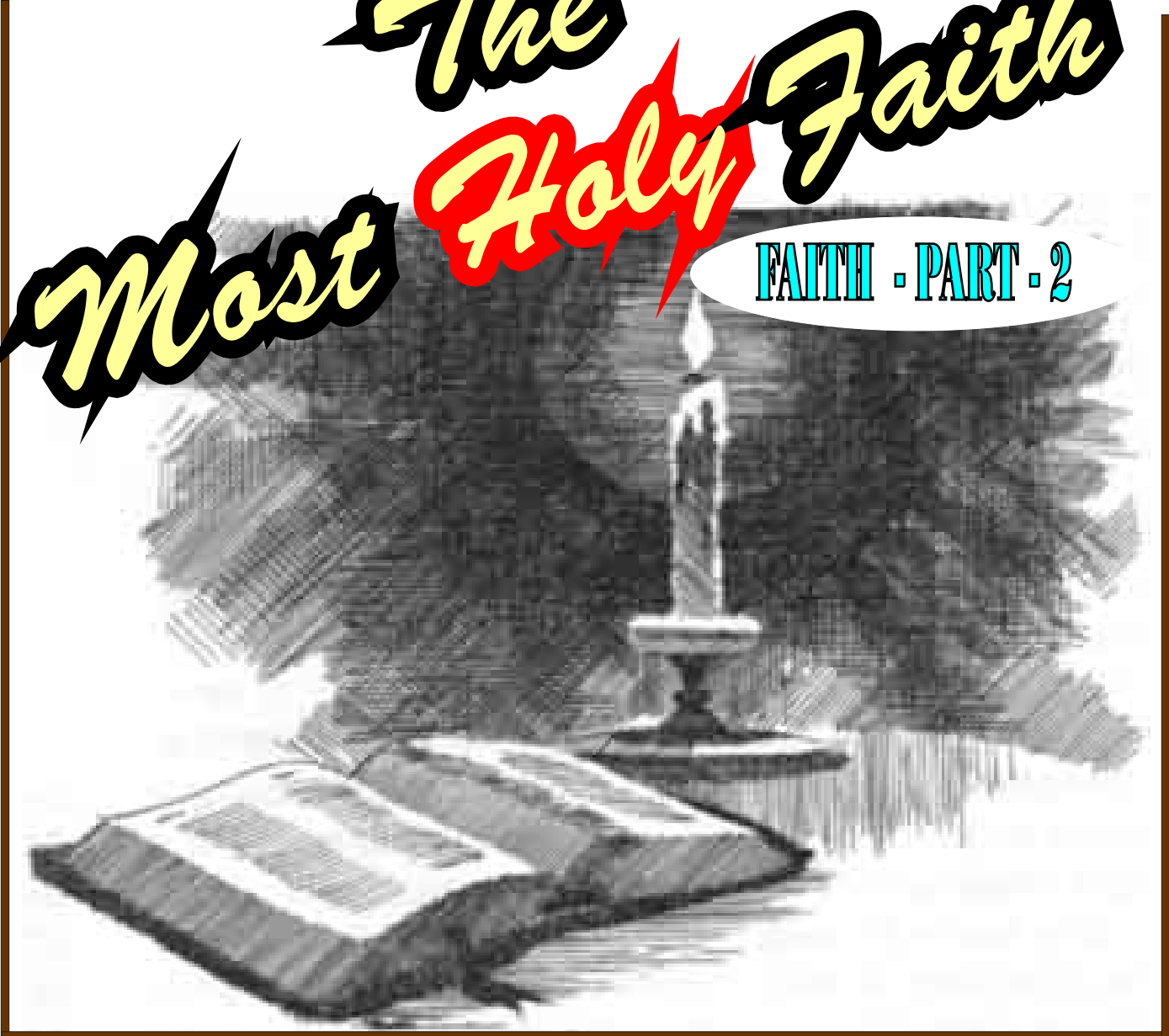




STUDY # : 7

**The
Most Holy Faith**

FAITH - PART - 2



THE GREAT TRUTHS OF THE BIBLE

STUDY : # 7

THE MOST HOLY FAITH FAITH - PART - 2

PLEASE NOTE: Kindly refer to your Bibles for every scripture reference and read thoroughly.

