

The Final Countdown – Rise of Apostasy

“One day a man entered a cafe and sat down to get something to eat, when he notices that the special of the day is cold chili. When the waitress comes to take his order, he says, ‘I’ll take the cold chili.’

‘I’m sorry, the gentleman next to you got the last bowl,’ replied the waitress.

‘Oh, I’ll just have coffee, then.’

But after a while the man notices that the guy next to him who got the last bowl of cold chili was finishing a rather large meal and the chili bowl he ordered was just sitting there, still full.

So he asked, ‘Are you going to eat that?’

The other man replied, ‘No.’

‘Would you sell it to me?’

The other man said, ‘You can have it for free if you want it.’

So the man takes the bowl of chili with lots of nice big chunks in it and begins to eat it. But as he got about half way through the bowl, he notices a dead mouse in the bowl and pukes the chili back into the bowl.

And the other man said sympathetically, ‘Yeah, that’s about as far as I got, too.’”

Now, that guy’s situation went from **bad to worse real fast** didn’t it?

But did you know that one of these days, many people’s lives all over the earth will also go from bad to worse; except it won’t be from a bowl of bad chili. It’s going to be from a **bowl of God’s wrath** poured out upon a wicked and rebellious planet. You see, because people refuse to get right

with God through Jesus Christ they are sadly running the risk of being left behind. And if that wasn't bad enough, it's going to get even worse real fast when they discover that they've been catapulted into the seven-year Tribulation that is coming upon the whole world.

And folks, the time of the Tribulation is not a party. Jesus said in **Matthew 24** that it would be a time of greater horror than anything the world has ever seen or will ever see again. He also said that unless that time of calamity is shortened, the entire human race would be destroyed. But God is not only a God of wrath; He's a God of love as well. And **because He loves you and I**, He has given us many warning signs so that we would know when the Tribulation could be near and that Christ's 2nd Coming is rapidly approaching. Therefore, to make sure our lives don't go from bad to worse by being left behind, we're going to continue taking a look at **The Final Countdown**.

We already saw how the **#10** sign on **The Final Countdown** was **The Jewish People**. The **#9** sign was **Modern Technology**. The **#8** sign was **Worldwide Upheaval**. The **#7** sign was **The Rise of Falsehood**. And last time we saw that the **#6** sign was none other than **The Rise of Wickedness**. There we saw that God lovingly foretold you and I that when we see an increase of people loving themselves more than God, which is occurring

today through humanism, self-love self-esteem, and witchcraft, that this would be an indicator that we are in the last days.

But that's not the only signs that God has given us. The **#5** sign on **The Final Countdown** is none other than **The Rise of Apostasy**. So just what are these specific prophecies being fulfilled today concerning **The Rise of Apostasy**, revealing that we could be in the last days? Well, I'm glad you asked. Let's take a look. The **1st End Time Prophecy** concerning **The Rise of Apostasy** is that **people would deliberately turn away from the truth**.

1 Timothy 4:1-2 "Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from what we believe; they will follow lying spirits and teachings that come from demons. These teachers are hypocrites and liars. They pretend to be religious, but their consciences are dead."

According to this passage of Scripture, one of the major characteristics of the Church in the last days is that many people will pretend to be religious and give the appearance of being Christians. Yet will show their true colors by turning away from the truth to follow hypocritical teachings. Now, throughout history we've always had some people following perverted truths of Christianity. That's been commonplace. But what's **not common** is how, **in the last century alone**, there has been a **mass exodus** of people claiming to be Christians who have turned away from even the basic truths of Christianity. And it's only getting worse. There has been a tremendous change in the attitude, behavior, and beliefs of those

in the Church here in America as recently as the last fifteen years. Today we have people in the Church who don't even bat an eye, saying such things as, "Jesus sinned just like us," or "It doesn't matter what religion you follow, they all teach the same thing," or "There is no such place as hell," or even "The devil is not a real being but rather a mere symbol of evil." Don't believe me? Let me show you just how bad it's become. Let's take a look at the change of beliefs of those who are "claiming" to be Christians here in America in **just the last 15 years**.

1. 80% of Christians believe "the Bible teaches that God helps those who help themselves."
2. 53% says the Holy Spirit does not exist.
3. 12% do not know what will happen to them after they die.
4. 25% agreed that it doesn't matter what faith you follow because all faith groups teach the same lessons.
5. 30% says that Jesus Christ died but never had a physical resurrection.
6. 29% contend that "when he lived on earth, Jesus Christ was human and committed sins, like other people."
7. 29% assert that "there are some crimes, sins, or other things which people might do which cannot be forgiven by God."
8. 47% says that satan does not exist.
9. 22% agreed that all people will experience the same outcomes after death, regardless of their religious beliefs.
10. 31% says that a good person can earn his/her way into heaven.

