Where did all the Christians go?

Christians in the 1950’s were Bible students. They went to church every Sunday. In fact the Malls and shopping centers were all closed on Sunday. This was a day you went to church in the morning and again in the evening. Wednesday evening was the mid week service and churches were packed. Divorce was almost never happened. There was no living together without marriage. It was a Christian culture. Christian values set the pace in society. Christians didn’t drink alcoholic beverages. They didn’t take narcotics. They didn’t smoke cigarettes nor cigars.

They didn’t use foul language. They reached out to others in love. They lived their lives by the scriptures. They lived by the motto, ‘ What Would Jesus Do?’

Christians in the 1960’s became more liberal. The court made a decision to take prayer out of public schools. Abortion became legal. The malls and shopping centers opened for business on Sundays. Christians didn’t go to church as much as they used to. The culture had changed. People started living together without marriage. Their children born out of wedlock were called ‘love children’. Playboy magazine became popular, followed by other pornographic magazines.

This all had an effect on the Christian culture. Divorce started increasing.

Christians in the 1970’s continued the downswing. The sexual revolution became popular. Adult theaters could show pornographic movies. Christian began to look more like non Christians. Sometimes you couldn‘t tell if a person was a Christian even though he said he was. He didn’t go to church regularly. He started using foul language. He went to parties where most people ended up either drunk or well on their way. He could gamble because it wasn’t entirely looked down on any longer. The culture had changed in two decades where Christians and non Christians looked pretty much alike. More people were starting to live together outside of wedlock and divorce was continuing to increase.

Christians in the 1980’s struggled with their Christian walk. It became harder to go to church. Their children didn’t want to go to Sunday School. Parents allowed their teenage children to date unbelievers. Many children from Christian homes wanted to be like their unbelieving friends at school. Many children rebelled against their parents. Pornography and the sexual revolution was now full blown.

Everything was permissible as long as it didn’t hurt someone else. Church attendance was down. It was hard to find a Christian like those of the 50’s. Things had changed and not for the better.

Christians in the 1990’s looked about the same as those of the 80’s. But as you know, nothing stays the same. The culture now was not influenced by Christian morality any longer. The culture had continued to downgrade itself morally. Christians started to become closet Christians. Small churches were closing down while large churches were becoming larger. Some churches were still teaching the scriptures and those seemed to be the one’s increasing numerically. However, there were some churches who were growing numerically and were not teaching the whole truth. (they were watering down the scriptures.) These were becoming mega churches. There were pastor’s who fell into adultery and were exposed publicly. Some were well known. Society belittled Christianity as a result. Divorce by this time was about 50% of marriages. About 30% of people living together were not married. Some denominations were wondering if the Bible was truly the Word of God.

Christians in the 2000’s began to take on a more worldly look. They considered themselves saved by God’s Grace and therefore had liberty to do about anything they wanted to do. They said it was all about personal convictions. You could now listen to comics who took the Name of Jesus Christ and God Almighty and not let it affect you. You just kind of ignore it. Many go to Church, some go to home groups. This justifies they are pretty good Christians in their own eyes. Many Christians have divorced and married other Christians without Biblical authority.

Many Christians with this type of thinking have evolved from the atmosphere of the 60”s through the 90’S. After all, the Episcopalian Church, along with the Methodists and the Presbyterian Churches now recognizes homosexual marriages, premarital sex, and homosexual pastors. Needless to say these Churches do not believe in the inerrant Word of God. This is part of the Church of Laodicea, which the Bible calls the last Church age before the coming of Jesus for His Church, which we call the Rapture. The Bible says that this last Church will be a Church without Jesus. (Revelation 3:20 , Jesus says “ Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with Me.”) –Jesus is outside this Church. –This last church age is a false church. Jesus Christ is not inside it. What a pity, people are being fooled by this church.

If a Christian from the 50’s mixes with the Christian of today, they are called legalists, because they don’t go along with the worldly culture. (They don’t have much in common except they are both saved).

The Barna Reports:

32% of Christians do not believe the Bible changes things. That it has no power.

41% of Christians do not believe the Bible commands us to attend church.

43% of Christians do not read their Bible except at church.

14% of Christians do not read their Bible but once a week.

2% of Christians read their Bible daily.

With these statistics along with the facts noted above concerning the fact that many churches no longer use the Bible as the standard for their faith, it's easy to verify that the church, the body of Christ, has not only fallen away from it's primary purpose, but is continuing to fall away at a fast rate.

The epistles of Paul to Timothy and Titus along with Peter's epistles teach us that in the last days the atmosphere of the church would be in such a state.

The scriptures once again give us a picture of the last days. How much further will the church decline, fall away from the scriptures, only the Lord knows. But He gives us this text in II Thessalonians to let His people know they should be spiritually prepared to meet the Lord in the air, ( the rapture of the church), which will happen just before the antichrist comes on the scene bringing a pseudo peace with Israel.

The Bible is so accurate. It gives a clear picture of the Church in the end.

There's a rebellion going on. Wake up Jesus said, when you see this happening know your redemption is near!