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| <p>1. According to many biblical signs coming to pass in the world and also concerning Israel, we know that we are living in the last days</p> <p>2. The sign indicating that these are also the last days of the church on earth is <u>apostasy</u>
646 ἀποστασία <i>apostasía</i>
➤ from <i>aphístēmi</i> (868) – to depart
= a standing away from
= a falling away, a defection
= rebellion, abandonment
= a departure from known or previously embraced truth</p> <p>3. The New Testament reveals that there will be an ever increasing deception and turning away from truth ultimately culminating with THE apostasy, which must happen before the Rapture, our gathering together to Him
(2 Tim 3:13; 2 Thess 2:1-3a)</p> <p>4. Even though some teach that there will be a great revival in the church before Jesus comes, Jesus Himself indicates that faith will be hard to find on the earth (Mt 24:14; Lk 18:8)</p> <p>5. Apostasy in the church is not caused by any external circumstances but rather it arises and increases because of internal issues and compromises (Acts 20:28-31a; Jude 4; Rev 2:20)</p> | <p>6. Although apostasy is warned against repeatedly in the Scriptures, it is rarely taught about or cautioned against in the modern church
(Acts 20:29-31; Rom 16:17-18; Gal 1:6-9 etc)</p> <p>7. Every Christian must understand that no church, even the most foundationally sound, is immune to apostasy – e.g. Ephesus
(Ephesians, 1 & 2 Timothy; Rev 2:1-7)</p> <p>8. Apostasy can occur very quickly
- e.g. Ephesus apostatized in only 30 years
- e.g. the Galatian church was "deserting Christ for a different gospel" after one year
(Gal 1:6-10)</p> <p>9. It is Satan's desire to cripple the church and as soon as it turns from its purpose and core teachings, it becomes ineffective in the world
(2 Cor 11:3; 1 Tim 4:1; Eph 4:26-27)</p> <p>10. Apostasy destroys! Its victims:
a) are at the mercy of ravenous wolves
b) suffer shipwreck concerning their faith
c) have their faith upset, overthrown by the lies that spread like gangrene
(Acts 20:29; 1 Tim 1:19-20; 2 Tim 2:17-18)</p> <p>11. Apostasy will make it perilous for the person determined to be faithful (2 Tim 4:3-4)</p> | <p>12. Apostasy will target every major doctrine of the true biblical faith. It will deny:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) <u>the faith</u> (1 Tim 4:1-2; Jude 3)b) <u>God and creation</u> (2 Tim 3:4-5; 2 Pet 3:5)c) <u>the Lord Jesus Christ</u> (Jude 4)d) <u>Christ's atoning death</u> (2 Pet 2:1)e) <u>Christ's return</u> (2 Pe 3:3-4)f) <u>sound doctrine</u> (2 Tim 4:3-4)g) <u>a holy set apart life</u> (2 Tim 3:1-5; Ja 5:1-8) <p>13. We can guard against apostasy by diligently continuing to preach, teach and study the Word of God</p> <p>14. We must let the Scripture define for us the origin, the meaning, the function and the purpose of the church</p> |
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