

THE LAST DAYS APOSTASY OF THE CHURCH

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Definition of Apostasy

- *apos* = away from
- *histēmi* = to stand
- Apostasy = to stand away from
- Apostasy = a departure from known (or previously embraced) truth



APOLOGETICS

Orthodox? Heretical? Who Cares?
Let's Find Some "Common Ground"



Ten Characteristics of Apostasy

- 1) Sign of the last days
- 2) A massive NT subject
- 3) Impacts every major doctrine
- 4) Primarily internal
- 5) Knows no limits



Ten Characteristics of Apostasy



- 6) Can happen quickly
- 7) Satanically energized
- 8) Destructive
- 9) Makes life difficult for the man of God
- 10) Impacts those who have not taken preventive measures

Apostasy is a Sign of the Last Days

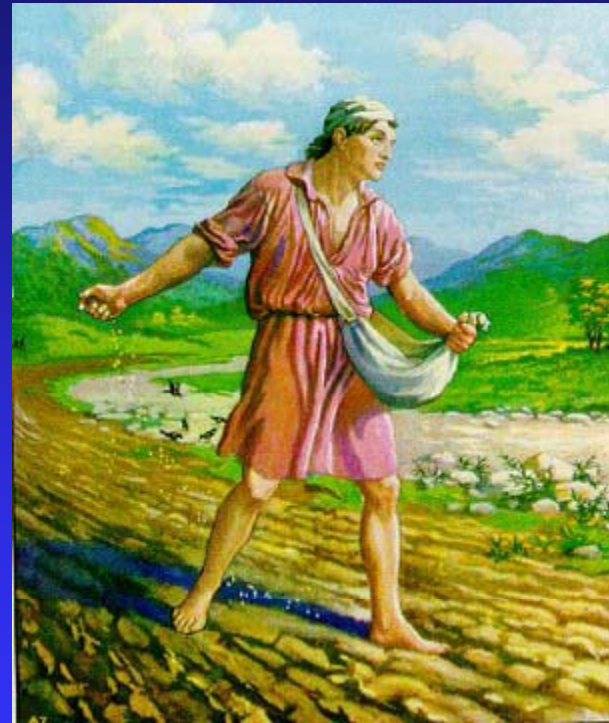
- 2 Tim 3:1-“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come.”
- 2 Tim 3:13-“But evil men and imposters will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived” (Italics mine).



Matthew 13 Parables

The Sower:

Preaching of the gospel
with various results



Matthew 13 Parables

Wheat & Tares:

Difficult to distinguish
between the saved and the
unsaved within professing
Christendom



Matthew 13 Parables

The Mustard Seed:



Christendom will experience great numerical and geographical expansion from a humble beginning

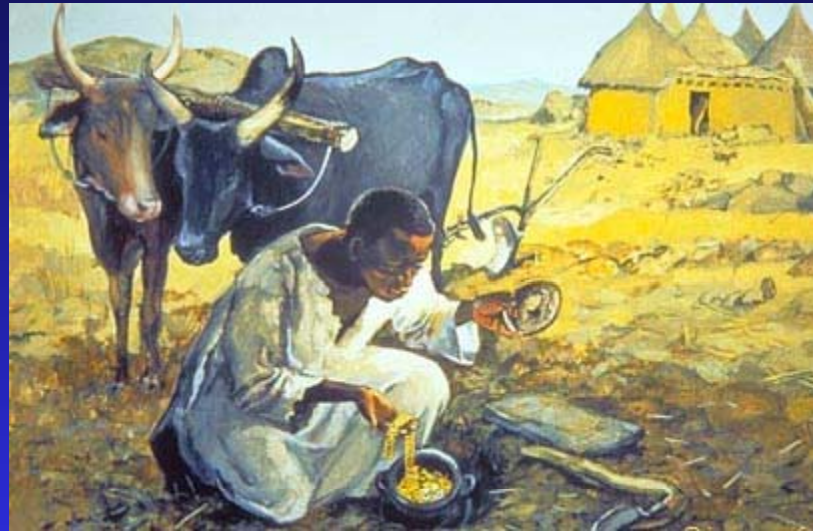
Matthew 13 Parables

Yeast in the Dough:



