

***The Six Steps to Apostasy: Not glorifying God, not thankful, changing the glory of God, changing the truth of God into a lie, and worshipping and serving the creature more than the Creator, not wanting to retain God in their knowledge**

1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

Whether a man believes it or not, God is a God of wrath. The word wrath means “violent anger, indignation; the just punishment of an offense or crime.” God is always righteous in his wrath, always! Notice who is wrath is against: ungodly and unrighteous men who hold the truth in unrighteousness.

God’s wrath is not only revealed and experienced in hell and the lake of fire after death, or physical infirmities in this life, but also is revealed and is experienced in this life in another manner. God’s wrath can be experienced by saved and unsaved people. However in terms of eternal damnation and condemnation, the Christian can rest assure that he will not taste the second death, for Christ already paid the debt for him and as Paul said, delivered us from the wrath to come (1 Thessalonians 1:10). However, even though a Christian has been forgiven, he still will have to reap what he has sown before and after he got saved (Galatians 6:7-8).

How is the wrath of God revealed in the here and now? God’s wrath is manifested by the Lord giving a man over to a reprobate mind and to the lusts of his own heart. The rest of Romans 1 bears this truth out.

1:19-20 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

There are things that we can know about God without having a Bible and without having a preacher. According to God, we can know his eternal power and Godhead based upon creation. Notice in verse 19, “Because that which may be know of God is manifest IN THEM; for God hath shewed IT UNTO THEM.” You see that? God has revealed to each and every man and women on the face of this earth, knowledge about him. God personally showed it onto them and notice where he revealed it to them, IN THEM, that is to say, in the hearts and minds. God has put the knowledge of him in their consciences’.

Every person born into this world is created by God, even though that person does not have God as their Father nor is made in the image of God. A man becomes a son of God when he receives Jesus Christ and is born again (John 1:12-13). Also according to John 1:4-9, he lights every man that cometh into this world. Not only does this refer to Jesus giving life to every man, but it also refers to Jesus imparting unto their minds knowledge about their Maker (John 3:19-21). Light it your Bible may times refers to revelation (Luke 2:32, Acts 26:18, 2 Corinthians 4:6), direction and guidance (John 8:12,

12:35). The problem is man loves evil more than good and avoids the light God has made known unto him and does not like to think about or retain God in his knowledge.

God has revealed to all that he is their Creator. Only a fool says there is no God (Psalm 14:1). *Every man comes into this world with a knowledge of God, you have to be talked out of it by someone. Also, every saved person at birth believes the word of God, and they have to be talked out of it in order to not believe it.* No matter where you go in this world, man worships some kind of God and believes in a creator God because it is built into us all, God put it there.

Notice the verse says that the invisible things from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead. There is no way in your right mind you can look up into the starry sky at night, feel the cool gentle breeze of the wind on your cheeks, hear the songs of the animals in the night and say God hath not wrought all this. You know what you say, Wow this is beautiful. Wow, I am pretty insignificant, there is a big whole universe out there. You look at the structure and order of the things of the universe and you say, I know that didn't happen by chance, it was put there by God. And you realize he is Almighty seeing he controls the constellations above, and the waves of the seas beneath, and set their bounds, and causes the clouds to rain to feed man and beast. You realize from creation that God is Great and that he is a Great Big God and that you are nothing compared to him! You can't help but think this because every time you look up into heaven, you have the heavens preaching at you (Psalm 19:1). You know from creation that God is Great and that he is powerful seeing he controls all of his creation.

It says that creation even testifies to the Godhead. One thing we all know for sure, we had a beginning and we will have an end. We know things are born and then they die. That goes for everything we see with no exceptions. Since that is true, we know creation has not always existed forever; it was created by some external Power who has no beginning our end. We know from creation that God is eternal and his Power is eternal. He is from everlasting. And since he is, always was, and always will be, he is unique and different from all of his creation by nature. Based upon the creation we learn things about the Creator, that he is intelligent seeing how all things are fashioned, that he likes order, that he likes peace, that he is beautiful and majestic and he likes the colors green and blue. With that knowledge we know the Godhead cannot be some idol that resembles some part of creation because the creation is inferior to the Creator.

