

Apostasy of the Modern Church

Mother Smith taught last week about having God's word in our hearts. We have to understand the importance of this because of the troubling things happening all around us, that we must be more determine than ever to spread the gospel through teaching, preaching, and most of all living His word.

To tell the truth there are certain signs that all true Christians can detect and confirm the fact that they have been born again. Just like there are signs of the ungodly that proves that they are against true Christianity and the Bible.

Matthew 7:15-23, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Jesus made this true statement, and we can testify there never was a statement made that is truer than this one. It plainly teaches that there are ways whereby all men can know who is right and who is wrong, who is for truth and who is against it, who is true Christian and who is not, and who is a true teacher and who is a false one. The ways whereby man can be discerned is "by their fruits" and not by their outward appearance and refinement, which is deceptive.

A rotten apple may have an attractive color on the outside, but a bite into it would reveal the rottenness. A perfect looking fruit tree outwardly will sometimes be so diseased inwardly that it produces the worst kind of fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth corrupt fruit and a corrupt tree cannot produce good fruit. Every tree brings forth of its own kind whether it is good or bad.



So, it is with false teachers and those refined and correct in life than many true Christians, but this does not prove that they are of God. We all have seen false teachers and rebels against God who have been so nice, refined, polite, well-mannered, polished, and poised until one would think they were gifts from Heaven, but they were in reality destitute of all truth and spiritual experience and bitter enemies of God.

Beware of False Prophets

Matt10:17-20, Not only are we told to beware of false prophets, but we are told to, “Beware of Men” who will cast true believers in the gospel out of churches and even persecute them to death. It was the upper class (refined) and popular religious leaders of the First Century who crucified Christ—John 18:3, 19-40, 19:6-15; Acts 2:22-24, 36.

They were always at odds with Jesus about the gospel he taught, (Matt 16:6-12; 23:13-39; Mark 8:15; 12:38.

It was organized backslidden religionists who persecuted the early disciples- (Acts 4:1-31; 5:17-42; 6:8-15; 7:51-60;

Apostasy predicted for the last days

The word of God is very clear that there will be a great falling away from the true Christian faith in the last days.

Matthew 24:4-12, 24-25

Luke 21:8-11

“Take heed that no man deceive you. For man shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many... Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you; and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name’s sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets, and shall wax cold... For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that



if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold I have told you before.”

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12, “Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him. That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, EXCEPT THERE COME A FALLING AWAY FIRST, and that man of sin be revealed... whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie; that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness”

1 Timothy 4:1-8

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that IN THE LATTER TIMES SOME SHALL DEPART FROM THE FAITH, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

2 Timothy 3:1-14

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, DESPISERS OF THOSE THAT ARE GOOD, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God; HAVING A FORM OF GODLINESS, BUT DENYING THE POWER THEREOF: FROM SUCH TURN AWAY.... Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth... men of corrupt minds, reprobated concerning the faith.... Yea, and



all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

2 Timothy 4:1-5

I charge thee therefore before God... preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

FOR THE TIME WILL COME WHEN THEY SHALL NOT ENDURE SOUND DOCTRINE; BUT AFTER THEIR OWN LUSTS SHALL THEY HEAR TO THEMSELVES TEACHERS, HAVING ITCHING EARS: AND THEY SHALL TURN AWAY THEIR EARS FROM THE TRUTH, AND SHALL BE TURNED INTO FABLES.

