***The Walk of the Apostate - Jude 18-19

JD14-01***

Now we are going to take a look at Jude 18-19 as we look at another segment concerning apostates, and that is their walk. We have been looking in Jude 17 at the defense that is available to us as believers against false teachers. Apostates are basically, as they are in these two verses, unbelievers. However, Christians can act as apostates. Just as a believer cannot be indwelt by Satan and he cannot be controlled by a demon, yet a Christian can be completely dominated by a demon. A Christian can be completely influenced by demons so that that believer is accomplishing the goals of Satan.

So we may find those whom we look upon as believers, who are actually apostates, by their influence. I do not mean to say that they are dirty, foul-mouthed, nasty people. I mean to say that they are the kind of folks you like. They are the kind of folks that you have a tremendous social life with. They are the kind of folks that will help you when you need their help. They're the kind of folks who, on a human level, you have a certain camaraderie with. This makes it all the more painful to discover that in certain situations, you do not have a common ground in the Lord because they have deviated through negative volition--the building up of callouses upon the soul--into human viewpoint. Therefore, their thinking is defective, and their influence upon you is defective.

It is crucial, if you are to defend yourself against apostasy, to be able to do, first of all, that which was indicated in Jude 17--that you remember sound Bible doctrine: "Remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ." That's the first defense against an apostate. This defense is to be found in doctrine so that we can analyze and have a frame of reference comparison to what people say to us so that we may spot those who are out of line with God's thinking. In connection with this defense, we looked in detail at Colossians 1:9-10 where we studied the fact that a Christian has a "pleroo"--a spiritual deficiency in his soul. He's born with this at the point of salvation. When you enter the Christian life, you are absolutely zero in the knowledge of the Word of God. Because you are filled at that point with God the Holy Spirit, you can produce some minimal amount of divine good in your life and in your service. However, at that point, you have nothing in the way of spiritual maturity.

This is why it is absolute insanity to take somebody, particularly if he a prominent person, and he has just become a believer, and to put him on display. So the first thing people like to do is to start promoting organizations by putting this person up in prominent places to give his testimony and to tell what the Lord has done for him. Well a person can talk for a few minutes, but one of the signs of an apostate is that he will talk only for a short period of time and be giving you content of God's Word; content of doctrine; and, content of divine viewpoint.

Then he will begin to break down and he will slip off into revealing the condition of his soul as dominated by emotions, and he'll start getting emotional with you. He'll start telling you stories. He'll start telling you very sweet things, all of which are attractive and all of which are nice, and none of which are offensive and none of which we would condemn, and which most of us do anyhow in one way or another--these little kindnesses. But if you are a sharp Christian, you will say, "Aha, this person has a problem. He didn't talk very long before he ran out of steam, and he's trying to carry the rest of the ball by playing on our emotions."

A Christian can never meet the spirits of deficiency on his own. The pastor-teacher is the answer. Unless people who have this gift understand that, they will not function as pastor-teachers exercising their authority; their responsibility; and, their teaching calls to feed the flock. In the next session, we will look at that in a little more detail.

We have also studied Ephesians 4:17-19 which describe for us the effects of building callouses on the soul. Anytime you sit in church and you hear something declared and explained from the Word of God and you go negative toward what you hear the pastor-teacher explaining to you, you have now invited the possibility of putting a film of callous upon the facets of your soul--upon your mentality; upon your emotions; and, upon your will--to make you insensitive on the one side toward God, and insensitive on the other side toward people. This is the result of simply saying "No" when what you hear is indeed sound doctrine.

This will not happen if what you are being taught is false doctrine. If an apostate is standing up there and giving you bum information, then the thing that you should do is to resist it, and that in turn will bless your soul. But if what you hear is the mind of God, even though you may happen to disagree with it, or it may not in your experience seem to be the case, and yet it is God's viewpoint, then you will build callouses. The result of this will be a gradual deadening of your soul until darkness will set it in a condition of spiritual ignorance. The Bible says that you set up a vacuum condition; a vanity situation; and, a low pressure condition, and you start sucking in all kinds of human viewpoint including doctrine of demons. Then through the opening slithers just as big as life our old friend emotional domination. The soul is taken over. Up from the old sin nature come flowing all the poisons of human viewpoint to distort your soul completely from God's plan for you.