Christendom will experience internal corruption throughout the age

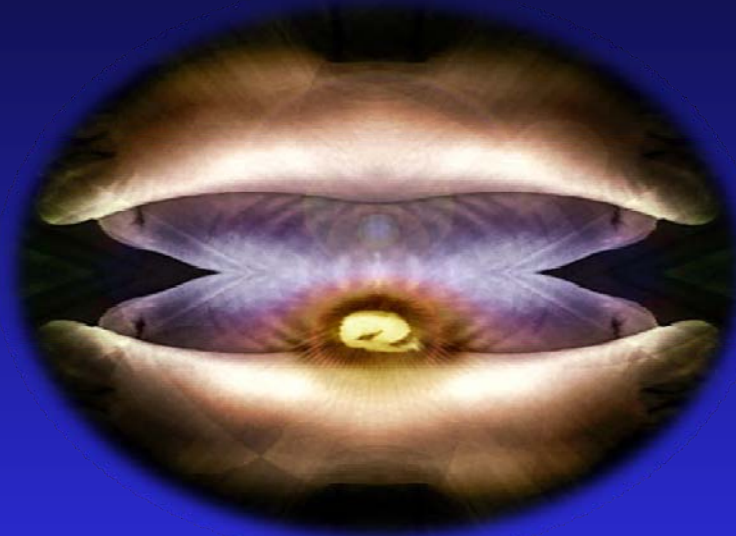
Matthew 13 Parables



The Hidden Treasure:

Israel will remain in unbelief only to be converted at the age's conclusion

Matthew 13 Parables



The Pearl of Great Price:

The Lord will gain a treasure from among the
Gentiles

Matthew 13 Parables



The Dragnet:

The coexistence of the righteous and the wicked
only to be separated at the age's conclusion

Matthew 13 Parables



The Householder:

NT truths must be considered alongside OT revelation to comprehend the totality of God's kingdom agenda

Apostasy is A Massive NT Subject

- **Gospels** (Matt 13)
- **Early church** (Acts 20:29–31)
- **Pauline letters** (Rom 16:17–18; Gal 1:6–9; 2 Cor 11:1–15; Philip 3:2, 18–19; Col 2:8; 1 Tim 4; 2 Tim 3–4; Titus 1:10)
- **General letters** (Heb 2:1–4; 2 Pet 2–3; Jude; 1 John 4:1–6)
- **Revelation** (2–3)



Apostasy Impacts Every Major Doctrine

- The faith (1 Tim 4:1)
- God (Jude 4)
- Christ and His death (2 Pet 2:1)
- Christ's return (2 Pet 3:3–4)
- Sound doctrine (2 Tim 4:3–4)
- Resurrection (2 Tim 2:16–18)
- God as creator (2 Pet 3:5)



ATONEMENT

All we have are "theories" anyway.
So why not make a toy out of it?

Apostasy is Internal

Acts 20:29-

“For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves” (Italics added).



Apostasy is Internal

Jude 4-“For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ” (Italics added).

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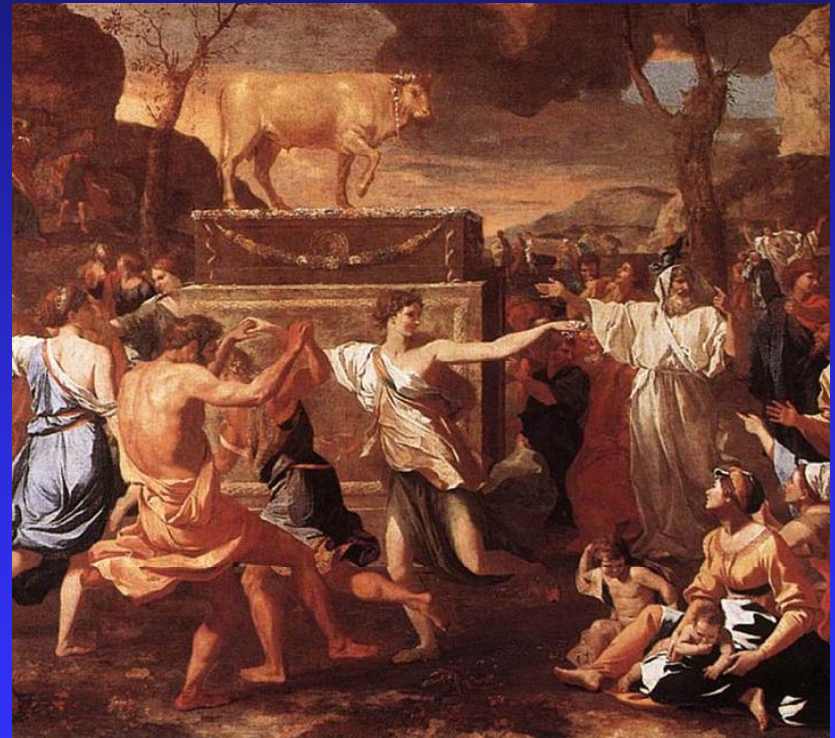
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Apostasy Knows No Limits

