

“Fighting the Good Fight of Faith”

Paul is writing this letter to Timothy, a young Pastor to the church of Ephesus. Timothy is being equipped and called to carry the heavy responsibility directing and shepherding a spiritual community into sound doctrine and mature discipleship before Jesus. Likewise, we too, in our generation are to pursue pure and undefiled religion above a religious set of rules. There is a pervading gospel message that is communicating a false doctrine of faith. This message is communicating a lesser message of grace which allows us to live however we want without consequences. This message is also reinforcing an acceptance of sin rather than freedom from sin. Fighting this “good faith of faith” is the contending for a living hope and love for an Eternal King; Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 1:3-7 *As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine,⁴ nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith.⁵ Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith,⁶ from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk,⁷ desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.*

I. THE FOUNDATION OF THE GOSPEL: CHRIST ALONE

- A. **1 Timothy 1:3** *As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus(Miami) that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine,*
- B. Paul instructs Timothy to teach the church that love, out of a pure heart and a good conscience, was the elementary principle of religion, and that the "law" was primarily designed to restrain and control the wicked, and that the gospel brought to light and enforced this important truth.
- C. As Christ came to fulfill the law (**Mt. 5:17**) and to embody the law of God, He is the standard of what every Follower of Jesus is to look and act like.
- D. **John 1:1** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*
- E. To follow the Word of God is to follow Jesus, who became the Living Word. The clearest picture of a life who is following the way and the will of Jesus is seen in the Sermon on the Mount teaching in **Matthew 5,6,7**. If this is the litmus test for the Christian life we have a long way to go in disciplining a generation.
- F. We should not attempt to pick & choose the expressions of Jesus in communicating who He is to others. He is the same Word of the Father, before His birth, in His coming in the flesh as a Jewish man, and in His soon return as the Bridegroom, King, and Judge of all of humanity.
- G. **Isaiah 6:4-5** *And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him (seraphim) who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.⁵ So I said: “Woe is me, for I am undone (incomplete)! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts.”*
- H. There is a false gospel (false testimony) and a false kingdom of Heaven message being preached today. Much of this “false message” centers on tolerance and a false grace message. Biblical Grace must be understood as Jesus’ free gift of forgiveness and freedom over the powers of sin and Satan.

- I. *"This God we have made and because we have made him we can understand him; because we have created him he can never surprise us, never overwhelm us, nor astonish us, nor transcend us."* (A.W. Tozer)
- J. **1 John 3:8** *"He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil."*
- K. The Biblical message of Grace is not freedom to keep sinning. Our inheritance in Jesus is freedom from sin, not tolerance of sin. Jesus will not make concessions with sin and with Satan. The Cross was too high a price to simply dismiss its full power and ability.
- L. **Jude 3-4** *"...I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. ⁴ For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ."*
- M. **Matthew 4:23** *And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.*
- N. This is the "gospel of the kingdom". Jesus told His generation that "If they have seen him, they've seen His Father (**Jn. 14**)."
- O. **Matthew 24:14** *"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."*

II. THE PURPOSE OF THE GOSPEL

- A. **1 Timothy 1:5** *Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith,*
- B. **A Pure Heart** - The love which is genuine must proceed from a holy heart. The desire of a loving Father and a jealous Bridegroom King is not merely the outward completion of religious duties, but an internal heart response of love that produces outward fruits of obedience.
- C. **A Good Conscience**- The love of God will produce a conscience free from guilt. Genuine love for God does not continue to violate our inner conscience, who is actually the voice of the Holy Spirit, or continue in sin. We wage war on the sin and trust in God's grace to empower us to walk in freedom.
 - **Jn. 14:23**- *"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him (dwell/rest)."*
- D. **A Sincere Faith**- The love of God will produce a genuine confidence in God as a faithful Shepherd and Leader. We will have confidence that we can run to Him in our weakness, rather than away from Him. Confidence in God is time-tested as we experience His faithfulness in this life and trust Him to continue to reveal Himself in the future.
- E. Paul goes on to instruct Timothy to be faithful in teaching the gospel without compromise even though some were neglecting to do so and were "straying from the faith".
- F. **1 Timothy 1:6** *"from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle (fruitless) talk,"*
- G. **2 Thessalonians 2:3** *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,*
- H. The law of God is to serve as a "restrainer of wickedness". It was to produce love not vain and fruitless arguing. God's requirements should be seen primarily as a loving Father who knows what's

best for the lives of His children, even when they don't. He loves us so much that He allows us to choose Him.

