political Messiah, receiving a much-deserved rebuke from their Lord in Matthew 16:23; so will Christians at the end of this age be looking for a political savior, who will satisfy their theocratic longings. But they will be in for a rude awakening (please read about it for yourself in Matthew 24:15-21). Paul tells us that this man will go so far as to do the unthinkable. Notice the ominous warning recorded for us in 2 Thessalonians 2:4 –

. . . who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God."

Here is the most difficult question to consider in regard to the rule of the Antichrist, during that terrible time of suffering known as the Tribulation. Is there an individual alive on planet earth right now, who actually possesses the kind of self-centered, egotistical and narcissistic audacity, so as to proclaim himself to be God, and then demand that the whole world worship him? I can only think of one.