MOST SCRIPTURE PASSAGES ARE QUOTED FROM THE AUTHORISED KING JAMES VERSION (KJV)

T

oday we shall continue the study of **FAITH** in its second part. In the last class we did see that the Christian's faith must grow in what is called in the scriptures as -

☞ **THE MOST HOLY FAITH (Jude :20)**

and this is the faith based on the teachings of the Bible which alone can be trusted to be THE TRUTH (John 17:17).

☞ Today we will study the "falling away" of this Most Holy Faith in the Church and HOW it took place. We will begin by reading a prophecy in -

2 Corinthians 11:3

"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted....."

Here the Apostle Paul fears the church will be deceived as Eve was in Eden.

☞ **WHY**, you may wonder, is the comparison of the church to Eve ?

We all know that it was Adam and Eve who generated the race, but into "**death**" as we read in -

Romans 5:12 - *"wherefore, as by ONE MAN sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned..."*

Thy Word is Truth



Thy Word is Truth



Thy Word is Truth

But we read that in due time there is to be a “second Adam” in -

1 Corinthians 15:45

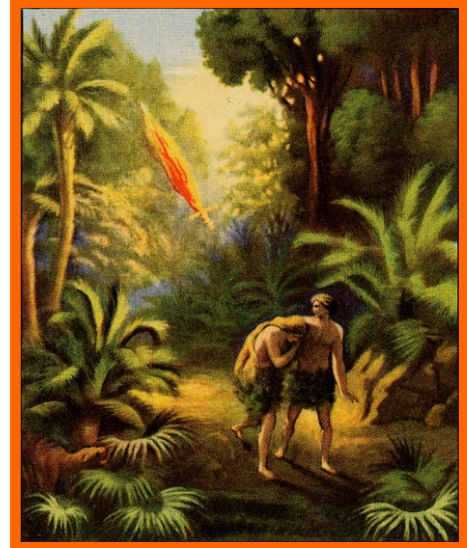
“And so it is written, the first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.”

And there is also to be - **THE SECOND EVE** - which is the church.

Yes! And Jesus is to have a bride.

- The **CHURCH** - the **SECOND EVE**!

And Satan is greatly working to deceive the church as he had done to Eve in the garden of Eden as expressed by the Apostle Paul.



☞ Let us see **HOW SATAN BEGAN THESE DECEPTIONS** in the early church itself.

We read from -

Galatians 3:1

“O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that ye should not obey the truth...”

Yes! Here the Galatian Church is being rebuked by Apostle Paul for the **CONFUSION** regarding keeping the Jewish (Mosaic) Law.

☞ This was a **GREAT** point of confusion in the early church !!

The early Christians were all Jews and they came from the tradition of strictly keeping **THE LAW** and were in two minds about it - **whether to keep it or not!**

Then again we read of the same matter in -

Acts 15:1

“And certain men which came down from Judea taught the brethren... except ye be circumcised...”

Here is another incident speaking of this problem of obedience and keeping of the Mosaic law among the Jewish Christians in the early church!

Yes! The early Jewish Christians were confused as to their keeping of the Mosaic law after having become Christian.

And Satan sought to **CONFUSE THEM FURTHER!**

Satan's works of **DECEPTION** began working in the days of the apostles itself.

IMAGINE HOW THE CONDITION MUST BE TODAY!

☞ And then we read of another kind of deception in

1 Corinthians 15:12

“Now if Christ be preached that He rose from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead”.

