



General Topics :: Are we on the brink of Apostacy?

Are we on the brink of Apostacy?, on: 2012/5/22 18:32

In every generation we see certain patterns in Christianity. Indeed these same patterns can be found in the Old Testament with the children of Israel. Time and again the children of Israel would re-discover the Word of God and the Spirit of God and they would pull down the high places and they would turn back to God? Are we living in such a time as that? Will this be one more cycle? Could this be last cycle?

These are important questions. Many will not even like the questions to be asked. Why would that be? Well, it would go to the root of who we are and what we are working towards. If Proverbs tell us "Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set: (Prov 22:28) and we have indeed removed them, then the only solution is to regain our "first love." Everything else can be in place but if we have left our first love, if we are operating without the burning passion of the Holy Spirit, then we simply going through the motions. The church has to come back to its first love, it must come back to Jesus. Jesus is the center of everything. It's a love for Him, it's a passion for Him, it's a dedication to Him that changes everything.

Below is part one of a piece by Tozer entitled "At the brink of Apostacy."

2Ti 3:5-7 having a form of godliness, but denying the power of it; even turn away from these. (6) For of these are those who creep into houses and lead captive silly women loaded with sins, led away with different kinds of lusts, (7) ever learning and never able to come to the full knowledge of the truth.

The Evangelical church in America is facing some serious hazards that threaten to bring it to the brink of apostacy. My prayer is that it is not too late for an awakening that will lead to successful reformation. My use of the term "Evangelical," includes churches that are fundamental, full Gospel, holiness, Anabaptist and Pentecostal-all Evangelical churches that believe the Bible and proclaim Jesus Christ to be the only Savior of the world. I have nothing to say to any other church.

It is amazing to me how divided is the Evangelical church in America. A stanza of the hymn "Onward Christian soldiers," by Sabine-Gould (1834-1924) says it as it ought to be:

Like a mighty army
Moves the Church of God;
Brothers we are treading
Where the Saints have trod;
We are not divided
All one body we
One in hope and doctrine
One in charity

The meaning of the words in this hymn is where God would have us stand as His Church in this generation. Let me go out on a limb a little bit and prophesy. I see the time coming when all the holy men whose eyes have been opened by the Holy Spirit will desert worldly Evangelicalism, one by one. The house will be left desolate and there will not be a man of God, a man in whom the Holy Spirit dwells, left among them.

I hear Jesus saying.....Mat 23:37-38 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to her, how often would I have gathered your children together, even as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you would not! (38) Behold, your house is left to you desolate.

As the Church now stands, the man who sees this condition of worldly evangelicalism is written off as somewhat fanatic. But the day is coming when the house will be left desolate and there will not be a man of God among them. I would like to live long enough to watch this develop and see how things turn out. I would like to live to see the time when the men and women of God-holy, separated and spiritually enlightened-walk out of the evangelical church and form a group of their own; when they get off the sinking ship and let her go down in the brackish and worldliness and form a new ark to ride out the storm (Tozer, The Dangers of a shallow faith)

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I wonder what Tozer would have made of the days we now live? Do you think his prophesy has or is in the process of coming to pass? Is the house already desolate? Are men coming out as Tozer prophesied?

Re: Are we on the brink of Apostacy?, on: 2012/5/23 5:41

Hi Brother. I don't believe we're "on the brink" but half way into it and have been for at least 30 yrs but the second half of the falling away, or the next part - will be when those that claim His Name come against the Saints in a very literal way - siding with the powers of this world against His Sheep and sending them to slaughter. History will repeat itself, when 'the church' joins the governing forces of this world against His Own, but on a much larger scale.

I don't know what Tozer's eschatology was - so I'm not sure what he meant by forming "a new ark to ride out the storm".

GOD Bless you, Brother Frank!

Re: Are we on the brink of Apostacy? - posted by Lysa (), on: 2012/5/23 6:05

Quote:

-----Tozer:

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I learned from my own backsliding years ago, brother that sin (apostasy) starts in the mind many, many years before anyone might see actually sin in a person's life. I guess you could say that the enemy was wooing that person secretly long before anything happened.