Aaron (Exod 32:1–10)

Jonathan (Judges 18:30)

Ephesus (Rev 2:4–5)



Apostasy Knows No Limits

“Let every student be plainly instructed and earnestly pressed to consider well the main end of his life and studies is to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life (John 17:3) and therefore to lay Christ in the bottom as the only foundation of all sound knowledge and learning. And seeing the Lord only giveth wisdom, let everyone seriously set himself by prayer in secret to seek it of Him (Prov. 2, 3). Everyone shall exercise himself in reading the Scriptures twice a day that he shall be ready to give such an account of his proficiency therein.”

Francis
Beckwith

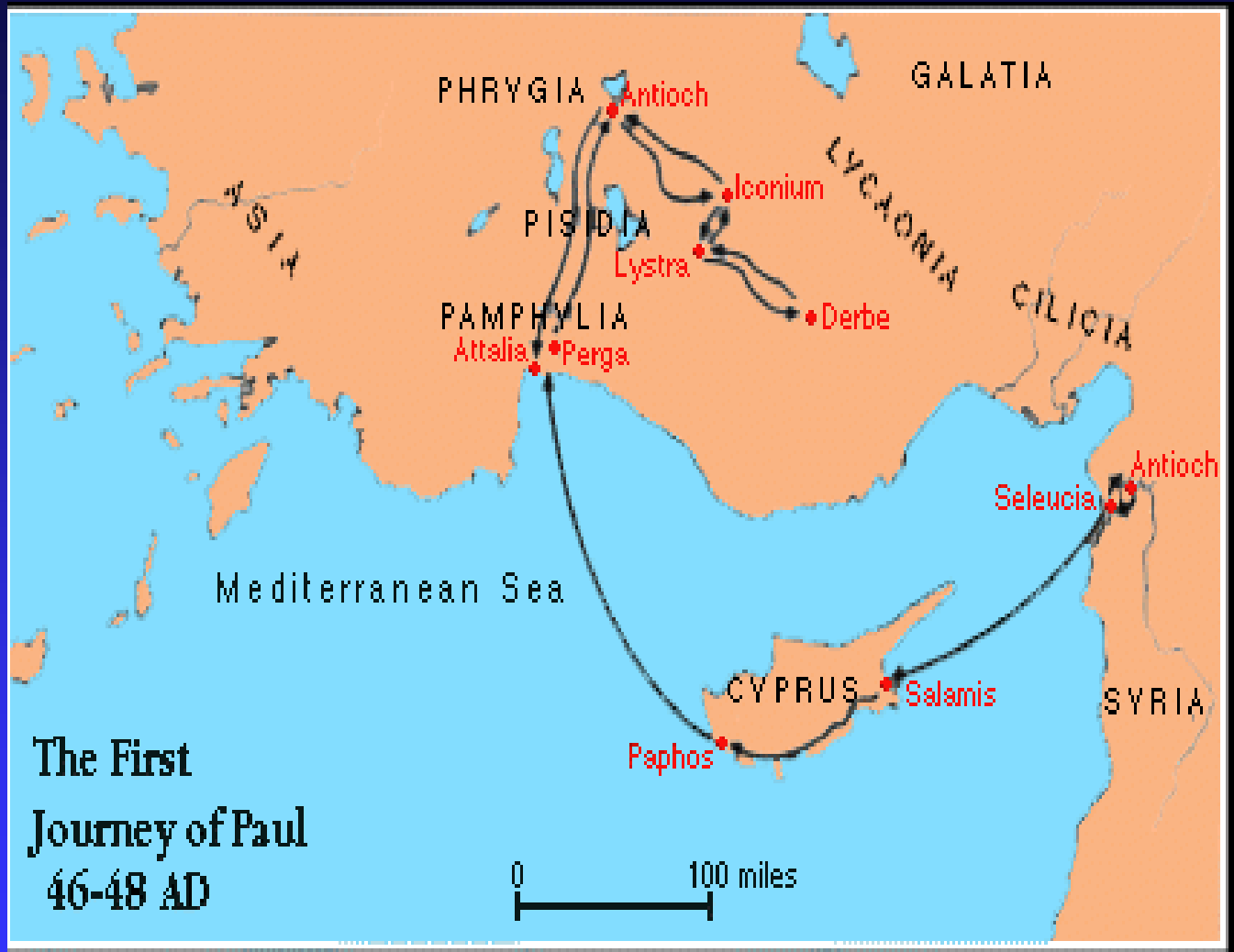


Apostasy Can Happen Quickly

Gal 1:6-“I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel.”

