

VICTORY IN THE MIDST OF END TIME APOSTASY

2 Timothy 3:13-17, 4:1-5

25 November 2022

Apostasy: to turn away from the faith. To abandon what you once professed.

CHARACTERISTICS OF APOSTASY

1. REJECTION OF BIBLICAL PREACHING (4:2-4)

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season.” (vs 2)

“Reprove, rebuke, exhort.” (vs 2)

“With all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine.”

- Churches today employ shorter sermons that make people feel good about themselves (unbiblical).
- Contemporary Christian music avoids being “too preachy.”

2. EAR TICKLING, PEOPLE PLEASING TEACHERS (4:3)

“But after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.”

There are heaps of teachers who have written books and who teach on the radio, not teaching the Bible, but saying the things that people want to hear.

- These teachers take surveys to find out what people want to hear and then provide it for them even if it goes against the Bible.
- They copy the world’s music to get people to come to church.
- They have “casual” dress standards so that people come to church half naked.

3. SENSUALITY (4:3) “After their own lusts.”

- Preachers today are giving people exactly what they want (at the expense of what they need).

WE CAN HAVE VICTORY IN THE MIDST OF APOSTASY

1. SUPERNATURAL SALVATION (3:15) “Wise unto salvation”

This is priority number one. You must be certain that you are truly saved. The new birth is not being preached in many churches today. Churches are full of unregenerate members. This has led to greater apostasy.

a. KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH *“thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise.”*

- i. Salvation requires knowledge of the truth, the word of God (Jn 17:17). The new birth is instantaneous as soon as you know and receive the truth. You are born again by the word of God (1 Pet 1:23), not gradually by obeying a religious system.

2. THE INFALLIBLE SCRIPTURES (2 Tim 3:16-17)

All of the scriptures (Genesis to Revelation) were given by inspiration of God, and are therefore, absolutely authoritative, dependable, and trustworthy.

- A Baptist principle is that the word of God is the sole authority for faith and practice.

- Church tradition is not an authority (Col. 2:8). The word of God can make me “*perfect*” (vs 17). Tradition can add nothing to that.
- When the Bible is truly the sole authority, error cannot enter as it is compared to the scriptures.
- When Christians doubt anything in the bible, that is apostasy.

3. THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

“Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom.”

- As saints of God, we ought to live our lives consciously aware that we will give account one day to the Lord Jesus Christ and that every idle word will be remembered (Mt. 12:36).
- Consider how you are living your life. Are you making it count towards eternity? Make every day count!

4. THE PREACHING OF GOD’S WORD. (2 Tim 4:2) “Preach the word!”

It is important to attend a church where you’ll always hear Spirit-filled preaching of the word of God.

- a. **GOD CONSCIOUS:** God’s preacher should always be consciously aware that God is watching and that one day he will answer to God for the care of God’s people. The preaching may not always be man-pleasing, but it should always aim to be God-pleasing.
 - ii. **It is Convicting.** Biblical preaching should always aim to correct something in the life of the hearers. Preaching will help you to know when you’re out of fellowship with God. This presents an opportunity to repent and seek God’s forgiveness (Ps 119:176).
 - iii. **It is Spirit Filled. “With all longsuffering.”** Longsuffering comes from God.
 - iv. **It will be doctrinal. “...and doctrine.”** The aim is to make the hearers stronger in the scriptures to help them grow in the Lord.

5. SPIRITUAL VIGILANCE AND ZEAL (2 Tim 4:5) “But watch thou in all things” (vigilance). “...endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry” (zeal).

- “**All things**” means all things. Music, friendships, activities, habits, behaviors, interests, etc.
 - Test these things with scripture. Be vigilant!
 - Jesus said, “**Take heed that no man deceive you.**” (Matt 24:4). This is the responsibility of each individual. Don’t expect your pastor to protect you from deception.
 - The believers in Berea were commended because they tested everything by the scriptures (Acts 17:11).
 - Peter also warns us to be vigilant (1 Pet 5:8). Be on guard, always watching. The Devil is looking for a chance to catch a weak Christian and take them down like prey.
 - Go to church when you don’t feel like it. Read your bible when you don’t want to. Go witnessing even when you’re tired.
 - “**Try the spirits whether they are of God...**” (1 Jn 4:1). Don’t let your guard down. There are “**Many false prophets**” in the world.

6. CAREFUL SEPARATION (will give us victory in the midst of apostasy).

(2 Tim 3:5) “**Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof (apostasy): from such turn away.**” (Separation).

Other scriptures on biblical separation: 2 Thess 3:6, 14; 1 Cor 5:5, 11, 13; 1 Tim 6:5, 1:20; Mt 18:15-18; Rom 16:17; 2 Cor 6:14-18; 2 Jn 10; Lk 20:46, 12:1; Acts 13:8-10.