Creation has been preaching on the glory of God since God made it, and man is without excuse because God put knowledge about himself in all men, and he is clearly understood by the things he has made: (1) He is separate from the creation and is Almighty, (2) He is Eternal, (3) He is Great, (4) He is not like us. All men everywhere start with this knowledge and it is up to them with what they want to do with this knowledge. The truth is, all we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned everyone to his own way, but thank God the LORD hath laid upon him the iniquity of us all! You talk about a good start in life! God has given us all a good start in life in the spiritual

sense because we all know God created us and he is Great and eternal and he is not like us at all! Talk about a good foundation to have!

1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

1. Not glorifying God as God

Again, we all had a knowledge of God from our very beginning. Every human being knew God in the beginning, but what happened? They chose not to glorify him as God. They treat God and acts towards God as if he wasn't God. That is the first step to apostasy and a reprobate mind. You better make sure you give all the glory to God. We are to give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name (Psalm 29:2, Jeremiah 9:24, Galatians 6:14) and if we don't there are consequences (Jeremiah 13:16, Micah 2:7-9, Malachi 2:2, Acts 12:23). That verse in Micah says people were stealing the glory of God from the children forever. God will NOT share his glory with another (Isaiah 48:11)! Romans 4:20 – you believing God's word and being strong in faith, gives glory to God!

- Psalm 4:2 turning God's glory into shame (Jeremiah 2:11)
- Hosea 4:6-9, Philippians 3:19 God will change your glory into shame
- The earth is full of God's glory (Isaiah 6:3)
- The last gospel ever preached, the last soul winning message ever preached is on Fearing God as Creator, and to give glory unto him (Revelation 14:6-7).

The idolatry of our days is the worship of self which is outright devilish (Daniel 11:36-39). Notice the antichrist does according to his will (Jesus did according to his Father's will) and exalts himself above all. (See John 7:18). He thinks he is it! Whatever you glorify the most is what you worship the most.

Real quick, we see the glory of God in the Scriptures (2 Corinthians 3:18).

We ought to continually be praising, thanking, and glorifying God (Psalm 34:1); the cherubim and angels do (Revelation 4:8-11, 5:6-14) and that is what is going on right now up in glory land. How about we get in on it tonight? How about we be some of those creatures on the earth saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. AMEN!

2. Unthankfulness is the second step that leads to apostasy.

We are commanded to be thankful (Psalm 50:14, 100, Colossians 2:6-7, 3:15, 2 Corinthians 9:15) and to give thanks in ALL THINGS! (Ephesians 5:20, 1 Thessalonians 5:18). One of the worst sins a Christian can commit is the sin of being not thankful. We have every reason in the world to be thankful and give thanks to God. Unthankfulness comes from breaking the 10th commandment, Thou shalt not covet. A person becomes unthankful when he starts lusting after what other people have. America is rooted and grounded in covetousness. We always want more or want better. We feel we deserve it, that's not true. We deserve a lake of fire burning with fire and brimstone, not what God

has given us! Beware if you start to develop this kind of an attitude that says, God you owe me, or you are not being good to me, or how come I don't have this or that, etc.

God says if you have food and clothing be content (1 Timothy 6:8). That is what God promises every Christian: he will have food and clothing. So when God says he will supply all your need, he is not guaranteeing you a roof over your head, running water, hot water for a shower, a car, a 3 course meal, toys, etc: he is referring to having a enough food to survive and clothing. How about that prosperity preachers?

=====

Notice what happens to those who don't glorify God and are not thankful: they become vain in the imaginations and thoughts and their foolish heart (that's what it is) becomes darkened.

Vain – empty, worthless, having no substance, value or importance; fruitless

They become very earthly minded (Philippians 3:19, Ephesians 2:1-9, 4:17-24, 1 John 4:4-6). They are not concerned about spiritual things but earthly things. They are focusing on this life and not preparing themselves for the next one. In other words, they are vain and their thoughts are vain. You say why? What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul? You can ring that bell to the unsaved man all day because no matter what his vain imaginations puff up, it will not matter in 100 years because he will have died and gone to hell. His desire and thoughts are vain and fruitless. It amounts to nothing.