III. THE REWARD OF THE GOSPEL

- A. **1 Timothy 1:12** *"And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled (empowered/resourced) me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry,"*
- B. **Ephesians 4:7** *"But to each one of us (each Believer) grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift (calling)."*
- C. The message of God's grace continues to be communicated to Timothy. Paul was declaring his gratitude in Christ who was his source for fulfilling all that the Lord called him to. Christ's grace had enabled and empowered him to keep saying "Yes". Even in controversies, stoning, prison, etc. Paul was able to keep saying Yes and is now calling Timothy into the same walk.
- D. "How completely satisfying to turn from our limitations to a God who has none. Eternal years lie in His heart. For Him, time does not pass, it remains; and those who are in Christ share with Him all the riches of limitless time and endless years." (A.W. Tozer)
- E. Jesus values our faithfulness to Him and His commands and calling far more than we comprehend. He marks it as our response of love back to Him. Jesus' evaluation process is not based upon human accomplishment, but on faithfulness. He evaluates based on our "full" response of "faith". God told this to Saul, through the prophet Samuel, *"I desire obedience, not sacrifice."* This is what Jesus will reward us and bring increase to us on.
- F. Another reward for the church who walks in faithfulness to the Word will be supernatural unity with Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit's desire in every believer is to fully reveal Jesus on the inside of us. It is as if the "burning bush of Moses" is living on the inside of us.
- G. **John 16:13** *"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.*
- H. There is no greater battle than that of faith in and for Jesus Christ. It's all for Love. There are many conflicts and "wars" we encounter in our life. Yet, only one is defined as "good" or profitable for today & for eternity; the fight of faith. This is the battle that transcends the battle of flesh and blood and extends into eternity and will mark the life to come. This is our response of love which is our eternal testimony.
- I. **1 Timothy 1:18-19** *"This charge I commit to you (entrusted), son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, ¹⁹ having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck,"*
- J. **1 Timothy 6:12** *Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

“The History of Nations Lies in the Hands of Intercessors”

1 Timothy 2:1-7 *Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, ² for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. ³ For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, ⁷ for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying— a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.*

In reference to the results of the Presidential elections, we are seeing the voting results an American Church who has lost her salt & light and a maturing of wickedness in the earth. The Lord is continuing to increase the heat of His gaze on the heart of His people as He desires that we would grow up in our faith. America has been blessed with rich blessings from heaven. We have been given much and are now responsible for much. The Lord is going allow the increase of persecution and martyrdom for the sake of preparing His people to partner with His will on the earth for global harvest and judgment. *“The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.”* (Tertullian)

I. THE FIRST CALLING OF THE CHURCH IS PRAYER

- A. **1 Timothy 2:1** *“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,”*
- B. Many of us are genuinely unclear as to our first and primary calling before the Lord. Many would say that it is evangelism, preaching, feeding the poor, caring for the orphan and widow, etc. These are all good and right and the church must lead the charge in addressing these needs, but in the right order.
- C. **Therefore-** Paul is “summing up” his previous thoughts by saying “in light of this” PRAY! In light of the desperate need to know and present the testimony of Jesus without compromise we must pray continuously.
- D. Any Church ministry or Christian outreach who does not adopt a culture of prayer will cease to exist, let alone have moral and spiritual impact.
- E. Prayer is the conversation of the God of Eternity and broken humanity meeting to agree for the impossible to become possible. God of Heaven is the God of impossibility. Prayer is what maintains a fertile ground for the seeds of faith to take root. Prayer becomes the foundation for all else that is built and erected in Jesus’ name.
- F. **Matthew 9:37-38** *He (Jesus) was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. ³⁷ Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. ³⁸ Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”*
- G. This is it! Pray for Jesus to send out laborers & shepherds after His own heart. This is the Father’s strategy for delivering His kingdom from heaven to the earth, one heart at a time. Most of us say, “Well yes prayer, but we also need to...” Have you prayed first?
- H. **Luke 18:1** *Then He (Jesus) spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,*