Now, I don't know about you guys, but **in the last 15 years alone**, it sure sounds like there's been a massive **Rise of Apostasy**, hasn't there? Just like the Bible said. When? In the last days.

But the question is, “How could there be such a mass exodus of people deliberately turning from the basic truths of Christianity in such a short amount of time, especially in America which boasts of being a Christian nation? Great question. I’m glad you asked. The **1st reason** why people **in the Church** have turned from the truth to follow hypocritical teachings, causing this **Rise of Apostasy**, is by a focus on **Marketing Madness**. That’s right, I’m talking about the **Church Growth Movement**. Little do people know that the teachings of the Church Growth Movement have actually aided in this **massive rise of apostasy**. Today, people **in the Church** are being led astray by **marketing manipulation**. They are being told that true spiritual Christians need to utilize worldly marketing techniques in order to have any kind of Church growth. **But the catch is** that, in order to do this, one needs to adopt an attitude of **compromise with the Scripture**. How’s that? Well, let’s find out by looking at a comparison of **just a few** of their teachings verses that of the Bible:

Church Growth Teachings vs. the Bible

1. CGM: The primary goal of the Church is numerical growth.
Bible: The primary goal of the Church is spiritual growth.
 (Ephesians 4:11-16)
2. CGM: The Pastor’s primary role is as an encourager who makes people feel good.
Bible: The Pastor’s primary role is as a teacher. (Ephesians 4:11)

3. CGM: The style of music is to be what the culture likes and is pleasing to them.
Bible: The style of music is to be from the heart and what is glorifying to God. (Ephesians 5:19)

4. CGM: The means of evangelism is to use marketing techniques to draw people in instead of going out into the community.
Bible: The means of evangelism is to go into all the world making disciples and not just wait for them to come to you. (Matthew 28:19-20)

5. CGM: Sermons should only contain positive messages and not negative ones about hell or God's wrath and hatred towards sin.
Bible: Sermons are to preach the whole counsel of God not just part of it. (2 timothy 4:2)

Now, as you can see, the basic teachings of the Church Growth Movement are completely antithetical to the Scripture. And you might think that nobody in the Church would ever fall for this wacky stuff. Yet, it has now become the latest craze in "running a Church." But sadly, because people are now promoting worldly marketing techniques as opposed to the clear teaching of the Word of God, many Christians are **not growing spiritually, many Churches are splitting**, and even non-Christians are being presented with a **false gospel**. And all for the sake of numbers. The culture is now to dictate proper behavior to the Church instead of the Church dictating to the culture. This has given rise to a cultural Christianity instead of Christ-like Christianity. Now, I know this might be hard to believe, but did you know that the Apostle Paul was able to share the gospel and plant

Church after Church without utilizing one marketing technique to draw people in? In fact, he purposely **went out into communities** to evangelize, and all this **without** a Christian rock band. His method was simple: **he simply relied on the power of the gospel.**

1 Corinthians 1:17-19 “For Christ didn’t send me to baptize, but to preach the Good News – and not with clever speeches and high-sounding ideas, for fear that the cross of Christ would lose its power.

I know very well how foolish the message of the cross sounds to those who are on the road to destruction. But we who are being saved recognize this message as the very power of God. As the Scriptures say, ‘I will destroy human wisdom and discard their most brilliant ideas.’”

Hmmm. You mean that one day people **in the Church** would actually be led astray into apostasy by **false methodologies from the world that would actually be powerless to save people?** That would be, **uh huh**. So is it any wonder that there’s been a massive **Rise of Apostasy** just like the Bible said? When? In the last days.

The **2nd reason** why people **in the Church** have turned from the truth to follow hypocritical teachings, causing this **Rise of Apostasy**, is by a focus on **Money and Materialism**. That’s right, I’m talking about the **Word of Faith Movement**. Little do people know that the teachings of the Word of Faith Movement have actually aided in this **massive rise of apostasy**.

