

ARE WE PREPARED FOR A PANDEMIC-TRIGGERED

REVIVAL?

by Michael Youssef

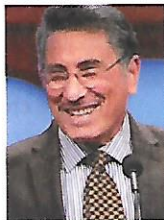
For all Bible-believing Christians, the COVID-19 pandemic demands that we re-examine our priorities and learn the lessons God wants to teach us through this trial. This crisis has sent shock waves through governments, economies, families and countless lives.

But this crisis did not catch God by surprise.

He is using this trial to get the attention of every human being on the planet, including all of us as Christians. Are we listening to what God is saying to us?

In recent years, false teachers have infiltrated evangelical churches, telling God's people that there are many paths to God, that we should not preach about the cross and the blood of Jesus, that such topics are offensive to people today. Many self-styled "evangelical" leaders have departed from Biblical orthodoxy. They preach the parts of the Bible they like and ignore what makes them uncomfortable. They are so focused on being uplifting and entertaining that they never talk about sin, repentance or salvation.

Some preach that God doesn't care about sin or morality, that there's no



Michael Youssef

judgment, no hell. Instead of Biblical truth, these false teachers dispense empty platitudes such as "love wins" and "the cross is false advertising for God" and "conversation, not indoctrination." Such unbiblical lies cater to fleshly desires and ignorance of the Bible.

We must not be misled by smooth-talking false teachers. They attract huge followings, but they are entertaining their congregations to an eternal death. Like the serpent of Eden, they tempt us to wonder, "Did God really mean what He said in the Bible?"

THE GREAT FALLING AWAY

According to the American Worldview Inventory 2020, vast numbers of people who claim to be Christians have expressed shockingly unbiblical beliefs to pollsters. For example, 44% of self-described "Christians" in America believe that Jesus sinned like any other human being; just 41% believe (as the Bible

declares) that He lived a sinless life.

The study, conducted by George Barna of the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University, said, "Tens of millions of Americans consider themselves to be Christian but do not believe that God is really in control or cares what happens to them." Barna added that over the last three decades, self-identified Christians have shifted from "learning and thinking about God" to becoming "more self-absorbed," while denying the existence of moral absolutes.

Are we witnessing the great falling away that Paul predicted in 2 Thessalonians 2? Could we be entering the time Jesus spoke of when He said, "At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people"? (Matthew 24:10-11).

I'm not certain. I only know this: When Jesus returns, I want to be found among those who remain faithful to Jesus and His Gospel, even to the point of death.

"There will be no revival in the church so long as we remain obsessed with entertaining ourselves, chasing wealth and seeking sinful gratification."