

Lesson Notes:

The Great Apostasy and How to avoid Drifting away from God.

Early in the life of the church at Thessalonica they underwent great persecution at the hands of the Romans. This persecution was so great that they began to believe that they were in the midst of the great tribulation (the 70th week spoken of by the prophet Daniel). As a result Paul wrote his second epistle to the Thessalonians. In 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 Paul tells the Thessalonians that prior to Christ's return an apostasy would occur and then the son of perdition (Anti-Christ) would be revealed. In Europe there is a great apostasy occurring right now. There is a movement termed "Christ – sanity" which totally attacks the truth of Jesus and the Bible and tries to make him into a normal man. This movement is rooted in Europe and could be the beginning of this great apostasy. In addition, over 715 churches in Europe were converted into restaurants, bars and dancehalls last year (2007). Following are steps we can take to avoid drifting into this apostasy:

Scriptural Principles

- 1) We start to "Drift" when we lose interest in God's Word. - Psalm 119:9-11** tells us to hide his word in our hearts.

- 3) We start to "Drift" when we have issues with Obedience. -** When children disobey they avoid their parents. We tend to do the same thing when we disobey. **Psalm 119:15-16** tells us to strengthen our way in the Lord.

- 4) We start to "Drift" when we stop praying. - In 1 Thessalonians 5:17** Paul tells us to pray without ceasing.

- 5) We need to accept God's will in our lives and not blame him when things don't go our way. -** Paul tells us in **1 Thessalonians 5:18** to give God thanks in all things because they are given to us according to his purpose.

- 6) We need to be involved in a church or ministry and encouraging others to avoid Drifting. - Hebrews 10:24-25** tells us to exalt and encourage one another.

- 7) We start to "Drift" when we stop contributing to God's work (Monetarily and with our Time). - In Matthew 6:1-4** Jesus encourages us to give.

- 8) We start to "Drift" when we become focused too much upon the things of this world. -** Jesus tells us in **1 John 2:15-17** not to love the things of this world but the things that are eternal.

- 9) We are told in Hebrews 12:10 that God's chastisement is what we incur when we Drift away from God.**