Exod 32:8-“They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I have commanded them” (Italics mine; see also Exod 24:18).





Apostasy is Satanically Energized

2 Cor 11:3-“But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted by from the simplicity that is in Christ.”

1 Tim 4:1-“Now the Spirit expressly says that in the latter times some will depart from the faith giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons” (Italics mine).



Apostasy is Destructive

Acts 20:29-

“For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.”



WONDER

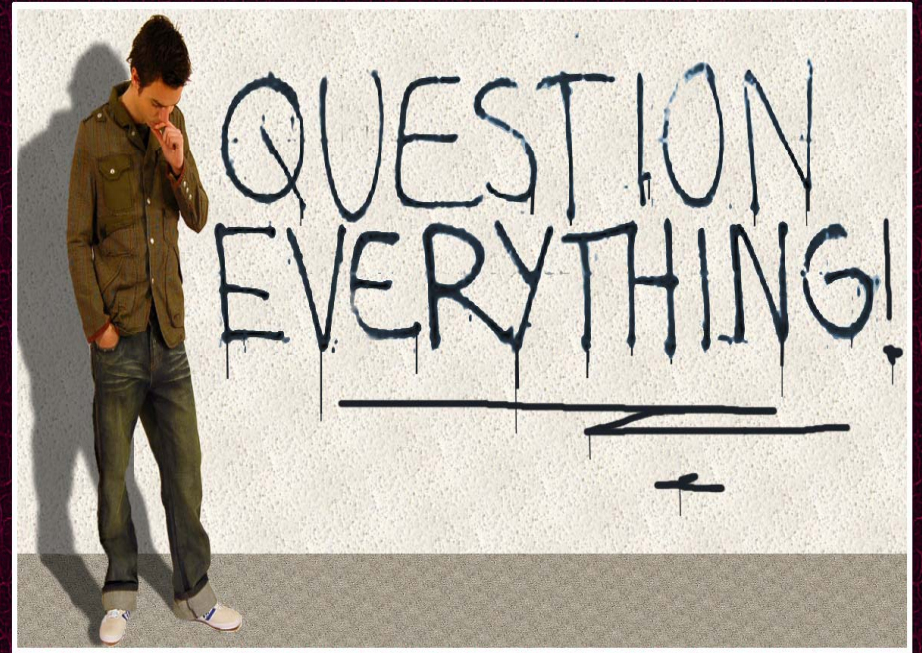
Hath God Indeed Said?



Apostasy is Destructive

1 Tim 1:19-

“Having faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck.”



FAITH

Doubt.



Apostasy is Destructive

2 Tim 1:18-

“And their message will spread like cancer.

Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already passed; and they have overthrown the faith of some” (Italics mine).



GENEROUS ORTHODOXY

OK, It's Not Really Either,
But It Sounds Better Than the Truth



Apostasy Makes Life Difficult for the Man of God



ABSOLUTES**S**

Absolutely not!



- 2 Tim 3:13-
“But evil men and imposters will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.”

Apostasy Makes Life Difficult for the Man of God

2 Tim 4:3–4—“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.”



CONVERSATION

**Because the Pooling of Ignorance
Just *Feels* Better than Hard Truth**



2 Tim 3:2–4

■ Lovers of self

- ◆ Lovers of \$
- ◆ Boastful
- ◆ Arrogant
- ◆ Blasphemers
- ◆ Disobedient to parents
- ◆ Unthankful
- ◆ Unloving
- ◆ Unholy
- ◆ Unforgiving

Slanderers

Without self-control

Brutal

Haters of good

Treacherous

Reckless

Conceited

Pleasure lovers

■ Rather than lovers of God

“Perilous” for Who?

2 Tim 3:1-“But know this, that in the last days *perilous times* will come”
(Italics mine).



Apostasy Makes Life Difficult



2 Tim 4:3–5-“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, *endure afflictions*” (Italics added).

Apostasy Makes Life Difficult for the Man of God

2 Tim 3:12–13-“Yes, and all who desire to live a Godly life in Christ Jesus *will suffer persecution*. But evil men and imposters will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived” (Italics added).



Apostasy Impacts Those Who Have Not Taken Preventive Measures

- Study God's Word (2 Tim 2:15; 3:17)
- "Test all things" (1 Thess 5:21)
- Renew your mind (Rom 12:2)
- "Put on the whole armor of God" (Eph 6:11)
- "Contend earnestly for the faith" (Jude 3)



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