



DISCIPLESHIP

THE JUDGMENT AGAINST THE CHURCH Before the Rapture

Teacher's book

Berea Christian Church

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Berea Editions



THE JUDGMENT AGAINST THE CHURCH BEFORE THE RAPTURE

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INTRODUCTION

The Lord instructed us to write a discipleship course on the judgments against the Church because, according to the Scriptures, these are the events that would occur immediately before the Lord comes for His holy Church at the Rapture.

Theological tradition has taught that there are no signs for the Rapture, that no one will ever know the day or the hour, and that this event will occur in the twinkling of an eye. But these teachings are false.

The Bible teaches that before our departure to the New Jerusalem with our Lord Jesus Christ at the Rapture, and before the judgment of the Tribulation, there would be one main sign: the apostasy of the Church. Second Thessalonians 2:1-3 says (HCSB):

¹ Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to Him: We ask you, brothers, ² not to be easily upset in mind or troubled, either by a spirit or by a message or by a letter as if from us, alleging that the Day of the Lord has come. ³ Don't let anyone deceive you in any way. For that day will not come unless the apostasy comes first...

Paul teaches that Christ's coming for His Church ("our gathering together to Him") forms part of the day of the Lord and that, before the event of the Rapture, the manifestation or revelation of the apostasy would occur. This involves not only its appearance but also its becoming evident; therefore, the Greek verb for "come" is ἔλθῃ (*elthē*), derived from ἔρχομαι (*erchomai*).

As we will study later in several steps of this discipleship course, the day of the Lord begins with the judgment against the Church, which is described in detail in Revelation chapters 1, 2, and 3. John says that, through the Holy Spirit, he was in the day of the Lord (Rev. 1).

The Lord will make the apostasy of the churches evident in the judgment of mortality prophesied in Revelation 2:23; therefore, He says, "I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works." The children of Jezebel are all the apostates in the churches of these end times.

Most Christian churches have considered it impossible for the Church to be judged, because traditional theology has taught that Christ paid for sins and therefore freed believers from any judgment.

Traditional theology has taught that apostasy does not exist, because it is not possible for a person who has been saved to lose his or her salvation. Calvinism has rooted this false teaching throughout the whole Earth; it has promoted the false message "once saved, always saved"; that is, even if a person practices sin after conversion, this does not lead to perdition in Hell.

Traditional theology adds to the previous statement that if a person claims to have been saved and then practices sin, that person was never saved, but merely made a profession of faith. This theology therefore teaches that when, in the Scriptures, the Lord speaks about sin in those who were saved and pronounces sentences of judgment leading to perdition, He is not speaking to believers, but to people who repented only with their lips and whose conversion was false.

In this discipleship course, we will demonstrate that these teachings are false; that the Bible does teach about the terrible sin of apostasy; that a born-again person can indeed go astray, abandon the gospel, the Word of God, and Christ, and fall from grace; and that, if he or she does not repent, the Lord judges that person, who then loses salvation.

Furthermore, in this discipleship course, we will demonstrate that the Lord would judge the Church in the end times, before the Rapture; and that the main cause of the judgment is apostasy: abandoning the Word of God to follow doctrines of men, losing the first love—that is, abandoning Christ—among other terrible sins that constitute charges in the judicial proceedings against the apostate Church.

Let us begin this powerful discipleship journey, which will awaken the sleeping churches so that they understand the time in which we are living. This time clearly indicates that the Lord Jesus is already coming with the resurrected and glorified saints to gather us with them and, after we are transformed, depart for the New Jerusalem.

STEP 1

Believers can fall from grace



Where does the Bible teach about the judgment against the Church in the end times?

What are the causes of God's judgment against the Church in the end times?

When would the judgment against the Church begin?

Beloved brothers and sisters, it is a joy to be able to count the days before our departure to the New Jerusalem and to understand how the Lord fulfills the end-time events He left in His Word. One of these events is the judgment against the Church before the Rapture.

