



## *The Time is NOW!!!*

The time is now!!! The time to stand for the things of God is now!!! The time to speak out against false leadership, false teachers and false prophets and to herald God's truth is now!!! The time to stop yielding to the things of the devil and playing games with his lies and deceptions is NOW!!!

What do I mean by the above declarations? Well, I believe it is quite obvious. I am saying without a shadow of a doubt that the time has come to put aside all the so called "niceties" of being a true follower of Jesus. It is time that we truly begin to grasp, understand and live in the true world as a true child of God. It is time to speak the truth as a true follower of Jesus – His truth – concerning the wrongs, not in the world, but rather in the things that are taking place within the Body of Christ.

Yes, the Body of Christ has changed very much over the past few years. What was wrong and despicable is now accepted and put out there as a signal to the world that we, the Body of Christ, have surrendered and we have decided to become just like you – the pagans and non-believers. Yes, we have found out that this is what God had wanted from the very beginning. He never ever wanted His people to be different from the rest of the world. He sent us Jesus so that we now, as believers, can truly understand and become just like the world in all that we do.

To all that I have just written I say, "Hogwash!!!" However, this is what is being taught and what is being accepted in many, not all, of those assemblies that choose to call themselves the Body of Christ. One of the most important aspects of these end times is what we are told in His Word that in the end times there would be a "remnant" that would come out of what we know as the Body of Christ.

The word "remnant" comes from the Hebrew word "*yeh'-ther*" which means, the remainder or what is left. The Greek word is "*kat-al-i'-po*." It refers to those who are left. It refers to those true believers that will not lose their way but rather will stay straight and on course. The "course" is obviously the correct road that will lead to an everlasting life in the presence of God and His Son, Jesus, the Messiah, the Lord of all.

We need to be very careful these days in not just what we are hearing but what we are really seeing in the lives of those who refer to themselves as our pastors, prophets, apostles - the so called "leadership" that is in the Body of Christ. Many are changing the Gospel to fit into today's world. It is happening very subtly and slowly. I said "slowly" ... Hmmm... I am incorrect in saying that they are doing this "slowly."

Actually, it is speeding up. So much has taken place over the past 10 – 20 years, not to mention over the past 50 - 70 years. We have seen new denominations, new ideas about God and His Word. Ideas that are so "way out" and so far from the Word of God that they actually needed to write new Bibles that all of a sudden are telling us that, only now do we have the "the real true text." Hmmm....

They are saying and telling us that we no longer need to look at or study anything in the Old Testament. We no longer need to look at anything of the Gospels other than Jesus' resurrection. We are being told that many of the books in the New Testament should not even be in our Bibles because they are incorrect. We are being told that only a few of the Letters we read in the Bible are of any true value.

In other words we are seeing the Word of God, the Bible, being torn apart and in its place we are being taught that there is no real need to read those scriptures. In other words we are to simply read and believe that there are only a few scriptures that are truly legitimate. Most importantly, we are being told that we are to read what "today's masters of the Word" are telling us. To all of this I say a resounding, "Hogwash!!!"

Then we have the so called “preachers of the Word” who are telling us and actually using the scriptures. We see many of them ranting up and down their sanctuary telling us the “Word of God” and the “true ways” of the Lord. Yet, most of them are in or have been in compromising positions with other men and women other than their spouse. We see many of them preaching the Word but yet secretly having affairs and even entering into homosexual relationships.

We see them making and using the money of their ministry and living a secret lifestyle off of that money that was given by faithful believers, not to them but to the ministry. After all, those in the congregations were told to give and tithe unto the ministry. Unfortunately, those believers were never told where the money was truly going.

Now, many of you may be saying to yourselves that I am ranting about silly things that aren’t really taking place. I wish that was true. However, unfortunately, I know of “ministries” and “pastors” that have been and are still in the midst of doing such things.

Then we have the biggest deception of them all. They state that they “have never done” anything incorrect that may in the least way look as if they were doing anything contrary to the true Word of God. Never, would they think of or dream of anything that would be contrary to the Word of God. Yet, there they are – married to a second or third spouse; having homosexual secret (or nowadays open affairs); being wolves in sheep’s clothing; taking money from ministries and paying for their secret illicit lifestyles, yet never telling their congregations that they are spending their tithes for these illicit, secretive lifestyles.