Today, people **in the Church** are being led astray by **monetary manipulation**. In fact, they would say that if you **just have enough faith**,

you could obtain untold riches from God. But don't just take my word for it, let's listen to some of their most prominent leaders:

ACTUAL STATEMENTS FROM WORD OF FAITH TEACHERS

1. **Kenneth Copeland:** "satan conquered Jesus on the cross."
2. **Morris Cerullo:** "You're not looking at Morris Cerullo – you're looking at God. You're looking at Jesus."
3. **Benny Hinn:** "Never, ever, ever go to the Lord and say, 'If it be thy will...' Don't allow such faith destroying words to be spoken from your mouth."
4. **Frederick Price:** "God has to be given permission to work in this earth realm on behalf of man... Yes! You are in control! So if man has control, who no longer has it? God."
5. **Benny Hinn:** "Adam could fly like a bird, swim underwater like a fish, and even transport himself to the moon."
6. **Kenneth Hagin:** "Because Jesus was recreated from a satanic being to an incarnation of God, you too can become an incarnation – as much an incarnation as Jesus Christ of Nazareth."
7. **Kenneth Copeland:** "Your word is God's command."
8. **Jerry Savelle:** "By using your tongue to release the force of faith, you can speak whatsoever you desire into existence."
9. **John Avanzini:** "Jesus was wealthy and prosperous. He lived in a big house, handled big money, and even wore designer clothes."

Now, as you can see, the basic teachings of the Word of Faith Movement are not only completely antithetical to the Scripture, but they are **manipulating people** by promising false techniques to obtain so-called fabulous wealth. You see, the catch is that you have to send them **your money** to get these supposedly **free** financial blessings from God. In exchange for sowing a seed, a financial one that is, they will send you the latest religious trinket to help you get rich. For instance, to acquire these

untold riches, right now you can send off for a genuine faith nail, prayer cloth, prayer candle, paper prayer rug, anointing oil, and that's right, a cornmeal miracle packet. And when you follow the secret formula on how to pray for your financial blessing, these people promise to personally pray for a one hundred fold increase, to your **generous donation** into their ministry, of course.

Now, you might think that nobody **in the Church** would fall for this wacky stuff. Yet **right now**, there are shelves full of this stuff in every Christian bookstore, promising not only financial blessings but **spiritual blessings as well**. But the catch is, in order for you to utilize these secret prayers or formulas which are guaranteed to bring you that blessing, you **first** have to **buy their book**. Just who's getting rich here? And these faith ministries are raking in millions of dollars each year off of people **seeking, not Christ, but cash!** The sad thing is that they are giving the world the false idea that God is merely some kind of a "Cosmic Santa Claus," or a "Golden Genie" who, if we rub with the right methodology, **has to give us** whatever we wish. One man talks about this "new Jesus" that has appeared on the scene:

"The function of God has been changed. He has a whole new role. No longer is He the object of all worship and adoration. Instead He has become an important means for getting what we now worship and adore—things, or at least the money to buy the things. In our brave new world we worship the

things we have been conditioned to want, and we will be religious if religion can guarantee us the products our democratic capitalistic society turns out by the tons.

This new Jesus propagates a ‘prosperity theology’ that promises the faithful if they seek first the kingdom of this reconstructed deity and do all the things the pop religious books say will guarantee success, then all these things (the ones described in the ads) will be added unto them. This is a new religion that is functional, fit for these new believers who hunger for consumer goods. It has, as they say, ‘user-friendly churches’ that are just right for people whose God is a super-genie who can be at our beck and call through prayer and who will help us succeed in life...which of course means to get all the things we don’t need, so as to gratify our media-created hungers.

From time to time, a person comes along and reminds us of the other Jesus. We admire her and Him. But then we hurry back to that real Jesus who doesn’t demand sacrifices for the poor and oppressed but simply promises to be there to help us, as the ad for the army suggests, all that we can be.”

Folks, God is not at our beck and call. He is God and we are not. And what the Word of Faith Movement has done is to turn God into a mere force that supposedly can be tapped into by faith to satisfy our lust for **personal gain!** Besides, I know this might be hard to believe, but the Apostle Peter was profoundly used by God, and to my knowledge, he never once owned an Armani suit or even drove a single Cadillac. In fact, there’s no record of him chanting an Old Testament prayer over and over again in order to increase his ministry. However, Peter **did warn us** about this kind of monetary manipulation **in the Church** that would come in the last days.

2 Peter 2:1,3 “But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. In their greed they will make up clever lies to

get hold of your money. But God condemned them long ago, and their destruction is on the way.”

