

## WATCH FOR THE FALLING AWAY

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:** (1 Tim. 4:1) "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**; 2 **Speaking lies** in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;" (2 Tim. 3:1) "This know also, **that in the last days perilous times shall come**. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, **despisers of those that are good**, 4 Traitors, heady, high-minded, **lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God**; 5 **Having a form of godliness**, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." (2 Tim. 4:1) "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; 2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 3 For **the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine**; but **after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers**, having itching ears; 4 **And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.**"

**FALL**, is one of my favorite times of the year, the weather turns cool, the sunsets seem to match the leaves on the trees as they turn a golden color and your body seems to sense the change that is coming. This is a **sure sign** that football is here, Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner and winter is on its way.

The Bible tells us that God has provided the seasons, the stars, the earth and other natural things as signs to us. They are the signs of a loving creator, signs of the creative power of the Mighty God and signs of things to come.

God has also provided in His word certain signs so that when we see these particular signs come to pass we will know something is about to happen. Generally He will tell us what the sign is and what is about to happen. Just as the signs of fall indicate that winter is on the way, so other changes which we can see around us show us that some other major events are about to take place.

**One** such sign is a **falling away of believers from the Lord, His church and His people**. The Bible warns us in several places that we will be able to recognize the last days. I.e. "**because iniquity shall abound, the love of many will grow cold**"(Matt 24:12), "**That many will depart from the faith giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons**"(1 Tim.4:1), "**That day will not come unless the FALLING AWAY comes first**"(2 Thes.2:3). Watch for the **FALL!**

Any one of us could even be a part of the fall if we are not careful. Even now many Christian people are falling away from their love for the Lord, His people and His church. They are so busy with other things in their lives that fellowship with the Lord Jesus is out and the Lord's work and His business are last or at least way down the list. We are in the **fall**.

Someone may ask, what does this falling away signify? What is it a sign of? Our Lord says **it is the sign of the End**. The LAST DAY'S on this earth. That when we see these things begin to happen we had better lift up our eyes, set our hearts upon the Lord and draw nigh to Him for just as sure as winter follows Fall, Our Lord is coming back soon. Where are you? Are you caught up in the falling away? Has your love and service for the Lord grown cold? Are you indifferent, casual and perhaps callused toward the church of the Living God, which He purchased with His own blood?

The signs of the seasons as well as the signs of the times are for our benefit. They are given to all by a loving God so that those with eyes to see and ears to hear might be warned and flee from the wrath, judgment and losses to come. I would like to lift up my voice like a trumpet and warn all who will hear that the **FALL** has come, we are in it right now.

**WHERE ARE YOU?** Many of the churches are almost empty on Sunday mornings, some are even closed on Sunday and Wednesday evenings due to lack of interest or because the people of God have **more important things** to do. Still other churches are compromising their beliefs, doctrines, convictions and are even discarding the Bible in order to keep and attract members. May I warn you beloved that our Lord said that there were five wise virgins and five foolish virgins. When the **midnight call came** the wise virgins trimmed their lamps and were ready when the Bridegroom came. The five wise went in with the bridegroom and the five foolish who were not ready were left behind. Our Lord warns, that there was weeping and wailing because of the great loss.

Our Lord warns that we as believers are to be always ready for His return. "***Be ready, for in such an hour as you think not, the son of man cometh.***"(Matt.24:44) He also warns us that because ***we are neither hot or cold but luke warm that He will spew us out of His mouth.*** (Rev. 3:16) I would like to repeat, the **FALL IS HERE. IT IS UPON US. WE ARE IN IT RIGHT NOW.**

In the Lords story of the ten virgins as recorded in Matt. 25, they **ALL SLEPT**, but when the cry went out **HE IS COMING, WAKE UP, HE IS ALMOST HERE**, they all woke up. Every one of them wanted to be prepared but the foolish had no oil and as they went to find some, the Lord came and they were left out. The door was closed and it was too late. The cry is being sounded right now. I confess that I have been to some degree caught up in the indifference, the laziness, the coldness, the busyness, and sleepiness of the world, but I have heard the cry and I am joining the small group that is sounding out the alarm that the **FALL** is here. All the signs indicate that the bridegroom is coming. Arise you sleeper and trim your lamp. Join the rest of us in preparation for the coming of the bridegroom our Lord Jesus Christ. **"EVEN SO COME LORD JESUS."**