

# A Apostasy

Lesson Commenced: \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson Checked: \_\_\_\_\_

Like a number of key doctrinal terms (e.g., “Trinity,” “rapture,” etc.), the word “**apostasy**” is not found in the text of our English Bible — but it *is* found in its teaching!

The word comes from the Greek word “*apostasia*,” which means “a falling away” — in the sense of a defection or rebellion. *Matthew 19:7* renders the word “*apostasion*” as “divorcement,” and the word is translated as “forsake” in *Acts 21:21*. Thus apostasy may be defined as a deliberate act of repudiation.

In this lesson, we shall use the terms “apostasy” and “apostate” in the negative sense as they refer to the act of departing from the faith. We are living in days of great spiritual apostasy and moral decline, and it is absolutely vital that the child of God be fully aware of its danger.

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## THE SPECTRUM OF UNBELIEF AND ERROR

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It is important that we first consider the various forms of unbelief and departure from the faith spoken of in the New Testament — some of which can apply to saved people, and some which refer to lost people. For example, there is:

### A. **UNBELIEF** — *no faith*.

1. Read: Romans 4:18-21. According to *verse 20*, unbelief is the opposite of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Read: Matthew 13:54-58. According to *verse 58*, unbelief limits the mighty \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
3. According to *Acts 16:31*, a lost man must \_\_\_\_\_ in order to be saved.
4. According to *John 8:24*, a lost man’s unbelief means he will \_\_\_\_\_ in his \_\_\_\_\_.
5. According to *Revelation 21:8*, the \_\_\_\_\_ I N G shall have their part in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

6. According to *Mark 16:14*, is it possible for a Christian to have unbelief in his heart? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Read: *Hebrews 3:12-13*.
  - a. This passage is addressed to “\_\_\_\_\_.”
  - b. Unbelief causes us to \_\_\_\_\_ from the living God.  
(Compare this with *Hebrews 11:6*, which shows that with faith we come to God.)
  - c. A heart is hardened through the \_\_\_\_\_NESS of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d. One way we can avoid unbelief is to \_\_\_\_\_ each other daily.
  - e. According to *Psalms 119:11*, another way we can avoid unbelief is to hide God’s \_\_\_\_\_ in our \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Look up: *Mark 9:24*. What should our cry be to the Lord when we find unbelief in our heart?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**B. DOUBT — *little faith*.**

1. Read: *Matthew 14:25-31*.
  - a. Did Peter obey the Lord? (*verse 29*) \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What kind of faith did Jesus say Peter had? He had \_\_\_\_\_ faith (*verse 31*).
  - c. What was it that caused Peter to take his eyes off the Lord? (*verse 30*).  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Read: *Luke 12:22-31*.
  - a. According to *verse 30*, it was the disciples’ concern over “all these \_\_\_\_\_” that caused them to doubt the Lord.
  - b. According to *verse 31<sup>a</sup>*, what should be the focus of a Christian’s life?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Read: *Romans 14*.  
This chapter deals with the question of Jewish dietary laws and customs (*verses 2-3*) and holy days (*verses 5-6<sup>a</sup>*), and whether Christians are obligated to observe them. The answer is “No!”— but that does not give a Christian the right to disregard those who struggle in these areas (*verses 14-15,21*).
  - a. According to *verse 5<sup>c</sup>*, it is important that every Christian be fully \_\_\_\_\_ on such matters.

- b. According to *verse 14*, Paul was persuaded by the \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. By what means should we be persuaded? (See: *Luke 16:31*.)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- d. According to *Romans 14:23<sup>c</sup>*, when we doubt God and His Word, we \_\_\_\_\_.

**C. IGNORANCE — *growing faith*.**

The word “ignorant” means to be “uninformed,” or “unlearned” — “lacking in knowledge.”

- 1. Study: *Acts 3:17; 17:23; Romans 10:3; Ephesians 4:18* and *I Peter 1:14*.  
Of what kind of people is the word “ignorant” used in these passages?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Study: *Romans 11:25; I Corinthians 10:1; 12:1* and *I Thessalonians 4:13*.  
Of whom is the word “ignorant” used in these passages?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Read: *I Corinthians 14:23-25*. Notice in this passage that both of the above-mentioned groups are distinguished.
- 4. *I Peter 2:2* describes young Christians as “new born \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 5. *II Peter 3:18* instructs young Christians to \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ and in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ.

