

## SOME SHALL DEPART FROM THE FAITH

### Int.

1. Aim: To show that it has been predicted that some will depart from the faith.
2. 1 Tim. 4:1-3 "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times **some shall depart from the faith**, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; 3 Forbidding to marry, [and commanding] to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth."
3. This inspired statement is true. History has shown that some have departed from the faith.
4. Let us ask and answer some questions in regard to the statement: "Some shall depart from the faith."

### Discussion

#### I. WHAT IS THE FAITH ?

- A. The faith is that body of revealed truth known as the N.T. the gospel, the doctrine of Christ
  1. Acts 6:7 says that "a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith." That is, they were obedient to the gospel
  2. In Acts 13, we read of Paul and Barnabas and their preaching the gospel to a certain man by the name of Sergius Paulus, who was the deputy of the country. Verse 8 says: "Elymas the sorcerer... withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith." [ from the gospel].
  3. Acts 14:22 tells us that Paul and Barnabas exhorted the brethren to "Continue in the faith."

4. 1 Tim. 6:10 says of certain ones: "They have erred from the faith."

5. 1 Cor. 16:13 says: "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith..."

B. The word faith may refer to our belief of the gospel of Christ. But when the word is preceded by the article THE ["the faith"], without other modifiers, it refers to that which is believed, that is, the New Testament.

C. When the inspired writer of our text wrote, "Some shall depart from the faith," he was warning that some would depart from the gospel, the doctrine of Christ, the New Testament.

## II. HOW MANY FAITHS ARE THERE ?

A. Eph. 4:4-6 "[There is] one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; 5 One Lord, **one faith**, one baptism, 6 One God and Father of all, who [is] above all, and through all, and in you all." = One only

B. It is as proper to ask, "of which Lord are you?" "Of which God?"

## III. IN WHAT WAYS DO PEOPLE DEPART FROM THE FAITH?

A. By teaching doctrines out of harmony with the faith.

1. 1 Tim. 4:13: "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times **some shall depart from the faith**, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; 3 Forbidding to marry, [and commanding] to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth."

2. I Tim. 1:10 speaks of that which is contrary to sound doctrine. - "For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;"
  3. II Tim. 4:2 "Preach the word . . ."
- B. By engaging in religious practices not found authorized in the faith.
1. Matt. 15:8-9 This people draweth nigh . . .
  2. II John 9 "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."
- C. By engaging in immoral and worldly practices. One may teach the truth, and strictly adhere to the teaching of the N.T. in religious matters, but be cruel, unjust, unmerciful, unfair, dishonest, or immoral in any number of other ways. He has departed from the faith.

#### **IV. WHO WILL DEPART ?**

- A. "Some shall depart"
1. Paul did not predict a universal apostasy - Some - but not all
  2. Even in the worst of times God will have a remnant according to the election of grace.
- B. Depart
1. Word is apostasy
  2. "A falling away"

## **V. HOW DO DEPARTURES FROM THE FAITH TAKE PLACE?**

- A. Generally they do not take place all at once. Little by little changes are made, and they are just slight departures, so that they are not very noticeable to any one generation.
1. Like watching our children grow.
    - a. We are with them every day and do not see the changes taking place.
    - b. But what about that child you do not see for a year or two?
  2. Have been told it is possible to boil a frog alive without his ever trying to jump out of the pot, by just heating the water slowly.
- B. This is the way it was during the first few hundred years of the church's existence, until finally in 606 A. D. the first Pope was elected and the Roman Catholic Church was in full bloom. Then came Protestant Denominationalism.
- C. The Restoration Movement called men back to pure New Testament Christianity.
1. History repeated itself when churches began moving in the instrument.
  2. This was just the beginning of a great departure from the faith which resulted in the Disciples of Christ denomination, which now admits to being a full-fledged denomination, with instrumental music, missionary societies, women preachers, etc.
  3. With some, history is repeating itself as they, little by little, drift away from the faith.
  4. Heb. 2:1: "Therefore we ought to give lest haply we drift away from them." - ASV.
  5. NKJV = Lest we drift away

## **VI. HOW CAN DEPARTURES BE AVOIDED?**

A. By maintaining the proper attitude toward the Bible

1. II Tim. 3:16-17
2. I Peter 4:11
3. Jas. 1:25

B. By training our children (Prov. 22:6).

1. Judges 2:7-12 "And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua . . . And there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord . . . And they forsook the Lord God of their fathers . . .
2. Guy N. Woods referred to this passage and said: It's my conviction, friends, that we are in the second generation today. Why, there are those tonight who, under no conceivable circumstance, will ever renounce the truth for denominationalism in any form. We have been taught the truth, and we have it so deeply ingrained in our hearts and in our characters that there is no possible way by which we could be induced to give it up, or to renounce it. But in my view there is a real reason to be concerned about whether or not we are transmitting it to the next generation with the emphasis with which it came to us. We forget that in every generation the truth must be taught all over again, or apostasy results.

## **VII. WHAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD THOSE WHO DEPART?**

- A. We must restore them if possible Gal. 6:1: "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."
- B. If our efforts to restore them fail, we must mark them and avoid them - Rm. 16:17  
"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."
- C. It is a mistake to ignore departures from the faith - - to play like everything is all right. Like ignoring cancer, thinking if we pretend it's not there it will go away.

## **VIII. WHAT SHOULD BE DONE BY THOSE WHO HAVE DEPARTED FROM THE FAITH?**

- A. They should repent, confess their sins, and ask for God's forgiveness and the forgiveness of their brethren.
- B. There is no other way than God's way. Any effort to be restored in any other way is in itself a departure from the faith.

## **CONCLUSION**

1. II Corinthians 13:5 says: "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith."
2. Are you in the faith? If not, now is the time to get in the faith.

**Source**

Bobby Duncan Sermons p. 251-253

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