

4. The Compromising Church – Rev. 2:12-17

This congregation replaces the power, anointing and presence of God with programs and performing activities seeking to attract and entertain people and enjoy great numbers in attendance.

They tend to use only selected scriptures that justify their compromising stands on social issues of abortion, homosexuality, LGBTQ agenda, and political parties.

Jesus spoke to this kind of compromise in Rev. 2:13: “I know your works, and where you dwell, where satan’s throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith... [in outward appearance], but He rebuked them for their involvement in compromising the teachings of scripture:

Rev. 2:14-15: “But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.”

Doctrine of Balaam: Numbers 22-25, the king of the Moabites promised to reward the prophet Balaam if he would curse the Israelites – Num. 22:16-17.

God said to Balaam, Num. 22:12, “You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed.”

Knowing the will of God, Balaam disobeyed and followed Balak's direction to curse Israel.

But God put His words in the mouth of Balaam and blessed Israel rather than cursed them.

Jude 11 - speaking of latter day false day prophets said: "Like Balaam, they deceive people for money."

2 Peter 2:12: "the way of Balaam is like these false teachers who are like unthinking animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed. They scoff at things they do not understand, and like animals, they will be destroyed...they have wandered off the right road and followed the footsteps of Balaam son of Beor, who love to earn money by doing wrong. But Balaam was stopped from his mad course when his donkey rebuked him with a human voice."

The way of Balaam describes unrighteous pastors, prophets, ministers of the Gospel who build their own empires on earth by gaining wealth by every possible means including teaching many false doctrines in the name of God.

What is the doctrine of the Nicolaitans?

Nicolaitans = “to be victorious over the people, or to conquer the people.”

This was a religious sect in Ephesus and Pergamum whose members were rebuked for eating food sacrificed to idols and for sexual license.

Possibly leadership of a church or ministry that is practicing false doctrine and is controlling people with an authoritarian leadership.

They have forgotten the true meaning of Biblical leadership is serving God's people and by being led by the Holy Spirit as good shepherds.

Some have resorted to operating the church as a CEO, or Executive Pastor rather than as a shepherd.

Rev. 2:15-16: “So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Therefore, repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and will make war against them with the sword of My mouth.”

5. The Dead Church – Rev. 3:1-6

Satan would love to have a church in name to be known as alive, but in practice be a spiritually dead church.

How does an alive church become a dead church? 2 Tim. 3:1-5:

“But know this, that in the last day’s perilous times will come; for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal despisers of good, traitors, head-strong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; having a form of godliness but denying its power, and from such people turn away.”

When the church is not preaching Jesus Christ and taking up the cross daily as His follower [the crucified life], and only teaching motivational messages without the demonstration of the power of God – it will become a dead church.

Going through form and ritual without the Holy Spirit.

Rev. 3:1-3: “I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how you have received and heard; **hold fast and repent**. Therefore, if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.”

It is an understatement to say the church of Jesus needs a revival – a third great awakening; a third Pentecost to awaken us to our purpose and destiny.

We have created a people oriented, program based, religious church without experiencing the presence of God for many decades in America.

The early church and its followers did not have the gimmicks churches use today [the dog and pony shows of attracting people for a prize].

God sent the Holy Spirit to empower us to win the lost to Christ and destroy the works of the devil by signs, wonders, and miracles.

The real root of our problem is the need for the Holy Spirit to come in power and birth another true spirit of prayer and revival.

This COVID-19 is shaking the world, but will the church listen? Will people read the signs of the times and realize the Lord is talking to us to repent and turn back to HIM?

6. The Persecuted Church – Rev. 2:8-11

“I know your works, tribulation, and poverty and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of satan. Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

When God’s church is alive and moving in the authority and power of the Spirit, then satan will do everything possible to cause the fire of God to die down or to raise severe persecution that will come from people, government, social and religious orders and even other believers.

There are many believers today who are in severe persecution by governments who hate Christianity and the Lord Jesus Christ. There are many believers being arrested, tortured, killed, property taken from them, mocked and left with nothing.

Have you decided to follow: Matt. 10:37-39: “He that loves his father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he that loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he that does not take up his cross and follow Me daily, is not worthy of Me. The one who finds/saves their life shall lose it; and the one that loses their life for My sake shall find it.”

7. The Faithful Church – Rev. 3:7-13

There has always been and will always be a remnant of people who will faithfully follow the Lord regardless of the price that must be paid.

Rev. 3:7-8, 10-12: “He who has the key of David, HE who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”: I know your works. I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it, for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming quickly.

Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.”

Jesus assures His faithful church/people:

“I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it, because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial.”

It is the last days, the time to definitely be faithful and check our lives and be cleansed and kept pure until His return.

He is looking for the faithful bride to take her to be with Him in His glorious kingdom FOREVER.

We must be careful not to be conformed to the world and continually offer our bodies as living sacrifices to the Lord to represent Him in this world.

Rom. 12:1-2:

“I beseech/strongly urge and plead with you, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable/spiritual service. And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”