Hmmm. You mean that in the last days that people **in the Church** would actually be led astray into apostasy by **false teachers ripping people off by promising fabulous wealth**? That would be, **uh huh**. So is it any wonder that there’s been a massive **Rise of Apostasy** just like the Bible said? When? In the last days.

The **3rd reason** why people **in the Church** have turned from the truth to follow hypocritical teachings, causing this **Rise of Apostasy**, is by a focus on **Magnificent Miracles**. That’s right, I’m talking about the **Signs and Wonders Movement**. Little do people know that the teachings of the Signs and Wonders Movement have actually aided in this **massive rise of apostasy**. Today, people **in the Church** are being led astray by **emotional manipulation**. We are being told that true spiritual growth can only come from having a **new** experience or **new** emotional encounter with God. Such things as ecstatic speech, barking like dogs, having convulsions, or even uncontrollable laughter, are now the **new signs** of true spiritual maturity and a genuine encounter with God. Yet what most people **in the Church** don’t realize is that these supposedly new spiritual experiences are not only **not Scriptural**, but they’re actually strikingly similar to **old-fashioned occultic behavior**. See for yourself:

SIGNS & WONDERS EXPERIENCES vs. THE OCCULT

<u>Signs & Wonders</u>	<u>Hindu Gurus</u>	<u>Meditation</u>	<u>African Spiritism</u>
1. Slain in the spirit	√	√	√
2. Electrical shock	√	√	√
3. Physical jerks	√	√	√
4. Animal sounds	√	√	√
5. New revelations	√	√	√
6. Surge of energy	√	√	√
7. Ecstatic speech	√	√	√
8. Trances	√	√	√
9. Visions	√	√	√
10. Uncontrollable laughing	√	√	√

Apparently, this kind of behavior isn't so new after all. There might be a "spirit" behind these so-called "spiritual experiences," but I don't see it as being consistent with the Spirit of God. Now, as you guys can see, people **in the Church** are sadly being emotionally manipulated into thinking that they are having an encounter with God, when in reality they are having **an encounter with occultic practices**. And I know this might be hard to believe, but to my knowledge, the early Church was able to grow like wildfire, and yet they never once broke out into uncontrollable laughter or even made animal noises. Besides, little do people know that through these false signs and wonders, people are actually being prepared **to be deceived** by the ultimate false miracle worker, the antichrist.

2 Thessalonians 2:8-9 "And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by

the splendor of his coming. The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders.”

Hmmm. You mean that in the last days, people **in the Church** would be led astray into apostasy by **false signs and wonders**, which will also be used by the antichrist? That would be, **uh huh**. So is it any wonder that there’s been a massive **Rise of Apostasy** just like the Bible said? When? In the last days.

The **4th reason** why people have turned from the truth to follow hypocritical teachings, causing this **Rise of Apostasy**, is by a focus on **Making My Own Doctrine**. That’s right, I’m talking about the **Liberal Christianity Movement**. Little do people know that the teachings of Liberalism have actually aided in this **massive rise of apostasy**. Today, people are being led astray by **doctrinal manipulation**.

And for those of you who may not know, Liberal Christianity is not true Christianity. Like a wolf in sheep’s clothing, it externally looks Christian, when in fact, internally they actually **doctrinally manipulate** almost every cardinal teaching of the Church. For instance, they not only deny the deity, miracles, and resurrection of Christ, but they go so far as to say that true and loving Christians will have an **open mind** when it comes to understanding the Bible. They say that **feelings**, not doctrine, provide the

foundation for Christianity. Or in other words, your version of Christianity is what feels right for you. In essence, **you make up your own doctrine**.

Now, you might think that nobody **in the Church** would fall for this kind of wacky stuff. But why do you think that, **right now**, mainline denominations are battling over whether or not Jesus really is the only way to heaven? Or, why do you think that many people claiming to be Christians are actually denying the existence of hell? Or, why do you think that many so-called Churches have not only accepted homosexuality as a positive lifestyle, but now say it's okay even for those behind the pulpit? I'll tell you why. It's all because they are manipulating doctrine to suit their own sinful fancies. Oh, but they're not only making up their own doctrine, they're making up their own version of the Bible. You see, just to make sure that nobody **runs the risk of being offended by the truth**, liberals have started to pervert the actual text of the Bible. Here, see for yourself with a sample of some of the "new" versions out there:

The Politically Correct Version:

Referring to the Oxford University Press's release of a 'culturally sensitive' version of the Bible, the religious editor of *Newsweek* recently quipped that the King James Bible 'never looked so good before.' These are his poignant comments:

Readers who find the Bible sexist, racist, elitist and insensitive to the physically challenged, take heart. Oxford University Press's new 'inclusive

language version' of the New Testament and Psalms has cleaned up God's act. In this version, God is no longer 'Father' and Jesus is no longer 'Son.'

