

Welcome

GRACE & PEACE TO YOU FROM GOD THE FATHER AND OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

HAPPY SABBATH!



**TRUTH ON THE
WEB MINISTRIES**

WWW.TOTW.ORG

EPH 6:17 AND TAKE...THE SWORD OF THE
SPIRIT WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD

A CHURCH OF GOD IN WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS



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Keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ



Steps Toward

Apostasy

STEPS TO APOSTASY

Satan Never Sleeps Nor Leaves Christians Alone!

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

- **At war with the church!!** Revelation 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.
- **Battle!!** 2 Cor. 10:3-5 [Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God]
- **Never surrender!!** Eph. 6:10-13 [that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.]
- **More than conquerors!!** Romans 8:37-39 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

STEPS TO APOSTASY

WHAT IS APOSTASY?

- **Strong's Greek Dictionary 868. αφιστημι **aphistemi** *af-is'-tay-mee*** from 575 and 2476; to remove, i.e. (actively) instigate to revolt; usually (reflexively) to desist, desert, etc.:—depart, draw (fall) away, refrain, withdraw self.
- **1 Timothy 4:1** 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;
- **Strong's Greek Dictionary 646. αποστασια **apostasia** *ap-os-tas-ee'-ah*** feminine of the same as 647; defection from truth (properly, the state) ("apostasy"):—falling away, forsake.
- **2 Thessalonians 2:3** Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come **a falling away** first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

STEPS TO APOSTASY

WHAT IS APOSTASY?

- **Strong's Greek Dictionary 4098.** πίπτω **pipto** *pip'-to* peto pet'-o; (which occurs only as an alternate in certain tenses); probably akin to 4072 through the idea of alighting; **to fall** (literally or figuratively):—fail, fall (down), light on.
- **1 Corinthians 10:12** Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he **fall**.
- **Strong's Greek Dictionary 1706.** ἐμπίπτω **empipto** *em-pip'-to* from 1722 and 4098; **to fall on**, i.e. (literally) to be entrapped by, or (figuratively) be overwhelmed with:—fall among (into).
- **1 Timothy 3:6** Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he **fall into** the condemnation of the devil.
- **Strong's Greek Dictionary 3895.** παρὰ πίπτω **parapipto** *par-ap-ip'-to* from 3844 and 4098; **to fall aside**, i.e. (figuratively) **to apostatize**:—fall away. **USED ONLY IN HEBREWS 6:6**
- **Hebrews 6:6** If they **shall fall away**, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put *him* to an open shame.

STEPS TO APOSTASY

WHAT IS APOSTASY?

- **Strong's Greek Dictionary 4879. συναπαγω sunapago soon-ap-ag'-o** from 4862 and 520; to take off together, i.e. transport with (**seduce, passively, yield**):—carry (lead) away with, condescend.
- Sunapago is used once in this context of departing from faith and twice other places as (condescend and carried away) **2 Peter 3:17** Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know *these things* before, beware lest **ye also, being led away** with the error of the wicked, **fall from** your own steadfastness.
- **Ekippto appears twice in that same passage highlighted in pink.**
- **Strong's Greek Dictionary 1601. εκπιπτω ekpipto ek-pip'-to** from 1537 and 4098; to drop away; specially, be driven out of one's course; figuratively, to lose, become inefficient:—be cast, fail, fall (away, off), take none effect.
- **Galatians 5:4** Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are **fallen from** grace.

STEPS TO APOSTASY

Apostasy is Defection...