Yes! Here Satan brought in **DOUBTS REGARDING THE RESURRECTION** itself,



thus trying to nullify the gospel of “the Risen Christ” in the early days of the church.
☞ This developed in later centuries to become the much later QURAN (Islamic) doctrine that Christ did NOT really die on the cross.

It was someone else it is claimed !!

(Refer The Quran - Surah an-Nisa IV : verse157)

“And because of their saying: we slew the Messiah Jesus son of Mary.

Allah’s messenger -

They slew him not for sure nor crucified, but it appeared so unto them;

And lo’ those who disagree concerning it are in doubt there of....” THE QURAN.

Our Lord Jesus and the apostle Paul HAD WARNED OF SUCH deceptions and deceivers, which we read about in -

Acts 20:29,30

“For I know this,that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.”

Here the apostle Paul speaks of fear for the flock from false “wolf like” false prophets who Jesus had WARNED OF MUCH BEFORE as we find recorded in -

Matthew 7 :15

“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.”

Yes ! They would come in “sheep clothing” but INWARDLY they are “ravening wolves”.

☞ What does this mean ?

Here the “sheep’s clothing” represent AN OUTER COVERING of kindness, gentleness etc. but at heart their motives are SELF GAIN

as a wolf always seeks to eat the sheep !!

Yes! This prophecy speaks of false prophets having this kind of character !

Now another question arises -

☞ WHO IS A PROPHET ? AND WHAT IS PROPHECY ?

Is it as we see in churches today where prophecy is shown to mean speaking of others problems and personal matters publicly in a prayer service. Is that prophecy ?

LET US SEE THE ANSWER IN THE BIBLE !

It is as we read in -

Revelation 19:10

“...Worship God ,for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

Yes ! It is “the testimony of Jesus” which is “the spirit of Prophecy”.

This is found in the Bible locked in symbolic and parabolic language

“ here a little and there a little”.



So, explaining and teaching these scriptures is **REAL** prophecy and such a one is a **REAL prophet and teacher**.

☞ But here Jesus warns of **FALSE TEACHERS** who would “wear” an outer covering of gentleness and kindness but would actually be seeking **PERSONAL SELFISH GAIN** while destroying the spiritual life of the flock. About such false teachers too the apostle John, wrote in -

1 John 4:1,2

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but try the spirits...”

Here apostle John says “**believe not every spirit**”

“but try the spirits whether they are of God”.

What does he mean ?

Is he saying that we are to test and try the ghosts at night which are now generally taken to mean “spirits” ? !!

NO !

Here the word “spirit” as used in the scriptures has varied meanings but basically refers to that which **IS INVISIBLE BUT VERY POWERFUL**.

There are **THREE** meanings to “spirit” **AS WE SEE IN -**

☞ **1**

Ecclesiastes 12:7

“...and the spirit will return to God who gave it “.

This is the first meaning of the word “spirit”.

...the “spirit” here means - **the breath of life** which activates and sustains life in the body.

It is both **INVISIBLE** and so **POWERFUL !**

Again we read of another meaning to “spirit” in -

☞ **2**

Daniel 2:1

“...Nebuchadnezzar had dreams;

And his spirit was so troubled that his sleep left him”.

This is the second meaning of the word “spirit”

...The “spirit” here refers to - **THE MIND**.

Yes! The mind too is invisible and powerful !

Imagine a body and life having no mind ?

Just visit your neighboring mental asylum to know the **ANSWER !**

But what about the meaning here in **1 John 4:1 ?**

Does it refer to the “breath” or to the “mind” ?

☞ - “.....believe not **every breath ! OR.....**” believe not **every mind !**”

☞ No ! That is **NOT** the meaning !



Then there must be a third meaning for the word “spirit” !

Let us see as we read in -

→ **3**

John 6:63

“... The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life”.

Jesus here teaches us a **THIRD** meaning for “spirit” !

Yes! The “spirit” here refers to **TEACHINGS/DOCTRINE**.

