

The School of Prophecy Part 3

Lesson 4: The Church of the Last Days

Matthew 16:18 NKJV - *And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*

Prophetic Indicators Concerning the Church

1. A watering-down of the Gospel message.

Revelation 2:16 NKJV - *Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.*

A. The church is facing a moral crisis. Public reaction to Truth is so adverse that many pastors are hesitant to take a position on issues of morality.

Fight (polemos) - engaged in warfare; to fight until victory is achieved

B. Ephesians 5:27 declares that the Lord is going to sanctify and cleanse the church in order to present it to Himself without spot or blemish. In that day, she will be the perfect church.

Ephesians 5:27 NKJV - *...that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*

2. Sound doctrine would be replaced by soft, feel-good messages.

2 Timothy 4:3 NKJV - *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.*

A. That phrase “will not endure” means to tolerate. Paul warns Timothy that in the Last Days church world, many would become intolerable of the preaching and teaching of God’s Word. “They will not endure” means that they will not hold up under adversity.

Sound (hugiaino) - sound health; to be well; to be whole; Doctrinal truth

John 6:63 NKJV - *It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.*

Doctrine (didaskalia) - instruction; teaching; the function of learning

B. Public Reading of Scripture - exhortation challenges those who hear the Word, to apply it to their lives daily.

1 Timothy 4:13 & 16 NKJV - 13 *Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.*

16 *Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.*

3. A strong spiritual life is the result of instruction.

Proverbs 1:2-3 & 7-8 NKJV - 2 *To know wisdom and instruction, to perceive the words of understanding, 3 to receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment, and equity; 7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. 8 My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother.*

Proverbs 10:17 NKJV - *He who keeps instruction is in the way of life, but he who refuses correction goes astray.*

4. Age-tested Truth is discarded for teaching that is in tune with the times.

2 Timothy 4:3 NKJV - *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.*

A. Today many have been duped into taking a politically correct position instead of declaring Truth. A stand for Truth clashes with society. Many church leaders will ride the fence in order to avoid societal rejection.

B. If spiritual leaders refuse to stand for Truth, Christ will fight against them.

5. The Real Church will arise as lights in the world.

Philippians 2:15 NKJV - *...that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.*