

Warning Signs Of Apostasy

II Tim. 4:1-4

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- 1 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom:
- 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.
- 3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,
- 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. (ESV)

Apostasy Is A Real Danger...

- [1Ti 4:1 KJV] 1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

[1Ti 1:19 KJV] 19 Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:

[Gal 5:4 KJV] 4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

[Heb 3:12 KJV] 12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

Improper Attitude Toward The Word Of God...

- Satan's tempting of Eve in Eden. (Gen. 3:1-6)
- Behavior springs from thoughts.
 - [Pro 4:23 ESV] 23 Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

[Phl 4:8 ESV] 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Improper Attitude Toward The Word Of God...

- Such thinking as...
 - “I know what the Bible says, but I think.”
 - 11 But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, "Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper.

[Isa 55:8-9 ESV] 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Improper Attitude Toward The Word Of God...

- “I just look at what Jesus said, not Paul and Peter...”
 - [Jhn 13:20 KJV] 20 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

[Mat 10:40 KJV] 40 He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

[Eph 3:3-5 KJV] 3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, 4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) 5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

Improper Attitude Toward The Word Of God...

- “Preach the man – not the plan.”
 - [Jhn 8:24 KJV] 24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am [he], ye shall die in your sins.

[Luk 13:3 KJV] 3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

[Mar 16:16 KJV] 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

[Mat 7:21 KJV] 21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

[Jhn 12:48 KJV] 48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

Improper Attitude Toward The Word Of God...

- “Don’t be negative .”
 - II Tim. 4:2 → 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.
- “Where is our passage for this?” – Proof-text preaching, study...
 - [2Ti 2:15 KJV] 15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
- “Just feed us on milk...not solid food”.
 - Heb. 5:13-14 → 13 For every one that useth milk [is] unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, [even] those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

The Accumulation Of False Teachers...

- The Bible is Replete With Warnings of False Teachers:
 - Mat 7:15 → 15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.
 - Act 20:29-30 → 29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.
 - 2Co 11:13 → 13 For such [are] false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.
 - 2Pe 2:1-3 → 1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. 3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

The Accumulation Of False Teachers...

- The desire for what simply “sounds good”.
 - Isa. 30:10 → 10 Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, **speaking unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits:**
 - Jer. 5:31 → 31 **The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so:** and what will ye do in the end thereof?
 - 2Th 2:11-12 → 11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, **that they should believe a lie: 12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.**

Turning Away From The Truth...

- The absolute necessity of TRUTH.
 - Prov. 23:23 → 23 **Buy the truth, and sell [it] not...**
 - Jn. 8:31-32 → “...If ye continue in my word, [then] are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And **ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**
 - 2Thess. 2:10-12 → 10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that **perish; because they received not the love of the truth...**12 That they all **might be damned who believed not the truth,** but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Turning Away From The Truth...

- 1Tim. 2:4 → 4 Who will have all men **to be saved,** and to **come unto the knowledge of the truth.**
- 1Tim. 3:15 → 15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is **the church** of the living God, **the pillar and ground of the truth.**
- To turn away from one in order to follow another...
- “*mythos*” → *fiction, falsehood*

Turned Unto Fables...

- Rom. 1:21 → 21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified [him] not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.
- Psa. 14:1 → 1 The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, [there is] none that doeth good.
- 1Jn. 2:22 → 22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.
- 1Jn. 4:3 → 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that [spirit] of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

Turned Unto Fables...

- Act 15:1 → 1 And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren...Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.
- Jude 1:4 → 4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 1Co 15:12 → 12 "...how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?
- 2Pe 3:4 → 4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as [they were] from the beginning of the creation.