

Wednesday Bible Study – August 27, 2014

"Apostasy Removes Rewards" – (Revelation 3:11)

Review the diagram of ["God's Family Circle"](#)

Read [Revelation 3:7-13](#).

Read Revelation 3:11 – *"I am coming quickly; hold what you have in order that no one takes your crown."*

There will be a time when we receive a *unique identification* with the Lord Jesus Christ – the *escutcheon* – we are called *Christians*, a title that bears our Lord's name. We will see this in more detail next week in verse 12.

Hold what you have means hold as precious what you have (those things you have learned over the years), so that no one can take your crown.

Look at Proverbs 19:20 – *"Listen to counsel and accept discipline, that you may be wise the rest of your days."*

In the Church of Philadelphia, certainly not the majority, there were a few who were travelling down the wrong road.

APOSTASY

- I. Definition: Some form of rejection of God's message (Hebrews 12:4-15).
- II. Apostasy and carnality are different, just as spirituality and maturity are different.
- III. An apostate is a *non-perceptive* believer who is naturally out of tune and harmony with God and His Word.
- IV. Carnality is the state of an otherwise perceptive believer out of harmony and fellowship.

- V. Spirituality is an absolute state, whereby the Holy Spirit controls the soul of the believer.
- VI. Carnality is an absolute state wherein a person is out of harmony and fellowship with Jesus Christ. You *cannot* be any less than 100% spiritual OR any less than 100% carnal at any given time. You *will be 100% the one, or 100% the other.*
- VII. Apostasy is a relative state of spiritual failure of the believer due to the presence of evil in his or her life (evil is the philosophy, policy, design and the thought pattern of Satan, specifically aimed at the soul of man).
- VIII. The Carnal Believer is perceptive to God's message, or can be, but the apostate is rejecting perpetually, and rebellious towards, the proclamation of God's Truth.
- IX. The carnal believer can be restored immediately by means of I John 1:9. The apostate, however, normally has such a saturation and pollution of evil in the soul, that it can take many years to remove the deep scars. The "Grace machine" must slowly remove our scars. If there is a large buildup, it takes a long time.
- X. The apostate is a person who is consistently influenced by evil – Satan's thinking.
- XI. The Grace Abounding Life (GAL – the high road of God's magnificent Grace) is a *relative* state, whereby the Word of God has a maximum influence on the life of the believer.
- XII. An apostate believer is a person walking in life with an *emptiness* of spiritual Truth in his or her mind – thus the mind is *defiled*. A person who is negative to God's Truth is always positive to evil (Ephesians 4:17, 18). If you are not getting God's thinking, *you are getting Satan's thinking.*
 - Not demon possessed (I Corinthians 6:19, 20)
 - But *demon influenced* and *evil possessed*.

The *relative* condition of apostasy is a tragic condition indeed... and so unnecessary.