Thus the Apostle John warned of **NOT BELIEVING EVERY DOCTRINE** but to test it by the **Word** like the **Bereans** did as we read in -

Acts 17:11

“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, And searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”

Yes! What an example of **CAREFULNESS** and **FAITHFULNESS** to the **TRUTH** was shown by the Bereans in the early church !

☞ But about the church and its later developments it was prophesied by Apostle Paul in...

1 Timothy 4:1,2

“Now the spirit speaketh expressly that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith...”

Yes ! Right in the First century

- the early church period - the Apostle Paul inspired by the Holy Spirit prophesies about the condition in “later times”
- **ABOUT 200 TO 300 YEARS LATER !**

This was fulfilled in the **THIRD** and **FOURTH** century when some Christians did “depart from the faith” and began believing in

- “seducing spirits (**captivating and deceiving doctrines**)
- and doctrines of demons (**heathen beliefs**)”.
- *“Speaking lies in hypocrisy”*
- *“Forbidding to marry and commanding to abstain from meats...”*

What does this mean ?

- ☞ All these were fulfilled in the development of **THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH** -
- - many **FALSE DOCTRINES** were preached and accepted which we will study later in the future classes when we study the teachings on soul, hell, salvation, forgiveness of sins etc.

There was the introduction of a priest-hood with **VOWS OF CHASTITY** along with a sister-hood while scriptures clearly teach the opposite for bishops as we read in -

1 Timothy 3:2



A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;"

Then came the command of "no eating meat on **FRIDAYS**" to commemorate the Lord's death which the scriptures **DON'T TEACH**

(Refer the Book of Acts for a history of many years of the early church)

Thus was fulfilled this prophecy about the church and its development.

Then we read of another prophecy in -

2 Timothy 4:2-4

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables".

This is another prophecy along similar lines showing a **GREAT FALLING AWAY** from the truth and a turning unto fables (**false doctrines/untruth**)

But Apostle Paul advises the brethren in vs.2

☞ *"Be instant in season & out of season"* - This means that one must be alert and ready servants of the truth whether the situation for us is **CONVENIENT** or **INCONVENIENT**.

But **OTHERS** convenience must always be respected unlike in our own case.

☞ *"With all long suffering and doctrine"* - The truth must be zealously guarded and **spoken in love and patience** as we read in -

Ephesians 4:15

"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:"

☞ **THUS IN THE EARLY CHURCH WE SEE THE BEGINNING OF THE DECEPTIONS AND FALLING AWAY FROM THE MOST HOLY FAITH (Bible knowledge) AND THE PROPHECIES REGARDING THESE.**

Now we must remember that **THE EARLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH** was established in 5 main centers (cities).

- ➔ 1. **JERUSALEM** in Israel.
- ➔ 2. **ANTIOCH** in Greece where the name Christian first came as we read in -

Acts 11:26

"And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."

- ➔ 3. **ALEXANDRIA** in North Egypt.
- ➔ 4. **CONSTANTINOPLE** in Turkey.
- ➔ 5. **ROME** in Italy.



The church was organized to have its highest office to be that of the bishop and he was to be as we read in -

1 Timothy 3:1-2

"A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife..."


According to scripture the office of a "bishop" was the highest in the church.

He was **THE CHIEF SERVANT** and there were bishops for different areas and large cities.

Thus there would be many bishops in the Christian Church and they would meet together to discuss the welfare of the church as a **WHOLE**.

APOSTLE JOHN AND APOSTLE PAUL served in such offices. None had **ANY TITLES**. (Refer Revelation 1:9 and Philippians 1:1)

But if we look at today's Bishops and Pastors we see a common title used is  **"REVEREND"**.

 Do you know who this title is referred to in the scriptures ?


Let us read in -

Psalms 111:9

(Correctly translated only in KJV Bible)

"...he has brought redemption unto his people, Holy and Reverend is His name."