We have some ministries that have been continuing to pay people’s salaries and expenses that have left that church and were out “doing their thing” and not even working or going to that church. We have ministries that have been paying the expenses for those that actually tried to start another ministry and speak out-right against the leadership of the ministries that were still paying their “expenses.” However, they do it secretly so that no one will find out. And the list goes on and on.

Now, I am not saying that we are all perfect or even near perfect. I am not saying that the Body of Christ is to be all “perfect” and that there are no people that do sin or have sinned. No, I am not saying that at all. We are all “sinners saved by grace.” We are all imperfect people until the day when we are with Jesus.

However, if a person says that they are a believer in Christ and continues in doing wrong things and are sinning, then that individual needs to be, and must be, addressed and corrected. There are plenty of people that see it happening. However, they refuse to say anything. There are plenty of those in leadership who see it happening and choose to look the other way and say we are to live by love, mercy and grace.

Yes, we are to look at others with love, grace and mercy. Yes we are to love them even while they are yet in their sin. However, we are not to love them by looking the other way or by continuing to allow them in their sin - especially within the Body of Christ. To that I say – **stop!!!** Jesus **NEVER** did that. Yes, He stuck up for the sinner when they were going to be stoned or physically punished for their sin. Yet, we see very clearly that after He had helped the sinner He expressly told the sinner **to repent and sin no more**. Yes, Jesus said the dreaded word. He said it over and over and over again to everyone. He said the dreaded word – repent!!!

Unfortunately, in today’s world there are those within the Body of Christ who teach that there is no need to repent any more. They say that we are to take that word out of the Bible and out of the Body of Christ. They teach and preach that there is absolutely, positively no need to repent any longer. Don’t you know that Jesus paid it all?

When Jesus spoke to the crowd and talked about repentance He really meant that it was only until He rose from the grave. After that there would be no need for repentance. The 3½ years He spent preaching on this earth were only for those 3½ years. He preached and told the people to repent only until He would die and go to the Father. After all, after Jesus did everything that He did there would be no need to repent.

What?? Why would Jesus waste His time and teach all the wonderful things He taught just to have them all thrown out never to be heard of or used again? Does that really make sense to you? Why was it all saved for us and written down so meticulously? Why do we have three of the synoptic Gospel accounts tell us the same things concerning Jesus life? Why did John write His Gospel, so much later than the other Gospels, and tell us similar things but yet expounded so much more on the last days of Jesus' life. Why did Jesus continually take His disciples and diligently teach them the correct ways of God and His Word if that Word and His teachings were not going to be needed after Jesus died and was resurrected?

Why does it tell us in the Book of Acts that the Apostles took time to study (our Old Testament scriptures) and see how Jesus had indeed fulfilled everything that He was to fulfill and tell us that through His perfect example that we should now live that same lifestyle? Why did Paul go away for 8-13 years to study the Word (our Old Testament scriptures) to see and then go and teach others the truth concerning Jesus and how we are now to take that same Word and use it, apply it and ultimately live it now within our lives?

The answer is very simple. It was all necessary. It was all necessary so that the true believer would have the full "unadulterated" story. Everything in the Old Testament **and** in the New Testament is vital for the true believer today. We must not allow and let the so called "spiritual leaders" of many of today's churches take away from the fullness, the richness and the total, absolute truth of the Word of God.

Jesus was very clear when he told us that His Word would never pass away. The problem with many of today's leadership is that they believe that they are much more in tune with God than Jesus was. We must never forget that Jesus was the living Word of God – come in the flesh.

We are living in the end times. We are living in the times that Peter and Jude wrote about, warning the true believers to be on the alert when the false prophets and teachers come with their lies and deceptions. Jude writes of men who crept in unawares. I literally call them "creeps." They come into the Body of Christ not looking as if they were enemies of the Body. They infiltrate the Body of Christ with false doctrines and teachings that are full of lies and deceptions.

Jesus continually warned of these types of men in many of His teachings and parables. The New Testament writers are constantly warning of those who would come into the Body and teach these lies and deceptions referring to them as "*roaring lions seeking whom they may devour.*" These types of false teachers and false prophets were called "apostates" who taught "apostasy." Apostasy is "the defection, departure, revolt or rebellion from the original truths of the Word of God." It has been described as "a **willful** falling away from, or **rebellion** against, the basic fundamental truths and doctrines of the faith."

