

"THUS SAITH THE LORD..."

FREE GENERAL NEWSLETTER

Encouraging people to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 08

AUGUST 2008

PAGE 1

Except There Come A Falling Away First (2 Thessalonians 2:3)



The Antichrist gets its power because it is allowed to go unchecked. Paul says that a falling away would occur. That raises a lot of questions.

When?

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 states, "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, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

Before Antichrist is fully revealed, which is yet future, there is a falling away first. So the "when" is the future. But wait! At some point the future would be present. And current signs reveal that the man of sin is about to be revealed. Therefore, the falling away is and has been preparing the way. So truly, the when is now!

Who?

We are not talking a single person that causes a falling away. Even Jesus was concerned. "Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name." (Matthew 24:4-5a).

Many preachers would be involved. You may say, "Of course. Look at all those preachers that do not preach about being saved!" or you may say the opposite, "Look at all those preachers who preach that people are saved yet the people still live in sin!" In either case, people point to those that are outside of their "church".

We here use the word church loosely in that we are not identifying a specific denomination but rather in all churches

there are the saved and the lost.

John says, "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would [no doubt] have continued with us: but [they went out], that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us" (1 John 2:19). If they could be in the church leading people astray in John's day, how the more do you think it would happen in our day?

So the who is not just unchurched people, but rather it includes those in the church.

What?

What would people fall away from?

Amos 8:11-12 "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find [it]."

People will fall away from a "Thus Saith the Lord" and turn to listening to what man has to say. This includes the preacher, which is now justified if the person listening likes or dislikes the message. That is not the criteria of judging a minister.

John warns us, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1).

Paul was tried. "And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming [thither] went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the

WHO ARE WE?

We are not a church but rather a ministry, encouraging church attendance, not as blind pew warmers but rather as searchers of a TSTL — "Thus Saith the Lord"

The "Thus Saith the Lord..." General Newsletter is published monthly by "Thus Saith the Lord..." Ministries

MISSION STATEMENT:

To strengthen the faith in God's Word by enabling you to have a "Thus Saith the Lord..." for all that you believe.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

PO Box 10607
Harrisburg, PA 17105
717-249-8785 (TSTL)

WWW.TSTL.NET
Info@tstl.net

COPYRIGHT:

This publication is **free** and free to copy. Your tax-deductible donations are needed and greatly appreciated.

The world has been given an open book exam —

Are you looking in the Book for the answers — a TSTL?

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Debt Reduction Progress

Over our 10 year history, \$80,000 accumulated in ministry debt both from short periods of time of not being able to cover all of the expenses and the over 4 year period (Jan. 2004 - May 2007) when we personally could not sustain this ministry.

He had lost his employment due to religious conflict. Without that income we were not able to sustain this ministry and so the debt accumulated.

Now financial blessings are occurring in his employment, but in order to recover financially it requires him to work very long hours. Can you help eliminate this ministry debt faster?

OVERALL STATS:

\$80,000 Starting Balance

- **10,879** Readership

- **35,586** O'Donnell's

\$33,535 Current Balance

JULY STATS:

\$35,595 Prior Balance

- **450** Readership

- **1610** O'Donnell's

\$33,535 Current Balance

WE PRAISE THE LORD FOR YOUR HELP—WE ARE OVER HALF WAY!!!!

Any request to be removed from our mailing list because you cannot assist us or feel guilty will not be honored. That is not what this appeal is about.

word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few" (Acts 17:10-12).

If any tests the preacher these days with the Word of God, it is usually with, "The preacher quoted that verse word for word, and that one, and that one..." But what of how it has been applied?

Almost anyone can read a collection of verses and call it a sermon. The question that should be asked is, "Does the preacher apply verses properly without contradicting other verses?" Too many members have fallen away from that depth of study in God's Word to be able to answer that.

How?

2 Timothy 4:3 says, *"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; And they shall turn away [their] ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."*

How a falling away can occur is that the people actually deep down in their hearts desire the easy message. People sure feel good if told that the narrow way to heaven that few find (Matthew 7:14) has just widened a little so that they do not have to be as perfect as they thought they would be under Christ's power, which *"in the last days perilous times shall come"* (2 Timothy 3:1) and *"having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof"* (2 Timothy 3:5).

And that leads us to the next question.

Where?

