

APOSTATE? APOSTASY? WHAT GIVES? Preparing for the End

Over many years I have been blessed to receive free tapes, CDs, and books from your ministry. Thank you. At the time, I really appreciated them.

Now I no longer believe in the God of the Bible or in Jesus Christ. Ten years of full-time ministry proved to me that there is no God and that the God of the Bible does not care. I now reject Christianity and have come to peace. What was at first a great loss has now turned to joy, peace, and freedom. I did not leave the faith because of some extreme sin. I left because the God of the Bible, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit are all a fantasy. I'm happy I now live in the real world.

WHAT IS THE GREAT FALLING AWAY?

The "apostasy" comes before the anti-Christ is revealed:

Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a (1) spirit or a (2) message or a (3) letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

Let no one in any way deceive you, for it (the day of the Lord) will not come unless (what) the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

Some New Testament examples:

Demas

Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God. For I testify for him that he has a deep concern for you and for those who are in Laodicea and Hierapolis. Luke, the beloved physician, sends you his greetings, and also Demas.

Colossians 4:12-14

Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow workers.

Philemon 24

Make every effort to come to me soon; (why) for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service.

2 Timothy 4:9-11

Judas

"But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him.

And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father." As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.

So Jesus said to the twelve, "You do not want to go away also, do you?" Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."

Jesus answered them, "Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?"

Now He meant Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him.

John 6:64-71

"While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but (who) the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled."

John 17:12

Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while his men were sleeping, (what) his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away. But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then (what) the tares became evident also. The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?'

"And he said to them, 'An enemy has done this!' The slaves said to him, 'Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?'

"But he said, 'No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them. Allow both to grow together until (when) the harvest; and (when) in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, 'First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Matthew 13:24-30

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who (what) does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.

"Many will say to Me (when) on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who (what) practice lawlessness.'"

Matthew 7:21-23

Question:

Has an apostate simply lost his salvation?

Answer:

No. They were never saved in the first place. The key sign of genuine salvation is continuity of faith.

Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour. They (what) went out from us, but they (what) were not really of us; (why) for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

1 John 2:18-19

So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you (what) continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

John 8:31-32

And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach - if indeed you continue in the faith (how) firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.

Colossians 1:21-23

Question:

But what about Hebrews 6? What about those who have fallen away? Why is there no possible salvation for them?

Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.

And this we will do, if God permits.

For in the case of those who have (1) once been enlightened and have (2) tasted of the heavenly gift and have (3) been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have (4) tasted the good word of God and (5) the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.

Hebrews 6:1-6