Mature believers need to exercise discernment and care in this area when working with new Christians or those with whom the Spirit of God is dealing.

**D. ERROR — *false faith*.**

- 1. According to *Matthew 22:29*, error comes because we do not know the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. According to *I Timothy 6:10*, the sin of C\_\_\_\_\_NESS will cause doctrinal error.
- 3. According to *I Timothy 6:20-21*, false \_\_\_\_\_ (that which is in opposition to the Word of God) will lead to error.
- 4. According to *II Peter 3:16*, Christians can be led astray by following after the error of those who W\_\_\_\_\_ the scriptures.

**E. HERESY — subverted faith.**

The word heresy (Greek: “*hairesis*”) literally means “a choice.” When used in connection with faith and the Word of God, it means a deliberate alignment with the side of error.

Heresy is much more than ignorance. It is more than simply holding to an error. It is taking sides with error against truth. In *Acts 5:17; 15:5; 24:5; 26:5; and 28:22*, the word is translated “sect,” which shows that the concept of heresy involves forming a “party” within the main body.

1. According to *Galatians 5:20*, heresy is a work of the \_\_\_\_\_ (*verse 19*).
2. According to *Titus 3:10*, a church member who is a heretic is to be given \_\_\_\_\_ opportunities to conform to the Word of God or be rejected.
3. Note: Titus 3:11.  
A heretic is one who has been “subverted.” Subversion is the method often employed by reprobates — *Titus 1:11*.

**F. APOSTASY — repudiated faith.**

As stated above, we have defined “apostasy” as the deliberate repudiation of the faith. “The Faith” refers to the whole body of truth “*once delivered unto the saints*” (*Jude 3*).

Read: I Timothy 4:1-3.

1. According to *verse 1*, to apostatize means to \_\_\_\_\_ from the faith.
2. This passage gives **five** marks of an apostate. He is one who:
  - a. Has listened to \_\_\_\_\_ spirits. In *I John 4:6<sup>d</sup>*, this spirit is called the “spirit of \_\_\_\_\_.”
  - b. Has accepted devilish \_\_\_\_\_.  
According to *Hebrews 13:9<sup>a</sup>*, these are “divers and \_\_\_\_\_ doctrines,” contrary to what *Titus 2:1* calls “\_\_\_\_\_ doctrine.”
  - c. Is a lying \_\_\_\_\_ (*verse 2*). Apostates always pretend to be what they are not — orthodox Christians!
  - d. Has a \_\_\_\_\_ conscience. According to *Romans 2:15*, the conscience bears \_\_\_\_\_ to God’s moral law. (When flesh is cauterized it loses its response to the natural senses.)
  - e. F\_\_\_\_\_S and C\_\_\_\_\_S contrary to God’s Word (*verse 3*).

**Note:** Both marriage (*Hebrews 13:4<sup>a</sup>*) and meats (*Colossians 2:16*) are sanctioned by God’s Word.

## G. REPROBATION — counterfeit faith.

Read: *II Timothy 3:6-8* and *Titus 1:13-16*.

These passages describe another class of religious “ministers” who are referred to in *II Peter 2:1* and *Jude 4* as false teachers. They are reprobate concerning the faith.

### 1. What They Are:

- a. They are unable to come to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the truth — *II Timothy 3:7*.
- b. They \_\_\_\_\_ the truth — *II Timothy 3:8*.
- c. They are \_\_\_\_\_ ignorant of God’s promises — *II Peter 3:5*.
- d. They \_\_\_\_\_ to be Christians — *Titus 1:16*.
- e. They are not \_\_\_\_\_ — *I John 2:19*.
- f. They are W\_\_\_\_\_ in S\_\_\_\_\_’S clothing — *Matthew 7:15*.  
See also: Acts 20:29.
- g. They are \_\_\_\_\_ men — *Jude 4*.
- h. They are twice \_\_\_\_\_ — *Jude 12*.
- i. They have not the \_\_\_\_\_ — *Jude 19*.
- j. They are Satan’s \_\_\_\_\_ — *II Corinthians 11:15*.
- k. They are \_\_\_\_\_ of the cross — *Philippians 3:18-19*.