Yes! It is referred to the **GREAT ALMIGHTY GOD HIMSELF** and is translated as **"awesome"** in other translations (Example : NIV - Tamil etc)

 Now looking at God's infinite works of creation

- His Universe of stars and endless **space** we find the creation itself "awesome" !

IMAGINE THE CREATOR ! ?

 **CAN ANY OF THESE BISHOPS AND PASTORS BE LIKENED TO GOD ?**

- OR TAKE THE TITLE OF GOD ??

Then we read of another matter in -

Matthew 23:9

"... And call no man your father upon the earth; for One is your father..."

Here the Master refers to the matter of being called **"Father"**

in matters of religion - among Christian teachers.

 **WHY DO CATHOLICS NOT OBEY THESE WORDS OF JESUS ?**

And again we read another matter in -

Ephesians 1:22,23

"And hath put all things under His feet and gave Him to be the head over ALL things to the church..."



The scriptures clearly denote Jesus as *“heard over all things to the church”*
In light of this scripture the **CLAIM** that is made by the Pope
to be the “head” of the church is a **false claim - A LIE !!**

The “pope” comes from the word “**POPA**” which in Latin means “Father” !!
The Roman Catholic **CLAIM** of the pope’s **HEADSHIP** of the church
is based on this verse that we read in -

Matthew 16:18,19

“And I say unto thee that thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my church..”

The Roman Catholic Church take these words of the Lord to denote
that Apostle Peter was appointed the “**HEAD**” of the Church
and its **FOUNDATION STONE** too!

👉 **IS THIS TRUE ?**

If this were true let us see what happened a few moments later
between the Master and Peter.

Let us see as we read in -

Matthew 16:22,23

“But he turned and said unto Peter, get thee behind me satan...”

If it were true , then almost immediately the Lord refers
to this “new head” of His church as - “Satan” !! Isn't it strange ?

So, what does this scripture **REALLY** mean ?

Let us see and understand by studying the background of the matter in -

Matthew 16:13-17

“When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, whom do men say that I the son of man am? And they said, some say that Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.”

Here is the “**BACKGROUND**” to this scripture - a **QUESTION !**

- *“whom do men say that I the Son of Man am?...”*

The answers were many and varied and confused !

Then Jesus asks His disciples - **vs - 15-** *“but whom do ye say that I am ?....*

And apostle Peter by the power of the Holy spirit
spoke **the Truth !**

And after that only, Jesus spoke those words of
Vs- 18 - *“....I say unto thee that thou art Peter and upon
this rock I will build my church”.*

Here Peter comes from the Greek word -
“**Petros**” which means a small stone while “upon this rock”



is the Greek word - "Petra" which means a large rock or boulder.
 This **CLEAR DIFFERENCE** in the meaning of the words are found and
 discerned only in the Greek language !
 And Jesus meant of the "rock" upon which He would build His church as -
 📖 The **TRUTH** as the **foundation** of the church as we read in -

1 Timothy 3:15

*"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God,
 which is the church of he living God, the pillar and ground of he truth".*

📖And also that He Jesus **HIMSELF** was that foundation as we read in -

1 Corinthians 3:11

"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ".

Jesus also refers to Himself being - "the truth" in -

John 14:6

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Thus Jesus was telling Peter **OF HIMSELF** as the foundation of the church !

Peter though is **ONE** of the 12 foundation stones of the "New Jerusalem"
 of which we read in -

Revelation 21:14

*"And the wall of the city had twelve foundations,
 And in them the names of he twelve apostles of the Lamb."*

Now what is meant by these "**keys of the kingdom**" as we read in -

Matthew 16:19

*"And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth
 shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven".*

These are those which are commonly claimed by

Roman Catholics and the Pope to be the keys of **HEAVEN** and **HELL** !!

But, is that what it means ?

📖 A "key" in symbol represents a means of **OPENING** either "the door of"
an opportunity or a matter.