The hierarchical title of 'Lord' is excised as an archaic way to address God. Nor does God (male pronouns for the deity have been abolished) rule a 'kingdom'; as the editors explain, the word has a 'blatantly androcentric and patriarchal character.'...Even God's metaphorical 'right hand' has been amputated out of deference to the left-handed. Some examples:

- In the majestic opening of John's Gospel, 'the glory he has from the Father as the only Son of the Father' becomes 'the glory as of a parent's only child.' (John 1:14)
- The Lord's prayer now begins like this: 'Father-Mother, hallowed be your name. May your dominion come.' (Luke 11:2)
- Jesus' own self-understanding as God's only son is generalized to: 'No one knows the Child except the Father-Mother; and no one knows the Father-Mother except the Child...' (Matthew 11:27)
- Avoiding another traditional phrase, 'Son of Man,' the Oxford text reads: 'Then they will see 'the Human One' coming in clouds with great power and glory.' (Mark 13:26)

The editors do not claim that Jesus spoke in gender-neutral language. But they obviously think he should have. The changes they have made are not merely cosmetic. They represent a fundamental reinterpretation of what the New Testament says—and how it says it.”

The New Feminist Version:

A publisher is touting a new edition of the Gospels that identifies Christ as a woman named Judith Christ of Nazareth. LBI Institute says its version, was needed to correct the gender of Christ and God.

'This long-awaited revised text of the Gospels makes the moral message of Christ more accessible to many, and more illuminating to all,' says Billie Shakespeare, vice president for the publisher. He said, 'It is empowering. We published this new Bible to acknowledge the rise of women in society.'

The new version, according to the publisher, revises familiar stories, transforming the ‘Prodigal Son’ into the ‘Prodigal Daughter’ and the ‘Lord’s Prayer’ into the ‘Lady’s Prayer.’ Here are a few other examples of the ‘new’ translation.

- In Luke chapter 2 the verses now read, ‘And Joseph went to Bethlehem. To be enrolled with Mary, his wife, who was then pregnant. And she brought forth her firstborn child. And her name was chosen to be Judith.’
- A passage on the crucifixion, from John 19 says, ‘And She bearing her cross went forth. There they crucified Judith.’
- And a resurrection passage from Matthew 28 now states, ‘Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. But the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Judith who was crucified. She is not here; for She is risen.’”

The New Postmodern Version:

This new version takes Darwin’s theory of evolution as gospel and presents Jesus as being born, ‘not to a virgin, but to a gorilla.’ According to Ruth Rimm, Bronx school teacher and book artist, ‘It explores the emergence of a new global spirituality that mixes the best of each wisdom tradition with the latest findings in psychology, quantum physics, neuroscience, and linguistics. It is a Bible for skeptics, seekers, and people of different faiths.’

The first volume in the series, which will eventually present the Torah, Bhagavad Gita, Buddhist sutras, and Sufi mysticism, covers the Gospel of Mark. However, it includes parables not found in Mark, such as the Parable of the Dolphin, the Parable of the Snow Leopard and the Parable of the Gorilla.

The Parable of the Gorilla begins with, ‘He was born in a manger a long time ago, not to a virgin, but to a gorilla. What’s so funny? Who did you expect his ancestors to look like, Tom Cruise? But wait. I’m not making fun of Jesus. I’m not mocking religion. In fact, from the deepest wellspring of my heart, I’m despairing something we’ve lost in our scientific culture. Yes, if Jesus was alive today, he would understand that his ancestors, just like ours, were beasts. No, he wouldn’t run around claiming he was born of a

virgin. And, brilliant rabbi that he was, he would likely ask us to understand the miracle stories metaphorically, as morality tales, but certainly not as literal truth.’

Now, are those “new” versions of the Bible utter blasphemy or what? So the question is, “Why would anyone dare pervert the Holy Bible? And why is it just the Holy Bible? Why don’t they try this with the Jewish Torah or the Muslim Koran?” Well, one of the many reasons why liberals have twisted the Scripture is because they say that the old versions might offend some people and since that wouldn’t be **a positive experience** for some, new neutral versions are required. And now it apparently doesn’t matter what’s right or wrong. Apparently, even though I claim to be a Christian, I don’t have to follow Christ’s teaching. I now get to follow which commands are pleasing to me, **not Him**. And of course, this means I also get to redefine the terminology for what’s considered appropriate behavior. This is precisely what our liberal society has done:

“What our Founding Fathers referred to as drunkenness because of their Christian heritage, we now call it *alcoholism* and deem it a social disease, rather than a sin.