We also looked at Ephesians 4:20-24. There we learned the technique for removing spiritual callouses on the soul. We found that confession of sin is the first step. This however does not remove the callous. This simply sets up the condition for the removal. It takes a considerable intake of the Word of God for the gradual removing of the callouses that have built up. Obviously, the longer you are out of fellowship and the longer you are a negative resisting Christian, the longer it's going to take for you to shape up and get back to the life that you once enjoyed with the Lord. In the meantime you have lost spiritual reward, and in the meantime you may have brought into your life any number of spiritual tragedies which would have been precluded had you been prepared to meet these things from Satan and his world system. You have set yourself up, in other words, as a sitting duck by staying out of fellowship and being resistant to the Word.

In the meantime, incidentally, you may also have gone to such an extreme that you will be deviated from your right church and your right pastor-teacher, and then your condition will become increasingly worse. You have to know not only the hazards of the Christian life, but you also have to know how to deal with them. I want you to become knowledgeable in listening to people who get up and speak about the Word of God, particular visiting speakers who are traveling through. It's hard to get up and speak to the same group Sunday after Sunday and week after week because you have to have different jokes every week. That's a big problem.

They sit down and prepare a study of the Word, and they say, "Now, what jokes can I use this week? That's the first thing they think about, and that's a big problem. They also have to be able to come up with some significant new information or old information in enough new light. But when you're a traveling personality, you work out your jokes. You thought that Bob Robinson was a big hit the other night at the banquet with his dummy, didn't you? Sure, he's been working on that routine for five, six, or seven years. Why shouldn't he be funny? But the traveling minister and teacher will come up with his really impressive statements. But you will notice and you will be able to spot the signal of an apostate in that he will identify the problem. He will tell you, "This is a difficulty of the Christian life. This is a hazard. This is what Satan can do. This is what your friends can lead you into." But he will not explain to you the solutions because it takes doctrine to do that.

This is the same thing as an instructor teaching you to fly who would take you up and tell you what's going to happen if you try to climb too steeply--if you try to climb too fast and too hard and too steeply in the left or right turn. Or, he'll tell you what's going to happen is you don't break through a stall with the wings straight and level--you'll go into a spin. What good does it do for you to know how you can really get hurt by falling into the ground in a tail spin? What you need to know is, first of all, know how to prevent that. Secondly, I need to know how to correct it when it happens. You should be a smart enough Christian to be able to sit and listen to people speak, and be able to spot the apostate or the weak teacher who is forever telling you all the terrible things that can happen to you, which indeed can happen to you as a believer, but does not give you the solution of doctrine. This is a key signal that you can pick up--whether God the Holy Spirit is directing the speaker, or whether he is simply an emotionally dominated character who's going to try to get by on some sweetness and light stories.

**Defense against Apostasy**

Alright, we've learned about callouses. We've learn what can happen. We've learned how to remove them. The second line of defense is here in Jude 18-19. And this again is the defense against apostate influences. This defense is simply to identify the apostate by recognizing his walk. The warning is given in Jude 18: "How they told you there should be mockers" (that is, the apostles in their teaching). "They told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts." The first line of defense against an apostate is to recall Bible doctrine. You can't recall that you have not learned. The second line of defense now is to identify the apostate by his walk. "How they told you" refers to the fact of recalling what the apostles had given in their teaching. The word "told" in the Greek is "lego." "Lego" simply means "presenting information. It is in this case in the imperfect tense.

You should have learned now that whenever you find a Greek verb in the imperfect tense, it means that it's repeatedly happening in the past. It is a past action that was done again and again. The apostles were constantly reiterating sound doctrine to God's people. This is just as the pastor teacher must constantly know when to bring up a subject that you've heard before, and to bestir your pure minds by way of remembering. It is active in voice which means that the apostles were responsible for performing this ministry, and they chose to do it as their duty toward the flock. It is in the indicative mode to declare a statement of fact. As they were being taught Bible doctrine in various categories repeatedly in the past, the apostles alerted them to the walk that characterizes an apostate.

