

# Make Believe Christians

Some explanations were copied from Grace Fellowship International.

1 Tim 4:1-2

4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober; be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about seeking whom he may devour:

Natural lions are flesh eaters so they seek flesh to devour. In the Spiritual demons seek people that are walking in the flesh, Satan cannot overcome anyone that walks in the Spirit: He must deceive them into thinking with a carnal mind, get them to walk in lust of the flesh so that he can devour their hearts and souls.

- He seeks whom he may devour,
- Those with little or no prayer life,
- With little to no worship, he deceives them to not obey God.

The Bible warns that in the last day that many will turn from the truth to fables, turn to storytelling and hype that will not challenge a person to repent turn to God.

We live in a time where holiness and separation is slowly but surely slipping away where even older saints are beginning to take a new look at the bible

asking themselves is all this necessary to be a Christian.

The more of the world we allow in our lives the further we separate ourselves from the presence of God. Our services wind up being all of the flesh all music and hype where entertainment takes place of real worship.

1. Where even the older saints are getting lukewarm not loving truth,
2. Not following after God.
3. Disobedient to the Shepherds that are trying to lead them to God.
4. No respect in the house of God.

God gave a warning to the Angels of the seven churches. The angels are For example, in Matthew 11:10, a "messenger" who would be sent before Jesus to prepare his way. That messenger is John the Baptist and the Greek word used meaning Angel.

### **The Angels of the Churches Are Messengers**

They are men sent by the Lord to give instructions on what God is saying if you fail to hear them and obey them God will remove your candlestick.

"The candlestick also for the light, and his furniture, and his lamps, with the oil for the light," (Exodus 35:14)

The golden candlestick was used as the light for the priests to be able to worship by in the Tabernacle.

In the New Testament, Jesus taught that the Church was to be the light to the world so people could see how to worship.

In Matthew 5:14-16 we read: "Ye are the light of the world a city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick and it gives light unto all that are in the house."

- **“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”**
- Again note the intention of that light. So people may “glorify your Father which is in heaven.” (So people would worship God!)
- And again, that light Jesus compared to a city.
- The light that comes from a city that is set on a hill, in the open where everyone can clearly see it.

If the light is removed then the city will always live in darkness.

If are coming to church becomes a formality it is sin in itself.

If we did not come to worship and receive the word of God and obey it then we are not in agreement with the scripture.

Rev 2:1-4

**1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; This is Jesus talking to the Apostle John**

**2 I know thy works, and thy labor and thy patience and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles and are not and hast found them liars:**

**3 And hast borne and hast patience and for my name's sake hast labored and hast not fainted.**

***4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee because thou hast left thy first love.***

I believe this a direct warning from the Lord to return to our first love.

- This church has lost its heart for soul winning.
- For worship and sacrifice.
- And obedience to God.

We cannot be a light without the Candlestick and if we are without praise Jesus cannot inhabit us Psalms 22-3.

Without oil the candlestick is useless.

As very clearly stated by Jesus later in Revelations 1:20 the Church is represented by the candlestick.

The candlestick by itself has no light, but it is a vessel designed to bear

the light by the burning oil that is fed to the lamps of the candlestick.

The oil comes from the “two anointed ones”:

God’s **Word** and **His Spirit** working through the Church.

If we refuse the word then there is no anointing and without any anointing the yoke is not broken.

- We can continue to be like the five foolish virgins in Matthew 25, we can operate on just a little and be left standing outside the groom’s house
- Or we can be like the five wise virgins and return to our first love and fill our vessels with anointed prayer and praise and obedience.

What good are we doing if God gives you the word and you continue to ignore what it says?

2 Tim 3:16-4:1

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

I don’t believe that some of you realize that we don’t come here to have a talking session but we need to be on our knees in prayer before God.

Ask yourself something what will happen if I disobey what I am ask to do?

Hebrews 13:17

1. **Obey them that have the rule over you**
2. **And submit yourselves:** For they watch for your souls, as they that must give account,
3. That they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

The living translation Bible says this: Hebrews 13:17

1. Obey your spiritual leaders and be willing to do what they say.
2. For their work is to watch over your souls,
3. And God will judge them on how well they do this.
4. Give them reason to report joyfully about you to the Lord and not with

sorrow, **for then you will suffer for it too.**

**Problems at Laodicea Revelation (3:15-19)** Like the church at Sardis, Laodicea had fallen into complacency. But this church was also spiritually arrogant in its self-satisfaction. It was the only church about which Christ had nothing good to say. Tragic, indeed!

This is the Spirit of this age: People are blind spiritually and their nakedness means they are without God's covering.

We think we have all of God we need and we think we are spiritually rich because we claim to have the Holy Ghost

But we show little to no power to be a witness.

Without the white garments of righteousness, the church is spiritually naked. Nakedness is a symbol of spiritual shame and worthlessness (Ezekiel 16:35; 2 Corinthians 5:3).

The Laodicean church was spiritually blind. Of course, its members thought they could see clearly – thought that they were rich and without any needs. But Christ counseled them to apply a spiritual eye-salve so that they could see how far they had fallen. In short, they needed to be earnest and repent (3:19).

We are hearers of the word but we are not doers of the word. We refuse to obey the word of the Lord.

We obey what part that we want and the rest we completely ignore. We fail to apply this word {The eye salve} so that God can let us see in the spirit.

Unless we follow the spirit of God and keep his commandments then what we accomplish in the flesh will prosper us nothing.

- The church does not show forth the power of Christ and the Holy Ghost.
- The church is half-hearted, but that its works are barren of God's power.
- The church reflects human ways, not Christ's.

- We are too far from the living water that is desperately needed from him (John 4:10-14; 7:38-39).

The image of Christ standing outside and knocking may also imply that the Laodiceans have locked him out of their church!

But the metaphor is also a symbol of promise. Christ is waiting outside, hoping the Laodiceans will be open to his correction and change their ways. If they do, he will come in and share a meal with them (3:20). The fellowship meal figures prominently as a symbol of togetherness with Christ in the kingdom (19:9).

- ***It is very obvious that we have lost our first love, or that we have moved from hot to lukewarm as the church of Laodicea.***
- ***I suggest we repent and turn back to God before he completely removes our candlestick.***

To summarize, in chapters 2 and 3 we have seen the deep spiritual problems in the church, the cares of this life, the penetrating power of the society around the members and wrong spiritual attitudes have blocked out the church's view of Christ to one degree or another.

1. To many members in the seven churches, the world seemed to be the only compelling reality.
2. They had a desperate need to see behind the scenes, as it were and discover the unseen reality of Christ and God.
3. Members needed to refocus their minds on the real power of the universe, the place where salvation lies – in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Revelation takes up this theme in chapters 4 and 5, revealing where the true salvation of the church lies, which is in the heavenly rule of God and the work of the Lamb.

The world system of evil to which many were falling prey will be judged by

God and replaced by his eternal kingdom The New Heavens and New Earth.  
That's the rest of the story in Revelation.

Rev 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.