Jude tells us that these "apostates" were "*...ungodly.*" They denied and were disobedient to God and lived contrary to God's moral law. They were impious, irreligious, sinful and wicked. Jude writes that they "*...turned the grace of our God into lasciviousness (licentiousness).*"

In other words Jude was stating that these apostates would come into the Body and express an attitude of heart of lawlessness, wantonness, and gross immorality. It refers to allowing and openly doing sin without any shadow of shame. Why? Because they perverted the grace of God saying that grace frees us from all moral or civil law. This was and is called "Antinomianism."

Jude declares in verse 4 the judgment upon these apostates. He tells us very clearly that they were those, *"... who were before of old ordained to this **condemnation**."* Jude is referring to those who pervert God's truth that has been written down and mandated throughout the scriptures. It is God's Word. It is Jesus, Himself. What many have done back in that time and it still continues to this day is that these "apostates" have perverted, misused and maligned the pure Word of God. They have made it fit into the world's way of thinking. In other words they were, and still are, "changing" God and His Word.

God always was, is and will be the same God that He is. He doesn't nor will He ever change. His ways do not nor will they ever change. It is up to the true believer to simply believe this very vital truth - God never changes. We are told this in many scriptures that God has given us in His Word. Yes, the truth is that God never ever changes. The only thing that never changes or should I say, remains the same, is man's unwitting desire to change what God says and who He is. Man has always been and continues to be baited and pushed by satan's insatiable desire to pervert God and His Word for his own benefit.

Jude concludes his short but yet most powerful letter with these words found in Jude 20-23 where he states, *"But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, <sup>21</sup> Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. <sup>22</sup> And of some have compassion, making a difference: <sup>23</sup> And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh."*

Yes, He encourages the true believers to *"build ourselves up in the faith..."* He encourages the true believer to continually try to *"pull them out of the fire."* In other words, the true believer who has not yielded to these lies and deceptions of the enemy are to continually try and keep speaking the truth to those who are in the Body with the hope that they will hear, listen and turn from their ways which have been perverted by these "apostates" who are being used by satan, himself.

How does one know if they are a "true believer" or a follower of these apostates? The key is very simple. It is found in the entirety of the scripture. It is found from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21. The truth is only found in God's Word. It is not found in man's so called explanations. It is not found in man's understanding. No, it is found only in God's Word which can only be interpreted correctly by Him, through the Holy Spirit which He has given to all those who truly believe Him. Yes, it is only found in and by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit has been given to all those who truly believe. He will give us and show us the true Truth. Therefore, I encourage each of us to go back to the basics. Go back to what God through His Word has told us and continues to tell us. The truth is found only in and through His Word - Jesus. Jesus, when He left us, and until He returns, has given all of His true believers the Holy Spirit.

Jesus tells us in John 14:6-7 that, *"... I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. <sup>7</sup> If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him."* Jesus is the only way to the Father. However, He tells us that He is going to the Father and that He will leave with us the Holy Spirit as we live this life.

He tells us in John 14:16-17 that He will pray to the Father and, *"...He shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; <sup>17</sup> Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it sees him not, neither know him: but ye know him; for he dwells with you, and shall be in you."*

Yes, in this hour the only thing that will show us the true Truth is the Holy Spirit. The true believer must rely upon the Holy Spirit to direct us into all Truth – God's Truth. We must not only be listening but we must also have eyes to see. We must be listening to His truth that is only found in His Word and only understood by, in and through His Holy Spirit. We must be careful in these last days of the "apostates."

These “apostates” have been attacking the truth and the Body of Christ from the beginning of the birth of the Body of Christ. Paul refers to these “apostates” many times in His writings as well as do the other writers of the New Testament. God’s truth is found in all of His Word. God has given us His Spirit to help the true believer to walk in and live out His Word.

Will you do that this day? Will you look to the Holy Spirit that is within you to truly guide you and direct you? The scripture is clear as it states in 2Peter 1:20-21 - *“Knowing this first that no prophecy of the scripture is of **any private interpretation**.<sup>21</sup> For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were **moved by the Holy Ghost**.”* God’s Word is open to all who believe.

Will we all open our own Bibles, not simply look at the words that are put on a screen at church, but truly open up His Word? Will we truly read, hear, seek and believe only God and His Word? I am encouraging each of us, if you call yourself a true believer, to not simply rely on anyone’s own interpretation of the scriptures. Rather seek after His Word and allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you and show you His truth. Only then will you truly know if someone is speaking the truth, God’s truth. God’s truth will truly make you and set you free. (John 8:32)