- I. Why isn't the Church seeing greater spiritual impact in America? SIMPLY, we are void of the Father tangible, manifested presence. He only draws near in mercy and healing when He is invited by people whose hearts are broken and poor (Mt. 5:3). We have pursued the approval of men and our culture above the Presence of the Almighty God. WE MUST HAVE HIS PRESENCE AGAIN!
- J. **Corporate Worship & Prayer:**
 - a. **Supplications**—Responding to God out of a sense of need. Responding in humility like Mt. 5,6,7.
 - i. **Psalm 51:17**- *The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.*
 - b. **Prayers**—Paul is implying an ongoing devotion between Him and His people.
 - c. **Intercessions**--Drawing near to God in confidence on behalf of another.
 - d. **Giving Thanks**- We respond back in giving thanks for all that the Father does for us.
 - i. **James 1:17**- *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights...*
- K. *"To stand before men on behalf of God is one thing. To stand before God on behalf of men is something entirely different."* (Leonard Ravenhill)

II. CALLED TO PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS

- A. The next generation leaders and the history of nations and cities are waiting to be delivered and brought forth from a people of faith-filled prayer. The histories of nations are formed in the crucible of fervent prayer or in the absence thereof.
- B. **1 Timothy 2:2**- *Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity.*
- C. The context for Paul, Timothy, and the early Church was Roman persecution, imprisonment, and martyrdom. In light of this spiritual climate Paul instructs Timothy to pray for their leaders and government officials.
- D. It is the will and desire of our Heavenly Father that His people contend for a nation and people who value morality and integrity above prosperity and the praise of man. When we pray for our national, state, and local leaders we are creating a climate and then a culture that is conducive for the gospel to "run swiftly".
- E. **2 Thessalonians 3:1** *Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you,*
- F. We are the spiritual influence needed for the leaders of our nation, some righteous and others unrighteous. The Father's intention is that we demonstrate to an unbelieving world who He is and what He thinks and feels. The leadership of a nation is only a reflection of the influence of the church of Jesus.
- G. Paul goes on to say that when the Church models this lifestyle it pleases Him deeply and brings glory to His Son, Jesus Christ (*For this is good & acceptable in the sight of God...1 Tim. 2:3*). We are not to respond as the world does when "our guy" is not elected into office. We are to continue praying and blessing as well as contending for a righteous environment that brings glory to Jesus.
- H. **Romans 12:2** *And do not be conformed (molded by) to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove (demonstrate/reflect) what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

- I. *“The church that is not jealously protected by mighty intercession and sacrificial labors will before long become the abode of every evil bird and the hiding place for unsuspected corruption. The creeping wilderness will soon take over that church that trusts in its own strength and forgets to watch and pray.”*
(A.W. Tozer)
- J. The fruit of a heart and a people living according to the Constitution of the Kingdom (Mt. 5-7) is that we become “salt & light” to an unbelieving world. We preserve and give flavor to society and shine light and deliver warmth to those who are held captive in darkness and sin. When we set our eyes on the Kingdom of Heaven we become “A City set on a Hill”.
- K. **1 Timothy 2:4** *“(Jesus the Savior) who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”*
- L. How do men “*come to the knowledge of the Truth*”? The primary way that the Father reveals the salvation and burning love of His Son Jesus is through the lives of humanity on the earth. The Father sent Himself to embody flesh and blood to see His heart.
- M. **John 3:17** *“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”*
- N. The “spirit of Elijah” (**Lk. 1:17**) is calling the church back to our spiritual roots. Let our hearts be turned to hear the voices of our Fathers of the Faith! America has become a nation of “consumers above producers”. Give me! Give me! GIVE ME! Our American consumerism has flooded the church. We attend Church Concerts every Sunday morning rather than gather to offer to the Lord a “sacrifice of praise”. The Lord desires producers and not just consumers.
- O. If we want to turn a nation and see righteous leaders elected into the White House we must have revival; revival of the Church of Jesus. There is no other way; no other hope. There is only one God and one Mediator who stands between us and this God, Jesus Christ. Every person will stand before the Living and Eternal God over all of creation and give an account for how we lived on the earth.
- P. *“As the church goes, so goes a nation!”* (**Derek Prince**) Listen to Derek Prince’s recounting of the 2nd Great Awakening in America:
- *When God used Charles Finney (1792-1875) to foster revival which swept across cities in this nation, the power of God was so powerful that people walked into the city, not knowing what to expect, and some fell to their knees on the sidewalk and began to cry to God for mercy. Others sensed the manifest presence of God and avoided entering the city. That is a revival. (Derek Prince)*
- Q. Like Paul, we too are *“appointed a preacher...a teacher...of faith and truth”* (**1 Tim. 2:7**).