- **From the word of God**, Luke 8:13 They on the rock *are they*, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.
- **From the faith**, 1 Timothy 4:1a Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith,
- **From God**, Hebrews 3:12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

STEPS TO APOSTASY

History of the World is a History of Apostasy from God

- Adam, Eve / Cain (*Gen. 2:17; 3:10; 4:16*)
- Sons of God (*Gen. 4:26; 6:1-5*)
- Israel (*Exod. 32:8; Jer. 3:8, 22*)
- Jesus warned His disciples,
Matt. 10:22; 24:12-13; 1 Cor. 10:12; Rev. 2:4-5

STEPS TO APOSTASY

How Apostasy Develops

- **2 Timothy 4:1-5** I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

STEPS TO APOSTASY

How Apostasy Develops

- **Step 1: Wrong attitudes toward truth**, 2Tim 4:3a
 - “Will not endure sound doctrine” (*Psalms* 119:97, 140)
 - **Other messages** (2Tim4:2) **2 Timothy 4:2**
Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

STEPS TO APOSTASY

How Apostasy Develops

- **Step 1 cont'd: Complacency, compromise, convenience, and shame**
- **Hebrews 3:12-13** Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

STEPS TO APOSTASY

How Apostasy Develops

- **Step 1 cont'd: Prevention**
Seek, welcome, and walk in truth¹
- **1 Thessalonians 2:13** For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.
- **Colossians 2:6-7** As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

STEPS TO APOSTASY

How Apostasy Develops

- **Step 2: Comfortable with error, 2 Timothy 4:3b.** ...but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;
- **Own desires**
- **Mark 4:18-19** And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, **And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in,** choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful

STEPS TO APOSTASY

How Apostasy Develops

- **Step 2 cont'd: Own desires cont'd**
- **James 4:1-4** From whence *come* wars and fightings among you? *come they* not hence, *even* of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts. Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

STEPS TO APOSTASY

How Apostasy Develops

- **Step 2 cont'd: Own desires cont'd,**
- **1 John 2:15-17** Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

STEPS TO APOSTASY

How Apostasy Develops

- **Step 2 cont'd: Itching ears (lustful cravings)**
 - **Jeremiah 5:30-31** A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land; 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?

"I like to hear a man dwell much on the same essentials of Christianity. For we have but one God, and one Christ, and one faith to preach; and I will not preach another Gospel to please men with variety, as if our Savior and our Gospel were grown stale". -- R. Baxter

STEPS TO APOSTASY

How Apostasy Develops

- **Step 2 cont'd: Itching ears Cont'd (lustful cravings)**
- **1 Kings 22:5-8** And Jehoshaphat said unto the king of Israel, Inquire, I pray thee, at the word of the LORD to day. Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall I go against Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up; for the Lord shall deliver *it* into the hand of the king. **And Jehoshaphat said, *Is there* not here a prophet of the LORD besides, that we might inquire of him?** And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, *There is yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may inquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil.* And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so.
- **1 Kings 22:22** And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade *him*, and prevail also: go forth, and do so.

STEPS TO APOSTASY

How Apostasy Develops

- **Step 2 Cont'd:**

- **Tolerate false teachers,**
- **2 Corinthians 11:4** For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or *if* ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with *him*.

STEPS TO APOSTASY

How Apostasy Develops

- **Step 2 Cont'd:** **Causes us to be lost,**
Ephesians 5:8-13 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.

STEPS TO APOSTASY

How Apostasy Develops

- **Step 2 Cont'd:** **Causes us to be lost**
- **2 John 9-11** Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. **If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into *your* house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds**

STEPS TO APOSTASY

How Apostasy Develops

- **Step 2 Cont'd: Prevention** Humbly contend for the faith
- **Jude 3** Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should **earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.**
- **James 4:7-10** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and *your* joy to heaviness. **Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.**

STEPS TO APOSTASY

How Apostasy Develops

- **Step 3: Abandon truth and replace with error,**
2 Timothy 4:4 And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

STEPS TO APOSTASY

How Apostasy Develops

- **Step 3 Cont'd:** How do we react to God's word?
- **Ignore**, Psalm 32:3 When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.
- **Argue**, Acts 5:39 But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.
- **Acts 26:14** And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? ***it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.***