"How they told you," that is, the Christians to whom he is writing. The word "you" is in the dative case. This is what we call a dative of advantage. It was an advantage to the believers of the greatest kind to have these identifying marks pointed out to them. Now here are the marks of the apostate. "They have told you there should be," and the word "be" is the old word "eimi." "Eimi" simply means "to be," the verb of being. In this case here, it's in the future which was to declare that in the times which were to come from the New Testament church on through the church age, these apostates were going to be present. It is active. They were going to be people who were energetically pursuing their apostasy. It was again indicative mood. It's a fact of life.

**They are Mockers**

These people that are going to come on the scene are going to be characterized, first of all, constantly by the fact that they are "mockers." The Greek word is "empaiktes." "Empaiktes is a word that connotes ridicule. Apostates make fun of those who are good. Because they make fun of being good, they are negative toward authority. Negative to the Word of God and rejection of authority is the combination that promotes anarchy in society. The apostate mocker holds divine viewpoint principles in contempt, so he ridicules them. That's what "empaiktes" is. He's a ridiculer of the Word of God. In the time that Jude wrote, you remember that there was this group of apostates called the gnostics who purportedly had deep special insights. Some of them said that the body is evil. Therefore, the way to cleanse the body of its evil is to indulge yourself to the hilt, and thus to simply wear the evil out of the body. They claimed that there was all of the grace of God to cover their indulgence in evil.

The apostates in Jude's day viewed themselves as advanced thinkers just as apostates in our day do. They have a way of thinking of themselves as the intellectuals. Consequently, they did not view themselves as being bound by what they considered to be outdated narrow moral standards, and they looked with pity and with ridicule upon those whose conduct conformed to Bible doctrine and standards of morality. However, as always, these people found, and as you will find if you follow their course, this pattern only results in personal unhappiness. There is the moral code of the Word of God the basis upon which God structured a human being. You cannot function apart from that moral code and enter personal happiness. You will every time enter great personal distress, and in time ultimate personal self-destruction if you persist in violating the moral codes by which God designed the human being to function.

So these people who are apostates can be identified, on one point, by the fact that they ridicule moral conduct. They ridicule, as outdated and not befitting our intellectual advanced age, these restraints that we placed upon ourselves because they are the standards of the Word of God. They will perform this kind of ridicule, the Scripture says, "in the last time." This may also be translated as "the lowest time." These are periodic times that will arise where people will fall away from the Word of God, and thus an era of apostasy will take place.

Throughout church history, from the New Testament times, there have been times when people have very very much fallen away from the Word of God, and these are falling away times, and the result has been that apostasy has rushed in and taken over. That's the sort of thing in which we live today. It is an era where people are constantly shocked by the prevalence of the apostasy and the depth and extent of the corrosion of moral life of people about us. This indicates these low points. However, it may also indicate the lowest of all points which will be near the end of the age when there will be an unprecedented apostasy and an unprecedented time of ridiculing the Word of God.

So, "How they told you there should be these who will ridicule in times of falling away from the Word of God and into great unprecedented falling away, near the end of the age, and who should walk." The word "walk" is "poreuomai" in the Greek. "Poreuomai" means "to move about." It actually means "moving along in life." It connotes going from place to place. It has the overtones of restlessness. It is present tense which means that these people are constantly moving about from place to place seeking satisfaction and fulfillment. It is active. They are looking for something. It is a participle which is a way of stating a principle of truth. This is a way of life in restlessness actively pursued by the apostates. Why?

Well once you leave the moral standards of the Word of God, you set up a frustration within your own being. You cannot experience satisfaction. So you run around trying to find satisfaction in various ways. Some people try to find a satisfaction in lasciviousness and outright sensuality. People like that, if you're that type, are not too hard to spot, if that's what you're doing--trying to fill the gap and take up the slack by lasciviousness. Others will move in the direction of asceticism. They will rather seek to achieve satisfaction by doing good things. They will get the idea that if they only get into some active program of doing good--something that will please the Lord--they will find fulfillment in their being.