### 2. What They Do:

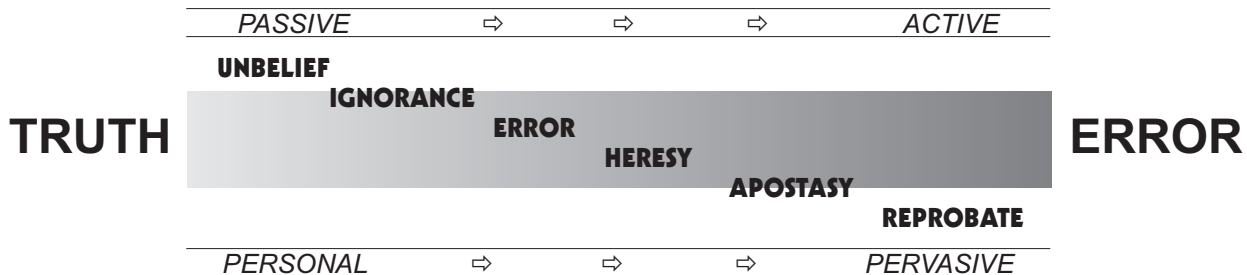
- a. According to *Jude 4*, they have \_\_\_\_\_ in unawares. They get into our churches (*Acts 20:29*) and among our people (*II Timothy 3:6*) — either by direct contact (*Titus 1:10*), or through books, magazines, tapes, radio, television, etc.
- b. According to *Jude 12* and *II Peter 2:13*, they F\_\_\_\_\_ (i.e. fellowship) with God’s people.
- c. They S\_\_\_\_\_ and D\_\_\_\_\_ — *II Timothy 3:13*.
- d. They \_\_\_\_\_ men from the truth — *Titus 1:14*.
- e. They cause men to S\_\_\_\_\_ from the truth — *I Timothy 1:6*.
- f. They make \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s people — *II Peter 2:3*.

### 3. What They Teach.

- a. Damnable \_\_\_\_\_ — *II Peter 2:1*. These are false **doctrines** which, if believed, will keep a man from being saved.
- b. Counterfeit L\_\_\_\_\_ — *II Peter 2:19*. This is false **morality** later known as antinomianism — the belief that Christians may conduct themselves as *they* please.

Reprobates are unsaved professors of true (Bible) Christianity who are in reality Satan’s agents engaged in fomenting error, heresy, and apostasy within God’s true churches.

The following diagram will help summarize the spectrum of unbelief and error.



**Note:** This chart is for illustration purposes only, and is not intended to be Biblically definitive.

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## FOUR INROADS TO APOSTASY

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Satan’s efforts to destroy the Lord’s churches come on **four** fronts. His attacks can be seen in scripture as well as throughout Christian history, and it is absolutely vital that Bible-believing Baptists clearly understand exactly where the battles are to be fought, how the Devil will maneuver, and when to take a stand.

This section will consider these four key battlegrounds for the faith. They are:

### A. **THE GAINSAYING OF KORAH** — *Jude 11*.

The word “gainsaying” means to “contradict,” “dispute,” or “resist,” with reference to God’s appointed authority.

The story of Korah is found in Numbers 16.

- In *verse 1*, Korah and his associates “took \_\_\_\_.” i.e. They incited others (who were in leadership positions — *verse 2*) to apostatize.
- In *verse 3* we are told “they gathered themselves \_\_\_\_\_ Moses” and Aaron.
- In *verse 28*, Moses declared his authority came from the \_\_\_\_\_.

Now study the following scriptures to note these same characteristics in godless reprobates:

1. According to *II Timothy 3:8*, Jannes and Jambres (the magicians of Pharaoh's court) \_\_\_\_\_ Moses (God's man).
2. False teachers despise \_\_\_\_\_ — *II Peter 2:10*.
3. Reprobates despise \_\_\_\_\_ — *Jude 8*.
4. These deceivers are U\_\_\_\_\_ (will not be ruled) — *Titus 1:10*.