STEPS TO APOSTASY

How Apostasy Develops

- **Step 3 Cont'd:** How do we react to God's word?
- **Falsely accuse,** Galatians 4:16 Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?
- **2 Corinthians 12:15** And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.
- **Too hard,** John 6:60 Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard *this*, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? John 6:66 From that *time* many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

STEPS TO APOSTASY

How Apostasy Develops

- **Step 3 Cont'd:** Abandon truth and replace with error, “*Be turned aside to fables*” **Strong's Greek Dictionary 1624.** **εκτρεπω ektrepo ek-trep'-o** from 1537 and the base of 5157; to deflect, i.e. turn away (literally or figuratively):—avoid, turn (aside, out of the way).
- Dislocated from one's proper place
- **Colossians 2:18-19** Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

STEPS TO APOSTASY

How Apostasy Develops

- **Step 3 Cont'd:** Abandon truth and replace with error, “*Be turned aside to fables*”
- Fables: Narratives, fiction Strong's Greek Dictionary 3454. μυθος *moo'-thos* perhaps from the same as 3453 (through the idea of tuition); a tale, i.e. fiction ("myth"):—fable.
- Profane, idle babblings,
- **1 Timothy 6:20-21** O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding **profane and vain babblings**, and oppositions of science falsely so called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace *be* with thee. Amen. The first to Timothy was written from Laodicea, which is the chiefest city of Phrygia Pacatiana.

STEPS TO APOSTASY

How Apostasy Develops

- **Step 3 Cont'd:**
- Gospel is not sophistry and fables
- **2 Peter 1:16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables,** when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

STEPS TO APOSTASY

How Apostasy Develops

- **Step 3 Cont'd:** Warnings
- **1 Timothy 1:4** Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: *so do*.
- **1 Timothy 4:7** But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself *rather* unto godliness.
- **2 Timothy 4:4** And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.
- **Titus 1:14** Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.

STEPS TO APOSTASY

How Apostasy Develops

- **Step 3 Cont'd:** Prevention Be watchful, endure, and work
- **2 Timothy 4:5** But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. **Romans 10:17** So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
- **John 8:31-32** Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.
- **1 John 2:1** My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

STEPS TO APOSTASY

Ephesians 4:14-15 That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:

- **Remedy:** Repent and do the first works,
- **Revelation 2:4-5** Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.
- **Matthew 6:33** But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Lest hardening occurs and repentance

STEPS TO APOSTASY

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- Lest hardening occurs and repentance is impossible
- **1 Timothy 4:2** Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;
- **Hebrews 3:12** Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. **13** But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; **lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.**
- **Hebrews 6:4-6** **For it is impossible** for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, **If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance;** seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put *him* to an open shame.

STEPS TO APOSTASY

Ephesians 4:14-15 That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:

- Otherwise, urgency to be right with God will be replaced with procrastination, complacency, and spiritual death
- **Acts 8:20-24** But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and *in* the bond of iniquity. Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.

STEPS TO APOSTASY

How then should we live?

- Colossians 3: ¹Since you have been raised to new life with **Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven**, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. ²**Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.** ³For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴And when Christ, who is your ^[a] life, is revealed to the whole world, **you will share in all his glory.**
- ⁵**So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.** ⁶Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming.

STEPS TO APOSTASY

How then should we live?

- Colossians 3: ⁷ You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. ⁸ **But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language.** ⁹ **Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds.** ¹⁰ **Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.** ¹¹ In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, ^[c] circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, ^[d] slave, or free. **Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.**
- ¹² **Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.**

STEPS TO APOSTASY

How then should we live?

- Colossians 3: ¹³ Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.
- ¹⁶ Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

**THANK
YOU!**



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EPH 6:17 AND TAKE...THE SWORD OF THE
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**CHURCH OF GOD
AT WOODSTOCK**

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Keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ

**Have a great
REST of the
SABBATH!**

Jude 21 **Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for
the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.**