

These Perilous Times
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“Thy Word”

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” Psalms 119:105

Of course we know that, “it is written” means that ***all scripture*** is applicable for admonition, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. ¹ Or is it?

What does this mean for us?

Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season

The truth of the matter

From an objective, {not biases intended} standpoint it appears that in many churches there has been a subtle paradigm shift from thus saith the Lord of Host's, to a thus saith, whatever floats your boat?

Recently; out of curiosity I subscribed to a “Christian” internet web site, respectfully called “Church Leaders. Com *daily*,” {not endorsed by

¹ II Timothy 3:5

the General Conference Seventh-day Adventist} and I was not surprised to see what some of the apostate churches, are promoting these days in the name of “ministries!”

Notice the following information extracted from this web site. “More than five hundred churches have turned to the cinema, {to make movies; Greek- movement, to move}. Realize the future of your church today... ‘Fathom Theater Church’ is a Low Risk High Impact way of connecting with your community.”

So its in vogue with the powers that be to bring in the rap and rock music, with the colored light shows, so-called sacred dancing, bring in the puppets and clowns, and whatever else suits ones fancy and lets call it “community ministry.” Let’s call it, “creative evangelism.” Friends lets call it what it really is, a “secular circus.” Please do not call it ministry or evangelism.

Jesus told us through His servant Timothy that the time would come when His people would not endure sound doctrine, but be turned unto fables. ²

Timothy also said “...in the last days people would be lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God...” ³ When God’s people turn from Bible-based evangelism to theatrical entertainment, excitement and amusement, it is nothing more

² II Timothy 4:1-5

³ Ibid. 3:1-5

than Satan's seed spawned from Hellish Hollywood.

Friends, we are a movement of destiny-not of Entertainment. It is a strategic distraction of Satan to guide our youth, as well as adults away from the study of God's Word, via entertainment and amusement-good or bad.

Many loving Christians are being distracted from Bible-based teaching and preaching, perhaps in part due to the entertainment industry. They want to be entertained, and amused in church like they have been all week long. Through the various electronic media devices, {which are also good technological tools for the spreading of the gospel} that are available to them, are causing them to become easily bored.

The word "***Amuse***," comes from a 15th century French word which means to deceive...

1. To make somebody laugh...
2. To keep somebody "happily **occupied**..."
3. To deceive somebody by **distraction**-to

distract

ones' attention usually in order **to trick or deceive**." Now the committee that is responsible for our vocabulary and definitions, {whoever they might be} are saying that these are **archaic**

definitions applied to the word amuse.⁴ My friends, I respectfully disagree.

Satan is a great charismatic entertainer-he uses many costumes and faces to disguise his deceitful maneuvers. Mesmerism, hypnotism, and ventriloquism, {the art of skill of producing vocal sounds that seem to come from something other than the speaker; i.e. animals life or stuffed, puppets, marionettes etc.} are three of his favorite tools.

Let's notice the words which Jesus spoke over 2000 years ago while delivering one of His "Sermons on the Mount of Olives."

"And Jesus said, take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying I am Christ and deceive many." Matt. 24:4&5,11; Mk. 13:5

I am deeply concerned with how many Christians might think that God's Word has become archaic also?

Notice the counsel of Paul to the believers at Ephesus, regarding the body of Christ-and the giftedness of the church.

"That we henceforth be no more children tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the

⁴ Encarta Dictionary

sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive..." Eph 4:14

Notice the counsel of one of God's inspired messenger regarding amusements.

"At the time of their probation was closing, the Antediluvians gave themselves up to exciting amusements and festivities. Those who possessed influence and power were bent on keeping the minds of the people engrossed with mirth and pleasure, lest any should be impressed by the last solemn warning.

Do we not see the same repeated in our day? While God's servants are giving the message that the end of all things is at hand, the world is absorbed in amusements and pleasure seeking. There is a constant round of excitement that causes indifference to God and prevents the people from being impressed by the truths which alone can save them from the coming destruction." ⁵

Notice what God's servant says regarding "health" institutions, in her day "... All Heaven is interested in the salvation of man and is ready to pour upon him, her beneficent gifts if he will comply with the conditions Christ has made: "Come out from among them and be ye separate,

⁵ E. G. White. Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 103, 104.

saith the Lord and touch not the unclean thing.” Those who bear the responsibility at the sanitarium should be exceedingly guarded that the amusements shall not be of a character to lower the standard of Christianity, bringing this intuition down upon a level with others weakening the power of true godliness in the minds of those who are connected with it.

Worldly or theatrical entertainments are not essential for the prosperity of the sanitarium or for the health of the patients. The more they have this kind of amusement, the less they will be pleased unless something of the kind shall be continually carried on, {I’m bored}.⁶ The mind is in a fever of unrest for something new and exciting, the very thing it ought not to have. And if the amusements are once allowed, they are expected again, and the patients lose heir relish for any simple arrangement to occupy the time. But repose, rather than excitement is what many patients need.

... When there has been a departure from the right path, it is difficult to return. Barriers have been removed safeguards broken down. One step in the wrong direction prepares the way for another.”⁷

A close friend of mind, Louis Torres, a former Amazing facts evangelist, {one of my spiritual

⁶ Bracketed words added for emphasis

⁷ E. G. White. Testimonies For The Church, Vol.4, pp. 577, 578.

mentors while studying at Black Hills Health and Education Center in 1998} once said in regard to ministry- “what you win them with, is what you win them to.” How very true are those words.

He and his wife Carol have won many souls to God’s Kingdom-outside of the entertainment business that they were once both involved in.

Friends God’s church is indeed a type hospital for sinners-not a showcase for saints. Neither is it a hospice or entertainment center. Jesus loves us and wants us to grow in His grace. He wants us to win people to Him by using Him to do so. For us to grow spiritually healthy as God’s soul-winners, we need the right dose of “God’s Spiritual Medicine-not mans. We have an entire book of His prescriptions we call “Thy Word.”

Have you taken your meds today?