This all adds up to one thing: apostasy embodies the rejection of God's *AUTHORITY* — chiefly the authority of the Word of God (*II Timothy 3:16; Psalm 119:160; Matthew 4:4*), but also church authority (*Matthew 18:17<sup>b</sup>; I Timothy 3:15*) and pastoral authority (*Titus 2:15; Hebrews 13:7,17*).

Baptists are on the road to apostasy when they turn aside from the pure Word of God (the Authorized, King James Version), when they begin to question the verbal, plenary, inerrant, infallible inspiration of the Word of God, or when they refuse to submit — either in their personal lives or in their churches — to the absolute authority of the Bible in matters of faith and order.

**B. THE WAY OF CAIN — *Jude 11*.**

The story of Cain and Abel is found in *Genesis 4:1-12*.

- Cain was a \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ (*verse 2*).
- His offering consisted of the fruit of the \_\_\_\_\_ (*verse 3*).
- The ground had been \_\_\_\_\_ because of sin (*Genesis 3:17*).
- Cain's offering consisted of his own W\_\_\_\_\_ — *I John 3:12*.

Now study the following scriptures to note these same characteristics in godless reprobates:

1. False teachers deny the \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ them — *II Peter 2:1*.
  - a. According to *I Corinthians 6:20<sup>a</sup>*, believers are \_\_\_\_\_ with a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. According to *I Peter 1:18-19*, the price of redemption is the precious \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.
  - c. Atonement for sin requires \_\_\_\_\_ I N G of innocent \_\_\_\_\_ (*Hebrews 9:22<sup>b</sup>*).
2. False teachers turn the \_\_\_\_\_ of God into lasciviousness (lustful desire), *Jude 4*.
  - a. According to *Titus 2:11*, it is the grace of God that brings \_\_\_\_\_.

- b. According to *Romans 6:1,15*, the grace of God does **not** give us license to continue in \_\_\_\_\_.
3. False teachers deny “the only Lord \_\_\_\_\_, and our \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus \_\_\_\_\_” — *Jude 4*.

According to *Romans 3:24-25*, we have been:

- J\_\_\_\_\_ freely by His \_\_\_\_\_.
- Through R\_\_\_\_\_ in C\_\_\_\_\_.
- Through F\_\_\_\_\_ in His \_\_\_\_\_.

The “way of Cain” adds up to one thing: apostasy embodies the rejection of God’s GRACE — particularly the grace of God in salvation (*Ephesians 1:7; 2:7-9*), but also of God’s grace in holy living (*Titus 2:12*).

Baptists are on the road to apostasy when they turn aside from the pure Gospel of Christ to ANOTHER GOSPEL — *Galatians 1:6-9; II Corinthians 11:4*. These “gospels” abound today — e.g. the social “gospel,” the bloodless “gospel,” the no-repentance “gospel,” and the “gospels” of good works, legalism, and emotionalism, etc.

The first Biblical example of this kind of error is found in Acts 15, where false teachers taught a *ceremonial* gospel (*verse 1*) in opposition to the one true Gospel (*verse 11*). This error quickly became a heresy, which developed into the first great historical apostasy — **baptismal remission**.

### C. THE WAY (ERROR) AND DOCTRINE OF BALAAM — *Jude 11*.

The story of Balaam is found in Numbers 22–25.

- Balaam was hired by Balak, king of the Moabites, to \_\_\_\_\_ the children of Israel — *Numbers 22:6*.
- Balaam was offered great \_\_\_\_\_ to do Balak’s bidding — *Numbers 22:17*.
- Balaam was rebuked by his \_\_\_\_\_ as he attempted to do what God had forbidden him — *Numbers 22:21-34*.
- Balaam eventually brought God’s severe judgment upon Israel through his \_\_\_\_\_ (*Numbers 31:16*).

The New Testament speaks of the way (error) of Balaam, and the doctrine of Balaam. Study the following scriptures to see these same characteristics in godless reprobates:



1. The WAY (Error) of Balaam — *II Peter 2:15; Jude 11*.
  - a. This way is \_\_\_\_\_ — *Numbers 22:32<sup>e</sup>*.
  - b. This way loves the \_\_\_\_\_ of unrighteousness — *II Peter 2:15*.
  - c. This way runs greedily after \_\_\_\_\_ — *Jude 11*.

