

“Unshakable – Part 4”

Pastor Al Brice | Sunday, July 7, 2019

Ezekiel 3:16-21 NLT: ¹⁶ After seven days the Lord gave me a message. He said, ¹⁷ “Son of man, I have appointed you as a watchman for Israel. Whenever you receive a message from me, warn people immediately. ¹⁸ If I warn the wicked, saying, ‘You are under the penalty of death,’ but you fail to deliver the warning, they will die in their sins. And I will hold you responsible for their deaths. ¹⁹ If you warn them and they refuse to repent and keep on sinning, they will die in their sins. But you will have saved yourself because you obeyed me.

²⁰ “If righteous people turn away from their righteous behavior and ignore the obstacles I put in their way, they will die. And if you do not warn them, they will die in their sins. None of their righteous acts will be remembered, and I will hold you responsible for their deaths. ²¹ But if you warn righteous people not to sin and they listen to you and do not sin, they will live, and you will have saved yourself, too.”

John 6:66 AMPC: After this, many of His disciples drew back (returned to their old associations) and no longer accompanied Him.

Mark 4:16-17 AMPC: ¹⁶ And in the same way the ones sown upon stony ground are those who, when they hear the Word, at once receive and accept and welcome it with joy;

¹⁷ And they have no real root in themselves, and so they endure for a little while; then when trouble or persecution arises on account of the Word, they immediately are offended (become displeased, indignant, resentful) and they stumble and fall away.

2 Timothy 4:1-4 AMP: I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: ² preach the word [as an official messenger]; be ready when the time is right and *even* when it is not [keep your sense of urgency, whether the opportunity seems favorable or unfavorable, whether convenient or inconvenient, whether welcome or unwelcome]; correct [those who err in doctrine or behavior], warn [those who sin], exhort *and* encourage [those who are growing toward spiritual maturity], with inexhaustible patience and [faithful] teaching. ³ For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine *and* accurate instruction [that challenges them with God’s truth]; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled [with something pleasing], they will accumulate for themselves [many] teachers [one after another, chosen] to satisfy their own desires *and* to support the errors they hold, ⁴ and will turn their ears away from the truth and will wander off into myths *and* man-made fictions [and will accept the unacceptable].

1 Corinthians 16:13 Amplified Bible: Be on guard; stand firm in your faith [in God, respecting His precepts and keeping your doctrine sound]. Act like [mature] men *and* be courageous; be strong.

1. What are some of the doctrines that were inspired demonically that Jesus warns us about?

Revelation 2:12-16 NKJV: The Compromising Church

¹² “And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write,

‘These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: 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 even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. ¹⁶ Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

A. “Doctrine of the Nicolaitans” – ‘To conquer and subdue the laity.’ The Church was becoming weak, powerless, waning in influence, and compromising.

* **So, what was the foundation of their teaching?** That you could live in two worlds simultaneously; you could be saved and embrace the lifestyle of the prevailing culture.

1 John 2:15-17 NKJV: ¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

1. The Nicolaitans would say:

“We need to be more open minded to the culture and not stay away from their immoral and idolatrous practices, it would be good for us to go to their hangouts and engage in their customs and mingle among the unbelievers. If we were more like them and more acceptable to their lifestyles then they won’t feel such resentment toward us, let’s just lower our standards, water the Word of God down so it is reachable for them and not offend anyone and let’s not be so committed to the Bible, then we can blend in with the community and the world around us and then some of our persecution would go away.”

Proverbs 25:26 AMPC: Like a muddied fountain and a polluted spring is a righteous man who yields, falls down, *and* compromises his integrity before the wicked.

Proverbs 25:26 The Passion Translation: When a lover of God gives in and compromises with wickedness, it can be compared to contaminating a stream with sewage or polluting a fountain.

2. What are some of the signs and teachings of modern day Nicolaitanism?

a. No emphasis on holy living and separation from the world's lifestyles.

1 Peter 1:13-16 (NKJV Strong's): ¹³ Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct,

¹⁶ because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

Holiness is not legalism and legalism is not holiness. Holiness is, first and foremost, coming into relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Holiness is being set apart by God, distinct from the world, unto Himself for relationship. Once this is established, holiness is living in obedience to His Word out of that relationship. Legalism is trying to establish my relationship with God through good works.

1 Corinthians 15:33-34 (NKJV Strong's): ³³ Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits." ³⁴ Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak *this* to your shame.

Deceived: 'To lead away from the truth, to lead into error, to wander away, to roam from place to place, to seduce.'

Evil company: 'A mode of thinking, feeling, and acting contrary to God's ways, injurious and destructive ways.'

b. No emphasis on teaching the complete truth of God's Word because of inclusiveness and tolerance.

2 Timothy 3:12-17 Amplified Bible: ¹² Indeed, all who delight in pursuing righteousness *and* are determined to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will be hunted *and* persecuted [because of their faith]. ¹³ But evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in the things that you have learned and of which you are convinced [holding tightly to the truths], knowing from whom you learned *them*, ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings (Hebrew Scriptures) which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus [surrendering your entire self to Him and having absolute confidence in His wisdom, power and goodness]. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed [given by divine inspiration] and is profitable for instruction, for conviction [of sin], for correction [of error and restoration to obedience], for training in righteousness [learning to live in conformity to God's will, both publicly and privately—behaving honorably with personal integrity and moral courage]; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be complete *and* proficient, outfitted *and* thoroughly equipped for every good work.

“We need to allow all lifestyles. Don't say anything that will offend anyone. God loves everyone. Jesus would never say anything that would offend anyone.”

John 7:7 Amplified Bible... The world cannot hate you [since you are part of it], but it does hate Me because I denounce it *and* testify that its deeds are evil.

John 15:18-20 (NKJV Strong's): ¹⁸ “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

c. No exclusionary belief that Jesus Christ alone is the only way of salvation and to heaven.

John 14:5-6 Amplified Bible: ⁵ Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going; so how can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the [only] Way [to God] and the [real] Truth and the [real] Life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

Acts 4:11-12 (NLT Study Bible):

¹¹ For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says,

‘The stone that you builders rejected
has now become the cornerstone.’

¹² There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.”

d. No warnings to the Body of Christ that those who practice sin will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Amplified Bible: ⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit *or* have any share in the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate [by perversion], nor those who participate in homosexuality, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers [whose words are used as weapons to abuse, insult, humiliate, intimidate, or slander], nor swindlers will inherit *or* have any share in the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you [before you believed]. But you were washed [by the atoning sacrifice of Christ], you were sanctified [set apart for God, and made holy], you were justified [declared free of guilt] in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the [Holy] Spirit of our God [the source of the believer's new life and changed behavior].

e. There is no need for repentance anymore; God completely overlooks the sins of a believer.

Revelation 2:16 NKJV: Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

*** What is God's will for my life as a Christian?**

Romans 12:1-2 Amplified Bible: Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies [dedicating all of yourselves, set apart] as a living sacrifice, holy and well-pleasing to God, *which is* your rational (logical, intelligent) act of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed *and* progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you].