

THE FAITHLESSNESS OF TODAY'S CHURCH

Will not God defend and protect and avenge His elect, who cry to Him day and night? Will He defer them and delay help on their behalf? I tell you, He will defend and protect and avenge them speedily. **However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?** (Luke 18: 7-80)

The faithlessness of today's church is perceived everywhere. The Lord YAHSHUA rightly asked the question: When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth? What possibly caused the church to lose her faith? From one extreme to another, the church has lost her faith through the multiplied wickedness and through the pursuit of worldly things. The prosperity teaching has caused the church to lose focus on YAHSHUA'S teachings concerning the pursuit of heavenly treasures. They instead are running after the worldly treasures and losing faith. Do not gather and heap up and store up for yourselves treasures on earth, He said, where moth and rust and worm consume and destroy, and where thieves break through and steal. But gather and heap up and store for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust nor worm consume and destroy, and where thieves do not break through and steal; **for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also** (Matt. 6:19-21). The church's heart is sunk in the wealth of the world, not in heaven. In their faithless acts they pursue the world, not YAHSHUA. So they have become faithless.

The church's faithlessness happens also when wickedness abounds and super abounds without correction. The acceptance of wickedness is easily received and adopted, as one example, the case of moral issues. Faithfulness to the teachings of the Word of God has faded and many has followed the wide road, in the attitude of co-existence, instead of taking a stand for the teachings of the Lord. They spare their lives but will lose it in the end. YAHSHUA said, Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father Who is in heaven; many will say to Me on that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, and driven out demons in Your name and done many mighty works in Your name? And then I will say to them openly, I never knew you; depart from Me you who act wickedly (Matt. 7:21-23).

Someone might wonder why a person who performed miracles in YAHSHUA'S name will not be accepted by God. The subject of the matter here is the name of YAHSHUA, not the performer of miracles. He used the name of YAHSHUA to satisfy the needs of people, but his heart has never been right with God; he never had a relationship with the Lord. On his calling of the name of YAHSHUA with faith, heavens responded. However, God knows His own. The churches are full of imposters, infiltrating the church's leadership by deceit. They are performing miracles and claiming to be servants of God, when in fact they are serving the devil. We tend to accept the fact if miracles happen, it must be from God, when not necessarily it is in all cases. There are miracle services performed among the New Age movement, too. We well know where this

religion takes one to. YAHSHUA asked another question: Why is it that although you call Me Lord, Lord- you do not do what I tell you? The meaning of the name Lord denotes kingship over the life of the born again Christian. Calling Lord, and acting contrary to the meaning it carries, is without a doubt, mocking the title, Lord. Instead we are truly saying, I am lord of my life, I do what I please. We wonder why our prayers have not been answered; we wonder why revival has not come in spite of our prayers, while the underground church is experiencing revival and growth. The lukewarm church is spiritually blind and deaf and without spiritual discernment. In another words it is half dead. Its faithlessness is seen and perceived in everything it stands for. Without conviction, the churches bow down to the teachings of homosexual and lesbian pastors, when the word of God clearly demands punishment for such conduct.

The Word of God says that for lack of knowledge people perish. Lack of knowledge of God's Word causes one to suffer spiritual growth retardation. Their zeal of God goes as far as their ignorance of the Word. The shallowness and comical sermons presented to the church's members are like a block of ice placed in their brains. It freezes and numbs them with indifference to the erroneous teachings. Here is the warning that YAHSHUA gave to the today's church: I know your works and what you are doing; you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm and neither old nor hot, I will spew you out of My mouth! For you say, I am rich; I have prospered and grown wealthy, and I am in need of nothing; and you do not realize and understand that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.... Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears and listens to and heeds My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will eat with him, and he with Me (Rev. 3:15-17,20). This is the church of the closed door to YAHSHUA. But He continues knocking, not wanting that anyone should perish.

Today's church failed greatly. In times of persecution many will flee from the faith and deny the Lord. The Laodicea church is not ready now and it will not be ready for the Lord, until it changes her ways. Paul said that the purpose for the church is to make known the many-sided wisdom of God in all its infinite variety and innumerable aspects to the angelic rulers and authorities in the heavenly sphere (Eph. 3:10). The church would be able to fulfill its purpose only by faithfulness in obedience and love for her God. His desire is to sanctify her before He glorifies her to Himself. That can only happen if the church is willing to submit to her Lord and Savior. I appeal to you, said Paul, and beg of you in view of the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service and spiritual worship, do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you] (Rom. 12:1-2).

YAHSHUA is His church's foundation; He is the head of His body – the church; God has put all things under His feet and has appointed Him the universal and supreme Head of the church; the church is the fullness of Him Who fills all in all [for in that body lives the full measure of Him Who makes everything complete and Who fills everything everywhere with Himself] (Ephesians 1:22-23). There is no room for any of us called Christians to be his or her own lord. The church

cannot exist outside of Him. He is the beginning and the completion of His church – His body. There is one body and one Spirit- just as there is also one hope to the calling you received- one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, Who is above all, pervading all and in all (Eph. 4: 4-6). Here, Paul instructs us how to be a faithful church: strip yourselves of your former nature, be constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind and put on the new nature, created in God's image in true righteousness and holiness, reject all falsity; express the truth, when angry, do not sin; do not ever let your wrath last until the sun goes down; leave no room of foothold for the devil, let the thief steal no more, let no foul or polluting language, nor evil word nor unwholesome or worthless talk come out of your mouth;; do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God; let all bitterness and indignation and wrath an resentment and quarreling and slander be banished from you, with all malice; and become useful and helpful and kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ forgave you (Eph. 4:22-32).

Words YAHSHUA had for the Laodicea church are words of counsel. He said, Therefore I counsel you to purchase from Me gold refined and tested by fire, that you may be [truly] wealthy, and white clothes to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nudity from being seen and salve to put on your eyes, that you may see (Rev. 3:18). He is standing at the door of Laodicea church; she must open to Him to be saved. Gold is the Word of God, pure gold and tested by fire. The white clothes He offers her is His righteousness and salve is spiritual wisdom, discernment and understanding of His Word.

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son for whosoever believe in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16). YAHSHUA is the root of God's love given us. His Son's life is His gift to all who will accept Him, love and obey Him. He has given us so much, why can't we give Him our devotion in love and obedience?