

The heart of man in the Tribulation

Rev. 14:6, 7 - The eternal gospel and prerequisite to faith in Christ.

- 1) No fear of God. Rev. 14:7
 - a. negative in testing. Rev. 3:10; 6:16-17; 9:20-21; 11:9-10
 - i. God is evaluating the heart of man. Deut. 8:2, Gen. 6:5
 - b. negative in judgment. 16:8, 9, 11, 21
- 2) No recognition of God as Creator. Romans 1:25
- 3) No true worship. No humility before God
- 4) Believers in the last period of the church age. Rev. 3:14-22
 - a. Laodicea - rev. 3:14-22 apathetic
 - i. no real fellowship with God. Rev. 3:20
 - ii. This is the most difficult time in church history to sustain fellowship with God.
 - b. Christian apostasy. 1 Tim. 4:1, 2
 - i. The use of "explicitly" (ῥητῶς) emphasizes the preciseness in what is being communicated.
 - ii. Some will fall away (ἀφίστημι) or depart from the faith.
 - iii. The falling away will happen while or because they give attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons.
 - iv. Men find ease in teaching false doctrine or lying due to a seared conscience.
 - v. Demonic doctrines -
 1. They have the appearance of righteousness. 2 Cor. 11:13-15
 2. They promise to be like God. Gen. 3:5
 3. They are filled with distortion of Scripture. Gen. 3:4-5
 - a. Matthew 4:6-7, applying doctrine out of context.
 - b. Application of doctrine according to demonic wisdom. (James 3:15, Jer. 4:22) This deals with the attitude within which affects how we apply doctrine.
 4. Always seeking an opportunity through arrogance. 1 Tim. 3:6, Ephesians 4:27, 2 Tim. 2:26
 5. We are to always be mindful of the schemes of the devil. To be deceived is not to be innocent. 1 Peter 5:8, 9; Ephesians 6:11
 - c. Christians will seek false teachers. 2 Tim. 4:1-4
 - i. People will not endure or hold up healthy doctrine.
 - ii. The reason they will not is because of a pursuit of their own desires (epithumia). 2 Peter 3:3, Jude 1:18

- iii. They accumulate teachers that will tell them what they want to hear.
 - d. Men will be rotten from within. 2 Tim. 3:1-7
 - i. Lovers of pleasure more than God and lovers of self.
 - ii. The reason false doctrine is accepted is due to what is in the heart.
 - iii. Having wrong motives in the heart makes epignosis impossible. 3:7
- 5) The heart of man in the tribulation. 2 Thess. 2:3
 - a. THE APOSTASY
 - i. This is on a broader scale than just believers falling away from the faith.
 - b. Lawlessness. 2 Thess. 2:7-8
 - i. Lawlessness according to Scripture.
 - 1. Related to sin. 1 John 3:4
 - 2. The opposite of righteousness - 2 Cor. 6:14, Heb. 1:9
 - 3. Septuagint compares it to iniquity(ἰνομία) Psalm 32:5
 - ii. Lawlessness starts from within. Matt. 23:28
 - iii. The lawless condition of the people will have a direct impact on capacity for love. Matt. 24:12, Romans 13:10
 - iv. Lawlessness is a condition rejecting natural law. Romans 2:14-15
 - v. Lawlessness results in calling evil good and good evil. Isaiah 5:20
 - vi. An age of no absolute truth is an age of lawlessness.
 - c. No love for Truth. 2 Thess. 2:10
 - i. The problem is not that there is no truth but no love for truth.
 - ii. Love for truth is sacrificial.
 - iii. Love for truth recognizes the importance of truth.
 - iv. Love for truth recognizes the danger of being wrong.
 - v. When a person has an absolute Truth without a love for truth that person will be disoriented to the reality of absolute Truth.
 - d. They take pleasure or think well of unrighteousness. 2 Thess. 2:12
 - i. This is calling evil good.
 - ii. Thinking well of unrighteousness indicates a lawless heart.
 - e. As a result of their own corruption they are easily deceived. 2 Thess. 9-11
 - i. The miracles are aimed at making the people think the Antichrist is God. Acts 2:22, Heb. 2:4
 - f. God sends and allows the delusion to reveal the evil of these people and show that He is righteous in His judgment of the people. 2 Thess. 9:12, Rev. 14:9-13
 - i. The perseverance of believers in the Tribulation should be a wake up call to all believers who put temporal comfort before God. Rev. 13:9-10