But why is this man vain in his imaginations? Because when he knew God he chose not to give him glory and became unthankful towards the Lord. In other words, when you see any man that has set his affections on things of the earth and not on things above, and is or has become disinterested in spiritual things and pleasing God, you are dealing with someone that is in a world of iniquity and sin.

As a result of not giving glory to God and not being thankful, the man's heart is darkened. He gets no revelation or no further revelation from God. He can't see clearly, he is blind. He doesn't know at what he stumbles. He is in sad shape. This is a danger sign.

1:22-23 Professing themselves to be wise they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

Notice these people are "Professors." Isn't it ironic that all of your "higher" education teachers are called professors? I don't think that's a coincidence at all. Something to think about 😊

So people that have not given the glory to God and are not thankful towards him profess THEMSELVES to be wise, but actually they are fools. Notice again, they think themselves to be wise. This is devilish. They are puffed up. Like my Pastor says, they become a legend in their own mind. Pride baby, that's what's going on. They are proud, but they don't know anything at all. They spend all their time in vanity. Who are the wise ones according to the world (Luke 16:15)? People that spend their time focusing on earthly things and not spiritual things. People that put the focus on the now and not the hereafter. People that put the emphasis on man and not God.

Can you imagine how foolish this world is in the sight of God? He looks down from above and sees people worrying about saving whales, and the rain forest, and the same people will turn around and kill the fruit of their womb because they do not want to deal with the results of their fornication and adultery. Have you ever heard of a married couple getting an abortion?

He sees people focusing on saving "mother nature" when God has already said he is going to burn the whole thing and create all things new. You talk about vanity – you got it right there!

He looks down from heaven and sees the UN in NY City. He sees the wall that quotes from his Holy King James Bible but they delete him as the King and rightful authority (Isaiah 2). They literally subtract God from the verse and pretend they are the ones that will stop all wars and bring in world peace (You want a satanic institution, you got one right there). He sees the UN with their lips professing one thing but their actions doing another.

He sees man trying to bring about world peace without the Son of God and all that ever comes to pass is violence, death, bloodshed, hospitals, and graveyards.

He sees people crying for world peace and no more war but the same hippies will go home after their protest and smoke their pot and use their drugs, and get drunk, and lie, cheat, steal, and kill, and take God's name in vain, and lust for things they shouldn't be lusting after, and worship everything but the true and living God. And then when confronted with Light they will say, Well I think...

And the LORD wonders why people on earth have not gotten it yet? They are the problem, they have sinned against me and there is no peace saith my God to the wicked. They think they can do whatever they want and sin against me and everything will be all right? Not so. Let me say that again: they think they can do whatever they want and sin against me and everything will be all right? It ain't alright!

God looks at this whole mess and says you are fools (Read 1 Corinthians 1-3 to read about what God has to say about man's "wisdom") and if you reject my word you are not wise and are good for nothing (Jeremiah 8:9, 13:10).

You want wisdom and understanding, here it is (Job 28:28). Fear God and stop sinning. If you do that, you will be reckoned wise in my eyes, which is what matters.

When people do not give God the glory and are not thankful, they become fools and stupid. That goes for saved and lost people. It would be absolutely stupid to not glorify God as God and to not be thankful!

3. Changing the glory of God

The third step to apostasy is changing the glory of God. You say brother Brian, what is the glory of God? The glory of God is JESUS CHRIST (Revelation 21:22-23, Hebrews 1:1-3, 2 Corinthians 4:6). You can change the glory of God by saying Jesus wasn't born of a Virgin, or God wasn't his father Joseph was. Or that he didn't become God until his baptism. Or that he didn't rise from the dead. Or that he was a good teacher but not God in the flesh. Or that he didn't take away the sins of the world. Or that he didn't ascend up to heaven, or that he had a sexual relationship with Mary Magdalene, etc. This is man changing the glory of God like unto themselves because it is convenient for them.