I agree with Jesus-is-God that this falling away has been going on for years and we are just beginning to see the ramifications of being wooed and are not through it yet. I truly believe that this is the beginning of the separation of the men from the boys, so to speak.

Derek Prince talks about "the fifth column," in God's people and in the church... the enemy cannot overcome God's people or the church from the outside (a straight on fight) but only through planting the enemy inside the city, a fifth column. And that is my own personal experience as well. Google "the fifth column," it was a real battle plan in Europe years ago.

Got to go to work, it's something we all need to "receive the love of the truth" about ourselves to see if there be any wicked way in me.

God bless you brother,
Lisa

Re: , on: 2012/5/23 9:31

I agree with both Lysa and JIG about not being on the brink, this was written over 50 years ago and Tozer is even bold enough to say that he was about to prophesy. Tozer, I believe, was speaking about "Evangelicalism," or one could say Christendom. What he was prophesying was that there would be a time that Spirit filled believers would walk out on the vehicle of Evangelicalism, out from underneath its umbrella. It may become more apparent when I post part two :)
..bro Frank

Re: , on: 2012/5/23 11:18

I find it interesting that Greg has posted an article on the end times church by David Wilkerson. Both these threads compliment one another. In essence Wilkerson is saying that the church in America is not the first century church of the New Testament. Tozer just saw the apostacy of the American church 40 years earlier. We are living in its reality today. God grant that a remnant will arise out of America to follow the lamb wherever he goes.

Bearmaster.

Re: Are we on the brink of Apostacy? - posted by murrcolr (), on: 2012/5/23 11:24

Quote: I wonder what Tozer would have made of the days we now live? Do you think his prophesy has or is in the process of coming to pass? Is the house already desolate? Are men coming out as Tozer prophesied?

It doesn't really matter what Tozer would think or say but God did warn us through that man and that what matters.

Is the house desolate? I remember hearing these words many get upset when I say them but I heard these words from heaven "the church is dead" for me we are not on the brink of Apostacy we are in the time off the Apostacy...

But right after God spoke to me regarding the condition of the church he went on to inform me of a Move of God... Now those words I heard tie in with the vision your relation in Wales some what... That God planned to raise up a people not just one or two men but a whole body of people that would do the work of the ministry, they are called "a victorious people" now these people are going to be raised up to face the anti christ... please understand at that time when God spoke to me I had not any formed theology as I had attend a church twice so please don't let your doctrine get in the way of what will happen....

Re: , on: 2012/5/23 11:29

Amen Murrcolr, here is a quote from David Wilkerson from a post by Greg this morning, it ties into what you are saying and Bearmaster noticed it too.....

"The Lord is preparing a powerful yet humble army of shepherds after His own heart and also a remnant congregation of hungry sheep who have turned away from the deadness and sin of the modern church. The scene is being set for that church which will be hot, not lukewarm-and it will rock the very foundations of hell.

No power on earth will be able to ignore or despise it!"

.....bro Frank

Re: , on: 2012/5/23 11:36

Amen, Brother Colin - Daniel states that they will win many to righteousness, do exploits, and Joel 2:28-32 - and be persecuted and killed - or as John wrote - they'll love not their lives unto the death. Yes, they'll be "despised", yet gloriously represent Him Whom they love more than life.

GOD Bless!

Re: , on: 2012/5/23 11:41

Yes bro Colin,

I definately see the connection between what the Lord showed Martin (interestingly enough he comes from Lougher in Wales, the seat of the great revival)I see the connection between Tozer and Ravenhill and Wilkerson, my cousin, you, myself, many on this site, hundreds of people on my own site from all over the world. The Lord speaks to His people, praise His name, whether they are well known or not known, He speaks through His people.....bro Frank

Re: Are we on the brink of Apostacy?, on: 2012/5/23 11:58

It isn't beginning, it is not half way either, having begun at the latter part of the 19th century, the end time apostasy is almost entirely complete. Only after the rapture will people begin to recognize that they themselves were part of the apostasy, but with so few missing and they themselves left behind, most will just simply write the event off.

