

“Days of Apostasy”
1 Tim. 4:1-6

In Chapter 4: 1-16, Paul challenges Timothy to be a good minister in these last days. He presents 3 qualities of a good minister: Preach the Word [1-6], Practice the Word [7-12], and Progress in the Word [13-16]. Today we look at the first 6 verses.

There is a popular song out, "These are days of revival." Many think there will be a great spiritual awakening across America. The Bible says that we are living in days of apostasy and the only answer is to remain faithful to the Word of God and the Work of God.

The N.T. Church has always had apostates. Men like Judas Iscariot, Demas [Col. 4:14; Philemon 1:24; 2 Tim. 4:10], Hymenaeus and Alexander, and disciples of John 6:66.

The only difference is that we are living with them today and they are on the increase.

TT: Let's take a closer look at these days of apostasy and remind you of 3 truths in our text in regard to apostasy.

1. Apostasy should not surprise us [v.1].

1. Depart from the faith? Means “to fall away or abandon the faith. To remove oneself from the position originally occupied to another place.”

These are those who Jesus described as “rocky soil” those who hear the Word and receive it with joy, but have no root, and later fall away.

An apostate is not a struggling believer, but one who willingly abandons biblical faith he once professed. He is a pretender and rejecter from within the ranks of the church.

They don't lose salvation, but reveal that never possessed it.

What reveals them?

1. They are revealed because of persecution.
2. Lack of commitment.
3. Because of their love for the world.
4. Because their denial of the fundamentals of the faith [2 Pet. 2:1-3; Jude].
5. Their departure from the church [1 John 2:18-19].

2. Apostasy should not surprise us. The Spirit said it would happen. He expressed it distinctly in words.

2 Tim. 3:1, This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. (2) For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, (3) Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, (4) Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; (5) Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. (6) For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, (7) Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Matt. 24 states that false Christ's will deceive many. Peter, Jude, and John all warned of these apostates.

1 John 2:18-19 Teaches they will depart from us.

Full scale apostasy in the tribulation after the rapture [2 Thess. 2:3-12] - Rapture-Apostasy- revelation of Antichrist.

1. Apostasy should not surprise us [v.1].

2. Apostasy will grow worse [v.1b].

1. Paul gives us the window when this apostasy will take place. The latter, later, or last times, include the 1st coming to his 2nd coming. It covers then and future end time conditions.

The focus here is the apostasy that will escalate toward the rapture, the revelation of the antichrist, and the 2nd coming of Jesus.

1 John 2:18, "It is the last time [hour]: and as you have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrist's; whereby we know that it is the last time [hour]."

1 Pet. 1:20, "Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you."

Matt. 12:45 seems to indicate increasing wickedness.

Rev. 3:14-22 indicates by the Laodicea church that apostasy grows worse.

1. Apostasy should not surprise us [v.1].

2. Apostasy will grow worse [v.1b].

3. Apostasy comes from demon spirits thru human agents [vs.1-2]. Notice 3 things about these apostates:

1. They give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons [v.1].

Means “to pay attention to, to devote oneself to,” or “cling to something.” The Holy Spirit leads men to saving faith while demons lead men to damning error.

They turned aside to follow deceiving spirits and doctrines of Demons. Fallen angels are behind all false religions. Those in false religions are really worshipping the demons behind the false religion.

Eph. 6:12, “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world [age] against spiritual wickedness [hosts] in high places.”

2. They have a conscience seared with a hot iron [v.2b].

Their conscience is burned and numbed. Their consciences are cauterized or destroyed, and they feel no guilt or remorse as they teach false doctrine.

3. They set up a human means of salvation [vs. 3-5].

These false teachers at Ephesus were teaching that spirituality demanded avoiding marriage and abstaining from certain foods. They rejected divine revelation for man-made rules and regulations.

They are easy to detect by putting them to the four-fold test of Scripture:

1. The Savior test- who is Jesus?
2. The Salvation test- How is a person saved?
3. The Source test- What is your source of authority?

Con: What is the believer to do?

1. In these last days, we need to be trained and nurtured in the Word so we will be protected and equipped for this escalating apostasy [v.6]

2. Turn to **Jude vs. 17-23** where it tells us how to live in these days of apostasy

- (1). Remember the Word of God [vs. 17-19].
- (2). Remain faithful [vs. 20-21]. Edify one another, prayer, obedience, worship, service, and looking for return.
- (3). Reach out [vs. 22-23].

Apostasy should not surprise us, apostasy will grow worse, apostasy comes from demon spirits thru human agents.