

INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA

PRAYER LETTER

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A Falling Away

Derek Prince

One thing that is tremendously lacking in America today is authority, and much of that condition is due to the Church. The Church has fallen short of demonstrating and representing the authority of Jesus Christ. Often, the reason is because the Church is not under His authority. There is only one head to the Church. His name is Jesus Christ. Anything that is not under His headship is not the Church.

The Church, the *Ecclesia*, is a body of redeemed people called out from the world to represent God and His authority and to exercise government. Individually and corporately we are accountable to Jesus, the head of the Church. The Church is failing.

A projection of what happens when the Church fully fails is recorded in 2 Thessalonians 2:3: "Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come [the return of Jesus] unless the falling away comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God. . . ." Paul writes to the believers in Thessalonica to correct their thinking. Paul clarifies that the day of the return of the Lord Jesus will not come until there has been a falling away.

Interestingly, the Greek word for "falling away" is exactly the word which gives us the English word *apostasy*. It's only used twice in the New Testament—in this passage and in Acts 21:21 where the leaders of the Church in Jerusalem tell Paul that he's been accused of teaching apostasy from the law of Moses. It specifically means a turning away from a revealed truth. Paul is saying that before the Antichrist, the man of lawlessness, is revealed, there has to be an *apostasy* in the Church. There will be a moving away from sound doctrine. (1 Tim 1:10) Why? Because the Church is the appointed authority and barrier to the revelation and the consummation

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden."

—Matthew 5:13-14

of evil. Satan knows this and knows the Bible better than most of us. Satan knows that he cannot manifest the Anti-christ until the Church is weakened and moved out of the way.

So there has to be an *apostasy*, a falling away, in the Church because the restraining influence of the Church has to be cancelled before the Anti-christ can be revealed. Do you see what that means? Can you

see the responsibility it places upon us? We are the restraining influence.

In 2 Thessalonians 2:7 Paul states that "the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way." I know I am entering into speculative prophecy, but there are two ways of interpreting the phrase, "He who now restrains." It can be the Holy Spirit or it can be the Church. Probably it's both the Holy Spirit and the Church.

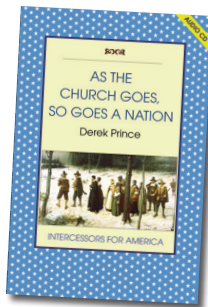
The final consummation of evil in this age will not come until the Church, by *apostasy*, opens the way. I would say that the *apostasy* is just about consummated in America today in the top levels of Church and state. *Apostasy* is ruling via lawless, immoral, blasphemous, Bible-truth-denying, Christ-denying, God-provoking speech, policy, and action.

I don't think things need to go much further before the *apostasy* is complete. In the meanwhile, what is our responsibility? To restrain the forces of evil! We are the governmental assembly. Through preaching the gospel, loving personal witness, intercessory prayer, prophetic witness, and persuasion in the public square, we are the ambassadorial administrators of Christ's authority—we are His salt, light, and leaven to restrain corruption and decay until the appointed time.

AS THE CHURCH GOES, SO GOES A NATION

Derek Prince

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FIRST FRIDAY

March 5

PRAYER FOCUS

REPENTANCE / SOUND DOCTRINE

Offer thanksgiving for the biblical "plumbline" (Amos 7:7) represented by the Manhattan Declaration. (www.ManhattanDeclaration.org) Offer thanksgiving for this courageous public stand being taken by half a million church leaders and Christians for sanctity of life, traditional marriage, religious freedom, obedience to the Word of God, and sound doctrine. (Acts 2:42, 6:4) Intercede that God will pour forth the Holy Spirit and intervene to curb apostasy. Intercede for the raising up of Bible-believing seminary professors, pastors, elders, and lay leaders to halt the "falling away" (2 Thess 2:3), and to teach and restore sound doctrine. As the annual 40-day repentance/prayer vigil continues to Palm Sunday, March 28, reflect upon and affirm the doctrinal truths found in Acts 10:34-43 and in the Church's historic Apostles' Creed. (See Page 4)

11TH CONGRESS OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

Offer thanksgiving for the pre-election mobilization of Massachusetts pastors, the New England prayer movement, precinct workers, and voters which enabled the election of Sen. Scott Brown in Massachusetts. Offer thanksgiving for how this election and "the voice of the people" has broken the one-party grip of power in the Congress. Affirm the supremacy of Christ over the second session of the 11th Congress, the Obama administration, all diplomats and U.S. embassies and consulates, the Pentagon and military, the Supreme Court, and the 2.15 million federal workers. (Col 1:12-19) Intercede for exposure and cleansing from corruption and bribery at all federal, state, and local levels. Intercede as the Lord leads for matters before the Congress and Supreme Court. (Ps 94:20,21)

CONSTITUTIONAL DISCERNMENT

A recent NBC/Wall Street Journal poll shows that 41 percent of Americans now have a positive view of the T.E.A. Party movement, making it more popular than either major political party. Offer thanksgiving for this populist Constitutional awakening across America. Intercede that the Lord continue to bless and deepen it, and that it give rise to a renewed national discernment and understanding of Constitutional principles and governance. Intercede that this public awakening and renewed understanding of the U.S. as a representational Republic be brought into all educational systems and grade levels.

