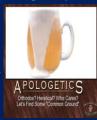
# THE LAST DAYS APOSTASY OF THE CHURCH

Dr. Andy Woods

#### Slide 2

#### Definition of Apostasy

- apos = away from
- *histēmi* = to stand
- Apostasy = to stand away from
- Apostasy = a departure from known (or previously embraced) truth



#### Slide 3

#### Ten Characteristics of Apostasy

- 1) Sign of the last days
- 2) A massive NT subject
- 3) Impacts every major doctrine
- 4) Primarily internal
- 5) Knows no limits




#### Ten Characteristics of Apostasy



- 6) Can happen quickly
- 7) Satanically energized
- 8) Destructive
- Makes life difficult for the man of God
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#### Slide 5

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#### Slide 6

#### Apostasy is a Sign of the Last Days

- 2 Tim 3:1-"But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come."
- 2 Tim 3:13-"But evil men and imposters will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived" (Italics mine).




# MESSENGERS OF THE KINGDOM

- John the Baptist
  - ◆ Matt. 3:2
- Jesus Christ
- ◆ Matt. 4:17
- 12 Apostles
- ◆ Matt. 10:5, 7

   Seventy
  - ◆ Luke 10:1, 9

#### Slide 8

#### Matthew 13 Parables

- Sower (13:1-9, 18-23)
- Wheat and tares (13:24-30, 36-43)
- Mustard seed (13:31-32)
- Leaven (13:33)
- Earthen treasure (13:44)
- Pearl of great price (13:45-46)
- Dragnet (13:47-50)
- Householder (13:51-52)

#### Slide 9

#### Matthew 13 Parables

The Sower:

Preaching of the gospel with various results




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#### Matthew 13 Parables

Wheat & Tares:

Difficult to distinguish between the saved and the unsaved within professing Christendom



#### Slide 11

#### Matthew 13 Parables

The Mustard Seed:



Christendom will experience great numerical and geographical expansion from a humble beginning

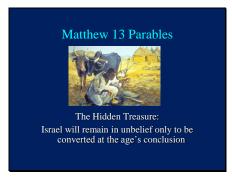
#### Slide 12

#### Matthew 13 Parables

Yeast in the Dough:



Christendom will experience internal corruption throughout the age



#### Matthew 13 Parables



The Pearl of Great Price:
The Lord will gain a treasure from among the Gentiles

Slide 15

#### Matthew 13 Parables



The Dragnet:
The coexistence of the righteous and the wicked only to be separated at the age's conclusion

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#### Matthew 13 Parables



The Householder: NT truths must be considered alongside OT revelation to comprehend the totality of God's kingdom agenda

#### Slide 17

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#### Slide 18

#### Apostasy is A Massive NT Subject

- Gospels (Matt 13)
- Early church (Acts 20:29-31)
- Pauline letters (Rom 16:17-18; Gal 1:6-9; 2 Cor 11:1-15; Philip 3:2, 18-19; Col 2:8; 1 Tim 4; 2 Tim 3-4; Titus 1:10)
- General letters (Heb 2:1-4; 2 Pet 2-3; Jude; 1 John 4:1-6)
   Revelation (2-3)






#### Slide 20

#### Ten Characteristics of Apostasy

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#### Slide 21

#### Apostasy Impacts Every Major Doctrine

- The faith (1 Tim 4:1)
- God (Jude 4)
- Christ and His death (2 Pet 2:1
- Christ's return (2 Pet 3:3-4)
- Sound doctrine (2 Tim 4:3-4
- Resurrection (2 Tim 2:16-1
- God as creator (2 Pet 3:5



ATONEMENT

All we have are "theories" anywa So why not make a toy out of it.

#### Ten Characteristics of Apostasy

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#### Slide 23



#### Slide 24

#### Apostasy is Internal

Acts 20:29-31
"For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock." Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears." (Italics added).




#### Apostasy is Internal

Jude 4. "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 licentiousness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ" (Italies added).



#### Slide 26

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#### Slide 27

#### Apostasy Knows No Limits

Aaron (Exod 32:1-10)

Jonathan (Judges 18:30)

Ephesus (Rev 2:4-5)



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#### **Apostasy Knows No Limits**

"Let every student be plainly instructed and earnestly pressed to consider well the main end of his life and studies is to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life (John 17:3) and therefore to lay Christ in the bottom as the only foundation of all sound knowledge and learning. And seeing the Lord only giveth wisdom, let everyone seriously set himself by prayer in secret to seek it of Him (Prov. 2, 3). Everyone shall exercise himself in reading the Scriptures twice a day that he shall be ready to give such an account of his proficiency therein."

Rules of Harvard in 1636; quoted in David Barton, Original Intent, 8

#### Slide 30




#### 

- 6) Can happen quickly7) Satanically energized
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- Makes life difficult for the man of God
- 10) Impacts those who have not taken preventive measures

#### Slide 32

#### Apostasy Can Happen Quickly

Gal 1:6-"I *marvel* that you are turning away *so soon* from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel."

Exod 32:8-"They have turned aside *quickly* out of the way which I have commanded them" (Italics mine; see also Exod 24:18).



#### Slide 33




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#### Slide 35



#### Slide 36

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#### Apostasy is Satanically Energized

2 Cor 11:3- "But I fear, lest somehow, as the <u>serpent</u> deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted by from the simplicity that is in Christ."

