

## Video Sharing-Steadfastness in The Age of Apostasy

By Yirmeyah Tan, Shabbat, 26 September 2020

### Text

**Heb 3:12** Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an **evil heart of unbelief**, in departing from the living God.

**Heb 3:13** But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be **hardened through the deceitfulness of sin**.

**Heb 3:14** For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence **steadfast unto the end**.

**Heb 3:15** While it is said: Today, if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

**Heb 3:16** For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.

**Heb 3:17** But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?

**Heb 3:18** And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?

**Heb 3:19** So we see that **they could not enter in because of unbelief**.

#### I. **Apostasy**

##### a. **Yeshua's Prophecy**

**Mat 24:11** And many **false prophets shall rise and shall deceive many**.

**Mat 24:12** And because **iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold**.

**Mat 24:13** But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

##### b. **Paul's Prophecy**

**2Th 2:3** Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, **except there come a falling away first**, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

**2Th 2:4** Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

##### c. **Peter's Warning**

**2Pe 3:17** Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, **beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness**.

**2Pe 3:18** But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

**Note:** "a falling away" means apostasy [G646: apostasia]

##### d. **Apostasy will usher in the Anti-Christ**

## II. Roots of Apostasy

- a. Deceitfulness of sin
- b. Evil heart of unbelief

**Heb 3:12** Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

**Heb 3:13** But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

- c. Not abiding in His Word

**Joh 8:31** Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, if ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed

**Joh 8:32** And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

**G3306:** meno-continue, remain, abide

- d. Not abiding in Him

**Joh 15:5** I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

**Joh 15:6** If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

- e. Not abiding in His love

**Joh 15:10** If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

**Note:** God's love is not unconditional. It is conditional on our obedience.

- f. Falling from first love

**Rev 2:4** Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee [Church in Ephesus], because thou hast left thy first love.

The penalty: candlestick removed.

- g. Entangled again

**2Pe 2:20** For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

- h. Not continuing in doctrine of Christ

**1Ti 4:16** Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

i. Not keeping the body under subjection

**1Co 9:27** But I keep under my body and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

**Php 3:18** (For many walk of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

**Php 3:19** Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

Note: the CNA program “Belly of a Nation”

j. Not holding fast to Him

**Rev 3:11** Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

k. Getting offended

**Mat 24:10** And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

l. Deceived by False Prophets & Teachers

**Mat 24:11** And many false prophets shall rise and shall deceive many.

**Mat 24:12** And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

m. Yielding to temptation

**Jas 1:14** But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

**Jas 1:15** Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

n. Shrinking [drawing] back

**Heb 10:38** Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draws back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

**Heb 10:39** But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

o. Straying [turn aside]

**1Ti 5:15** For some are already turned aside after Satan.

p. No root

**Mar 4:15** And these are they by the wayside, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.

**Mar 4:16** And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

**Mar 4:17** And have **no root in themselves**, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

**Mar 4:18** And these are they which are sown among thorns: such as hear the word,

**Mar 4:19** And the **cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.**

**q. Corrupted from the simplicity of Christ [preach another Jesus]**

**2Co 11:3** But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be **corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.**

**2Co 11:4** For if he that cometh **preacheth another Jesus**, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

**r. Deliberate sin**

**Heb 10:26** For **if we sin wilfully** after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, **there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins**,

**Heb 10:27** But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

**s. Practice of sin [slave of sin]**

**Joh 8:34** Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **whosoever commits sin is the servant of sin.**

**Joh 8:35** And **the servant abides not in the house for ever: but the Son abides forever.**

**t. Led away by the error of the wicked [lawless]**

**2Pe 3:16** As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

**2Pe 3:17** Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, **beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.**

**u. Pride**

**1Co 10:12** Wherefore **let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.**

**III. The Steadfastness of God**

a. **Mal 3:6**

**Mal 3:6** For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore, ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

b. **Anchor of our soul:**

**Heb 6:17** Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:

**Heb 6:18** That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

**Heb 6:19** Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

c. **Steadfastness**

**2Th 3:5** And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.

**G5281-Hupomone: steadfastness, firm loyalty, faithfulness, being constant, unwavering loyalty, endurance**

d. **Steadfastness of Christ**

**Heb 12:1** Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

**Heb 12:2** Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Heb 12:3** For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

**Heb 12:4** Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

**G5278: hupomeno-to abide, endure, remain**

IV. **Consequences of Apostasy**

a. **Unable to repent**

**Heb 6:4** For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

**Heb 6:5** And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

**Heb 6:6** If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh and put him to an open shame.

b. **Cut off**

**Joh 15:1** I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

*Joh 15:2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

*Joh 15:3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*

- c. No fruit: the branch is cut off, will wither and get burned.**
- d. More fruit: “purging” “clean”**

The Greek word is “Kathairo” [G2508] translated into “purging” “prune” or “trim” is derived from another Greek word “Katharos” [G2513] which is translated as “clean” or “pure”

- e. Clean through the Word: how does this come about?**

At the Last Supper, Yeshua washed the feet of His disciples. Peter protested and was told that only his feet needed to be washed because he had already been made “clean” but not all of them were clean. He was referring to Judas Iscariot.

Eph 5:26 says that Yeshua washes His church clean, without spot or wrinkle: by the washing of water by the Word. Clearly, when we hear His Word and obey it, there is the purging/pruning/cleansing effect that Joh 15:2-3 talks about resulting in the production of more fruit. The pruning effect can be painful because faith in His Word often requires us to correct our behaviour or pay the price of doing His will.

Judas Iscariot typifies those Christians who hear the Word but are not doers of it. Such people have no fruit worthy of His Kingdom. They will be cut off, wither and thrown into the fire of Hell. That is how Judas went to perdition: he had heard all the teaching of Yeshua, particularly about covetousness and the love of money but he continued stealing from the collection bag! Have you heard of pastors stealing from/cheating their churches?