OJ

Re: , on: 2012/5/23 12:09

Jim Rutz and Jerry Trousdale have written about the marvelous move of God taking place in the 10/40 window. What Wilkerson and others are saying is now taking place in other parts of the world. God grant that it will come to America.

Bearmaster.

Re: Are we on the brink of Apostacy? - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2012/5/23 17:38

Christianity is in decline in most of the West, without a doubt. There are undoubtedly pockets of apostasy. But, outside of the West, and across the globe, Christianity has been experiencing an amazing expansion since the missionary movement that began in the 1800's, and then became a blaze with the rise of the Pentecostal movement in the early 1900's. The church in South America and Asia are stronger and larger than ever. They aren't without their problems of course. But in many of the places across this world that were previously devoid of anybody who even knew the name of Christ, many men and women have laid down their lives, establishing Christ where He has yet to be established. When I hear of a small but growing church in places like Afghanistan, I have a hard time believing we are seeing the apostasy the Scriptures speak of.

Re: - posted by murrcoir (), on: 2012/5/23 18:11

Bear master I read a little of what Jim Rutz has to say and I am afraid he seems to have been sucked into the manifest sons of God theory

"We are in the early stages of total transformation of our planet" quote by Jim Rutz

That Bearmaster is just another form of Apostacy that is preparing a false church to welcome the Antichrist...

When I first came across the manifest sons of god theory it threw me for a while as it's very similar to what God will do the difference with manifest sons of God theory is that "the church" takes over the world as the manifest sons of God...

What I am saying is and I believe others here are saying God will raise up a people who will confront the antichrist and they will not love their life unto death and they will come off victorious from his name, his number and his image....

That what God plans to do has not yet started yet be careful....

Re: , on: 2012/5/23 23:58

Bro Colin says.....

"When I first came across the manifest sons of god theory it threw me for a while as it's very similar to what God will do the difference with manifest sons of God theory is that "the church" takes over the world as the manifest sons of God...

What I am saying is and I believe others here are saying God will raise up a people who will confront the antichrist and they will not love their life unto death and they will come off victorious from his name, his number and his image...."

Amen brother, we are not being raised up to take over the world, we are being raised up like lambs to the slaughter. God will pour out His Spirit on His people and the world and everything that loves the world, will come against them with a fury never seen. And they will love not their lives unto death as the civil and religious forces hunt them down in such a time as has never been seen. Praise God, that the same Spirit that burned in Stephen will burn in the saints.

The prophets of old, and newer prophets are given eyes by God to see the whole sweep of history, not pockets, not moments of success, but the whole sweep and the destination. They speak to the state of the Christendom.....bro Frank

Re: Are we on the brink of Apostacy? - posted by fromtheold (), on: 2012/5/24 4:01

The apostacy started in 1881 already with Wescott and Hort.

Re: Murrcolr, on: 2012/5/24 10:53

Brother I confess ignorance of what the manifest sons of God theory is. I think what you are describing is what we call Dominionism over here. You know where we are going to take it all over for Jesus. Personally I think such a view is unscriptural.

I cannot say where Jim Fits is on this. Perhaps you are right. I only read a snap shot of his article and thought he was writing from a gospel perspective. I have Jerry Trousdale's book where he is documenting a gospel move in sub Sahara Africa. It appears great numbers of moslems are turning to Christ through visions and dreams.

We know two gospel moves of God are taking place and are being documented. In both countries the church is growing and victorious. But the church is being persecuted in both countries. I refer to China and Iran.

In the late 1940's communism took over China. Mao Tse Tung threw the western missionaries. Prior to that time the gospel made some nominal strides. People thought Christianity was gone and Marx had triumphed. When Nixon normalized our relations with China observers found a vibrant house church movement in the millions. The revival still continues.

