

# *“Will He Find Faith???”*

**2 Peter 3:3-7; Revelation 17; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5; 2 Timothy 4:1-4**

East Berlin Community Church

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## **Introduction**

- Religious trends in America over the 20 years
  - *“There does not seem to be revival taking place in America. Whether that is measured by church attendance, born again status, or theological purity, the statistics simply do not reflect a surge of any noticeable proportions. The increase in Bible reading, up to 40% of adults each week read the Bible, may be setting the stage for revival, but it does not appear to be occurring at the moment. (Barna Group)*
- Living in a “Post-Christian” society
- America entering a period of “moral anarchy” like the days of Noah and Lot
- Jesus’ question: *“When the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”*
  - Luke 18:1-- *“that men ought to pray and not lose heart.”*
  - Luke 18:6-8a --*“And hear what the unjust judge said. And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily.”*
  - Luke 18:8b-- *“Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”*

## **“Will He find faith?” -- The Spiritual Condition before Christ’s Return**

### **A. Widespread acceptance of the Evolutionary Theory**

- 2 Peter 3:3-7-- *“Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.’ For this they willingly forget: that by the word of God, the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and the perdition of ungodly men.”*
1. Explanation of “uniformitarianism”
  2. Prevalence of the evolutionary teaching in our society
  3. Denial of the Flood leads to a denial of Christ’s second coming and judgment

### **B. The Emergence of the One-World Church.**

- Revelation 17:5 -- *“Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and of the abomination of the earth.”*
1. Brief explanation of the symbolism in Revelation 17
  2. Evidence of the One-Church movement in our world today

### C. The Growing Departure from the Faith

- 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5 -- *"Now brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together with Him, we ask you, 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. 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, 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. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things."*
1. Meaning of "apostasy" —the "falling away" from the faith
  2. Evidences of a growing apostasy in our own lifetime
    - 1 Timothy 4:1-- *"Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons."*

### D. The Downplaying of Sound Teaching.

- 2 Timothy 4:1-2 -- *"I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching."*
  - 2 Timothy 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 for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables."*
1. Sound teaching must be **ENDURED**.
    - *"In one recent survey we found that almost nine out of ten adults believe they know all the basic teachings of Christianity very well. But when you explore what they actually think the Bible teaches, as we did in this study, many theological inconsistencies and inaccuracies emerge. Unfortunately, correcting people's mistaken assumptions about the Bible content is made nearly impossible by their self-assurance about their beliefs. Even if they are exposed to good Bible teaching they typically fail to absorb that input because they think they already know it all. Changing the errant theological position of millions of Americans is a very tough assignment."* (Barna Group)
  2. Sound teaching is **not** necessarily **ENTERTAINING**.
    - 2 Timothy 4:3b-- *"But according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap for themselves teachers."*
    - 2 Peter 3:8b-9-- *"With the Lord one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."*
    - 2 Timothy 4:5-- *"watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill our ministry,"*

*"When the Son of man comes, will HE really find faith on the earth?"*