“Order in the Church”

Ever since the fall of Adam and Eve and all of mankind, God’s original order of authority has been under assault. From eternity’s past the model of heaven’s authority has been Father, Son, & Holy Spirit in perfect agreement. As the Holy Trinity spoke and formed all of creation the order put in place was God, Man, & Woman to demonstrate and declare the order of Heaven on the earth. It has always been in the heart of the Father to serve His creation and then to have His Sons and Daughters serve Him in return. As well, the Father has always desired that husbands and fathers serve their wives and children as priests before God. In families, cultures, and generations who have neglected the original order of leadership they have suffered greatly. The Bible is filled with story after story.

1 Timothy 3:14-15 *These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly;¹⁵ but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

I. THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH IS FAMILY

- A. As the family is the foundation of every other sphere of society, likewise Husbands and Fathers are the head of the family unit. *“Over a third of single-parent families with children are poor, compared to only seven percent of married families.”* (Heritage Foundation)
- B. God is the one who created and now defines marriage and family. To redefine these natural laws is to incur consequences which God never intended. Marriages and families serve a purpose in our societies which transcends time and culture.
 - 1. God intends marriages to demonstrate a life-long covenant and commitment which reflects His commitment to us.
 - 2. Strong families are crucial to the health and preservation of society. Our society needs to value lifelong marriage and to support parenting children as the greatest calling on society. Governments and law makers are established by God to reinforce the foundations of society and should strive to support and strengthen marriage and families.
 - 3. Marriage is the only context for “procreation”; reproducing and raising families. Any male and female can “conceive” a baby, but loving family environments raise healthy children.
- C. **Exodus 20:12** *Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.”*
- D. Marriage and the family is the foundation of the Church/Body of Christ, starting with the Man playing his Godly role as a Priest and then a Leader. (*Kings & Priests- Ex. 19:6; Rev. 1:6*)

II. THE LEADERSHIP OF MEN IN THE CHURCH

- A. **1 Timothy 2:8** *I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;*

- B. **Men Pray Everywhere**- God's calling on men is that they stand as public representatives of God Himself as well as representatives of justice on behalf of the weak and the vulnerable. Godly men are to reflect their faith and confidence before their God in all areas of their lives.
- C. **Psalm 82:3** *"Defend the poor and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and needy."*
- D. Testimony of Chuck Colson (**died April 2012**) *"Though he was a very busy man, in their regular phone calls "he would be fully present" to her. That, she said, was "the mark of a great father." (Emily Colson, daughter)*
- E. **Lifting up Holy Hands**- Paul is referring to how early Christians would turn up their palms towards heaven as a sign of needed help. The Jewish and other religious customs are to wash hands as a symbol of inner cleansing. Holy hands would be imagery to reflect people who live lives of holiness.
- F. **1 Kings 8:22** *"Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven;"*
- G. **Psalm 24:3-4** *"Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? ⁴ He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully."*
- H. It is time that men begin living lives of holiness, not just how we live before men publically but also how we live before God privately. We must be men of power and zeal internally before we can live in victory publically.
- I. When men begin to declare war on the home of their hearts then men will be strengthened to war on behalf of their physical home with wives and children.
- J. **Without Wrath & Doubting**- Paul is calling Timothy and the church of Ephesus to enter into effective prayer by confronting and confessing any unforgiveness toward others. Also, effective prayer requires that we have confidence in a happy God who is a loving Father waiting to give good gifts to His children who ask.
- K. **Matthew 6:12** *"and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us."*
- L. Effective prayer is measured by its fruit. When we pray, are we growing in confidence that our Heavenly Father hears us and wants to answer us?

III. THE LEADERSHIP OF WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

- A. **1 Timothy 2:9-10** *"in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety (appropriate) and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, ¹⁰ but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works."*
- B. **In Like Manner**- Paul starts by emphasizing that as he just addressed men to walk in holiness, so to the women of God are to walk in holiness.
- C. It was common in the 1st Century Church culture for women in Ephesus to dress luxuriously and to braid their hair with small pearls and gold intertwined. As well, Ephesus was a very wealthy city.
- D. **Adorned in Modest Apparel**- Paul's desire was to call Godly women to find their primary identity in who they are before Jesus' eyes, rather than before the response of men and culture. Contrary to the casual reader, this address of Paul to the women in the church of Ephesus is very vague. This should give comfort to women who "enjoy fashion".
- E. **Professing Godliness**- Paul is making reference to women in the church who publically declare their faith in Christ. Their personal profession is to be seen publically in the way they live, dress, speak, and interact with others.

