

APOSTASY

II Timothy 4:1-4

Apostasy The KJV bible does not ever use this word, however, it is a legitimate word. This word is derived from the Greek noun **apostasia**. The definition of the word Apostasy is – to depart, a total desertion, to depart from one's faith or religion.

II Thessalonians 2:3 The words “*falling away*” is a translation of the Greek word *apostasia*. An Apostate is a person who once professed to be a believer in Christ but has turned away from the faith.

BEGINNING OF APOSTASY

Jude 3 There are two streams of Christianity operating right now during this period of Grace. The one Jude speaks of is the faith that we are to struggle to keep. The one faith delivered by the Apostles.

Matthew 16:18; Jon. 15:18-19; I Cor. 4:10 The true Christianity is the one that the gates of hell will not prevail against. It is the Christianity that is despised, hated and persecuted throughout the world.

Acts 20:29-31 The second kind of Christianity is the one that started right after the first type of Christianity, the one that Jesus Himself warned of and that Paul would warn about before his death.

II Cor. 2:17; II Thess. 2:1-2 The apostasy started early during the first century as many preachers and teachers began to corrupt God's word and even send falsified letters of discord to the true churches.

I Tim. 4:1-3; II Pt. 2:1-3 Both Peter and Paul were inspired to write and warn the early believers in Christ about false brethren and those that would desert true doctrine and cheat and deceive others also.

SEEDS OF APOSTASY

A. Rejection of God's Authority- Dt. 4:2; Rev. 22:18-19 The first sign of apostasy within a church or with a professed believer is the rejection of God's authority pertaining to His word or commands.

Malachi 3:6; Mat. 28:18 The bible is clear throughout the O. T. or N. T. that God is in charge of everything. He never changed His character or His word and He has put Jesus in charge of all things.

Jude 11 Despite God's authority there are people who profess to be believers but continue to reject what God says in His word. Pertaining to Korah the word *gainsay* means – *to contradict, to oppose, to resist, to depute*. The word also has the meaning of disobedience and to rebel.

Ephesians 4:14 Many true Christians are deceived in their beliefs today because of lack of understanding sound doctrine and are unable to tell the difference between what is true or what is false.

I Tim. 3:15; Heb. 13:7, 17 The rejection of God's authority also extends to His church and Pastors.

B. Rejection of God's Grace – I Cor. 15:1-4; Eph. 2:8-9 The most fundamental doctrine in the N. T. is that of salvation by grace alone. This is the most widespread area of apostasy in Christianity today because the modern churches and denominations are preaching a works salvation instead of grace. There is the “social gospel” where helping and serving brings us to heaven. There is “Catholic doctrine” of infant baptism, sacraments, confession and Purgatory. There is the “Church of Christ” with the need of baptism for salvation. There are the “Calvinists” with their Lordship salvation and of course their predestination for heaven and for hell doctrine rather than teaching God's Grace for “whosoever.”

Jude 11 Cain refused to bring the proper sacrifice thus rejecting God's Grace for his own good works.

C. Rejection of God's Standards – Ps. 111:7-8 God has established His standards for morality and conduct and those will last forever, they do not change with the times or seasons, they are absolute.

Rev. 2:13-14 The apostasy of Balaam was that of using his office for greed and to be a bad influence.

II Cor. 6:17; I Jn. 2:15-17 God's standards are for us to be sanctified and set apart from the world.

I Tim. 3:1-2 God's standard for church Pastors does not include gays, woman, transgenders, etc.

Titus 2:14 God's standard for believers is for us to live pure, holy lives and do good works.