

Will Ye Also Go Away?

Linnville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

John 6:67. "Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?"

Jesus asked this question of his apostles. Many of his disciples had just left him and would not follow him anymore. His word was asking more of them, than they were willing to give. Like the rich young ruler they went away, choosing the things of this world over the way of life. Of the twelve, Judas would ultimately go away as well.

Since then many more have gone their own way, leaving the commands of God to follow their own heart. This is done when people change what the Lord has said and insert their own traditions in the place of the word of God. In **Matthew 15:9** Jesus said, "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." They had not gone away from the temple and the ceremonies of worship, but in their hearts they had gone away from God.

Throughout the scriptures the Lord warned about dry, dead rituals

and assemblies where form and sacrifice was done without thought or devotion to God. **John 4:24.** "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." To do less is to worship in vain according to the Lord.

Preachers have preached about the great falling away, **2 Thessalonians 2:3**, and it is happening. The falling away is not just in numbers, although that is a big part of it. Many churches have a fraction of the congregation that they used to have. Some have passed away, but many have left to go to the big churches where they melt into the crowd and are not called on to do much. Many have fallen away in the doctrines of God. They teach that sin is okay and that everybody does it. Things that offend people are not mentioned and they try to please the crowd instead of presenting the gospel. Hell is one of the things that Jesus mentioned the most and yet many preachers don't like to talk about it. Preacher, explain to the Lord why you didn't see fit to warn the people about such a place. Like it or not there is a hell and if you go away from the Lord you are headed for it.

It is always sad to see people slipping away from the Lord. It usually starts with missing a service now and then. As time goes on it

gets to be more frequent until at last that person might stop coming altogether. Why does it happen? The urge and desire to do things that are sinful make a person feel uncomfortable. Often if the preacher keeps on preaching about the sins that are committed a person may try to find a congregation where their sins are not condemned. While it is bad to see a person leave church they have made a choice that no one made for them. If that person would not obey the Lord then when they heard the scriptures then the heart was growing colder to the teachings of God.

A person does not have to stop coming to church to fall away from God. When someone is not interested in the word of God they become bored with the church. Usually that is when the murmuring about the "long sermons" start. After awhile all the dissatisfaction begins to show as the person becomes critical of things in the church. Unless things are really bad in a congregation, when we are unhappy the fault, or reason, is usually in us. This is not always easy to recognize, especially in ourselves. If we begin to be unhappy, and not as interested in the church services as before, let us first take a look at ourselves. We may have a problem in our own lives.

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Established September 12, 1999

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Genesis Intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

CAIN and ABEL

WHEN CAIN AND ABEL, THE FIRST SONS OF ADAM AND EVE, GROW UP, CAIN BECOMES A FARMER AND ABEL A SHEEPHERDER. AND AT HARVEST TIME BOTH PREPARE AN OFFERING TO THE LORD....

HERE ARE MY FIRSTLINGS... GOOD FAT LAMBS, CAIN-- THE BEST OF MY ENTIRE FLOCK!

SOON THE SMOKE OF MY FOOD OFFERING SHALL GO UP TO THE HEAVENS-- WHERE THE LORD CAN SEE THAT I OFFER ALL HONORAGE TO HIM!

LET US OFFER OUR SACRIFICES NOW CAIN.

SO THAT IS MY BROTHER'S OFFERING TO GOD? BUT I SHALL GIVE THE LORD EVERY KIND OF FOOD THAT I HAVE TAKEN FROM THE SOIL-- THAT IS WHAT I SHALL DO!

THE SMOKE OF MY OFFERING DOES NOT RISE UP TO THE HEAVENS-- THE LORD HAS REJECTED MY OFFERING!

WHY SHOULD THE LORD PREFER THE OFFERING OF ABEL OVER MINE? I AM THE OLDEST... I AM DUE THE PREFERENCE OVER ABEL!

LOOK CAIN! SEE HOW STRAIGHT THE SMOKE OF MY OFFERING GOES UP INTO HEAVEN!

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