- F. **With Good Works-** Our faith must be more than just a public profession. We must also walk out good works. There is something all together beautiful about women who walk in “self-restraint” and manage the “government of self” with diligence.
- G. **1 Peter 3:3-4** *“Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—⁴ rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible (constant/ w-out compromise) beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.”*

IV. THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVING IN THE CHURCH

- A. There are two (2) primary roles described by Paul for leadership responsibilities in the church. The first: “Overseer/Bishop/Pastor/Shepherd” and the second: “Deacon/Servant”. The positions of service are mostly defined by the character requires and less by the job requirements.
- B. **1 Timothy 3:1-7** *“...one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence⁵ (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?);”*
- C. **Requirements for Overseers-**
1. Blameless, one wife, temperate, sober-minded, good behavior, hospitable, able to teach, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy, gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous;... (13+ Character Traits)
 2. Again, most of these descriptions are highlighting the internal character and faithfulness of their heart before God.
 3. Paul points out the importance of an Overseer to “manage his own house well”. This is primarily speaking of the responsibility to serve His family well. I also see a description in managing their heart as “the personal house of the Lord”.
 4. Paul goes on to instruct Timothy to guard the heart of young believers by not giving them leadership responsibility too quickly, lest they fall into the sin of pride (vs. 6).
 5. **1 Timothy 3:7** *Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.*
 6. Paul is summarizing this description to say that those seeking to serve the flock of God’s people should have a good testimony among others which actually speaks louder than anything else.
- D. **1 Timothy 3:8-13** *Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money,⁹ holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.¹⁰ But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless.*
- E. **Requirements for Deacons-**
1. Paul starts by saying, “Likewise...” referring to all of the character requirements of that of Overseers.
 2. Reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy,⁹ holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience, *found* blameless, *their wives must be* reverent & not slanderers, husbands of one wife, ruling *their* children and their houses well, in good standing, and great boldness in their faith. (12+ Character Traits)
 - 3.

“The Great Falling Away”

1 Timothy 4:1-5 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.

Paul is prophesying of the spiritual climate and heart condition of the Church of Jesus in the generation before He returns to the planet. This prophecy is meant to be received and understood as coming directly from the Spirit of the Lord. This is not a “maybe” prophecy but a “will happen” prophecy in order for Jesus to return to us. The Holy Spirit will **explicitly** or fully revealed and leaving no question as to meaning or intent.

I. THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL REVEAL ALL TRUTH AND DECEPTION

- A. **1 Timothy 4:1** Now the Spirit expressly (explicitly/w/out misunderstanding/very obvious) says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,
- B. **The Spirit expressly says-** The Holy Spirit is the greatest prophet to us today, prophesying with 100% accuracy to all. Holy Spirit is prophesying “Who Jesus was, is, and will be”, and “What Jesus’ leadership plan is” in transitioning the end of this life into the life to come into eternity.
- C. **John 16:13-** However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.
- D. Communion and fellowship with the Holy Spirit is critical for every believer, especially in the latter days when there will be a mounting war of deceptive spirits released by the rage of Satan. We must speak and live out of the overflow of what we receive from the Holy Spirit. Apart from this practice, we are susceptible to deceiving spirits.
- E. **Revelation 19:10-** The angel said, “Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”
- F. **In the latter times-** Once this prophecy is released by Paul in 67 AD, the “latter times” began to fulfill this falling away. As the latter times or last days approaches an end the falling away will be fully and dramatically seen.
- G. **Depart from the faith-** This is a primary definition of others who will deny the authority and authenticity of the eternal God and His timeless word of Truth.
- H. Many who claim to follow Jesus will turn back or deny the faith that they at one time declared. Many will be offended by Jesus and His purposes on the earth in the midst of the greatest crisis known in human history.
- I. **Matthew 24:9-10** Jesus says, “Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers.¹⁰ And many will turn away from me and betray and hate each other.”
- J. Jesus is painting this picture and defining for His disciples what the global climate will be like when He returns at His 2nd Coming. Jesus includes the “great falling away” of His followers with all of the descriptions for His return.