As we affirmed in the introduction, this judgment is the final sign confirming that we are about to go to the Father's house. We will begin by studying that people who were born again can indeed lose their salvation; this is what has happened to all apostates. Therefore, the Church formed by these people has come under the judgment of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us begin:

The Bible teaches that believers can turn away from Christ and fall from grace



Read Galatians 1:6-9, underline the expressions "turning away," "the grace of Christ," "another gospel," "a different gospel," "any other gospel," "to pervert," and "accursed"; then answer the questions:

⁶ I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,

⁷ which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

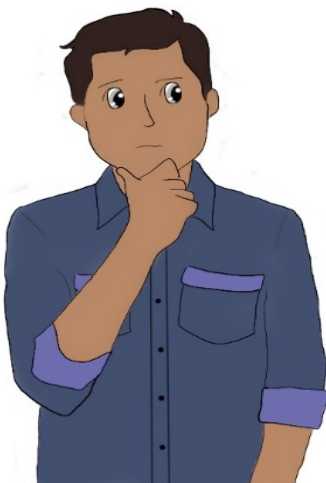
⁸ But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.



- Is it possible for a believer to turn away from Christ? Yes.
- What can cause a believer to turn away from Christ? Following a different gospel.
- What does Paul call the different gospel? "a perverted gospel," "another gospel," "a different gospel."
- What does Paul call the person who proclaims or preaches a different gospel? Accursed, cursed.

In Galatians 1:6-9, Paul says that people were preaching another gospel, which he calls "perverted" and "a different gospel"; and he calls those who proclaim and preach it "accursed," that is, "cursed."

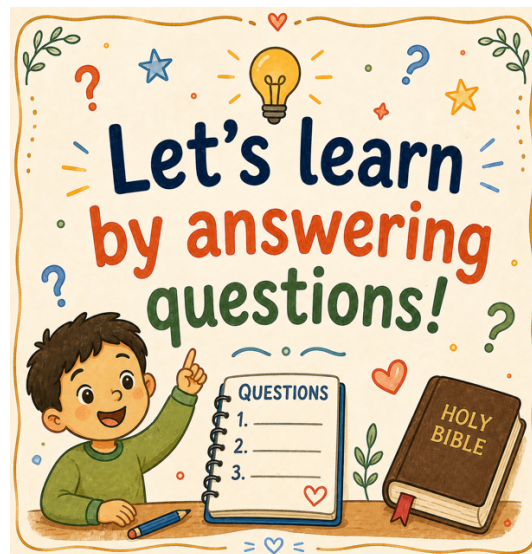


What happens to a born-again person who turns away from Christ and follows a different gospel?



Now read Galatians 5:4 and then answer the questions (NASB):

⁴ You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by the Law; you have fallen from grace.



- Is it possible to become severed from Christ? Yes.
- Is it possible to fall from grace? Yes.

In this verse, Paul is speaking to believers, to people who have been born again; he is not speaking to unconverted people who merely made a profession of faith. Galatians chapter 1 confirms this, as we learned from Galatians 1:6-9.



The Greek verb for "to fall away" is ἐκπίπτω (*ekriptō*), which means "to fail, miss, fall away, deviate, go off course."



Observe the following image and explain in your own words what happened to the person, using the elements in the image:



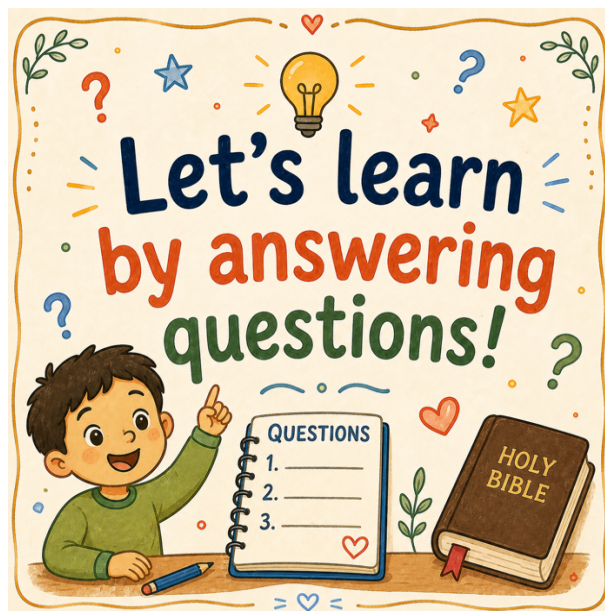
Note. Image generated with ChatGPT (OpenAI, 2026).

