

THE REMNANT REFORMATION RESISTANCE (Part Two of a Two-part study)

The final end-time apostasy will be extremely severe. It will coincide with the end of the Church Age and be the worst in all of Church history. No wonder Paul refers to it as THE apostasy in 2 Thessalonian 2:3. Deception will be extensive and so persuasive that even true believers will fall prey to it, as revealed in Matthew 24:24. This deceptive influence will have a delusional effect upon all those who succumb to it; in that they will believe the very opposite of what is true. So much so, that those who have not been deceived by this subterfuge, will be viewed as outcasts by those who have believed Satan's lies. Christ's warning at the end of John 16:2, proves just how bad it will be: ". . . **but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God.**" Jesus establishes a critical connection here, confirmed historically: contrary to the will of God, apostasies employ the use of violence (Psalms 11:5; Proverbs 3:31; Isaiah 53:9).

In this worst of all departures from the Christian faith, doctrinal distortion and deception will be everywhere. My guess is that if the Protestant Reformers could see what we have done with their Reformation, they would turn over in their graves. Ironically, the nation which God has used so greatly in advancing the cause of Christ throughout the world, during the last two hundred years, has become guilty as the source for this greatest end-time spiritual failure. It is here, in the United States of America, where doctrinal confusion has become pervasive, with sound doctrine being rationalized away as impractical and divisive. Instead, a bizarre fascination with politics and psychology has replaced a desire for evangelism and discipleship, with the Great Commission taking a back seat to these foolish man-made pursuits, which do not have their source in God.

For those who are reading this in other nations throughout the world, I have considered it an honor and a privilege to pray for the many requests you have made. It has resulted in a very extensive prayer list which I use in upholding you before the Lord every day in prayer. But now, I am asking that you would return the favor. Please pray for my fellow American Evangelical Christians. The spiritual apostasy among many of them has become so extensive, that they have fallen away and gone astray from the Biblically-based purpose of God for their lives. That New Testament lifestyle has been replaced, even abandoned, in favor of an angry and unethical desire for gaining political power, along with their never-ending acquisition of financial wealth; justifying those end-results by any means necessary. *They need to get their priorities straight.*

If you were to compare today's Evangelical Church in America with the seven churches addressed by our Savior in the book of Revelation, there is no question that we are the church at Laodicea; lukewarm and self-satisfied (Revelation 3:15-17). We have had it so good for so long that we don't want it to end. I am convinced that this, above all else, is the primary and underlying motivation for our preoccupation with gaining political power: in order to maintain this very comfortable status quo. Most American Evangelicals have no idea as to the kind of persecution and hardship Christians in other nations are facing, and many could care less; as long as it doesn't happen here.

In spite of the spiritual condition of the Christians in Laodicea, Jesus doesn't abandon them, but reproves and pleads with them to be zealous and repent (3:19), and invites them to be restored in their fellowship with Him (3:20). Revelation 3:20 is not an evangelistic invitation. Jesus is addressing Christians, confirmed by His use of "phileo" and not "agapao" in v19. So, these were true believers, but also guilty of turning away and going astray from Christ's purpose for their lives, as are the majority of Evangelicals in America. Nevertheless, God has preserved a remnant for Himself, a tiny minority, that has been successful in resisting this apostate trend. So, as you are praying for the majority's repentance, please don't forget to pray for the minority's resistance.