📖 It also represents the **RECEIVING OF AUTHORITY** from another as found in
Revelation 1:18 - *"and have the keys of hell and of death".*

This, thus in symbol represents that the **DOOR OF OPPORTUNITY**
 and invitation to become a member of the "kingdom class" was **FIRST** opened by
 Peter to **TWO CLASSES.**



Those two "keys" which Peter opened were -

☞ The **KEY** for the **Jews** which was opened on Pentecost Day - May 33 A.D.
(Acts 2:14-41)

☞ The **KEY** for the **Gentiles** which was opened at Cornelius House - October 36 AD.
(Acts 10:23-48)

☞ Our Lord prophesied the history of the "kingdom of Heaven" (which represents Christianity) from whom certain "kings and priests" are to be selected -
Revelation 1:6 - *"and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father;)*
during its **DEVELOPMENT in the gospel age** in **TWO PARABLES** -

Let us begin by reading -

Matthew 13:31,32

*"Another parable put he forth unto them, saying,
The kingdom of heaven is like unto a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:
which indeed is the least of all seeds: yet when it is grown it is the greatest among herbs, and become a tree,
so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof."*

☞ **WHAT DOES THIS PARABLE MEAN OR REPRESENT ?**

This represents the small beginning of the work of establishing the church
in the first century and later growth in the following centuries.

Now let us see the parabolic meanings -

☞ *"Mustard seed"* ⇒ Just as a mustard seed is very tiny, this represents the
VERY SMALL beginning of the church with 12 apostles and some disciples.

☞ *"Which a man took"* ⇒ This represents the work of proclaiming the gospel of
the kingdom **BEGUN** first by Jesus and then His apostles and disciples
under the commission of the Lord as seen in **Acts 1:8**.

☞ *"Sowed in his field"* ⇒ the field is the world (Refer **Matthew 13:38**)
- thus representing the work of proclaiming the gospel in all the world.

☞ *"But when it is grown"* ⇒ This of course represents the passage of time in
the history of church growth - the next 300-1000 years !
Usually a mustard plant is a garden plant of 2-3 feet height but
there was **UNUSUAL** growth in this case !! - *"became a tree"*

Thus Christianity had unusual growth and became a great religion of LARGE numbers !!

☞ *"Birds of the air"* ⇒ This is a symbol of the servants of the "prince of the power of the air"
(**Ephesians 2:2**) or **rather worldly minded people** seeking for
worldly benefits and honours within the church.

Thy Word is Truth



Thy Word is Truth



Thy Word is Truth

☞ “Lodge in the branches” ⇒ This represents how these worldly minded people took important positions of authority and importance and entered into the church system.

Yes ! IS NOT THIS A CLEAR PROPHETIC PICTURE OF THE PRESENT POSITION IN THE VARIOUS BRANCHES (750 denominations) OF “CHURCHIANITY” ? (Nominal Christianity)

☞ And then we see Jesus speaking another parable in **Matthew 13:33** -
“Another parable spake He unto them: the kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal (flour), till the whole was leavened”.

To fully understand the meaning of this parable there are **THREE** main points to be understood

- 1. “Leaven” 2. “A woman” 3. “Three measures of flour”. These are all **SYMBOLS**. Let us now look into their meanings as we read the meaning of “leaven” in -

1. Matthew 16:11

“How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees ?”

What was the “leaven” of these Pharisees and Sadducees ?

We read the answer in **Acts 23:8**

“For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel nor spirit...”

Yes! The “leaven” is **FALSE DOCTRINES**

2. “That a woman took”

Who is this woman ?

A “woman” in the Bible is a **SYMBOL** of the church

- the prospective bride of Christ as we read in the Bible in -

2 Corinthians 11:2

“For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ”.

But here this woman is obviously **NOT** a good woman !!

WHO IS SHE ?