The answer to the question "What happens to a born-again person who turns away from Christ and follows a different gospel?" is as follows:

The born-again person who turns away from Christ by following a different gospel strays, deviates, and falls from grace—he or she steps out of grace; in other words, that person becomes an apostate and automatically comes under the Law.

It is important to understand that, in the book of Galatians, Paul is not explaining that a Jewish person who was under the Law, then converted to Christ, and later turned away, will return to being under the Law.

The apostle is teaching, through the Holy Spirit, that all human beings are under the Law and cease to be under it when they turn to Christ, enter the New Covenant, and receive the grace of God the Father through Him. Jesus was born, lived, and died holy, then rose again never to die again; therefore, He brought life and immortality to light through the gospel (Read Romans 6:9; 2 Timothy 1:10).



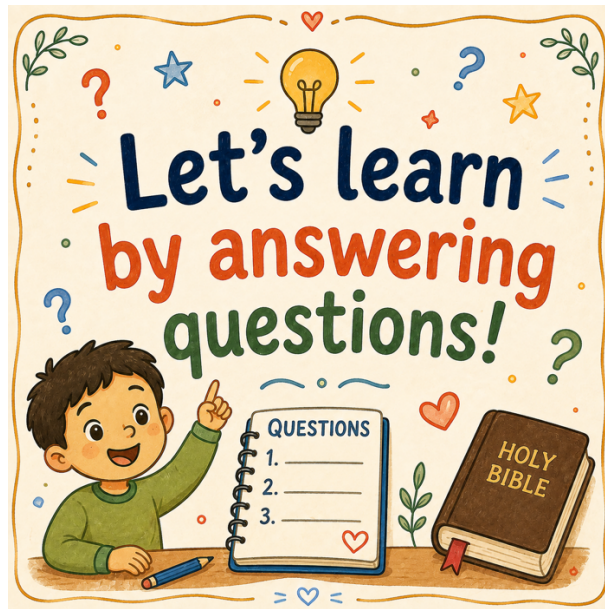
Read Galatians 2:21, look at the meanings of the words, and then answer the questions:

²¹ I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.



The Greek word translated in the New King James Version as "set aside" is ἀθετέω (*atheteō*), and it means: to set aside, despise, discard, scorn, nullify, frustrate, reduce to nothing, reject.





- Is it possible for someone to set aside the grace of God? Yes.
- Does righteousness come through the law? No.
- Why does Paul say that if righteousness came through the law, then Christ died in vain? Christ had to die to condemn sin and free us from bondage to the Law, which declared us guilty before God the Father. Through Christ we are justified before God. If we were justified by the Law, there would have been no need for Christ to become incarnate and die for humanity.



In conclusion: a person is either under the Law or in the grace of Christ; there is no other option. Everyone who has not repented of his or her sins and received Christ as Lord and only Savior is under the Law and is not in grace. And anyone who had already received Christ but becomes severed from Him and steps out of grace then comes under the Law again and is no longer clothed with the righteousness of Christ.

The apostate Church fell from grace and set it aside; it turned away from Christ to follow a different gospel, another gospel, a corrupted gospel, doctrines of men, and doctrines of demons. Therefore, that apostate Church is under God's judgment. We will study this in the next discipleship.



Let us pray with Psalm 119:25-32:

Beloved Lord Jesus Christ,
Thank You for Your Word, which comforts us,
“²⁵ My soul clings to the dust;
Revive me according to Your word.
²⁶ I have declared my ways, and You answered me;
Teach me Your statutes.
²⁷ Make me understand the way of Your precepts;
So shall I meditate on Your wonderful works.
²⁸ My soul melts from heaviness;

Strengthen me according to Your word.

²⁹ Remove from me the way of lying,

And grant me Your law graciously.

³⁰ I have chosen the way of truth;

Your judgments I have laid before me.

³¹ I cling to Your testimonies;

O Lord, do not put me to shame!

³² I will run the course of Your commandments,

For You shall enlarge my heart." (Ps. 119:25-32)



The Way of Life. YouTube. Ministerio Berea Barranquilla (Berea Barranquilla Ministries).

<https://youtu.be/d5834XA6-q0>

The Savior. YouTube. Ministerio Berea Barranquilla (Berea Barranquilla Ministries).

https://youtu.be/Mp9xwohEYjY?si=0_45X93dZ9U6IA32