

Apostasy

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For Discussion: Be On Guard: The End Times Church Is One Inundated With Apostasy

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Be On Guard: The End Times Church Is One Inundated With Apostasy

The picture of the Church in the end times that is portrayed in the Bible is not a very pretty one. For one thing, the Bible prophecies that the Church will be racked by apostasy. Jesus prophesied that “*many will fall away*” (Matt. 24:10). <https://harbingersdaily.com/be-on-guard-the-end-times-church-is-one-inundated-with-apostasy/>

The Cult of False Prophets and The Church’s Islamization

In his provocative new book, Jakob Wiren, a confidant of the controversial Archbishop Antje Jackelen, boldly asserts that the Catholic Church should recognize Mohammed as a prophet.

<https://rairfoundation.com/cult-false-prophets-churchs-islamization/>

Archbishop Viganò: Bergoglio’s ‘blessings’ for homosexual couples show he is a ‘servant of Satan’

Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò says the Vatican’s newly approved blessings for homosexual ‘couples’ show that the ‘Bergoglian hierarchy’ are ‘servants of Satan and his most zealous allies.’

https://www.lifesitenews.com/opinion/abp-vigano-bergoglios-approval-of-blessings-for-homosexual-couples-shows-he-is-a-servant-of-satan/?utm_source=featured-news&utm_campaign=usa

What is the source of apostasy in the church?

2 Timothy 3:5 — *Men will hold to form of religion but will deny its power.*

The fulfillment of this prophecy began in the 1920’s with the ascendancy of the German School of Higher Criticism. This idea quickly swept American seminaries advocating that the Bible should be approached like any other piece of literature — with a critical eye.

- The concepts of the special inspiration and inerrancy of the Bible were rejected.
- The Bible came to be viewed as Man’s search for God rather than God’s revelation to Man.

- As a human product, it was considered to be full of myth, legend, and superstition.

What heretical view result from not recognizing the Bible as God’s Word?

Christian theologians and ministers laughed about the virgin birth of Jesus, discounting His miracles, casting doubt on His resurrection, and denying His return.

- Universalism denying the exclusivity of Christ

What is a cult?

A religious group that denies one or more of the fundamentals of biblical truth. The two most common teachings of Christian cults are that Jesus was not God and that salvation is not by faith alone.

- Cults add to the Word of God, Subtract from the Person of Christ, Multiply the value of works, Divide the body of Christ

Do we have more cults today than in the past?

1 Timothy 4:1 – *The Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons*

Yes...

- the 19th Century saw the rise of Mormonism and its demonic teaching that Jesus is the brother of Lucifer, one of thousands of Gods created by the super god, Adam, an exalted man.
- The Jehovah’s Witnesses were next on the scene with their perverted teaching that Jesus is the Archangel Michael.
- cultic doctrine has entered the church advocating the ancient Shamanistic practice of visualization as the key to prayer.
- Others are teaching one of Satan’s oldest lies — that those who have been born again are “little gods.”

Why are people today more susceptible to cultic doctrines?

Due in part to the erroneous view of the Bible, fewer people actually have a biblical worldview and thus people do not know why they believe what they profess to believe. This makes it harder to discern truth from error.

Ephesians 4:14 – *that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting*

Besides a flawed view of the Bible what else has contributed to Christians confusing truth and error?

They embrace human reasoning over God's revelation...

2 Timothy 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 and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.*

There are many popular myths in Christendom today that either rob people of the power of their faith or else deceive them into practicing a misplaced faith.

What myths are common in the church today?

Among Charismatics the doctrinal abuses have been epidemic, including the following myths:

- Faith is to be placed in your faith and not in God (word of faith).
- It is always God's will to heal.
- The believer has the authority of Jesus.
- It is God's desire that believers be financially prosperous.
- Believers can have what they want through positive confession... name it and claim it
- Preterism; Amillennialism
- Replacement Theology
- Theistic evolution

Is the church influencing the culture or is the culture influencing the church today?

Worldliness is a characteristic of the church today. The worldly church is prophesied in Revelation 3:14-22, where the church at Laodicea is described.

- The seven churches depicted in Revelation 2 and 3 represent seven periods of church history.

What characterizes the Laodicean Church (Revelation 3:14-22)?

The Church is apathetic, neither hot nor cold. The apathy is a product of the Church's adoption of a worldly attitude expressed in the words, *"I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing."* Jesus responds with a

scathing rebuke: *"You do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked."*

- The Laodicean Church thought they were spiritually healthy when they were really spiritually poor.

What kind of worldliness have we seen in churches?

- Cultural Christians with no personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- schizophrenic Christians who walk with one foot in the Church and the other in the world
- Prosperity Gospel – greedy Christians in pursuit of health, wealth, and power
- Gospel light – seeker sensitive
- The Cross and its message of sacrifice is as offensive to them as it is to the world.

How can we guard against getting drawn into the apostasy of our day?

Be aware and be on guard spiritually. Everything must be tested by the Word. If a doctrine fails the test of Scripture, it is to be rejected, regardless of who is teaching it.

- Our trust is to be placed in the Word and not in men.

What applications do we see from this discussion?

- Hold to the authority of the inerrant Word of God; it eclipses human reasoning all the time.
- Know the characteristics of a cult and run away.
- Reject unbiblical religious myths
- Resist worldliness