

2 Thess 2:1-5 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, ² not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. 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, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. ⁵ Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

Stephan Beitze – "Has the Great Falling Away from the Faith Begun?"

Generally speaking, the entire West (Europe, the American continent, Australia, and parts of Asia and Africa) has been characterized by a certain fear of God since its Christianization and into the mid-20th century. Legislation, moral values, and the understanding of what a good life should look like were shaped by the standards in God's Word. Of course, that does not mean that all people believed or kept it. But sinfulness was not usually considered a virtue.

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This attitude changed drastically, beginning in the 1960s. The sexual and feminist revolution made fornication and infidelity something worth striving for, an expression of supposed authenticity and true love. The deliberate rejection of Christian thought exploded: on the one hand, more and more people turned to Eastern and demonic religions in their search for meaning; and on the other hand, the theory of evolution increasingly received the status of religious dogma. The decline in ethical reasoning has developed far-reaching consequences in the moral behavior of many. Drug use grew out of control. Open Satanism became 'cool' (with the threadbare justification, 'We don't really believe in the devil'). All of this perverted so-called Christianity as never before."

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7

Is 13:9 "Behold the Day of the Lord comes cruel with both wrath and fierce anger to lay the land desolate."

Jer 46:10 "For this is the Day of the Lord God of hosts, a day of vengeance that He may avenge Himself on His adversaries."

Joel 1:15 "For the Day of the Lord is at hand, it shall come as destruction from the almighty."

Joel 2:11 "For the Day of the Lord is great and very terrible."

Joel 2:31 "The sun shall be turned into darkness, the moon into blood before the coming of the great and terrible Day of the Lord."

Amos 5:20 "Is not the Day of the Lord darkness?"

Mal 4:5 "The coming of the great and dreadful Day of the Lord."

Zeph 1:14-15 "The noise of the Day of the Lord is bitter. The day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of devastation and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness."

Rev 6:17 For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Mt 24-25

- 1 Thess 5:2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.
- 1 Thess 1:10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.
- 1 Thess 5:9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 1 Thess 4:16 "we, us, our, dead in Christ"

Some believe that things will get better and better in the world as the church conquers sin and sets up the Kingdom

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Lk 18:8 "...when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"

2 Tim 3:1,13 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ... ¹³ But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

13

Mt 24:5-14 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. ⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are the beginning of sorrows. ⁹ "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. ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Eph 5:16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil

15

1. There will be a "final" falling away in the culture at large

Rom 1:

- (24) God also gave them up to uncleanness
- (26) gave them up to vile passions
- (28) gave them over to a debased mind

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2 Tim 3:1-5,13 But know this, that in the last days [sperilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving [without natural affection], unforgiving [trucebreakers], slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! ... ¹³ But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

11. slanderers
12. without self-control
13. brutal
14. despisers of good
15. traitors
16. headstrong
17. haughty
18. lovers of pleasure rather
than lovers of God
19. having a form of godliness but denying its power

2. There will be a "final" falling away in the church at large



"For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water"

Jer 2:13

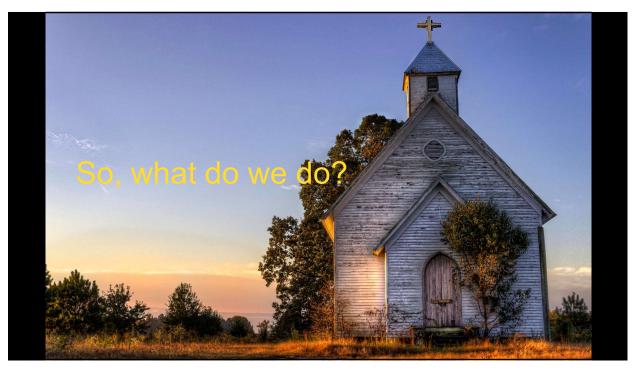
1 Tim 4:1-3 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, ² speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, ³ forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

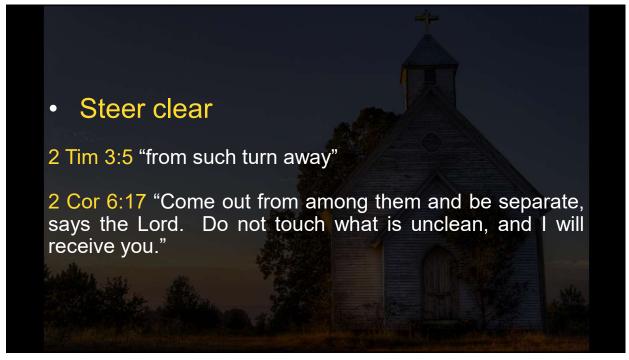
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2 Tim 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.



Rev 3:15-16 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷ Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' – and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked



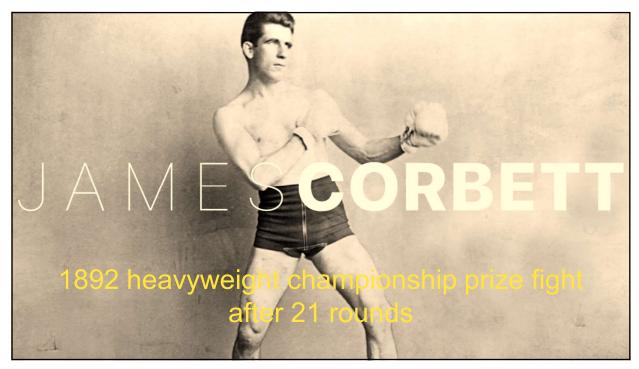


Stay the course

2 Tim 4:1-2,5 "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine...But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."

29

This world is not my home I'm just a passing through My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue The angels beckon me from heaven's open door And I can't feel at home in this world anymore Oh lord you know I have no friend like you If heaven's not my home then lord what will I do The angels beckon me from heaven's open door And I can't feel at home in this world anymore



"Fight one more round. When your feet are so tired that you have to shuffle back to the center of the ring, fight one more round. When your arms are so tired that you can hardly lift your hands to come on guard, fight one more round. When your nose is bleeding and your eyes are black and you are so tired that you wish your opponent would crack you on the jaw and put you to sleep, fight one more round – remembering that the man who always fights one more round is never whipped."