



[Understanding the Christ](#)

## **Episode 2 - Unveiling the Apostasy: Reflections on the Last Generation Church**

2025-05-11

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In this eye-opening episode, we delve deep into the history and evolution of the Church, exploring how we arrived at a point where countless doctrines exist, each asserting biblical truth yet diverging fundamentally in understanding and teaching. With a focus on Jesus Christ as depicted in the book of Revelation, we unravel the presence of Antichrists and apostasy beginning in the first century, drawing insights from the apostle John's writings and discussing the complexities of maintaining true apostolic beliefs amidst widespread theological departure.

Join us as we navigate through scriptural revelations and the profound implications they hold for the modern-day church. Through careful examination of early church divisions and prophetic insights from 2 Thessalonians, we seek to understand the persistent impact of apostasy on today's generation and reflect on our role in discerning and responding to this reality.

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Modified Transcript:

Scriptures are transcribed directly with notations. Refer to KJV for verbatim wording.

## **Introduction to the Apostasy**

Hi. This is our second podcast concerning the discussion of Jesus Christ, I could say Jesus in the book of Revelation, because when we talk about Jesus, we're talking about the whole book. So what happened in church history that we would end up today, and again, if we're at the end of the world, believing we are the last generation church? What happened that would bring us to this point of having thousands of doctrines and churches, everybody basing what they teach on the Bible, and everybody's teaching something different? Yet they all have underlying concepts, fundamental concepts that are the same foundational things.

How did this happen? What I want to share with you right now is something I have shared many times, and it just doesn't seem to register. I think this is too big a concept for people to grasp. It's like it's too much for your mind to get hold of. But what I want to show you is in the Bible.

It has been in the Bible. The verses we're going to read have been in the Bible for two thousand years. This is the New Testament, and the magnitude of what this means... Again, you're going to have trouble getting your mind around this if you have never heard this before.

If you have been listening to the Revelation podcast of DTG Ministries, then you have had glimpses of this. But, again, in these video podcasts, I'm wanting to take it slow. Remember, my main focus on the video podcast is our Savior, Jesus Christ. Everything else is secondary in these studies. So what happened in church history?

You have got to have your Bible open. Turn with me to 1 John, chapter 2. Now I'm going to be putting the verses up on the screen so that you can read along. I want to make sure you read this. It would help if you had your own Bible, but I'm using the King James, and I will be putting these verses on the screen. 1 John, chapter 2, verse 18.

1Jn 2:18 Little children, it is the last time: and as you have heard that antichrist...

Now the definite article is there... that the antichrist shall come. Now, at this point, the antichrist had not come, but look at what he says.

1Jn 2:18 ... even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it's the last time.

Now, just bear with me. We know it's the last time because there are antichrists here. The antichrist hasn't appeared yet, but you could say the spirit of antichrist has. In fact, John will say that later on in 1 John, *the spirit of antichrist is here. This is how we know it's the last time. We're living in the last days. Why? Antichrists are here. We're waiting on the antichrist, but many antichrists are here.*

What do you get from that? What do you glean from that? Number one, you can't have an Antichrist without having Christ. Christ came and ascended back to heaven. The people who rejected the truths concerning Christ became antichrist. You can't have an antichrist without having the Christ. So Christ had come and gone, and these people were considered by the apostle John to be antichrists. The main guy, the antichrist, had not come yet, but there were people already in the world rejecting Messiah.

But now we're going to dig into that a little bit more, and you're going to get even more understanding of what he's talking about. Let's go look at the next verse. 1 John 2:19, speaking of antichrists...

1Jn 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

Question. Who is "us"? Well, I figure John's writing this. When he says "*they went out from us,*" John was an apostle. That means these antichrist people walked away from the apostolic church. Now think about it. You have the apostles chosen by Jesus Christ, being given the truth, teaching what Jesus taught them, and a group of people walking away from them. Now, what does he mean, "*they went out from us*"? Well, they can't "go

out from us" if they were not "part of us" at one time. Turn to 1 Corinthians, chapter 15. Starting at verse 1.

1Co 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also you have received, and wherein you stand;

1Co 15:2 By which also you're saved, if you keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless you have believed in vain.

1Co 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received (in other words, somebody had taught Paul this), how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

1Co 15:4 That he was buried, that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

1Co 15:5 That he was seen of Cephas, then the twelve:

1Co 15:6 He was seen of more than five hundred brethren at once; the greater part (of these people he says) remain now or are still here...

1Co 15:7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

1Co 15:8 And last of all he was seen of me, as of one born out of due time.

Now let's just sum up what he said. He says, *"I'm going to tell you what I was told."* So whatever time, whatever year, whatever month it was when the apostle Paul met the Lord on the road to Damascus, he was told that Jesus was Christ, that Christ died. So you can't leave out that Jesus is Christ. He understood Jesus was the Christ, and that Christ died for our sins. That's two points: Jesus is Christ. He died for our sins. Next, he was buried. Next, he rose from the dead. Next, he was seen. Many people saw him. What are the things?