1 Tim 4:1-"Now the Spirit expressly says that in the latter times some will depart from the faith giving heed to decetiving spirits and doctrines of demons" (Italics mine)



#### Slide 38

#### Satan Uses Believers



- Peter-Matt. 16:21-23
- Ananias & Sapphira-Acts 5:3-4, 11
- Ephesians-Ephes. 4:26-27



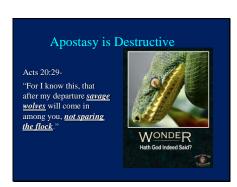
#### Slide 39

#### Purposes of the Local Church

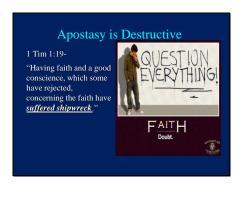
- Glorify God (Eph 3:21)
- Edify the saints (Eph 4:11-16)
- Fulfill the Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20)

# Ten Characteristics of Apostasy 6) Can happen quickly 7) Satanically energized 8) Destructive 9) Makes life difficult for the man of God 10) Impacts those who have not taken preventive measures

#### Slide 41

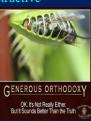


#### Slide 42




#### Apostasy is Destructive

2 Tim 2:17-18- "and their talk will spread <u>like</u> <u>gangrene</u>. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, <sup>18</sup> men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they <u>upset</u> <u>the faith of some</u>." (Italics mine).



#### Slide 44

#### Ten Characteristics of Apostasy



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#### Slide 45

# Apostasy Makes Life Difficult for the Man of God



"But evil men and imposters will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived."



# sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables."

#### Slide 47

#### 2 Tim 3:2-4

- Lovers of self (vs. 2)
  - Lovers of \$
     Boastful
- Boastin
   Arrogant
   Blasphemers
   Disobedient to parents
   Unthankful
   Unloving
   Unloving

- Unholy
   Unforgiving

- - Brutal Haters of good Treacherous

  - Reckless Conceited
- Rather than lovers of God (vs. 4)

#### Slide 48

#### "Perilous" for Who?

2 Tim 3:1-"But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come" (Italics mine).

#### **Apostasy Makes Life Difficult**

2 Tim 4:3-5- "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; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions" (Italics added)

#### Slide 50

# Apostasy Makes Life Difficult for the Man of God

2 Tim 3:12-13- "Yes, and all who desire to live a Godly life in Christ Jesus <u>will suffer</u> <u>persecution</u>. But evil men and imposters will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived" (Italics added).

#### Slide 51

#### Ten Characteristics of Apostasy



- 6) Can happen quickly
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- 10) Impacts those who have not taken preventive measures

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# Apostasy Impacts Those Who Have Not Taken Preventive Measures Study God's Word (2 Tim 2:15; 3:17) "Test all things" (1 Thess 5:21) Renew your mind (Rom 12:2) "Put on the whole armor of God" (Eph 6:11) "Contend earnestly for the faith" (Jude 3)

Conclusion

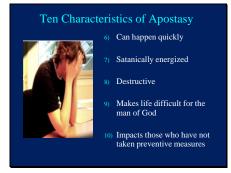
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Slide 53

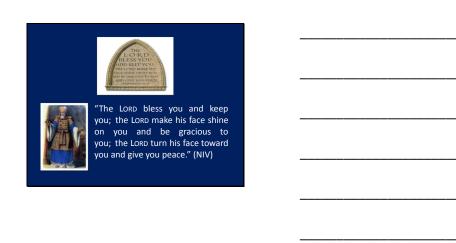
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Slide 56



### 1

2 Tim. 4:6-For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

Matt. 13:33-He spoke another parable to them, "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three [s] pecks of flour until it was all leavened."

- 1 Tim. 4:1-But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will <sup>[a]</sup>fall away from **the faith**, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons.
- Jude 4-For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand <sup>[a]</sup>marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and <u>deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ</u>.
- 2 Peter 2:1-But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even <u>denying the Master who</u> <u>bought them</u>, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.
- 2 Peter 3:3-4-Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with *their* mocking, following after their own lusts, <sup>4</sup> and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."
- 2 Tim. 4:3-4- For the time will come when **they will not endure sound doctrine**; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, <sup>4</sup> and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.
- 2 Tim. 2:16-18-But avoid worldly *and* empty chatter, for <sup>[e]</sup>it will lead to further ungodliness, <sup>17</sup> and their <sup>[f]</sup>talk will spread like <sup>[g]</sup>gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus,

<sup>18</sup> men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the **resurrection has already taken place**, and they upset the faith of some.

2 Peter 3:5-For this <u>they willfully forget: that by the word of</u>
God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of
water and in the water (NKJV)

## <u>5</u>

Judges 18:30-The sons of Dan set up for themselves the graven image; and **Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of**[p] Manasseh, he and his sons were priests to the tribe of the Danites until the day of the captivity of the land.

Rev. 2:4-5-ut I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. <sup>5</sup> Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the <sup>[d]</sup>deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent.

## <u>7</u>

Matt. 16:21-23-From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling

block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

Acts 5:3-Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that <u>Satan has so</u> <u>filled your heart</u> that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?

Acts 5:11-Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

Eph. 4:26-27-BE ANGRY, AND *yet* DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup> and **do not give the devil** <sup>[s]</sup>an **opportunity**.

# <u>10</u>

2 Tim. 2:15-Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

2 Tim. 3:17- so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

1 Thess. 5:21- But **examine everything** *carefully*; hold fast to that which is good

Rom. 12:2-And do not be conformed to this <sup>[c]</sup>world, but <u>be</u> <u>transformed by the renewing of your mind</u>, so that you may <sup>[d]</sup>prove what the will of God is, that which is good and <sup>[e]</sup>acceptable and perfect.

Eph. 6:11- **Put on the full armor of God**, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

Jude 3-Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you **contend earnestly for the faith** which was once for all handed down to the <sup>[a]</sup>saints.

Num. 6:24-26-""The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."