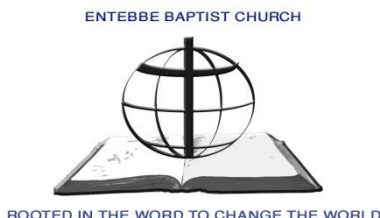


Our Vision: To be a growing, loving, caring and holistic church based on the word of God.



Our Mission: To be rooted in the Word to change the World

Bible Study August 08 - 22 August 2021

Theme of the year: "Victory only through Faith and Obedience"

Theme: APOSTASY- Falling away from the true faith.

Yes, **apostasy** happens. Sometimes the catalyst is flagrant sin. The pain of conviction and repentance is refused, and the only alternative to it is wholesale rejection of Christ. But sometimes the catalyst is a thorn growing quietly in the heart, an indifference to the way of the Cross, a drifting that is not reversed by the knowledge of biblical warnings. — **Sinclair Ferguson**—

Purpose: To understand biblical teaching on apostasy, how it happens, and how to guard ourselves against it.

Definition—"APOSTASY", *noun* [Greek. defection, to depart.] is an abandonment of what one professed; a total desertion, or departure from one's faith.¹

1. Biblical timeline shows that we are in the last days and in I Timothy 4:1, the scripture is clearly written that **many will fall away**, give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines [teachings] of devils [translated as demons].
 - a. What is the cause of apostasy-[falling away from the true faith] according to I Timothy 4:1-5, Hebrews 3:12, II Peter 3:17, Judges 2:17, Matthew 24:9-10?
 - i. How does idolatry cause apostasy? See Deuteronomy 11:16,
 - b. How do you think seducing spirits and teaching of demons cause people to fall away from the true faith? See II Timothy 4:2-5, Revelation 2:14-15.
 - c. Why is scripture or word of God very important when it comes to apostasy? See II Timothy 3:16, Psalm 119:9, 11 & 160, John 17:17, I John 2:14, Hebrews 4:12.
2. What kind of doctrine(s) do these scriptures highlight? Hebrews 6:1, II John 1:9, Titus 2:10, I Timothy 6:1&3, Acts 13:12, John 7:16, then Matthew 6:12, Colossians 2:22, Hebrews 13:9, Revelation 12:14-15.
 - i. Why is it dangerous to live by the *doctrines of men*²? Read Matthew 7:21-23, I Timothy 4:3, Matthew 15:9, II Timothy 3:13-15.
 - ii. What is sound doctrine according to these scriptures? I Timothy 6:3-4, Titus 2:7-8.
3. What is Apostle Paul's warning to Timothy in I Timothy 1: 18-20?
 - a. What is Apostle Paul saying in II Timothy 4:3-4?
 - b. In what ways do you think we turn our ears away from God's word of truth? See also Zechariah 7:12, Jeremiah 6:10, Psalm 50:17, Galatians 6:8.
4. Idolatry as a form apostasy in Deuteronomy 13:6-11.

¹ Definition of **apostasy** by online King James Bible Dictionary [August, 2021].

² Doctrine(s) of men--Basing on what man says than what God says in His word.

- a. What should be our response to practices or suggestions that lead to apostasy in view of the text above?
 - b. Why should we be very careful not to lead others in apostasy? See Deuteronomy 13:11.
5. A case study of Solomon in I Kings 11:1-15
- a. What turned Solomon's heart away from the Lord?
 - i. What things do people love today so much that can turn their hearts away from God?
 - b. What are the things Solomon did, that further turned his heart away from the Lord in this text?
 - c. How does disobedience contribute to apostasy in our lives?
 - d. What were the consequences of Solomon's heart being turned away from God?
6. What do you think was meant by the author "*these have no root*" in Luke 8:13?
- a. What are you doing to make sure that the word of God takes root in your life so that when tempted you do not fall.
7. What point is Apostle Paul trying to emphasize in Galatians 1:8-9?
8. Why should believers be cautious about false prophets? See Matthew 24:11, Mark 13:22,
- a. Do you think that we already have prophets who do signs and wonders to lead believers astray?
 - b. How can believers identify false prophets before they are lead away from the true faith? see I John 4:1, Mark 13:23
9. Why do we need to be careful not to fall away from the true faith? See Hebrews 6:4-8?
- a. What hint is shared in Hebrews 6:4-8 on how to deal with falling away from the true faith?
10. How did God want the Israelites to respond in case of apostasy? See Hosea 14:1
- a. What was God going to do respond? See Hosea 14:4?
 - b. How does this text encourage us in case we fall away from God? See also Jude 1:24-25
11. John 6:66 states that at some point some disciples of Jesus decided to walk away from Him.
- a. What do you think today is causing believers to walk away from Christ after they have even walked with Him awhile?
12. How can the church leaders today apply Apostle Paul counsel in Acts 20:28-31?
13. What lessons have you learned that can guard you against personal apostasy? Kindly note them down and purpose to apply them in your life.

A Prayer: Lord, deliver us and heal us from any kind of falling away from the true faith. Restore us Lord once again to our first love for You. Thank you for your grace and mercies that when we're weak in faith You make us strong. Deliver us from all stubbornness, hardening of our hearts, and preserve us in your righteousness. **Amen**

Closing Quote: Apostasy is not an unintentional departure or personal struggle with doubt. It is deliberately abandoning the truth for erroneous teaching. "The faith" refers specifically to the body of Christian doctrine, not the act of believing. Some will depart from "the faith which was once delivered unto the saints". People who understand and outwardly affirm Christian doctrine but do not have a heart for God are prime candidates for being seduced by demons away from the faith. **-John MacArthur-**

Scripture Memorization:

Hosea 14:4

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