

# **WHICH GROUP?**

## **THE APOSTASY**



**SUMMARY:** The Apostasy was already happening in the first century, and God's judgments were already happening in the first century. Would we in our well educated, Bible literate status expect a more lenient judgment?

### 1. CHRIST APPROVED THE FIRST CENTURY CHURCH

On the day of Pentecost 50 days after Christ's resurrection, the apostles established Christ's church (kingdom) on earth (Acts 2). The remainder of the New Testament after Acts 2 describes the church which Christ approved in the first century.

We know that the church of the first century was pleasing to Christ, and therefore a church established today which is similar to the first century church will also be pleasing to Christ. We can question whether a church today which chooses for itself teachings it prefers rather than submitting to simple New Testament truths will be pleasing to Christ.

### 2. THE NEW TESTAMENT PREDICTS APOSTATE CHURCHES AND CHRISTIANS

- a. Acts 20:28-32 wolves will come in among you
- b. I Timothy 4:1-3 Pay attention to deceitful spirits, hypocrisy of liars, forbid marriage, abstain from foods, (Celibacy of priests, fish on Friday)
- c. II Timothy 4:1-4 Accumulate teachers in accordance with their own desires, will turn aside to myths (A myth is a popular belief or tradition which has grown up around someone or something. I.e. the assumption of Mary's body into heaven was earliest recorded in A.D. 451 in the Greek Orthodox Church and in A.D. 600 in the Roman Catholic Church. It became official Roman Catholic doctrine in A.D. 1950, see World Book)
- d. II Peter 2:1-3 False teachers
- e. See also: Gal. 1:6-8, II Thes. 2:3-12, & II Tim. 3:1-9.

### 3. APOSTASIES BEGINNING IN THE FIRST CENTURY

- a. I Cor. 1:10-15 Men calling themselves after other men's names
- b. I Cor. 5:1-3 Tolerating immorality in the church
- c. I Cor. 11:18-29 Abuse of the Lord's Supper
- d. I Cor. 15:12-19 Teaching that Christ was not resurrected
- e. Gal. 5:4 Falling from grace for they were trying to bring God's old law into the new church
- f. Heb. 10:25 Forsaking of the assembly
- g. Col. 2:18 Delighting in self abasement and worship of angels
- h. Rev. 2:2-5 Left first love, although cannot endure evil men

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- i. Rev 2:14 Following Balak, 2:20 Tolerating the "prophetess" Jezebel
- j. Rev. 3:2 Spiritually dead although having a reputation for being alive, Rev. 3:16 Lukewarm

#### 4. THE BIBLE INDICATED JUDGMENT ON CONGREGATIONS IN THE FIRST CENTURY

Each of the following judgments happened even in the lifetime of the Apostles.

- A. Gal. 1:8 NASB "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!"
- B. Revelation 3:16 NASB "So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth."
- C. Revelation 2:5 NASB "Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent."
- D. Revelation 22:18-19 NASB "I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will *take away his part* from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book."

We can find no cases in which God made an instruction, people ignored it, and God was pleased. Can you expect anything less when we are literate, well informed, and have multiple copies of God's Bible in our hands?