

Some Causes Of Apostasy

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. From Nashville to Abilene to Malibu, defection from the ancient faith is apparent. 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, much like the silly fly in Mary Howitt’s famous poem, The Spider And The Fly, who, with flattery, was charmed into the spider’s deadly web (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).

MARCH-

BIRTHDAYS: 3-Brandon Peevyhouse, 3-Ty De Priest, 5-Barbara Holt, 5-Scott Long, 11-John Henry Long, 16-Dustin Bryant, 20-Martha Nell Reed, 21-Steve Foster, 23-Callie Bryant, 23- Olivia Peevyhouse, 28-Derek Box, 30- Jacob Keen

ANNIVERSARIES: 24-Gaylon & Linda Sydnor, 26-Nick & Mandy Bryant

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

We must hear the word of God. Romans 10:17

We must believe the word of God. Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16; Mark 16:15-16

We must repent of our sins. Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38

We must confess Christ before men. Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

We must be immersed for the remission of our sins. Acts 2:38; 22:16; I Peter 3:21

We must live faithfully until death. Revelation 2:10; Romans 12:1-2

•THOSE TO SERVE – March LIST IN FOYER

(Please check for your assignment and PLEASE contact one of the Deacons if you know you are going to be absent on that date).

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Blake (Sara Beth) Mayfield, and proud parents, Mark & Sharon Wright. Blake and Sara Beth's wedding was yesterday at the Juno Church of Christ in Lexington. Our prayers for this Christian couple is to have a long, happy and Godly life

DATES TO REMEMBER:

April 7th Wedding Brunch/ Reception for Nick and Bethany Aden Davenport.

March 20th: Mrs. Martha Nells' birthday. 97 years young! Let's fill her room with cards!

SHUT-INS /NURSING HOME: Margaret Barlowe, Van Ayer Manor, 640 Hannings Lane, Martin 38327

Martha Nell Reed, Lakeside Retirement Community, 390 Dr. Smith Lane, McKenzie 38201

Elvy Sauls Jr., Life Care of Bruceton, 105 Rowland Ave., Bruceton 38317

PRAYER LIST Wanda Smith had surgery and is doing well; Ella Rogers test results were good, Nikki Bell, (friend of Daniel's), Kaffie Green, Sybil Hamilton, Charlie Wachsmuth, Jimmy McClain, Tom Aden, Christina Cannon, Margaret Barlowe, Doris Haskell, Mary Bryant, Tim Rogers, Harold Hutcherson, Charles Foster, Penny Warren, Vicki Murphy (Lexington), Mike Lane, Ruth Bennett

CANCER: Denise Clemmer, Kenneth Foster, Joe Gordon, Linda Cherry; Jackie Smith, Keith Inman. Lynn Harrison, Barry Barber, Carmen Bobbitt McCain, Sue Price; Deborah Browning; Rhyann Loos; Hattie Brinkley Berry, Christine Johnson, Jimmy Greene, Lalanie Murphy

Trezevant church of Christ, 114 Church St., Trezevant, TN 38258, 731-669-3448, Tim Rogers, Minister

Services:

Sunday Morning

Bible Study: 9:00 a.m.

Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Evening: 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.

Elders:

Dale Aden Cell: 731-415-1161

David Bryant Cell: 731-418-1311 Home: 731-669-9648 david.bryant25@gmail.com

Steve Foster Cell: 731-225-4395

Deacons:

David Brasher Cell: 731-415-0636

Greg McClain Cell: 731-694-0766

Mark Wright Cell: 731-571- 5606

Youth Coordinatoator: Nick Bryant 694-2983

MISSIONS: Partners in Africa; West TN Childrens Home

MARCH 2018

DATES	WEEK OF MAR. 4	WEEK OF MAR.11	WEEK OF MAR.18	WEEK OF MAR.25	
PREPARE LORD'S SUPPER	DAVID AND PAM BRYANT	DAVID AND PAM BRYANT	DAVID AND PAM BRYANT	DAVID AND PAM BRYANT	
GREET	STEVE AND RITA FOSTER	STEVE AND RITA FOSTER	STEVE AND RITA FOSTER	STEVE AND RITA FOSTER	
POWERPOINT	JOSHUA BRASHER	JOSHUA BRASHER	JOSHUA BRASHER	JOSHUA BRASHER	
ANNOUNCEMENTS	GREG MC CLAIN	GREG MC CLAIN	GREG MC CLAIN	GREG MC CLAIN	
OPENING PRAYER SUNDAY A.M.	DALE BALLENTINE	CHARLIE WACHSMUTH	NICK BRYANT	DALE ADEN	
LEAD SINGING SUNDAY A.M.	KEITH PEEVYHOUSE	KEITH PEEVYHOUSE	KEITH PEEVYHOUSE	KEITH PEEVYHOUSE	
PRESIDE LORD'S SUPPER	SHERRILL SMITH	SHERRILL SMITH	SHERRILL SMITH	SHERRILL SMITH	
PRESIDE LORD'S SUPPER	TERRY HALL	TERRY HALL	TERRY HALL	TERRY HALL	
SERVE LORD'S SUPPER	JACK LAWRENCE DANIEL ROGERS NORRIS DEPREIST MONTE MORRIS	JACK LAWRENCE DANIEL ROGERS NORRIS DEPREIST MONTE MORRIS	JACK LAWRENCE DANIEL ROGERS NORRIS DEPREIST MONTE MORRIS	JACK LAWRENCE DANIEL ROGERS NORRIS DEPREIST MONTE MORRIS	
SCRIPTURE READING SUNDAY A.M.	BARRY MOORE	NOAH BRASHER	MARK WRIGHT	DYLAN HOLT	
CLOSING PRAYER SUNDAY A.M.	STEVE FOSTER	JACOB KEEN	JACOB PEEVYHOUSE	NOAH BRASHER	
OPENING PRAYER SUNDAY P.M.	MARK WRIGHT	TIM ROGERS	CHARLES WACHSMUTH	DAVID BRYANT	
LEAD SINGING SUNDAY P.M.	JACOB PEEVYHOUSE	JACOB PEEVYHOUSE	JACOB PEEVYHOUSE	JACOB PEEVYHOUSE	
SCRIPTURE READING SUNDAY P.M.	DREW KELLEY	STEVE FOSTER	NOAH BRASHER	NICK BRYANT	
CLOSING PRAYER SUNDAY P.M.	MONTE PAUL MORRIS	JOSHUA BRASHER	NICK BRYANT	DAVID BRASHER	
OPENING PRAYER WEDNESDAY	MAR. 7 NICK BRYANT	MAR. 14 TIM ROGERS	MAR. 21 SHERRILL SMITH	MAR. 28 STEVE FOSTER	
LEAD SINGING WEDNESDAY	NICK BRYANT	NICK BRYANT	NICK BRYANT	NICK BRYANT	
DEVOTIONAL WEDNESDAY	TIM ROGERS	DALE BALLENTINE	DALE ADEN	JACOB PEEVYHOUSE	
CLOSING PRAYER WEDNESDAY	JACOB KEEN	JOSHUA BRASHER	NOAH BRASHER	DANIEL ROGERS	