

Jeremiah 5:30-31 (NRSV) An appalling and horrible thing
has happened in the land:
the prophets prophesy falsely,
and the priests rule as the prophets direct;^f
my people love to have it so,

BUT WHAT WILL YOU DO WHEN THE END COMES?

What will you do when the end comes?

Most often we live here as though we are going to live forever. But if we are going to believe in prophecies, then we should surely know that the prophecy relating to the End will also happen.

But sometimes we take comfort in good prophecies. Prophecies which invariably tell us that God will grant ALL the desires of the heart. This verse is a favourite of many modern prophets who prophecy what the people love to hear. But I have rarely heard this verse being prophesied - **1 John 5:14 (NRSV)**¹⁴ And this is the boldness we have in him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. I don't know how many of us will love this verse, for if we believe this verse, then we will not receive anything that is not God's will. This is tough deal.

But in these days of insatiable material greed we take for every material wealth as a sign of God's blessing. But if we go over to the word of God we can clearly see that too much of wealth brought in spiritual decay- **Deuteronomy 32:15 (NRSV)**¹⁵ Jacob ate his fill;^f Jeshurun grew fat, and kicked. You grew fat, bloated, and gorged! He abandoned God who made him, and scoffed at the Rock of his salvation. What a strong language! Today this would be termed insensitive or politically incorrect, yet this verse is also in the Bible. Not only here but there are many many verses where God has put His finger on the source of spiritual rot and it is almost always too much material prosperity.

This is the crux of the problem. Christians do not know their Bible well. Since they don't strain a nerve to sit, read and meditate they believe every trash from every magazine to every television programme. Sometimes their whole Christian life is built on a verse taken out of context by a so called prophet.

Characteristics of Biblical Prophecies/Prophets

The language is quite severe in tone sometimes to the point of abuse. Remember John the Baptist addressing military officers as “you brood of vipers...”

A prophetic word from God never flatters anyone. It is blunt. Isaiah tells Hezekiah, “Put your house in order. You are going to die.”

Prophets are totally fearless, totally misunderstood by the religious majority, their friends and family and finally are totally alone.

A true word of prophecy will correct, admonish, edify. It is like a double edged sword that will cut our hearts without any mercy.

The central theme of all prophecies is coming back to the heart of God. It is the call to get back to God. But the road back to God may be rough, death, sickness, exile, betrayal etc. This is what true prophets prophesied.

Dear friend review the prophecy you have heard lately. Has it edified you, corrected you or has made you puffed up in your own success?

Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Paul were appalled at these false prophets who prophesied to satisfy the itching ears of believers. It is really really sad that so many of young Christians fall prey to the avaricious greed of the so called prophets. The tragedy today is people turn to prophets rather to God. So when a so called prophet falls, then their whole bedrock of faith is shaken.

It is really really sad, that very few churches teach their believers the Truth of the Word of God. It is only the ignorance of the Word which leads these believers astray.

Last year this time I had a call from a prophet from Australia urgently urging me or my mother to translate the prophecy which he received from God from English to Tamizh. I said yes and asked him to send the prophecy. It was a book running to 40+ pages. I read the whole text at one go. The beginning was good but later it ended earmarking 24.7.2012 that is tomorrow as the day of secret coming of Jesus Christ. When he spoke to me he was very convincing, but I struck to my biblical stand saying no one knows the Time. What really surprised me was that he asked me only to enquire of the Holy Spirit and not look to the Word, for he said, sometimes the

Word is not enough for a new thing which God has revealed to him. That was the final straw I said a stout no. But someone translated the book into Tamizh and he sent me a copy also. Hmm just like you am also waiting to see what happens tomorrow. Will it be the Day or the End will be some other day?

Whether it is tomorrow or some other day, one thing is sure that one day will be the Day when the Lord returns and when He returns the one thing the Master will look is that whether we are found faithful still. The most interesting verse in the Bible about the return of Jesus is simply left as an open ended question. "And yet when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?" Luke 18, 8.

Be faithful to the Word of God, Be faithful to the Cross, Be faithful till the End.

BUT THE ONE WHO ENDURES TO THE END WILL BE SAVED.

Mathew 24, 13

Let's pray that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ will keep us faithful to the End.