Balaam is a hireling (*John 10:13*) — he was in the ministry for the money.

This also highlights an area of great temptation for faithful preachers — to *modify the message* for the sake of a salary — *I Timothy 6:10*.

2. The DOCTRINE of Balaam — *Revelation 2:14*.
  - a. Balaam could not directly curse God’s people. Instead he devised a *roundabout* plan to bring divine judgment upon them.  
 He instructed Balak how to cast a \_\_\_\_\_ I N G— \_\_\_\_\_ before the children of Israel (*Revelation 2:14*).
  - b. Compare *Revelation 2:14<sup>d</sup>* with *Numbers 25:1; 31:15-16*.  
 Exactly what was Balaam’s counsel to Balak?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Read: Numbers 25:1-3. Notice three things the children of Israel lost when they joined themselves to Baal-peor:
    - They \_\_\_\_\_ at Shittim (*verse 1*) — i.e. they lost their *pilgrimage*.
    - They committed \_\_\_\_\_ (*verse 1*) — i.e. they lost their *purity*.
    - They sacrificed to and worshiped Moab’s \_\_\_\_\_ (*verse 2*) — i.e. they lost their *peculiarity* (*Deuteronomy 7:6*).
  - d. Read: Joshua 22:16-18.  
 Did the wickedness at Baal-peor have any affect on the next generation? \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. According to *Numbers 25:18<sup>a</sup>*, the enemy vexed the Israelites with their \_\_\_\_\_, wherewith they \_\_\_\_\_ them.
  - f. According to *II Peter 2:14*, reprobates are able to beguile those who are \_\_\_\_\_.

This all adds up to one thing: apostasy embodies the rejection of God’s STANDARDS — principally those holy standards of morality and personal conduct to which believers are enjoined (*I Peter 1:15-16; II Corinthians 6:14–7:1* and *I John 2:15-17*).

Baptists are on the road to apostasy when they turn aside from godly living and godly standards in their homes and churches. In these matters the LORD wants us to be “peculiar” (*I Peter 2:9; Titus 2:14*), “simple” (*Romans 16:19<sup>d</sup>*), exemplary (*John 17:16; Ephesians 4:17-24*), & separated (*Ephesians 5:6-8; I Thessalonians 4:1-7; II Timothy 2:19-22*).

As the children of Israel were *subtly* drawn into great wickedness when the Moabite women allured them through the lusts of the flesh (*II Peter 2:18*), so today the “counsel of Balaam” craftily seeks to displace spirituality with sensuality, and consecration with carnality.

**D. THE SEDUCTION OF JEZEBEL — *Revelation 2:20*.**

The account of the historical Jezebel is found from I Kings 16 to II Kings 9. In these passages we see that Jezebel:

- Was the pagan wife of king \_\_\_\_\_ (*I Kings 16:31*).
- Introduced \_\_\_\_\_ worship into Israel (*I Kings 16:31-32*).
- \_\_\_\_\_ the LORD’S prophets (*I Kings 18:4*).
- Was benefactress to 850 false \_\_\_\_\_ (*I Kings 18:19*).
- Stirred up Ahab to work \_\_\_\_\_ (*I Kings 21:25*).
- \_\_\_\_\_ her face in an attempt to seduce Jehu (*II Kings 9:30*).

The Jezebel of Thyatira was a false teacher (perhaps a woman — *I Timothy 2:12*) in the mold and spirit of the ancient queen. Study the following scriptures to see the grave danger posed by this kind of reprobate:

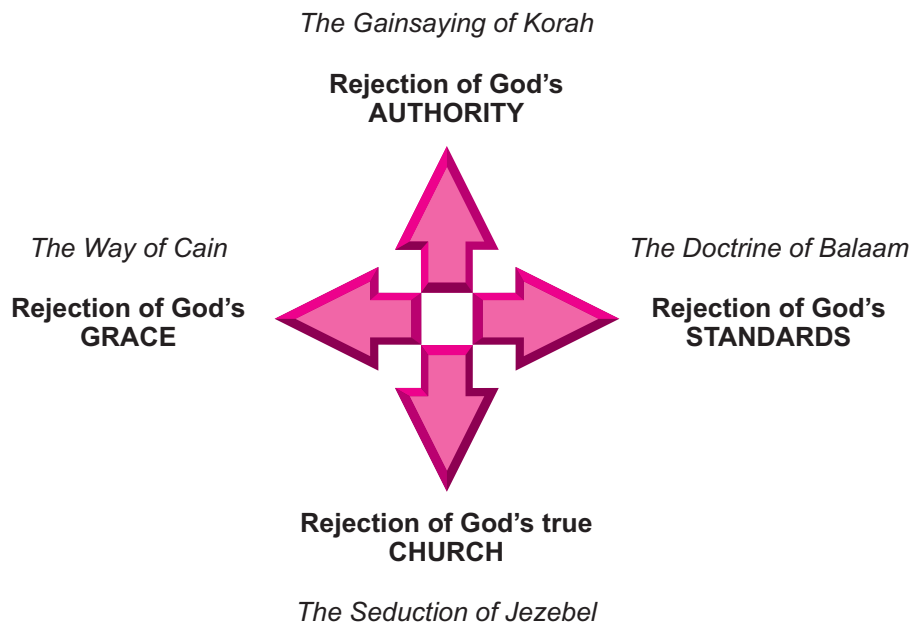
1. According to *Revelation 2:20*, Jezebel’s teaching and seduction was targeted on the Lord’s \_\_\_\_\_.
2. According to *Acts 20:17,28-31*, the first “line of defense” in any Bible-believing Baptist church is: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Jezebel’s doctrine is equated with the \_\_\_\_\_ of Satan (*Revelation 2:24*).
4. This fornicating woman is identified as the great \_\_\_\_\_ in *Revelation 17:1-9*. Here she is not simply a false teacher, but a false system!  
 This is the coming ecumenical “Church of the Antichrist,” sitting in the city of seven hills — Rome! Right now the “Church” of Rome and her Protestant daughters are moving ever closer to bringing about this new “Tower of Babel.”
5. Read: *Proverbs 7:6-21*. This scripture shows the manner in which a harlot goes about seducing her unwary victim — she paints her face just like the Old Testament Jezebel in order to look attractive.

6. *Revelation 18:4* commands God's people to \_\_\_\_\_ of this religious organization.
7. According to *Revelation 2:22-23* those who are ensnared by this Jezebel will end up with her in great \_\_\_\_\_.

This all adds up to one thing: apostasy embodies the rejection of God's true CHURCH — the pure, chaste, virgin churches of Jesus Christ (*II Corinthians 11:2-4*).

Baptists are on the road to apostasy when they begin to involve themselves in the present-day ecumenical movement, interdenominationalism, and parachurch organizations, etc. All such roads eventually lead to the harlot ROME — a religious system which has always hated Baptists (*Revelation 17:6*). Today, however, Rome has “painted her face” and is alluring many unsuspecting men into a spiritual — and eternal — death trap!

The following diagram will help summarize the four major inroads to apostasy within Bible-believing Baptist churches today:



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# THE GREAT APOSTASY

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In *II Thessalonians 2:3* we are told of a “falling away” (apostasy) associated with the end of this present age. To understand what this means we must carefully consider the context of the passage, some doctrinal explanation, and the sequence of events:

## A. THE CONTEXT — *II Thessalonians 2:1-2*.

1. A first century A.D. doctrinal error put forward by reprobates was that the resurrection is \_\_\_\_\_ already — *II Timothy 2:18*.
2. Another term we use for the resurrection is the “Rapture of the Saints” — see: *I Corinthians 15:51-52*.
3. This false teaching was cunningly devised to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of some believers — *II Timothy 2:18*.
4. The members of the church at Thessalonica were \_\_\_\_\_ in mind, and \_\_\_\_\_ by false epistles declaring that the “Day of Christ **is** at hand” (*verse 2*).
5. The apostle Paul comforted them by speaking of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord and the \_\_\_\_\_ING of the saints unto Him as a “yet-to-happen” event (*verse 1*).

