



## IT'S TIME FOR A REVIVAL OF BIBLICAL TRUTH AND PRACTICE

“Continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned; and how from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise *in respect* to salvation through faith in the Messiah, Y’shua.

“All Scripture is divinely-inspired - God-breathed, and is profitable for teaching, for conviction and reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate and complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:14-17)

BY DON STANTON

We are in the endtimes, and as the apostle Paul foretold, and warned, people in the endtimes will have a form of religion, but they will deny the power of true Godliness. (2 Timothy 3:5)

The Messiah, Y’shua, has also described the endtime church as one endowed with material wealth, but stricken with spiritual poverty.

“You say, ‘I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,’ and you do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.” (Revelation 3:17)

Today much of the Western “church” is tremendously wealthy, but its teachings and practices are becoming more spiritually destitute.

In the 20th century truth was replaced by modernism. In the 21st century, apostasy has produced a post-modernism which is fast leading to a post-Christian era.

While the Gospel is mightily impacting certain countries and communities around the world, a “new gospel” is permeating much of “the church,” particularly in the Western world.

The “new gospel” is a deception, and is not based on sound Biblical doctrine; it is driven by humanistic reasoning. It is a package of new age philosophies, false teachings, spiritualism, mysticism, rationalism, entertainment and psychological marketing.

The “new gospel” does not call for repentance and implicit faith in Christ and the Word of God. Rather, it imitates and compromises with the world.

The “church” has become more and more professionalized and commercialized. Today is an age of mega-churches where modern day “apostles,” like the popes of old, gained more power, influence, and built “spiritual empires” around themselves.

In the Dark Ages, the Church of Rome sold “indulgences” – forgiveness of sins. Salvation was paid for in hard cash. Today, professional preachers proclaim prosperity as a reward for all who share their salaries with the “sons of the seers” - self-seekers who claim they are “building the kingdom.”

Living in luxury, and riding in private air-jets, they proclaim they are “taking the world for Christ.” Y’shua only twice or thrice, rode even on a donkey.

But times have changed! Today the new gospel says, “Seek ye first the kingdom of materialism, and all these prosperities will be added unto you.”

Today is it not, “Give us our daily bread.” It is, “Give us our bread with butter and Manuka honey.”

In today’s “gospel” everything can be spiritualised. The Scriptures are modernized to make the “message” favourable to sceptics and money-minded marketeers. The Word is allegoricalised (treated symbolically) so that it no longer means what it says.

Bible prophecy is placed in the realm of necromancy; the Rapture is called “scare-mongering”; Israel’s prophesied role in the endtimes is decried as ludicrous; hell is mediaeval; and heaven is wishful thinking. “So enjoy your heaven here and now!”

In the US, a recent *Newsweek/Beliefnet* poll found 68% of evangelical Christians doubt that Jesus is the only Way. And in Scotland, two-thirds of Scottish clergy do not believe in hell.

Most people, it seems, would rather believe the tycoon who came back from a near-death experience proclaiming, “I did not see heaven, and there is no hell out there,” rather than believe the Word of God.

Although it is still the world’s most published Book, the Bible seems to be returning to a Dark Age where it is kept on an altar, or the book shelf. Looks nice, but it’s not to be read and believed!

Many modern preachers hold a microphone, but not a Bible, in their hands. And Bible studies are being replaced by “sharing” sessions where you talk about your problems and experiences and get comfort from hearing about others’ experiences.

The “family altar” is now the TV altar. The Lord’s Day is now The Sports’ Day; and the “united, spiritual Christian family” is now an antique institution belonging to the 17th century Quakers.

**Today we need a Revival of Biblical Truth and Practice!**

And now let me share with you about one area where we may be able to start the revival . . .