

WHAT'S WRONG WITH PRETERISM?

TEXT: II Timothy 2:15-18

INTRO:

A. Preterism can basically be broken down into two camps.

1. Partial-Preterism: "MANY, but not all, prophecies of the New Testament are fulfilled."
2. Full-Preterism: "all Biblical prophecy has been fulfilled"

B. The Partial-Preterist basically believes that all has been fulfilled except the second coming of Christ, the bodily resurrection, & the final judgment.

1. Those who believe in "A-millennialism", "gospel-millennialism", "kingdom-dominion-theology (Charismatic)", & "Roman Catholic, kingdom-Theology" are "partial-preterist".

C. The Full-Preterist believes that all prophecy was fulfilled in the past (particularly in A. D. 70).

1. You name it - it happened: The resurrection, the rapture, the tribulation, the Anti-Christ, the Second coming, the binding of Satan, the great white throne judgment, the new heaven & new earth ...

D. The text before us is an indictment against "Full-Preterism" (That is what I will be considering).

1. Notice Paul's indictment against Hymenaeus and Philetus (v.17-18).
 - a. Their doctrine was "profane", "vain babbling", "ungodly", and an "error from the truth".
 - b. What doctrine? The false teaching that, "the resurrection is past already" - that is Full- Preterism!
2. Notice Paul's challenges Timothy - "Study" & "avoid"(v.15-16).
 - a. The challenges give to Timothy are ours - Much is at stake - Even the faith of some (v.18)!

E. What's wrong with Preterism!

I. PRETERISM IS WRONG BECAUSE OF WHAT IT TEACHES.

A. Preterism teaches that the resurrection is already past and that there is no such thing as a "bodily" resurrection.

1. "No promise is given in Scripture of the raising of our physical bodies." - *Kenneth J. Davies* (Beyond the End Times)
2. The Scripture teaches a "bodily" resurrection (Rom. 8:11; I Jn. 3:2-3; Luke 24:39).

B. Preterism teaches that Jesus Christ came back in A.D.70.

1. They rest their proof of "Christ's AD 70 coming" on "bits and pieces" of Josephus.
 - a. They teach an A.D. 70 fulfillment of Dan. 11:21-45 (v. 31) & Matt 24:1-51 (v. 15, 29-30).
 - b. They teach that Roman Emperor Titus brought about "great tribulation" as God's judgment against Israel for rejecting Jesus and the Apostles, while Christ orchestrated things from the air!
2. There is no "biblical" proof that Christ came in this manner in A. D. 70.
 - a. EVERY eye did not see him & all tribes did not weep (Matt. 24:30).
 - b. The "tribulation" on Jerusalem was not the "greatest" (Matt. 24:21).
 - c. What *ELSE* did not happen in A.D. 70? (Wars, pestilence, famine, earth quakes in "divers places")
 - d. Israel was not "utterly destroyed" in AD 70 - nether shall she be (Rom. 11:25-29).

C. Preterism teaches that Satan is now bound.

1. The Scripture teaches TRUE nature of his bidding (Rev. 20:1-3).
2. According to the Preterist, we need not worry about the "tempter" the "crafty Lion" any more!

D. Preterism teaches that we are now in the new heaven and new earth.

1. ".we are now living in the "new heavens and earth" promised long ago!" - *Kenneth J. Davies*.
2. "The Kingdom will keep on spreading ..Christian principles will "take every thought captive" in all the nations of the world the same way it did here in America." - *Ed Stevens* (preterist.org).
 - a. According to the Preterist, we live in a wonderful "utopia" - America the "Christian nation" (consider - II Tim. 3:1-7)!
3. We are not now in the "millennium" or the "new haven and earth" (Rev. 21:1-5).

E. This is just come of the "canker" of Preterism.

II. PRETERISM IS WRONG BECAUSE OF WHAT IT DOES AWAY WITH.

A. It does away with Biblical "challenges" and "admonitions"

1. There are many challenges and admonitions that are vitally connected with the second coming of Christ, but if Christ has ALREADY come these challenges and admonitions are not for us.
 - a. The challenge & admonition to "look" for the Saviour (Titus 2:12-13).
 - b. The challenge & admonition about godliness (II Pet. 3:10-13).
 - c. The challenge & admonition about "watching" and "praying" (I Pet. 4:7; Rom. 13:11-14).
 - d. The challenge & admonition about "patience" (Jms. 5:7-9).

B. It does away with Biblical or "warnings" (I Cor. 10:11-12).

1. Preterism teaches that these things are written for those who lived at the "ends of the world", but we live in the "new heaven and earth" so these cannot be OUR admonitions!
2. If what they say is true, there is no more lust (I Jn. 2:15-17).
3. If what they say is true, there is not need to be on guard for "Satan" (1 Peter 5:8).
4. If what they say is true, We have no "spiritual battles in high places" (Eph. 6:10-13).
5. The Preterist doctrine is like king Jehudi and his penknife who, "read three or four leaves [of the Bible and then] .cut it with the penknife, and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the roll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth." (Jeremiah 36:23)

C. It does away with "Biblical" Hope (I Cor. 15:12, 19-23; I Thess. 4:13-14; I Jn. 3:1-3).

1. Our hope is not in this life - "realize or position in this present kingdom".
2. Our hope is "in Christ AT HIS APPEARING".

III. PRETERISM IS WRONG BECAUSE OF WHAT IT NATURALLY IMPLIES.

A. Preterism "naturally implies" that there is no more need for gospel preaching (Matt. 24:14).

1. If the gospel was to be preach "in all the world" and THEN shall the end come, and if the end HAS come there is no need to preach the gospel.

B. Preterism "naturally implies" that there is no more need for the Lord's Supper (I Cor. 11:26-27).

1. If He has come we do not need the "memorial supper".

C. Preterism "naturally implies" that there is no more need for the church (Matt. 28:18-20).

1. If the commission to the church was unto the "end of the world" and the "end of the world " has come then what commission does the church have? Is there even a church around?
2. "I'm not totally comfortable using the word church in reference to the Kingdom of God today. The word church just might refer to the calling-out process of the transitional period from 30-70 AD when Christ was building His Kingdom." - *Edward E. Stevens* (preterist.org).

CON:

A. Preterism is A DANGEROUS heresy!

B. BE WARNED!

1. " But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word (NOT God's word) will eat as doth a canker:" of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some." (II Tim. 2:16-18)
2. Preterism is false - Who concerning the truth have erred.
3. Preterism is a canker.
4. Preterism is not God's word, but their word.
5. Preterism will overthrow the faith of some.

C. Watch! Pray! Look! Jesus is coming!