That's why we cannot emphasize enough to you that the first responsibility that you have is not doing anything at all relative to the Lord. The first duty that you have is to fill the deficiency of your soul with doctrine. That's the number one thing to which God has called you. He has not called you to witness. He has not called you to aid the sick and afflicted. He has not called you to visit those in need. He has not called you to fill some service in the local ministry. He has called you to fill the deficiency of your soul.

However, I will also caution you that if you are in truth filling the deficiency of your soul, you have taken into yourself the Word of God which is not only powerful, but living. Living things grow and they express themselves in growth. They come not only with a stem and a stalk, but they have fruition. They have blossom and they have fruit.

There are a lot of Christians who are taking in doctrine, and I don't mean for you to think that what I have said implies that when it comes time for a ministry to be performed, that you have both the gift and the time available to perform it, that you should not feel called to do it. When it comes time to teach vacation Bible school, others should teach while you sit at home and listen to tapes. That's not what we're saying. Or you sit at home and read the Bible while others are ministering in summer camp. That's not what we mean. You are your own priest. Nobody can tell you how to run your priesthood, and nobody should presume to do that. But the first thing you have to do is to fill up the deficiency of your soul. Just as soon as you get any of that deficiency filled, you will find yourself seeking expression. The Lord will give you the expression, but you will seek expression. It will be the most natural thing in the world because you will have content and direction for that expression.

These people are walking in the end time ridiculing that which is God's program of morality and of spiritual growth. They are walking in their own way; pursuing helter-skelter from here to there; seeking some kind of satisfaction; and, trying to fill a frustration. First they should have taken care of the spiritual deficiency. Then God would have provided them with the means to fill the satisfaction and to fulfill the needs that the expression of that spiritual life would find. However, if you try to take care of this without taking care of the deficiency or if you try to resolve your frustrations and to find your happiness without the doctrine first, you are doomed to be disappointed.

**They Have Ungodly Lusts**

"These walk, chasing here and there, after their own ungodly lusts." They walk after, and the word "after" is the Greek preposition "kata." "Kata" means "according to a standard." They are walking and chasing, seeking fulfillment according to a certain standard. What is the standard? It is summarized in the word "lusts" which in the Greek is "epithumia." "Epithumia" simply means "desires." The word "lusts" in English has a bad connotation, but it doesn't necessarily have to be an evil lust. There are also good desires. In this case, we are dealing with evil desires. In this context, these apostates are chasing about being driven by certain desires that arise from within themselves that they are trying to satisfy. These lusts that they are trying to satisfy stem from the old sin nature.

Remember that the old sin nature within you has its weakness for sins; its strength for human good; its inclination to put on a good front in asceticism; its inclination to put on an evil front in lasciviousness; and, a pattern of lusts of various kinds. These lusts will include the lust for praise. They include the lust for power of various kinds. They include the lust for materialism. They include the lust for sex. These lusts express themselves in the series of sins such as we looked at in the previous session. For example, we looked at Mark 7:21-23. This pattern of lusts stems from the old sin nature, and these are evil desires. These are the things that drive every human being on the face of the earth. I care not whether you be a believer or an unbeliever.

If you are a believer in fellowship, that is that all known sins are confessed and God the Holy Spirit has control of your life, then these lusts are under control as doctrine within your human spirit is brought up to enable you to cope with them. However, if you are a Christian out of fellowship, then you are patsy for every lust that lies within your soul. This lust pattern here has a way of moving up and feeding poisons into your emotions. When you are out of fellowship with the Lord, you are no longer directed by your mind and the Word of truth and the enlightenment that that mind of Christ that you have received gives you. It's just shut off. It's like somebody just turned a valve or dropped a blanket over it. It is blocked out. Instead, you must now function on your emotions, and the emotions under this condition where they dominate the soul are being fed poisons from the old sin nature. What are those poisons? All of these lusts right from here.