1-He's the Christ.

2-He died for your sin.

3-He was buried.

4-He rose from the dead,

5-He was seen.

You had to believe that in order to be part of the apostolic church. You're not going to be part of the apostolic church without agreeing to those points. Then John says, *"Well, now they're antichrists because they're walking away from the apostles."* So what are we

seeing here? People had come into the church believing Jesus was Christ, believing he was crucified, believing he was raised from the dead, and they walked away from the truth the apostles were teaching. I'm going to show you where it was other truth.

I want you to see that these people believed Jesus was the Christ. They believed he died for their sins. They believed he rose from the dead, and they believed people saw him. But there were things they disagreed with. Remember where Jesus said in Matthew 24:5, *"For many shall come in my name, saying I am Christ. But they'll be deceiving many."* He doesn't mean they will say they are Christ. He is saying they're going to say I am the Christ, but they're still going to be deceiving you.

What in the world happened that you have a group of people separating from the teachings of the apostles but still believing Jesus is Christ, still believing he died for their sins, still believing he was crucified? They still believe he was raised from the dead. They still believe people saw him. Who? The apostles saw him.

Well, what was being taught that they disagreed with? What were the apostles saying that caused people to walk away and no longer agree with the apostles? We're going to get into that in the next podcast, but for right now, I want you to understand, in the first century, there was an apostasy that started, that began. In the first century, the Bible declares it to us. How long does it last?

2 Thessalonians, chapter 2. I'm going to start reading at verse 1.

2Th 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

2Th 2:2 That you be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

2Th 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, (This word falling away is "apostasia." There will come an apostasy), and that man of sin will be revealed, the son of perdition;

2Th 2:4 He will oppose and exalt himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God is sitting in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

2Th 2:5 Remember you not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

2Th 2:6 And now you know what is withholding (or what is restraining him) that he might be revealed in his time.

2Th 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity is already working: only he who now is restraining will, until he's taken out of the way.

2Th 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed (And remember what we read in 1 John, the antichrist is coming. He isn't here yet. Paul is saying), when that Wicked shall be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and destroy (or render inactive) with the brightness of his coming:

2Th 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power, signs and lying wonders,

What do we glean from that? There will come an apostasy first, then the man of sin will be revealed. No different than what John said. *"We already are having the apostasy,"* he says, *"but the man of sin, the antichrist, we're waiting on the antichrist."*

## **The Nature of the Apostasy**

So what's significant about this? Because it started in the first century, and it lasts until the Second Coming. Think about it. It started in the first century, and it will last to the very end. The last generation church will be dealing with people who are in the apostasy. Can you wrap your mind around that? Do you not realize, if the apostasy has been here for two thousand years, how in the world could you or I not have ever been a part of it? That's impossible.

The apostasy is right in front of us. It's everywhere around us. Who has ever explained to you the apostasy of the antichrists happening in John's day and lasting to the end of the world? That is what I want you to get your head around. That is what I want you... I hope that stimulates you. I hope that pricks your heart. I hope that your heart is racing when you realize what you and I have been seeing in these denominations... when I said in the last podcast, maybe you're looking at your church and you're realizing something just isn't right. There's something I'm missing.

Listen. They're all teaching that Jesus is Christ. He died for their sin. He was buried. He rose, and he was seen. They're all teaching that. But they walked away from certain teachings the apostles were teaching. And today, I'm going to give you a little prophecy

here. When the truth goes out declaring the truth of what the apostles taught, the apostasy will look at that truth and say, "That is the apostasy."

So you need to learn to consider what you're being taught. You need to realize this is the last generation church. There is an apostasy in the world. We're not waiting for it to happen. That is what a lot of churches will say. "Well, we're waiting to see this apostasy of this Antichrist." No. We're not waiting. It's here. It's already here, and if you don't care enough about your own salvation, if you're going to put that church, your parents, your kids... You know, whatever it is, you're afraid to offend somebody. If that is where you are, God help you.

It's time to look at the truth and make some decisions regarding your eternal welfare, your eternal life. I want you to at least hear the truth. Already, I can see some people are so disturbed by what I'm saying. Other people, I think your heart is racing. You're the guy I'm after. I want a person who loves the truth, and it doesn't matter who has told you what. The only thing that matters is the Lord Jesus Christ and him crucified, and exactly, how does that apply to my salvation? Exactly... because Satan has been the author of the gospel that I heard all my life. Satan was the author of that. When you see what the truth is and how the scriptures support it and back it up, how it will literally change your life... You will see the magnitude of the problem facing the world today.

### **Coming Out of the Apostasy**

Do you want to come out of the apostasy? That is what the book of Revelation is about... the last generation church and how it comes out of the apostasy. By the grace of God, I want to lead us through the steps of belief, and you can take it or leave it. But if you will take your Bible and consider diligently what you're hearing, you will be a part of this too, and we will walk in harmony together.