

Some Causes Of Apostasy

By Mike Riley

Throughout the New Testament, we read of individuals apostatizing from the faith, i.e., Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-10), Hymenaeus and Alexander (1 Timothy 1:19-20; 2 Timothy 4:14), Hymenaeus and Philetus (2 Timothy 2:17-18) and Demas (2 Timothy 4:10). These examples of apostasy should cause us to ask the following question: What precipitates apostasy?

1) Some leave the faith because of persecution. In one of His parables, Jesus spoke of the superficial person who endures for a while, but, “when tribulation and persucution arise because of the word, straightway he stumbles” (Matthew 13:21). The Christian is charged to be faithful, even if it means the forfeiture of his life (Revelation 2:10).

2) Others fall away because, not understanding the permissive will of God, i.e., his allowance of hardships as a consequence of humanity’s initial rebellion. They blame the Creator for those dire circumstances that sometimes invade their lives. As a result, they walk away from Providence. One of the great lessons of the book of Job is that God does not shield His people — even the best — from life’s tragedies. We must learn to trust our Maker — no matter what happens (Job 13:15).

3) Many Christian souls have become victims of false teaching. There are those who seem to think that “false teachers” do not exist. But the Savior warned of this danger (Matthew 7:15), and subsequent history reveals the devastation of believing error (cf. 1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Timothy 4:1-4). In our own day, we have observed many yielding to the influences of denominationalism. The expression, “the old paths,” (Jeremiah 6:16; cf. Jeremiah 18:15) has become a term subject to ridicule by a new clan of self-designated sophisticates whose ambition seems to center in fashioning a church after their personal desires.

4) Then there are those who simply ease away from fidelity, in an ever-so-gradual fashion. The writer of the book of Hebrews spoke of the distinct possibility of neglecting one’s salvation, hence, drifting away from the saved state (Hebrews 2:1-3). In our present environment of “busy” activities, it is not difficult to allow life’s distractions to “choke” out our passion for serving Christ (cf. Matthew 13:22), so that we subordinate the interests of the Lord’s kingdom to a multitude of trivial things (contra Matthew 6:33). For not a few, worldliness has an allurement that has drawn them to destruction (cf. 2 Timothy 4:10). To employ a metaphor more in line with biblical imagery, some members of the church are languishing in a pigpen (cf. Luke 15:15), and they no longer can even smell the stench!

Conclusion

The solution to apostasy in the church is found in [1 John 4:1-6. Every Christian needs to return to the measurement “standard” of God’s Word in order to correctly measure and test each “spirit’s” teaching. Only in this way will we keep the church “pure,” “a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish” (Ephesians 5:27; cf. Revelation 19:7-8).



STERLINGTON

Church of Christ



P.O. Box 82
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Sunday Morning Bible Classes - 9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening Classes - 6:00 PM.

2/6/22

Welcome Visitors

If you are seeking a church home, we hope that you will consider joining with us. We are a growing congregation, dedicated to worshiping in truth and spirit. Please fill out the Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate!

Elders:

Todd Chapman
Paul Simpson

Deacons:

Wayne Fowler David Garris
Billy Granger Buddy Hollis

Preacher:

Don Delukie

Those to Serve

Today

Announcements- Paul Simpson **Lord's Table-** Wayne Fowler
Opening prayer- Rick Cook **Closing Prayer-** Charles Fricke

February 13th

Announcements- Wayne Fowler **Lord's Table-** Paul Simpson
Opening prayer- Ronnie Hayes **Closing Prayer-** Luke Chapman

• Communion will utilize self-contained, sealed cups available in the foyer. **Please pick one up upon arrival.**

• Giving is available at a central collection container in the foyer or online at www.sterlingtonchurchofchrist.com.

Announcements

—**Question & Answer Series: Tonight** Don will be continuing the Question and Answer Series. Please submit your questions via the church email address SCOC2006@att.net or to Don.

—**Chili Lunch:** On Sunday February 13th we will be having a Chili Lunch after AM Services. There is a sign-up sheet in the kitchen. There will be no PM service that evening.



Please Pray For:

Jean Delukie, Randy Manning, Lori McDonald, Bo & Brock Dalrymple, Trey Havens, Amy Tinsley, Todd Chapman, Joanie Franklin, Connie Grenfell, Sherry Miller & Sonya, Susie McGough, Arthur & Sybil Binford, Ronnie Hayes, Ed Haltom, Karan Albritton, Billy Granger, David Reppond, Melannie White.

Bereaved: Family of Bryan Russell.

Continue to Pray For:

Shirley Goodwin, Bobby Barker, Trey Jennings, Debbie Walker, Virginia Royal, Renita Thomas, Elizabeth Hollis, Cyndi Powell, Heath Ray, Terrance Dawson, Ann Bolden, Jamie Ross, Charlie McDaniel Jr, Lewis Bedele, Adam White.



February Birthdays

1 - Jay Anthony McDaniel
8 - Ed Haltom
13 - Alex Townsend
15 - William (Ronnie) White
22 - Sybil Binford



*As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.
Psalm 17:15*



Robin Mattingly