Consequently, your emotions, which have no content and no thinking capacity, can in no way guide your life into blessing, happiness, and the will of God. It can only lead you in the way an apostate leads you because this is how he functions. An apostate is zealous. He's enthusiastic. He moves you with his drive and his energy and his verve, all of which is contaminated by the old sin nature. These people have ungodly lusts. These are evil desires that are not related to the ministry of God the Holy Spirit. The desire to satisfy these ungodly lusts is what causes people to be running about frantically, seeking to find satisfaction for that.

Now Christians will also do this. This is one reason that Christians float from church to church. They are the mavericks who go from one place to another forever seeking satisfaction. They're sitting in one church, and here's a pastor-teacher who doesn't mind whether there are six people sitting out there or 600. But he does mind whether there's something of the Word of God that he can share with the flock that will substantially enable them to cope with Satan and the demonic world as they move out into life that week. They come up against a pastor-teacher like that, and he's not likely to take their foolishness when they come into that assembly and they start exercising their power lust muscles. So he stands in their way.

They get frustrated, and so they go someplace else. Why? Because they have a power lust that they want to be able to dominate through their money; through their influence; through their position; or, some other way. Or they have a desire for praise. So they find that they're in this church where nobody ever praises them; nobody ever thanks them; and, nobody ever makes over them as they feel they deserve, so they go someplace else. You can find churches that will very readily accommodate every one of the lusts of your old sin nature. You don't have to look very far before you will find it. However, you will not find satisfaction. You will find that it is anything but satisfying. You will find in time that it is just a passing satisfaction. Then you're going to be looking someplace else.

So these desires are ungodly. It says that they are their *own* ungodly lusts. This means that they are coming from within their own souls with the old sin nature. These apostates speak of liberty from traditional morality, but what they in effect have done is to become the greatest slaves of all. 2 Peter 2:19 says, "While they promised them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption, for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought unto bondage."

**They Separate Themselves**

Jude 19 identifies the apostates further. It says, "These are they who separate themselves." "These are they." That is, these are the apostates referred to in the book the Jude. "These people" in the Greek is the word "apodoirizo." This means actually to draw boundaries and consequently to cause divisions. These people come into a local church and they create boundaries. The boundaries that they create are for various causes and for various vested interests that they have. They create divisions among the leaders as they get people to take sides. This is in the present tense, meaning that they constantly are doing this. They are always causing trouble in the local church. They are causing Christians to line up. They take active participation in doing this. They seek out those who will listen to their vested interests rather than rebuking them. This is done in a variety of ways.

One of the favorite techniques with women is when you have a woman who is an apostate type within the church and she is seeking to draw sympathy for her cause and to draw strength for her interest. One of her favorite stunts is to say, "Let's get together and study the Bible." So they will have a little Bible class in some lady's home, and some new lady will come into the church, and the apostate type female will zero in on her and invite her to the Bible class. In the Bible class, this new person can be influenced for the vested interests that the apostate is drawing boundaries around in order to separate the believers. You men should give very serious consideration that you ever allow your wife to attend a women's Bible class, especially if it is taught by a woman. I'm not so sure that you should not give serious consideration about allowing your wife to attend women's prayer meetings. Women's prayer meetings have a way of becoming interchanges, under the guise of praying and helping one another, for finding out what your husband has been doing at home--that bum--so that you can sympathetically pray with your sister in the Lord.

The Word of God tells us that a woman is to sit in the local assembly. She is to listen to a pastor-teacher instruct her, and she is to be silent. She has to learn from him, and then if there is something she doesn't understand, what is she to do? She is to go home and ask her husband. She is not has to go over to Madam Gray's Bible class, and get this woman's depth of instruction and understanding. She is to listen to the pastor-teacher, and then she is to go to her husband. Now suppose that Joe doesn't know. Well, what does Joe do? She asks him a question and she says, "Joe, were those angels and women that intermarried there in Genesis 6 that created half-breed angels and men?" And Joe doesn't know. Now Joe knows he's supposed to teach his wife. She didn't get this in church. She didn't catch all this when they were teaching it.

