

Matthew 7:24-29

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Solid Foundations

Charles Dickens' "Tale of Two Cities" begins with those thought provoking words "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." Such a description of the times men live in could be written across most of history, nevertheless, certain characteristics have marker eras of history. Often such descriptions relate to the economic trends such as the "great depression" or "the industrial revolution. The Bible on the other hand, reflects a historical panorama of spiritual conditions. One of the clearest descriptions of societies spiritual condition in "the last days" is found in 2 Timothy 3: "People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God" (verses 2-4).

The "signs of the times" as described here involves a society disobedience to parents, despising good, with devotion to pleasure and a denial of godliness. Such a description can be applied to most of the recent "box office hits" on the big screen, as well as the popular television shows! The recent tragedies of child acts of violence in schools suggests just such a society. One young offender, after shooting several fellow students stated "It is easier to hate than love," affirming the brutal nature of his outlook on life.

The sad reality of our own society is that the foundation of God's Truth: The Bible, has been torn away, leaving a world without knowledge of absolutes, without understanding of consequences of actions, without the reality check of eventual accountability to Almighty God.

"A tree" says A. W. Tozer, "can weather almost any storm if its root is sound, but when the fig tree which our Lord cursed "dried up from the roots" it immediately withered away." Such a tree cannot be restored but by the injection of new life, nor can a rootless society. This is exactly what Christ offers to do to all who would turn to Him in faith: "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

Taking Tozer's thought and applying them to society, we discover that "The whole Bible and all the great saints of the past join to tell us the same thing. "Take nothing for granted, go back to the grass roots. Open our hearts and search the Scriptures... pay no heed to the passing [present] vogue. The masses are always wrong. In every generation the number of the righteous is small. Be sure you are among them."

God's Word will reign triumphant: "A man shall not be established by wickedness: but the root of the righteous shall not be moved." Is your life marked by the signs of the times or rooted in God's foundational Truth?

What is my response:
