

## Times of Apostasy

(By Rev. Luís Moreno, May 12, 2019)

What is the apostasy?

The apostasy is the denial, the renouncement, the desertion, the leaving, or abandonment of faith in Christ.

It is denying God and His Word, turning away from the Word of God. It is an action and effect of apostasizing, which means to abandon or publicly break the faith that you profess.

### Scripture 1: 1 Timothy 4:1-7

Now the Spirit <sup>[a]</sup>expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, <sup>2</sup> speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, <sup>3</sup> forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. <sup>4</sup> For every creature of God *is* good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; <sup>5</sup> for it is <sup>[b]</sup>sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

A Good Servant of Jesus Christ

<sup>6</sup> If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed. <sup>7</sup> But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness.

### Scripture 2: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-5

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

<sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
God's Final Judgment and Glory

<sup>3</sup> We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, <sup>4</sup> so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and <sup>[a]</sup>tribulations that you endure, <sup>5</sup> *which is* manifest<sup>[b]</sup> evidence of the

righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer;

### Scripture 3: 2 Timothy 4:1-5

I charge *you* <sup>[a]</sup>therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead <sup>[b]</sup>at His appearing and His kingdom: <sup>2</sup>Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. <sup>3</sup>For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; <sup>4</sup>and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. <sup>5</sup>But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

How do we avoid the apostasy in the church?

Here in the Bible, the Word of God, we find what we should do to reject this type of trickery from Satan. It is very important to get close to God all of the time, separating a special time in prayer, reading and meditating on the Word of God, and of course, applying It to our daily walk with the Lord and thereby demonstrating that we are sons and daughters of God.

### Scripture 4: Psalm 119:1-16

Blessed *are* the <sup>[a]</sup>undefiled in the way,  
Who walk in the law of the LORD!  
<sup>2</sup> Blessed *are* those who keep His testimonies,  
Who seek Him with the whole heart!  
<sup>3</sup> They also do no iniquity;  
They walk in His ways.  
<sup>4</sup> You have commanded *us*  
To keep Your precepts diligently.  
<sup>5</sup> Oh, that my ways were directed  
To keep Your statutes!  
<sup>6</sup> Then I would not be ashamed,  
When I look into all Your commandments.  
<sup>7</sup> I will praise You with uprightness of heart,

When I learn Your righteous judgments.

<sup>8</sup> I will keep Your statutes;

Oh, do not forsake me utterly!

⌋ *BETH*

<sup>9</sup> How can a young man cleanse his way?

By taking heed according to Your word.

<sup>10</sup> With my whole heart I have sought You;

Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!

<sup>11</sup> Your word I have hidden in my heart,

That I might not sin against You.

<sup>12</sup> Blessed *are* You, O LORD!

Teach me Your statutes.

<sup>13</sup> With my lips I have declared

All the judgments of Your mouth.

<sup>14</sup> I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies,

As *much as* in all riches.

<sup>15</sup> I will meditate on Your precepts,

And <sup>[b]</sup>contemplate Your ways.

<sup>16</sup> I will delight myself in Your statutes;

I will not forget Your word.

### Scripture 5: Psalm 119:101-105

I have restrained my feet from every evil way,

That I may keep Your word.

<sup>102</sup> I have not departed from Your judgments,

For You Yourself have taught me.

<sup>103</sup> How sweet are Your words to my taste,

Sweeter than honey to my mouth!

<sup>104</sup> Through Your precepts I get understanding;

Therefore I hate every false way.

⌋ *NUN*

<sup>105</sup> Your word *is* a lamp to my feet

And a light to my path.

### Scripture 6: 2 Timothy 3:13-17

<sup>13</sup> But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. <sup>14</sup> But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, <sup>15</sup> and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for [a]instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

If we do not persevere in walking in holiness before the Lord, obeying His commandments; seeking wisdom, which only comes from Him; we run the risk in one way or another to apostatize from our faith in Christ, since today apostasy is becoming greater and greater in different churches, regardless of their denomination.

Because due to lack of knowledge, the church perishes. Thus, we should not believe everything we see on social networks like Facebook, Instagram, Youtube, TV, our own phones, since there is a lot of deceit on these platforms and God commands us to examine everything to determine whether or not it comes from Him.

### Scripture 7: Jude 1-24

Greeting to the Called

<sup>1</sup> Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James,  
To those who are called, [a]sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:

<sup>2</sup> Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

Contend for the Faith

<sup>3</sup> Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. <sup>4</sup> For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord [b]God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Old and New Apostates

<sup>5</sup> But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. <sup>6</sup> And the angels who did not keep their <sup>[c]</sup>proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; <sup>7</sup> as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the <sup>[d]</sup>vengeance of eternal fire.

<sup>8</sup> Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of <sup>[e]</sup>dignitaries. <sup>9</sup> Yet Michael the archangel, in <sup>[f]</sup>contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" <sup>10</sup> But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves. <sup>11</sup> Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

#### Apostates Depraved and Doomed

<sup>12</sup> These are <sup>[a]</sup>spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving *only* themselves. *They are* clouds without water, carried <sup>[h]</sup>about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; <sup>13</sup> raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

<sup>14</sup> Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, <sup>15</sup> to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

#### Apostates Predicted

<sup>16</sup> These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling *words*, flattering people to gain advantage. <sup>17</sup> But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: <sup>18</sup> how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. <sup>19</sup> These are <sup>[i]</sup>sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.

Maintain Your Life with God

<sup>20</sup> But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, <sup>21</sup> keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

<sup>22</sup> And on some have compassion, <sup>[i]</sup>making a distinction; <sup>23</sup> but others save <sup>[k]</sup>with fear, pulling *them* out of the <sup>[i]</sup>fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

Glory to God

<sup>24</sup> Now to Him who is able to keep <sup>[m]</sup>you from stumbling,

And to present *you* faultless

Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

<sup>25</sup> To <sup>[n]</sup>God our Savior,

<sup>[o]</sup>Who alone is wise,

Be glory and majesty,

Dominion and <sup>[p]</sup>power,

Both now and forever.

Amen.

### Scripture 8: 1 John 4:1-6

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, <sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess <sup>[a]</sup>that Jesus <sup>[b]</sup>Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

<sup>4</sup> You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. <sup>5</sup> They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. <sup>6</sup> We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

The apostasy is going to get worse as the Second Coming of Christ gets closer. Christ will come for His church to separate it forever from all wickedness. The wheat will be kept for the Lord, and the tares will be cut and thrown into the eternal fire.



### Scripture 9: 2 Timothy 1:1-5

Paul, an apostle of [a] Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,

<sup>2</sup> To Timothy, a beloved son:

Grace, mercy, *and* peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Timothy's Faith and Heritage

<sup>3</sup> I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience,

as *my* forefathers *did*, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers

night and day, <sup>4</sup> greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that

I may be filled with joy, <sup>5</sup> when I call to remembrance the [b] genuine faith that

is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother

Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.

### Scripture 10: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

<sup>24</sup> Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; <sup>25</sup> but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. <sup>26</sup> But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. <sup>27</sup> So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' <sup>28</sup> He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' <sup>29</sup> But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. <sup>30</sup> Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." ' "

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

<sup>31</sup> Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, <sup>32</sup> which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."

The Parable of the Leaven

<sup>33</sup> Another parable He spoke to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three [a] measures of meal till it was all leavened."

Prophecy and the Parables

<sup>34</sup> All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them, <sup>35</sup> that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying:

“I will open My mouth in parables;

I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world.”

The Parable of the Tares Explained

<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.”

<sup>37</sup> He answered and said to them: “He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked *one*. <sup>39</sup> The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. <sup>40</sup> Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. <sup>41</sup> The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, <sup>42</sup> and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup> Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!