

**Test your Bible Knowledge**

1. *It is better to suffer, wrote Peter, if that should be God's will, for:*

- a. well doing than for evil doing
- b. evil doing than for well doing
- c. evil doing than for right
- d. right thinking than for evil doing

2. *With the church in Philadelphia the Spirit was evidently:*

- a. well pleased
- b. unhappy
- c. some what well pleased and unhappy
- d. quite unhappy

3. *The riot at Ephesus was caused by fear that Paul's preaching would create unemployment among:*

- a. silversmiths
- b. camel drives
- c. judges
- d. little children

**Scriptures:**

- 1) 1Peter 3:17
- 2) Revelation 3:7-13; 2:29
- 3) Acts 19:23-29

-Fred Singleton

**Private Bible studies available anytime!!**

**Schedule:**

Sunday Bible Study - 10:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship - 11:00AM

Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM

Wednesday Night Bible Study - 7:00 PM

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***"Tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?"-1King 22:16***

**THE GREAT APOSTASY  
A Falling Away II**

In Matthew 16:18-19, Jesus promised to build His Church and that it would stand forever, never to be destroyed. This promise was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came as promised by our Lord. Through the preaching of Peter the Spirit convicted men and women of their sins, and about 3,000 souls "gladly received" the Word and were baptized for the remission of their sins. Those whose sins were washed away were added to the church by the Lord, this marks the beginning of the church belonging to Christ (Rom.16.16; Eph. 1:22-23).

According to Acts 1:8, we find Jesus foretelling the spread of the Church. It was noted above that the church was established in Jerusalem (Acts 2:1-7:60). Many who were obedient to the call of the gospel through faith, repentance, confession in Christ, and burial with Him in baptism were added to the [O]ne [B]ody, the church (1Cor. 12:12-13). From Judea to Samaria the gospel was preached and congregations of the church were established throughout the world (Acts 8:1-4; Acts 8:5-25; Acts 8:26 Colossians 1:6, 23).

Even though the gospel and the church were given by God and are glorious, God knew that men would not always follow the gospel, and that there would be a falling away.

**Prophecies of the Falling Away**

In 1 Timothy 4:1-4 we read, *"Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For every*

*creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving"*

From these passages we learn from the Holy Spirit that:

- ✓ A falling away would happen later in time.
- ✓ Men would fall from the faith.
- ✓ Men would follow deceitful spirits, and doctrines of demons, which are teachings not of Christ. (Gal 1:6-9).
- ✓ Men would be led away through the hypocrisy of liars who would have their conscience seared.
- ✓ He identifies two doctrines that would be taught:
  - Forbidding [en] marriages.
  - Refraining from foods.

In 2 Timothy 4:2-4 Paul charged Timothy, *"before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom,"* to *"preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables."*

From these passages of scriptures we learn that:

- ✓ A time would come when people would not accept sound doctrine; that is "healthy or wholesome" teachings.
- ✓ They would find teachers who would teach what they wanted to hear; teachers that would be pleasers of men. These are teachings that would offer peace to a troubled conscience yet without convicting one of his sins, that would produce godly sorrow that demands a change. (Gal. 1:10).
- ✓ This text says they will turn aside to myths.

Listen to Peter as he describes how destructive doctrines will affect those who follow "destructive ways" *"But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber"* (2 Peter 2:1-3).

Peter said that just as there had been false teachers in the Old Testament there would be false teachers today, and:

- ✓ These false teachers would bring in false doctrine secretly.
- ✓ They would even deny Jesus.
- ✓ Many will follow their evil ways.
- ✓ The way of truth, which is right, would be spoken against.
- ✓ Part of the problem would be their greed.
- ✓ They would exploit people with their false words.

We have taken a look at three different passages of scriptures which proves without a shadow of a doubt that men would depart from the truth, from the church established by Jesus Christ. My friends as we continue in our study remember to test all things by the word of God. If it be the Lord's will we will continue in our study next week. - Fred Singleton

***"These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so"***  
(Acts 17:11) .