

Hebrews 6.4-6

Apostasy in mind.

There is an apostasy of mind that allows for a narrow portion of the gospel truth to be believed, it allows for some of the truth of God to be accepted, to be willing to believe SOME of what God says but just not willing to accept it all... this mental condition is one of the most dangerous things possible for a man to find himself trapped inside, for it is insidious in its ability to blind and stupefy while causing them to believe that they are wise and can see clearly...

Once Enlightened -> to be instructed in the doctrine of the gospel, so that there is some spiritual understanding of it.

This is primarily a MENTAL exercise... it is to be brought under the light -

<fotitzomai> --> to give light or knowledge by teaching; elsewhere it is to make manifest (ie: bring to light - 1 Corinthians 4.5)

to teach, or to have knowledge upon instruction...

The noun form of the word **<fotitzomon>** is that knowledge which we possess having been instructed or enlightened...

I. WALKING IN DARKNESS

a. the basic condition of man is darkness

Proverbs 4:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ The way of the wicked *is* like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble.

b. The darkness keeps men away from God,

Isaiah 9:2 (NKJV) ² The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined.

John 1:4–5 (NKJV) ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

c. Men love the darkness

John 3:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

II. UNIVERSAL LIGHT

- a. there is, for lack of better phrase, a kind of spiritual corona, a gospel shekinah which comes with this knowledge. It is the afterglow of the presence of God, the presence of Christ, the presence of truth (I am the way, the truth, the life, Jn 14.6; that word was the light of men... the light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not comprehend it... Jn 1.4-5)
- b. this is the slight and expansive spiritual awareness which fills so many false religions. The most basic of truths about kindness and goodness and gentleness and love which are the basis of man's "spiritual" wisdom. These most

palatable ideas are part of the basic set of truths that can be found in nearly all religions.

- c. They are seldom cast out completely, instead they are altered and transformed to reflect the bias of the adherent. These are the common touchstones of most world religions and are often what is brought out of Christianity by unbelievers as the places where they agree with Jesus. "turn the other cheek, forgiveness, treat people like you want to be treated, let him without sin cast the first stone, judge not lest you be judged..."
- d. this set of ideas DO NOT constitute gospel faith, and should not be confused with true faith.
 - i. The commonality of the easy truths does not mean that those who believe them also have faith in Jesus.
 - ii. It does not matter if these truths are dressed in Christianese, taught by people in black or orange,

- iii. it does not matter if they are professing Christ or talk about being spiritual,
- iv. it does not matter if they tell you they believe in God...

James 2:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!

- v. These ideas are simply true, and only the most hardened of people deny them. Therefore to accept these basic universal truths and reject the rest of the gospel is not to be mentally apostate. It is simply to be lost, even if you pretend or think otherwise. If this is as far as you accept the teaching of the Bible, you are NOT saved.

III. COMMON TRUTH

There is a portion of the light, the content of the light which can be discerned by natural means according to the common grace of the Spirit.

a. the effect of light

- i. it is the nature of light to shine. It is the nature of light to illumine, it is the nature of light to awe and dazzle... the light of the gospel can have that effect on us, and draw men to that brilliancy which is so wondrous to behold. They hear the sound of the light and are struck with a superficial awe because it is so very different from the darkness in which they have lived...
- ii. There is some measure of understanding then which is achievable with hard work and diligence in the same fashion as any other discipline. Men can take in the Bible, and have a superficial (if fleshly) understanding of its truth and can appear to the undiscerning to be speaking spiritual truth with genuine spiritual life and understanding.
- iii. It is a great and precious privilege to receive even this enlightening... the general call of the gospel goes forth from the Spirit and calls men

to some degree of understanding. The call, even the general call, does provide light.

1. Perhaps they will be deepened by this enlightening
2. Perhaps they will be called and drawn to life
3. Perhaps God will graciously call them

b. The appreciation of light

- i. But many of these are people who grab hold of the truth readily, in the parable of the soils these are the shallow soil...
- ii. They will receive the good news with joy because it offers hope in the midst of the darkness, but their object is deliverance from a specific set of circumstances rather than from the sin which created them.

c. The impact of light - Following Christ will create its own set of circumstances.

- i. Rejection by old friends
 - ii. Loss of financial means when honesty is now required
 - iii. Loss of enjoyments
 - iv. Understanding of sin and how defiled we truly are
 - v. There are many more...
- d. The rejection of light - And so the power of common truth alone is slight, and very temporary. Left only to natural ability, this knowledge can often leave its possessor hardened.

IV. MENTAL APOSTASY

Having found oneself facing new circumstances that create an experiential misery akin to the old miseries the man who has only common grace and superficial illumination will turn away.

- a. Some will reject the church completely and become the most avowed haters of all things Christian imaginable
 - i. These will tell you they are atheist
 - ii. They are the ones who say "I tried Jesus, it didn't work"
 - iii. They are the most vocal advocates of silencing the church
 - iv. They become extremely aggressive in the suppression of the truth
- b. Most will retain some sort of moral code that allows them to do the things they want and still feel like they are in good standing with God
- c. These will often use religion as that crutch. They will still attend church, still appear to be obedient, and ARE obedient externally and when it is convenient.
- d. They will also hold and even teach false doctrine to support their desires.

2 Peter 2:18–22

- e. To BE such is the most dangerous possible place for a man to be
 - i. Be mindful of the truth and your responsibility to it.
 - 1. The question is NEVER "how do I feel about this?" or "Do I LIKE this?"
 - 2. But the question is ALWAYS "what does the Bible teach?" and "what does God require of me because of this?"
 - ii. Be careful of where you seek your answers - "you don't dig a well under the outhouse"
 - iii. Be attentive to the prompting of the Spirit and recognize the human tendency to want to be "just close enough"
 - iv. To be filled with such as this creates the most dangerous situation for a church.

V. TRUE ILLUMINATION

a. God is calling people to Himself and is turning them away from darkness by the power of the gospel.

1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV) ⁹ But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Acts 26:17–18 (NKJV) ¹⁷ I will deliver you from the *Jewish* people, as well as *from* the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, ¹⁸ to open their eyes, *in order* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

2Timothy 1.8-12

1. He draws

2. He opens our eyes
3. He turns us away from darkness
 - a. Never glorify darkness nor allow it to be glorified in your eyes
 - b. Seek after God with all your heart and with all you have in you
 - c. Be ruthless to root out sin and destroy its havens in your heart
4. He gives the faith to believe.
5. Here is the true issue, we are cleansed by faith in Christ. At every turning, the call is to seek Him, follow Him and obey Him. Nothing else will serve, nothing else will save.

ii. God will lead those whom He calls

Isaiah 42:16 (NKJV)¹⁶ I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, And crooked

places straight. These things I will do for them, And not forsake them.

- iii. The Scripture is the normal means of this enlightenment

2 Peter 1:19–21 (NKJV) ¹⁹ And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; ²⁰ knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹ for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.

- iv. The focus of true spiritual illumination is Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ ALONE!

2Corinthians 3.16-4.6