This is what is so deceptive about the falling away. It is not about the church having no members because they all fell away. The people actually continue to go to church but the true Christian is hard to find.

People who have the form of godliness but denying the power are not those outside of the church. They just deny the power by living in sin. But to have the form of godliness is to act Christian. Church goes can do, say, and be right all on the outside but not really be right on the inside.

Hardly anyone lives their lives according to

what the world needs, and not to the wants of the world. Usually Christians live to what the world accepts. Who is influencing who? Are we not to be the light to the world?

Conclusion

Now you know when there will be a falling away – now. You know who leads the falling away – messengers with a soft message speaking to the larger portion of the church desiring the smooth message and easy entrance into heaven. You know what they fall away from – the Word of God properly used and understood. You know how there is a falling away – the congregations are denying the power to overcome all sin *"through Christ which strengtheneth me"* (Philippians 4:13) yet show a form of holiness by still attending church because deep down they do not want to be wholly conformed to the Christian life. You also know where the falling away occurs and that is within the church and not by leaving church.

Please consider that it is one thing to join the church, and quite another thing to be united to Christ. Unconsecrated, world-loving professors of religion are one of the most serious causes of weakness in the church of Christ.

Are you tired of the few fanatics in the church? Are you tired of them saying, "This is wrong, and that is wrong"? Does it appear that they are the odd ones in the church? Does the organized methodology and teachings seem to be easier today in regards to personal requirements?

Just remember, the world mocked Noah and were wrong. Joseph's brothers treated him badly and were wrong. Korah and *"two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown"* (Numbers 16:2) mocked Moses and were wrong. *"The prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty"* (1 Kings 18:19) mocked Elijah on Mount Carmel and were wrong. Just about everyone in Jerusalem cried, "Crucify Him" (Mark 15:13) and were wrong. The council along with Saul condemned Stephen to death and were wrong. The majority will accept the Mark of the Beast and will be wrong. Just remember, if you are among the earthly majority, you are wrong. If you are among the church's majority, you are wrong.

The fanatics just may be right. It is not too late to be right. Saul did become Paul.

DO YOU HAVE A TSTL FOR THAT?

The purpose of these Bible studies is to help you seek for a TSTL—"Thus Saith the Lord..." for all that you believe. May you go forward in this study with that goal.



Life Giving Title Of Jesus

1. What is Jesus? **John 6:48**
2. What does that mean? **John 6:33**
3. What did God provide for the Israelites in the time of Moses? **Exodus 16:15**
4. What are the two promises associated with this title? **John 6:35**
5. What is the ultimate promise? **John 6:50**
6. What does it all symbolize? **John 6:51**

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S STUDY:

God The Father Is On Trial

1. What are God's people called to be?

Luke 24:48 "And ye are witnesses of these things"; **Isaiah 43:12** "I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when [there was] no strange [god] among you: therefore ye [are] my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I [am] God."

2. As our example, Jesus is what type? **Revelation 3:14** "And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God"
3. What is given to those that obey him so as to be able to carry out our calling? **Acts 5:32** "And we are his witnesses of these things; and [so is] also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him."
4. Which law compels God's people to obey in all ways and choose not to sin? **Mark 10:19** "Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother."
5. If we do not represent Christ rightly, what may we face? **Proverbs 19:9** "A false witness shall not be unpunished, and [he that] speaketh lies shall perish."
6. Why is the gospel preached? **Matthew 24:14** "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

ART THOU IN HEALTH (2 Samuel 20:9)



Honest Day's Work

Psalms 128:2 For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy [shalt] thou [be], and [it shall be] well with thee.

It is said that happiness is good for the soul. And studies have proven that the happier a person is, the longer they live. Two patients with the same grim diagnosis of cancer with no cure and expecting to die in weeks, the one that is depressed usually does die – even sooner. However, on more occasions than not, the many who choose to make the most of the life they have left tend to last out the days,

and even beyond. Some have even been known to beat the cancer.

So as the verse states, if you want to be happy, cease from being lazy, looking for ways to get out the work, doing only a half-hearted attempt. Try giving it your all. Sure you will be tired. But that too is good for you, although this topic is not about exercise. Do an honest day's work. And that is not necessarily nine to five. What do you do after five? Crash? Veg out? Consider doing the work that needs done around the home. Then you can close the night with reflecting on a full days' work. You will be happy for it.