- K. Here are a few reasons for Departing from the Faith:
1. Jesus' return happens too swiftly & suddenly (Mt. 24:37, 50).
 2. Jesus' return takes too long (Mt. 25:1-13).
 3. Jesus' return becomes too hard of a task to endure (Mt. 25:14-30).
 4. Jesus does not intervene in the anticipated time or manner that some desire. As a result, offense will rapidly increase and the love for Jesus will grow colder and colder (Mt. 24:10).
- L. **2 Thessalonians 2:1, 3** *Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him... 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 (eternal damnation),*
- M. **1 Thessalonians 5:3-** *For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.*
- N. There will be a time when many of the leaders of the nations declare in unity that "peace" and "safety" have been achieved. In that hour, many people. Including many Christians, will be swept into this short-lived promise and deception as an answer to many prayers. Terrorism will be crushed and the Middle East crisis will be resolved by the signing of a peace agreement.
- O. **Daniel 9:27-** *The ruler (Antichrist Leader) will make a treaty (peace treaty) with the people for a period of one set of seven (7 years), but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings.* *And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration,* ^{*} *until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him."* (NLT)

II. THE FALSE CHRISTIAN MESSAGE BEFORE JESUS RETURNS

- A. **1 Timothy 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.*
- B. As Jesus defined to His Disciples 2000 years ago, we are beginning to hear and see the increase of deceiving religions and teachings. Currently, the message of the gospel of grace through Jesus is under assault. Though Jesus' reputation cannot be minimized or changed, many hearts will be saved by Truth or deceived by the spirit of lies.
- C. Most of what is being preached contrary to the Biblical message of grace is rooted in a social gospel message and a gospel of human comfort and unhindered pursuit of materialism. It's "ME FOCUSED"!
- D. *Satan's weapon is deception; our defense is love for the truth. Knowledge of the truth is powerful and lack of knowledge of basic truths can lead to great harm. (Mike Bickle)*
- E. *"Breezy, self-confident Christians tell us how wonderful it is to accept Christ and then have a good time all the rest of your life; the Lord won't demand anything of you. Yes, He will, my friend! The Lord will demand everything of you. And when you give it all up to Him, He may bless it and hand it back, but on the other hand He may not..." (A.W. Tozer)*
- F. **Given to Deceiving Spirits & Doctrines of Demons-** Paul tells Timothy to bring correction to those who will inevitably present false teachings, old wives tales, and doctrines of demons contrary to or in addition to the gospel message of Jesus Christ.

- G. **2 Peter 2:1** *But there were also false prophets among the people (Israel), even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.*
- H. As a prayer ministry and as spiritual family it is our role to understand and clearly communicate the full message of the scriptures as our primary foundation. Anything that is offered as “an addition” to the scripture will be thrown out. We want to raise up a people who are lovers of the Truth.
- I. **Luke 21:8-** *Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He,’ and, ‘The time has drawn near.’ Therefore do not go after them.*
- J. Many will carry the name of Jesus without carrying the reality of His character and power. Some will actually appear and proclaim their ability to deliver salvation as a type of false christs.
- K. **False Gospel of Demons** (We do not label others as “demons” but recognize the deception of Satan on their hearts.):
1. Paul calls them hypocrites and liars.
 2. They will have a conscience that is seared w/ a hot iron. This is a picture of removing the tender response of a heart toward God’s Spirit of Truth.
 3. Some will forbid others to marry or minimize the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman for a lifetime. (America has about 5 states of legalized “same-sex” marriage.)
 4. They will command others not to eat certain foods. There will be a false presentation of holiness by abstaining from certain foods during certain times and seasons. Paul uncovers this hypocrisy by stating that God has given us foods for consumption with thanksgiving.
- L. **Matthew 24:44** *Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.*
- M. *A false-grace doctrine is a drug—a poisonous sleeping pill that feels freeing, relaxing and euphoric. Yet the false-grace overdose that’s occurring in churches all over the world is resulting in people’s careless, self-focused slumber that they will, one day, fail to awaken from. (J. Burton)*
- N. Our faith is judged according whether we chose to receive the free gift of grace of salvation in Jesus Christ. Our works are judged according to our choices in this life. We will all be judged on the day when Jesus appears.