## B. A DOCTRINAL EXPLANATION:

The “Day of Christ” (*verse 2*) is the period of time which begins with the coming of Christ **for** His saints, and encompasses the heavenly events associated with the Judgment Seat of Christ (*I Corinthians 1:7-8; 5:5; Philippians 1:6,10; 2:16*) — ending in “that day” (*II Thessalonians 1:10*) when Christ returns in glory to the earth **with** His saints.

The “Day of the LORD” also begins at the same time, but it relates to the earthly events associated with Daniel’s 70TH Week and the establishment of the millennial kingdom of Christ.

## C. THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS — *II Thessalonians 2:1-8*.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ is already at work — *verse 7<sup>a</sup>*.  
See: *I John 2:18*.
2. The One Who presently “letteth” (hinders) will be taken \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ — *verse 7<sup>b</sup>*.

**Note:** The “*he who now letteth*” refers to the present work of the Holy Spirit in restraining wickedness and the coming of the Antichrist. Why can we assert that? Because of the personal pronoun “he” (*John 14:17*); because He was known by these Christians (“ye know” — *verse 6*); and because *I John 4:3-4* teaches that the indwelling Holy Spirit enables believers to be overcomers in the face of the present-day “spirit” of antichrist. (When the Antichrist does arrive on the world’s stage, he will be the overcomer — *Revelation 11:7; 13:7*.)

3. The Lord Jesus Christ will return as a thief in the night for His saints — *verse 1; I Thessalonians 4:15-17*.
4. The Day of the LORD and the Day of Christ will begin concurrently.
5. The Great Apostasy will take place. This is described in *Psalms 2:1-3* as the day the rulers of the whole world will throw off the LORD’S B\_\_\_\_\_ (control) and C\_\_\_\_\_ (restraint).

**Note:** One can only imagine the rampant lawlessness that will come upon the world when the “salt of the earth” is suddenly removed.

**Note:** This coming great apostasy is being prepared in our day, as we increasingly see people refusing to endure sound doctrine (*II Timothy 4:3-4*).

6. The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ will be revealed — *verse 3*. He will present himself as the longed-for Messiah and Saviour of the world.
7. The Antichrist will then sit in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God claiming to BE \_\_\_\_\_ — *verse 4*!
8. The second coming of Christ will bring God’s \_\_\_\_\_ upon a wicked world (*II Thessalonians 1:8*), and the destruction of that \_\_\_\_\_ one (*II Thessalonians 2:8*).

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# HOW TO DEAL WITH APOSTASY

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We have seen that apostasy is the deliberate departing from the faith — brought about (usually incrementally) through the introduction of error and heresy, often at the hand of deceitful reprobates.

There are two questions we must now ask: How do we prevent apostasy? *and*, How do we deal with apostasy? To these the Word of God gives clear answers:

## **A. GOD’S PROVISION FOR SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT:**

Read: *I John 2:18-27.*

This passage is written “concerning them that \_\_\_\_\_ you” (*verse 26*), and gives us God’s **double defense** against apostasy.

1. God has given us an \_\_\_\_\_ (*verse 20*).
  - a. In *verse 27* this is called the \_\_\_\_\_ I N G.
  - b. Both these expressions refer to the \_\_\_\_\_ of truth — *John 14:17*.
2. We are also instructed to let that which we have \_\_\_\_\_ from the beginning abide in us (*verse 24*).
  - a. This refers to His \_\_\_\_\_ which we are to \_\_\_\_\_ in — *II John 6*.
  - b. According to *II Peter 3:2*, Baptists are to be \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the apostles.
  - c. *Jude 17* instructs us to remember the \_\_\_\_\_ which were spoken before of the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d. In *Jude 20-23*, God gives **seven** practical steps to avoid falling into error. These are:
    - B\_\_\_\_\_ yourself up on the most holy faith — *verse 20<sup>a</sup>*.
    - P\_\_\_\_\_ in the power of the Holy Ghost — *verse 20<sup>b</sup>*.
    - K\_\_\_\_\_ yourself in the center of God’s love — *verse 21<sup>a</sup>*.
    - L\_\_\_\_\_ expectantly for the return of Jesus — *verse 21<sup>b</sup>*.
    - M\_\_\_\_\_ a difference in others through love — *verse 22*.
    - S\_\_\_\_\_ the lost through the Gospel — *verse 23<sup>a</sup>*.
    - H\_\_\_\_\_ sin, worldliness, and the flesh — *verse 23<sup>b</sup>*.