So Joe says to her, "You don't understand? After all the explanation we had? You just don't listen sometimes, do you? Check your notes. You think that through a little bit, and then you come and talk to me again." Meanwhile he beats it down to the corner drug store and gets on the pay phone and asks the pastor-teacher, "What about that?" He gets the explanation, then he comes home and he asks his wife, "Well, have you found it?" She says, "No." He says, "Alright, I'm going to explain it to you just this once." And he makes a big impression, and he carries his role. I don't care how you get it. Just get the information. So when your wife comes to you, she knows that you're going to get it, and she's going to learn from you. You should be her best teacher--her husband.

So be careful when some lady comes up to you and says, "Oh, it's so nice to have you in our work. We have a little Bible class here. We call it the Sweetness and Light class, and all of us get together, and we pray with one another. How are you and your husband getting along? Oh, that bad, huh?" Well, we'll pray about those things, and then we'll open the Bible, and we'll share these things. You know, there are wonderful things that come out of groups sharing the Word together."

Years ago, we had a man when I was a seminary student teaching an adult class, and we were reading about the place in the Bible where it says there shall be earthquakes in diverse places, and one thing and another. And I had explained that in different places on the earth these phenomena will take place. He said, "Brother Danish, I didn't understand it that way about those diverse places. I always that diverse places meant these honky-tonks and these joints that you go into, and they're going to get all these earthquakes and shaken up."

There was another prominent minister whose name you would know if I would mention it to you who taught that women should not wear their hair on top of their heads. It used to be a style for them to wear it in a knot, and some ladies still do that. He thought it should all be flowing down around their shoulders, which is okay. So he preached a sermon on the passage of Scripture that warns in the tribulation that "He that is on the house top not come down." He took this text that says, "Top not come down." Now they're sitting together and sharing the Word with one another and explaining what it means. Now you're not going to be that stupid, are you? You're not going to come up with interpretations like that. Oh, yes you are. And if you're in a women's group, you're going to come up with better ones than that. I'll guarantee you.

So think twice before you permit your wife to be in classes that are counter to the general pattern of receiving spiritual instruction. That little device is often used by women who are trying to create boundaries; to create division; and, to draw people off for a cause in a vested interest. These people who do this--these apostates--feel that they have a call from God. I want you to understand that. They think that this is the Lord who is calling them to sound off; to speak out; and, to say these things about the pastor-teacher; about the ministry; and, about what it does, and to inform you as a new person so you will know how to act. Anyone who is negative to the Word of God and to the application from the pulpit has an obsession to strike back and to divide the congregation. He hesitates to come to grips with the pastor-teacher, so he does this indirectly. He strikes at the work, and to get at him that way is his purpose so he creates division. Lust for power drives people for recognition as authorities in spiritual things that is absolutely fantastic.

**They Cause Division**

So Jude 19 says, "These are they who cause division, separating among themselves Christian against Christian." These are people who are sensual. The word "sensual" is the Greek word "psuchikos." "Psuchikos" means "soulish." In other words, these are people who are what? These are people who are not controlled by doctrine through their human spirits, but people who are controlled by their souls. And what will control your soul in the case of an apostate? It will be your emotions. This is an emotionally dominated soul. The Bible calls him a soulish person. Here it refers to unbelievers.

This same word "psuchikos" is used in 1 Corinthians 2:13 to describe an unbeliever. There he is called "the natural man." A better translation would be "a soulish man" operating under emotional domination in his soul. Satan can influence that by poisons from the old sin nature. It's used in James 3:15 of an unbeliever's wisdom which is described as sensual. These apostates are spiritually dead so they function only on the soul and body level. They do not have a living human spirit, and so they have no divine viewpoint for the guidance of their mind. The mind is dominated by the emotions because the mind is empty.