Think On These Things

Do In The Name Of The Lord

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, [do] all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" (Colossians 3:17).

Notice that God states that whatsoever we do or say, it should be done in the name of the Lord. In other words, we ought to say and do what the Lord would approve of.

"Whatsoever" means every sentence, every action, everything.

What do you talk about? Do you idolize people? Most office conversations Monday mornings are about how great a player played football over the weekend. Around election time, people ignore all the dirt and get very active in promoting their candidate and point out the dirt, even if not true, in other candidates.

Christians should not get caught up in sports, politics and the world. Although discussing political issues is a necessity, getting so worked up for or against a candidate is over the line. Being pulled into a conversation on sports is not sinful, but leading the charge because your team won over the weekend and your player sacked the quarterback ten times is crossing the line of idolizing. More important, it alienates.

Watch the conversation, watch the actions. If Jesus would not talk about it or do it, then do not.

**Paul Predicts A Falling
Away First!**

**Who? What? Where?
When? How?**
(Main Article)

**What Does An Honest
Day's Work Have To Do
With Health?**
(See page 3)

**Some Anglicans Got It
Right!**
(See page 4)



**WHO HATH BELIEVED OUR REPORT?
AND TO WHOM IS THE ARM OF THE LORD REVEALED?** (Isaiah 53:1)

» **Forbes Traveler, June 25, N. America's
10 Sexiest Beaches**

So break out the bikinis and bring on the heat. Summer is here, and it's time for a little reckless abandonment.

COMMENT: 1 John 2:16 "For all that [is] in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." This may sound unbelievable, but God never intended men and women to be breaking out bikinis and taking off shirts. Long time ago, men and women did not swim together. Since the introduction of the bathing suit, the suit has been getting smaller. Of course we don't know how much smaller they can get. Allowed at some beaches is swim wear that a fig leaf covers more of. Here is the sound of unbelievable and that is beaches are no different than mental orgy sites during the summer. Even Forbes admits that.

» **AP, July 13, 2008 - Religion throws
wrinkle into Iowa flood recovery**

The survival of a store in Coralville depends on finding money, but unlike other small Iowa businesses affected by flooding Osman can't accept low-interest loans from the federal SBA. Like many Muslims, he takes a strict interpretation of the Quran's prohibition against paying interest.

Exodus 22:25 "If thou lend money to [any of] my people [that is] poor by thee, thou shalt not be to him as an usurer, neither shalt thou lay upon him usury." Usury is interest. Having a similar scripture concept, we should admire Nazar. All forms of credit should be avoided as much as possible especially as the world economic crisis is progressing. It has been moving quickly since the Dot Com bust.

» **World Net Daily, July 3 - Trumpet
blasts to Jesus: 'We're awake' on Earth**

An pastor who made news in April by studying NASA's eclipse calendar to speculate on the return of Jesus is planning a worldwide blast of trumpets this fall to get God's attention. The Paul spoke of the last trumpet blast when believers will be resurrected and given immortality. (1 Cor. 15:52)

COMMENT: 1 Thessalonians 4:16 "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first." According to this verse, the source of trumpeting is not from earth but from heaven. These people will be wasting their time. Besides, God knows if we are awake or asleep.

» **Telegraph, June 28 - Islam is real
threat to church, says Synod member**

"The church is sleepwalking into an Islamic state. Hopefully we can unite against it. The leaders of the church have lost their confidence in the Gospel. We have got an Archbishop of Canterbury who doesn't stand up for Christianity but wants a degree of Sharia law. The church should be getting out with the Christian message. Our Government is allowing it to happen out of political correctness."

COMMENT: Mark 16:15 "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." These Anglicans have it right.

OTHER NEWS AT WWW.TSTL.NET:

» **LaCrosse Tribune, July 15 - DA: Teen
stopped breastfeeding baby, knowing it
would die**

» **WorldNetDaily, July 1, 2008 - Legisla-
tor: Law allows banishment of Bible**

» **Boston Herald, June 30, 2008 - Chat-
ham boy's lucky loo find rings true**

» **CNN, July 1, 2008 - Study: Some sun-
screens overpromise on protection**

» **WWD, June 18 - Dad grounds daugh-
ter, but court ungrounds her**

» **AP, June 23, 2008 - Religious Ameri-
cans: My faith isn't the only way**