What the Law-Word called sodomy, we now call an *alternative life style*, giving this a political identity and the unassuming name of *gay rights* and *sexual orientation*. Pornography is a perversion that brings death to a nation, and yet we call it *adult entertainment*.

What our Founding Fathers called immorality, we now call it the *new morality*; what the law called adultery or fornication, we now call *stepping out* or *fooling around*; and what the Law called abhorrent social behavior

(like stealing or filthy language), we now call *abnormal social development* or *anti-social behavior*.”

You see, once you adopt the liberal attitude that says you can't trust the Bible, or worse yet, say that you yourself can interpret the Bible any way you want, you've just opened the floodgates of heresy. And once that happens, the Church will be drowned in apostasy. This is precisely what we see today. And what most people don't realize is that the Bible foretold of a time when people **in the Church**, claiming to be Christians, would not only make up their own doctrine but they would also **deliberately gather around them** liberal teachers to tell them, not the truth, but **what they want to hear**.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 “For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to right teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever they want to hear. They will reject the truth and follow strange myths.”

What? You mean that in the last days people **in the Church** will be claiming to be Christians yet will knowingly follow lying teachers because they get told what they want to hear? Could that really happen? It's already happening before our eyes, just like the Bible said. When? In the last days.

And believe it or not, even with all this amazing evidence pointing to the signs of Christ's soon return, some people still think that they can mix the good with the bad without having any head problems, like this guy:

“There was a man who was a Buffalo Sabres fan who had a big dilemma. He wanted to marry a lady who was a Toronto Maple Leafs fan. And knowing

that this would be a lifelong problem, the Buffalo Sabres fan agreed to have 50% of his brain removed in order to ensure compatibility in the marriage. So he goes to his doctor and says, 'I've just got to marry this woman who's a Toronto Maple Leafs fan. I love her so much.'

So the doctor says, 'Well, it's risky, but okay.'

So into the operating room they go for the brain removal procedure.

Later though, when the man who was the Buffalo Sabres fan woke up, the doctor came in and said, 'We are very sorry, but we accidentally removed 75% of your brain instead of 50%.'

To which the man looked up and said, 'Go Leafs!'"

Now that guy found out the hard way that, try as you might, you can't mix the good with the bad, can you? It not only caused him some serious head problems but his condition even worsened, didn't it? But believe it or not, he's not alone. You see, many people today also think that they can mix hypocritical teachings with Christianity and still be Christians. Yet the Bible says that these "religious" people are sadly in line for the ultimate rude awakening from Jesus Himself.

Matthew 7:21-23 "Not all people who sound religious are really godly. They may refer to me as 'Lord,' but they still won't enter the Kingdom of Heaven. The decisive issue is whether they obey my Father in heaven.

On judgment day many will tell me, 'Lord, Lord, we prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Go away; the things you did were unauthorized.'"

People of God, I hope you're not one of those who are busy being religious yet have never truly bowed a knee before Jesus Christ. I hope that you have honestly surrendered your life to Him by following **all of His teachings**, not just the ones you like. Why? Because you might wake up one day and discover that **you've been left behind**. And do you know what? God doesn't want you left behind. Because He loves you and I, He has given us the warning sign of **The Rise of Apostasy** to show us that the Tribulation **could be near** and that Christ's 2nd Coming is rapidly approaching. Jesus Himself said this:

Luke 21:28 "When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Like it or not folks, we are headed for **The Final Countdown**. We don't know the day or the hour. Only God knows. The point is, if you're a Christian, and you're not willing to go to the front lines to fight for the cause of Christ, then will you at least support those who will? Let's rock! Folks, it's high time we Christians speak up and declare the good news of salvation to those who are dying all around us. But please, if you're not a Christian, give your life to Jesus today, because tomorrow may be too late! Just like the Bible said!

To find the way to God, to understand the *truth* of God's Word, and to received the gift of eternal *life*, begin by repentance and faith through a prayer like this:

“Dear God, I understand that I have broken Your Law and sinned against You. Please forgive my sins. Thank You that Jesus suffered on the cross in my place. I now place my trust in Him as My Savior and Lord. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.”