Remember that in your soul, you have a mentality. The mentality of the soul is to play the male role within your soul. You also have emotions, and emotions are designed by God to play the female role within your soul. The female is to respond to the male--not the other way around. That's why your soul is distorted when your emotions are dominating and running the show. Consequently, these people are soulish individuals dominated by their emotions. This could be true of believers as well. Right here, it happens to be the unbeliever's type of apostate which is in view. This is confirmed by the final words of Jude 19 that says, "Not having the spirit." In your translation, the word "Spirit" is capitalized, indicating that the translators viewed this is as God the Holy Spirit. However, it should not be a capital "S." It should be a small "s" because this context is contrasting the human spirit with the human soul. God the Holy Spirit should not be interjected here in this contrast.

What you have here is the people who, because they are un-regenerated, have no living human spirit. The word "having not" is "echo." "Echo" means just "to possess." They do not possess a living spirit. It is present tense. Because they are unbelievers, they constantly are without this element of their being. It is active because they choose not to have a living human spirit because of their rejection of Christ. Its participle which is stating a fact of life about apostates. They do not have the spirit. These apostates are un-regenerated. Their human spirits are dead. Since these apostates are dead, they are soulish beings. Consequently, they also lack the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit.

Now what can these people do? They can only lead you astray. They are false teachers. They can never give you anything at all from God. Now you might think it's harsh for us to warn you when you spot somebody who is speaking to you, and you sense after a little bit that this character is playing on my emotions. This character is speaking from his emotions to my emotions when he should be speaking from his mentality steeped in the Word of God to my mentality informing me of that Word of God. When you spot that, that's a person that you should reject. I don't mean to say that he will not be an attractive, nice, personable human being. He may well be all of those things, but that has nothing to do with it.

I don't care if he's the pastor of a church, and if he's the most sincere dedicated pastor who does all of the most lovely things in all the world. He may even be the kind of fellow who will come over to your house and listen to your old crummy records if you ask him to and that sort of thing--whatever gives you a kick. I mean he can be the nicest kind of person you can imagine. If they are not delivering to you the Word of God, and treating you as a child of God capable of having your spiritual deficiency filled, then this person has nothing to offer you. You make a grave mistake if you think he has. He has nothing to offer you, and he can hurt you very very badly. These are false teachers. The Word of God tells us to mark them carefully, and to separate ourselves from them.

Your first defense in meeting an apostate is remembering the doctrine that you have learned. Therefore, learn it. Be careful of building calluses so you can respond to what you've learned. Then God the spirit is free to take that doctrine and use it like a search light to show you the way to go. Secondly, you are to mark out the apostate by his walk. He will be one who ridicules doing that which is morally right. He will do this increasingly as we come to the closing days of this age. He will be walking in an erratic unstable manner. He will be chasing internal satisfactions here and there, trying to satisfy the patterns of his old sin nature lusts that he can't find gratification for. He will be ever seeking and ever searching. He will be one who creates divisions among believers, setting Christian against Christian. He will have vested interests. In his nice sweet ways, he will badmouth the very thing that is God's instrument of blessing to you. He will be a soulish person. That is, his soul will be dominated by his emotions, and he will not have a living human spirit in the case of an un-regenerated person. He will in the case of a believer.

Please remember that the person who is leading you astray is Satan's instrument. You're not just fighting and resisting a human being. *Satan must work through the emotional patterns of the soul.* There is no other way that Satan can deal with you, especially you as a believer. Only through your emotions can Satan take you and manipulate you to his cause. That's why when Satan can't get you to be an open worshiper of him, he will seek to bring you around to be an emotional worshiper of him. You have fallen into the trap of following apostasy in either case. May the Lord help us to take seriously His Word which again I remind you is the only way we have for controlling the old sin nature within us. If it were not for doctrine, we would be helpless. None of us is a personality or a celebrity. Because we have the old sin nature, there is no good in any of us.

Therefore, the only good thing we have is the grace of God, but that grace can only work as you have the Word of God. If you reject His truth, God is sitting up there tapping his foot, so to speak, wanting to bless you, and his hands are tied. This is because you elect to listen to an apostate. Mark the walk of an apostate. Don't expect anything from him, and give him a wide berth when you spot him.

Dr. John E. Danish, 1973

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