She is a **FALSE CHURCH** mentioned in **Revelation 17:3**

who is in **UNLAWFUL ALLIANCE** (“fornication”) with the civil political powers or
“kings of the earth”

- 3. “Three measures of flour” ⇒ This is a symbol in reference to the three fundamental “pillars” of Christian life - **FAITH/ HOPE/ LOVE** as we read in -

1 Corinthians 13:13

“And now abideth faith, hope, charity (love), these three; but the greatest of these is charity (love)”.



Yes ! Three measures of flour “were systematically” leavened with false doctrines and destroyed. Let us see how -

☞ “FAITH” ⇒ “The Most Holy Faith” was replaced by creeds

(summarized faith beliefs - Example :Apostles creed) and Bible study was neglected while gradually worldly beliefs and doctrines common to the worldly began to enter into the beliefs and faith of the church.

The TRUTH of the Bible was slowly lost sight of ! We will see how much this effect was in future classes when we study IN DEPTH all the doctrines of the Bible.

☞ “HOPE” ⇒ The great “Hope” of
“if we suffer with Him we shall also reign with Him”

- at His second coming (2Timothy 2:12) was replaced by the claim of reigning in this life itself.

This we read, began in the early church itself as we read in -

1 Corinthians 4:8,10

“Now ye are full, now ye are rich, ye have reigned as kings without us: and I would to God ye did reign, that we also might reign with you”.

Verse 10 - *“we are fools for Christ’s sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honorable, but we are despised”.*

Yes ! In the early church began this attempt to **RULE** and seek **HONOUR IN THE WORLD** in this life itself !

Thus the **CRUSADES** of the Holy Roman Empire and **WARS FOR CHRIST** and the cross came about causing great bloodshed and suffering !

Yes! The blessed hope of suffering NOW to reign with Him LATER was totally lost !

☞ “LOVE” ⇒ Finally the “love” of the Father and Son waxed cold as the truth of the Word was lost sight of and the worldly nature of selfishness took control of the church.

Yes! The parable shows how the church would lost sight of the TRUTH and the true principles of Christianity from the Word of God.

Thus the present condition has become as we read prophetically in -

Isaiah 29:13

“Wherefore the Lord said, forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth; and with their lips do honor me but have removed their hearts far from me and their fear towards me is taught by the precepts of men.”

Yes ! **CREEDS** and “Mens Precepts” and **FALSE** teachings portrayed a God of **TERROR** and **NOT** love.





Even songs of deep meaning are sung
ONLY WITH LIPS AND NOT THE HEARTS!
For Example: The song “All to Jesus I surrender” is sung without ever THINKING upon the words and to surrender to Jesus ALL ACTUALLY.

☞ This is a prophecy about the condition of **CHRISTIANITY TODAY !**

☞ **HAS NOT THIS PROPHECY TOO BEEN FULFILLED TODAY ?**
But we read about **THE TRUTH** and the **REACTION** to it in -

Acts 28:22

*“...For as concerning this sect, we know that everywhere it is spoken **AGAINST...**”*

Yes ! The Truth and the calling of the Lord will NOT be popularly accepted whether it was in the early church AND EVEN TILL TODAY !

☞ Did you know that **BEFORE** the name “Christian” was applied for the followers of Christ, they were known by another name ?

Yes ! We read of this name in -

Acts 24:5

“...among all the Jesus throughout the world, and a ring leader of the sect of the Nazarene’s.”

Yes ! The followers of Jesus were called -
“THE SECT OF THE NAZARENES”

☞ All the followers of the **TRUE FAITH** - the **TRUTH** will also be referred to as a “**SECT**” or “**CULT**”.

But despite all this the Lord promises in -

Proverbs 4:18

“But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day”.

☞ Oh yes ! A promise of continued “**Light**” (truth) for the “**just**” (The followers of the Master)
In the midst of all the **CONFUSION** and **ERRORS** the faithful ones are assured of
Gods love and guidance in walking the path of **TRUTH** (“light”).

..... Amen.....