A lesser known but more recent example is Iran. In 1979 there was less than 500 believers under the Shah. That year Islamic extremist under Khomeini took over. For sure people thought that Islam had triumphed over the gospel of Christ. What is emerging out of Iran is a vibrant victorious church. But one under persecution.

Estimates range from 100,000 to 1,000,000 believers in Iran. But even if you go with the low figure, it is nothing short of miraculous to see the number of believers jump from a few hundred to the tens of thousands in thirty years. V.V.O.M estimates 500 or more people a day are coming to Christ. Mainly through the internet and satellite connections. Also through dreams and visions.

Two conclusions I draw. Communism and Islam have created a hunger in the people. These ideologies cannot satisfy that hunger. Only Jesus can. Also in China and Iran the church is persecuted and quite severely. But it is growing. And exploding.

I could say more but I believe the church in China, Iran and other parts of the world, the persecuted church will be the answer to the apostate church.

Bearmaster.

Re: Are we on the brink of Apostacy? - posted by Trekker, on: 2012/5/24 11:20

At the brink of apostasy? Don't you think we actually went over that cliff a long time ago? Not all churches, but most. And certainly every mainline denomination. The stench coming out of most churches today is so bad I can't even bear to read the newspaper hardly anymore.

Ya know, this one old woman who lived in the neighborhood I grew up in had a GREAT idea and she carried it out for many years: she held a summer Bible school class in her garage every year and went around the neighborhood inviting children to come. It was in her very clean, tidy garage, with the door wide open. She held Bible verse memorization contests and prayer and so forth. Never too long lest kids become bored or restless. She really had a gift for that sort of ministry.

I think maybe the same idea could be carried over to adults, with church being held in garages and barns. However, one can expect to run up against neighbors complaining about cars, etc so the gathering would have to be small. But I think Christians are going to have to soon get out of that mindset of the big, organized, institutional-like setting anyway, as the tide is rising.

EDIT: Oh ok, now I see in another post you made that you said "I agree with both Lysa and JIG about not being on the brink, this was written over 50 years ago and Tozer..."

Re: , on: 2012/5/24 11:26

Hi Trekker, the question that I posed in the title was a rhetorical question for me. This was the question that Tozer was asking 50 years ago.....bro Frank

Re: - posted by ArtB (), on: 2012/5/24 12:32

KingJimmy wrtoe:

"by KingJimmy on 2012/5/23 14:38:48

Christianity is in decline in most of the West, without a doubt. Western Europe is clearly post Christian, Christians are a small minority. 58% of the United kingdom (England, Great Britain) are listed as Christians. But only 15% go to Church at least once a month. and those who do go to Church are primarily the elderly.

There are undoubtedly pockets of apostasy. But, outside of the West, and across the globe, Christianity has been experiencing an amazing expansion since the missionary movement that began in the 1800's, and then became a blaze with the rise of the Pentecostal movement in the early 1900's. ..."

I thought I would check it out via Operation World. I was pleased to see that in Brazil, evangelicals are now 26.2% of the population. Last I looked about 10 years ago, evangelicals were just 15% of the population.

Catholicism in Brazil has decreased to 65.1%. Furthermore, and even more telling is the fact that in Brazil, more evangelicals go to Church on a Sunday weekly than do Catholics.

Of the non-Christians, The census revealed that only 1.3% identified themselves solely as Spiritist in the census, practicing the Afro-Brazilian cults (such as Candomblé, Macumba, Umbanda) that were introduced into South America, and Central and South America, via the slave trade from Africa by their Portuguese and Spanish conquerors.

In reality according to Operation World, "one-third or more Brazilians visit Spiritist priests or guides; many quite happily practice Catholicism and Spiritism together."

A few years ago the Catholic Papacy had a meeting of their Bishops in Rome as to what to do about stemming South and Central American Catholics from becoming Evangelicals whom they still call Protestants. An Arch-Bishop at the meeting pointed out that when the people want to be freed from demons and have a closer relation with God, they go to the evangelicals. If they wish to organize a labor union, they go to the Catholic Priest.

The situation is similar for the other Countries in South and Central America.