

“Unshakable – Part 5”

Pastor Al Brice | Sunday, July 14, 2019

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 Timothy 4:1 AMP: But the [Holy] Spirit explicitly and unmistakably declares that in later times some will turn away from the faith, paying attention instead to deceitful and seductive spirits and doctrines of demons...

A. What are some of these doctrines spoken of in the Bible?

Revelation 2:12-17 AMPC:

¹² Then to the angel (messenger) of the assembly (church) in Pergamum write: These are the words of Him Who has *and* wields the sharp two-edged sword:

¹³ I know where you live—a place where Satan sits enthroned. [Yet] you are clinging to *and* holding fast My name, and you did not deny My faith, even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed (martyred) in your midst—where Satan dwells.

¹⁴ Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: you have some people there who are clinging to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to set a trap *and* a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, [to entice them] to eat food that had been sacrificed to idols and to practice lewdness [giving themselves up to sexual vice].

¹⁵ You also have some who in a similar way are clinging to the teaching of the Nicolaitans [those corrupters of the people] *which thing I hate*.

¹⁶ Repent [then]! Or else I will come to you quickly and fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

¹⁷ He who is able to hear, let him listen to *and* heed what the Spirit says to the assemblies (churches). To him who overcomes (conquers), I will give to eat of the manna that is hidden, and I will give him a white stone with a new name engraved on the stone, which no one knows *or* understands except he who receives it.

B. “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.

* **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.”

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 AMP: ¹⁴ Do not be unequally bound together with unbelievers [do not make mismatched alliances with them, inconsistent with your faith]. For what partnership can righteousness have with lawlessness? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? ¹⁵ What harmony can there be between Christ and Belial (Satan)? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said:

“I will dwell among them and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ¹⁷ “So come out from among unbelievers and be separate,” says the Lord,

“And do not touch what is unclean; And I will graciously receive you *and* welcome you [with favor], ¹⁸ And I will be a Father to you, And you will be My sons and daughters,” Says the Lord Almighty.

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

1. 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.'

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

2 Timothy 3:12-17 AMP: 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 AMP: 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.

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

John 14:5-6 AMP: 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.”

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

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 AMP: 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].

5. 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.

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

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 AMP: ¹ Finally, believers, we ask and admonish you in the Lord Jesus, that you follow the instruction that you received from us about how you ought to walk and please God (just as you are actually doing) and that you excel even more and more [pursuing a life of purpose and living in a way that expresses gratitude to God for your salvation]. ² For you know what commandments and precepts we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. ³ For this is the will of God, that you be sanctified [separated and set apart from sin]: that you abstain and back away from sexual immorality; ⁴ that each of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor [being available for God's purpose and separated from things profane], ⁵ not [to be used] in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God and are ignorant of His will; ⁶ and that [in this matter of sexual misconduct] no man shall transgress and defraud his brother because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we have told you before and solemnly warned you. ⁷ For God has not called us to impurity, but to holiness [to be dedicated, and set apart by behavior that pleases Him, whether in public or in private]. ⁸ So whoever rejects and disregards this is not [merely] rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you [to dwell in you and empower you to overcome temptation].