In *II Timothy 3:13-14* we are admonished to \_\_\_\_\_ in the things we have both learned (from the Word of God) and been assured of (by the Spirit of God).

The promise of *I John 2:24* is that we shall \_\_\_\_\_ in the faith IF we know the truth and obey the truth.

## **B. GOD'S PRESCRIPT TO SOLEMN DUTY:**

Here's a five-fold plan Baptists must adhere to for dealing with the error, heresy, apostasy, and those reprobates that abound on every side:

### **1. NO RESPITE:**

- a. In *Acts 20:31<sup>a</sup>*, pastors are instructed to W\_\_\_\_\_. (Note the context.)
- b. In *II Timothy 4:5*, Timothy was exhorted to \_\_\_\_\_ in all things. (Note the context.)
- c. According to *Hebrews 13:17*, pastors are solemnly charged to watch for our \_\_\_\_\_.

There must be UNCEASING SURVEILLANCE!

### **2. NO FELLOWSHIP:**

- a. We must have \_\_ \_\_ fellowship with the \_\_\_\_\_ of darkness — *Ephesians 5:11*.
- b. According to *I Timothy 6:5*, we must \_\_\_\_\_ from those of corrupt minds who are destitute of the truth.
- c. *II Timothy 3:5<sup>c</sup>* instructs us to \_\_\_\_\_ from all false teachers and teaching.

There must be UNWAVERING SEPARATION!

### **3. NO TOLERANCE:**

- a. Churches are to \_\_\_\_\_ (brand) and \_\_\_\_\_ deceivers who cause divisions and offenses contrary to sound doctrine — *Romans 16:17*.
- b. According to *II John 10* we are not to \_\_\_\_\_ false teachers into our homes — or the house of God!

There must be UNENDING STEADFASTNESS!

### **4. NO COMPROMISE:**

- a. According to *Jude 3<sup>b</sup>*, we must C\_\_\_\_\_, not accommodate!
- b. A little \_\_\_\_\_ leaveneth the whole lump — *Galatians 5:9*. (Note the context.)
- c. Leaven symbolizes false \_\_\_\_\_ — *Matthew 16:12*.

There must be UNBROKEN SOUNDNESS!

5. NO QUARTER:

- a. In *Revelation 2:2<sup>b</sup>*, the Lord Jesus Christ commended the church of Ephesus because they \_\_\_\_\_ those false teachers who claimed to be apostles.
- b. According to *I Timothy 1:20*, those who had “put away concerning faith” were delivered unto \_\_\_\_\_ (i.e. removed from church membership by church action, *I Corinthians 5:5<sup>a</sup>*).
- c. Because of false prophets, we must \_\_\_\_\_ the spirits, *I John 4:1*. (Note: This word does not mean to “sample” — it means to “put on trial.”)

There must be *UNRELENTING* SAFEGUARDS!

**REPROVE** ▶ **REBUKE** ▶ **REJECT** ▶ **REFUSE**  
*Ephesians 5:11*      *Titus 1:13; 2:15*      *Titus 3:10*      *I Timothy 4:7*  
*II Timothy 4:2*      *II Timothy 4:2*

“Many Baptists are being affected by the apostasy of these last days. It is true they are not apostates but they are being neutralized by apostate tendencies. They are being swept along in the flood tide of the denials of the age. They are no longer the salt of the earth. They have lost their savor. Many have developed a system of compromise which sounds very convincing. But apostasy is apostasy. Our forefathers stood by the Truth and so should we. We must not abandon it for convenience or for temporary peace with the world. It is time for those who hold to the faith of the Book to stand up, speak up, and proclaim it.”

— Brother Gordon Silcox

“Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?”

Luke 18:8

**MEMORY VERSE:** Try and commit to memory *I Timothy 4:1*.