

The Last Days

“The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons” (1 Timothy 4:1).

Are we in the last days of the Church Age? Many patriotic American evangelicals say “No.” They are looking for a great, nation-wide revival and a consequent reversal of current politics so that our nation can be “great” again. The Return of Christ is not imminent in their view; it’s something so far off in the future as to be irrelevant. I sincerely hope this isn’t your belief! This Sunday School lesson argues that we certainly are in the last days of the Church Age and that the Return of Christ for His church is . . . well, any day now. It should be the hope that thrills us and compels us to serving Christ right now more fervently than ever.

I’m not sure what Paul had in mind in 1 Timothy 4:1-3. Commentators suggest he anticipated Gnosticism [whatever that was]. I’m skeptical. I think that Paul was suggesting something like what we know as Darwinism/Marxism. Think about it! Engels personally introduced Darwin to Marx. And Marx was delighted with Darwin’s ideas about evolution. Marx was a Satanist. His poetry early in his life and his letters clearly indicate that. Darwin may have been both oppressed and used by demons if not by Satan himself. The result? Almost all of society, politics, economics and culture today derive from the false teachings of those two individuals. The influence that those two have had on today’s world is staggering.

Evolution is the main basis of today’s socialism, which is sweeping across the globe and affecting almost every country on earth. A variety of Marxism is now the belief of all the elites, intellectuals and wannabe intellectuals, and professional people everywhere in the world who strive for the power by which to control civilization. Evolution is the basic rationale for modern secularism and atheism. It is taught as if it were empirically-demonstrable truth in almost every school and college in the world. Young people today have been so thoroughly indoctrinated from early school years on that they “know” Darwinism to be scientifically proven truth and they can’t be dissuaded from it.

Today’s American culture celebrates vulgarity, sex and violence. It’s certainly a result of Darwinism’s influence, teaching us (not so subtly) that there’s no God to whom we must give an account. Gay pride has its basis both in evolution and its corollary idea that we’re morally autonomous, and in a Freudian version of Marxism. And most astonishing of all is that our theologians and pastors, even in evangelical churches, are now stampeding to belief in Darwinian evolution. Some churches now fly the gay pride flag. Roman Catholic churches are adopting openness to homosexuality that was never before thought even conceivable. Most scientists are aware that Darwinism is probably, if not almost certainly, false. Recent discoveries in genetics and molecular biology have turned the whole concept of Darwinian evolution into a failed hypothesis. Yet scientists hold to it fiercely, because the alternative – that God exists – is too horrible for them to contemplate.

Many intellectuals, the ones who know history and epistemology, economics and philosophy, are aware that neither Darwinism or Marxism (in whatever its recent modification) are true. They know how to critique them, to falsify them. It’s actually not that hard to do. But they don’t dare do it in public or their careers and livelihood are over. So their silence amplifies these phony narratives that people believe. It’s quite easy to refute both of these deceptions, but people *want* to be deceived.

We inhabit a world that has gone amuck with lies, with things taught by demons. Is the Church even aware of it? For the most part, I suspect not. OK, professors of apologetics in seminaries and Bible colleges know what’s going on. So do Christian scientists who promote creationism. And certain church leaders who remain true to traditional teachings, and those in the pews who refuse to be indifferent to what’s developing. But, again, I fear that our churches are compromising to an appalling degree. The lack of concern regarding theology, the disinterest in knowing Scripture, the near absence of personal evangelism or missions, and the self-absorbed lives of most believers today are a few sad indicators that the demonic forces increasingly active in our world have deeply

affected the Church. Paul's prophecy in his letter to Timothy, quoted above, is coming true. Which means, of course, that we're in those last days.

But in addition to the above, I can further substantiate my assertion that we're in the last days of the Church Age. Consider the following:

- In Scripture and in history, God has blocked off periods of time. There were no "billions of years" of earth history as anti-theists claim; they are liars and deceivers. Creation was approximately 4,000 BC. So, it was approximately 2,000 years from Creation to Abraham, 2000 years from Abraham to Christ, 2,000 years from Christ to today, and then Revelation prophecies 1,000 more years for the coming Kingdom of peace and righteousness. That's a full week of years for this cosmos, with the last "day" the day of rest. Revelation clearly states "1,000 years." It also even counts the number of days! It was exactly 1,000 years from the ascent of David's son, Solomon, to the throne until the enthronement of Christ. The time allotted for the Exile of Israel is 70 "weeks" of years, i.e., 490 years. It was exactly (to the year!) 69 weeks or 483 years from the initiation of that specific prophetic period to Christ, with the last 7 years yet to begin when the seals are broken (Revelation 5). So, it is now 2023, very close to 2,000 years from the crucifixion (it probably was 31 A.D.). Subtract 7 years for the Tribulation Period and, yes, it's time! We may be the generation privileged to experience the Rapture.
- America is in steep decline. We certainly are NOT a great nation (assuming we once were). We are now *exceedingly* vulnerable. Think about it! For over a year, our entire nation was nearly shut down by a virus that, in reality, was no more dangerous for the vast majority of people than a host of other viruses that we normally live with. That Covid disruption still has major consequences to our politics, manufacturing, education, and our economy. Evil is proliferating in America so rapidly it's as if God's hand of restraint has been lifted. The changes occurring in our nation are profound and irreversible. The result of America's decline is that Europe once again is rapidly becoming the dominant region in the world, so that end-time prophetic events can proceed on schedule. Computers, airplanes, nuclear weapons and electricity notwithstanding, we're returning, culturally, spiritually, and politically, to the era of the ending of the Book of Acts.
- Although Christianity in the United States is weak, effete, waning in numbers, spirituality and influence, Christianity is growing exponentially all over the world. In spite of persecution, the centers of growth are Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. There are more evangelicals in China today than in the United States. The fastest growing church today is in Iran. Certain countries in Africa have experienced such rapid spread of Christianity that church leaders can't cope with the need. Bangladesh (of all places!) has seen an explosive spread of faith in Christ. As absolutely massive numbers of new believers all over the world are just now joining the church, the Church Age must be coming to a close. **"[The] gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come"** (Matthew 24:14).
- The Western world isn't just becoming pagan as it jettisons Christianity for secularism. No, it's worse. The West is becoming increasingly hostile to Christianity. Satan has been at work for centuries trying to defeat the Protestant Reformation and the spread of the Gospel. But his efforts are coming now to a climax with overt, aggressive loathing of Christianity so as to see it annihilated. And not just Christianity. Anti-semitism in the West has never been more overt and extensive as it is now and it's spreading rapidly. Satan sees his time is short and he must do all he can to prevent the Return of Christ. There must be no awareness of God's existence, no testimony by the Jews or by the Church available anywhere, so that Satan can reign over his kingdom perpetually and securely.

What does all this mean? Precisely this: We cannot continue complacently pursuing our own interests and pleasures according to our own desires and values as we have been. Our neighbors are lost. People downtown are lost. Other people all around the world are lost. They have only God's wrath waiting for them. Many of them are God's elect. If the love of Christ dwells in us, we need now more urgently than ever to seek to bring them to Christ with the Gospel message. We may not have time to train more missionaries to send out to do that. We ourselves need to do it. And if I'm wrong? Perhaps I am; but I don't think so. Well, so what? All that I'm exhorting all of us to do is exactly what we should be doing all along.

Dear Reader, we need to be "woke." Not the "woke" that's popular among liberals in today's Western world, but awake to the urgency and need of the time we're in. The American church has been asleep for way too long. It's time to rouse ourselves from a self-induced slumber and get to work. We probably have only very little time left to show Jesus our commitment and faith.