Listen the only reason why someone would desire to change the glory of God is because if they can do so, it provides for them an alibi for sin and a supposed excuse for their evil. But if the glory of God is what it is, BOY A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE IN FOR SOME TROUBLE! AND THAT IS WHAT PEOPLE WANT TO AVOID BUT THEY ARE TRYING TO AVOID THE WRATH OF GOD THE WRONG WAY! THE WRONG WAY IS TO PRETEND IT DOESN'T EXIST OR IS NOT SO, THE RIGHT WAY IS TO REPENT OF YOUR EVIL AND PUT YOUR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST! THAT'S THE WAY TO DO IT!!!!!! HALLELUJAH!

Even Jesus said, since I have come, they no longer have a cloak for their sin – John 15:22-25 (in other words, no more excuses!) When God came in the flesh, and died for our sins and rose again and ascended back up to haven, THERE ARE NO MORE EXCUSES! Boy do people hate that! God is done all and given all. What more could he do for us? People hate the gospel of Christ because if the gospel is true, that means the whole world is guilty before God even more so now than ever before because their God came and died and rose from the dead to save them!

If you are going to hate a God that was willing and actually did that for you, to save a vile, disgusting, sinner, who in all actuality is worthy to die the death because of his sins against his Maker, and hate a God that would grant you a full and complete pardon, and give you eternal life, and a new body, and a new home in a perfect universe with no sin, death, crying, sorrow, and pain, BUDDY YOU ARE MESSED UP IN THE HEAD AND YOU ARE WORTHY OF DEATH (Romans 1:32)!

In a broader sense changing the glory of God is changing who God is. Notice what do wicked men do, they make God like man and animals. That is evil. You say, how do they do that? There are many ways. One way to do it is by changing his words, adding to his words, deleting from his words, or undermining or spiritualizing his words. Another

way is to take away God's attributes from himself such as his omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotence. Or to say God only loves he doesn't hate or to say God hates and doesn't love. All that kind of stuff.

I think one of the reasons why people tend to make a God in their own image or liken him onto the rest of creation, and refuse to give him glory and not be thankful, is not because they don't believe in God or that he exists, it's because they have unanswered questions concerning him and his ways. Such as, If God is who he claims to be how come... (fill in the blank). They are either unknowing or unwilling to accept the answers provided for them by God in his word. I think that has a lot to do with it.

One question that often comes up is this, If God is holy, righteous and just, why doesn't he stop the evil now or why does he allow certain things to take place?

Look at Psalm 50:16-23. God does keep his silence! Isn't that an amazing thing to think about? He holds his peace when people sin and lie about him and profane his holy name. Notice when Job's friends didn't speak that which was right concerning the Lord, he did not immediately rebuke them, but waited. How about when Jesus was dealing with the Pharisees, he said he had a lot to judge them for, but he kept his silence against them (John 8:23-27). Isn't that amazing?

That blows my mind! He is a God that hides himself (Isaiah 45:18) and keeps silent. You want to know why he keeps silent when all the evil goes on? He is waiting and seeing if any will turn from his evil ways and come back to him!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! AMEN! (2 Peter 3:9, 1 Timothy 2:3-4). Aren't you glad he didn't destroy you when you first did evil? I would have been in hell many, many, years ago if it wasn't for the longsuffering of God and his grace and mercy towards me! PRAISE GOD! In light of the MERCY, GRACE, AND LONGSUFFERING OF GOD, it is a good thing for man that he does keep his silence for now because the Scripture says, Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call upon his name while he is near, let the wicked forsake his ways, and the unrighteous man his thoughts and let him return unto the LORD and he will have mercy upon him, and to our God for he will abundantly pardon!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

One day though, at the day of the LORD, he will not keep silence and he will pour out his fiery wrath and indignation and it will be too late (Psalm 50:1-6, Isaiah 65:6, 42:13-16). As the word of God says, who may abide the day of his coming, and who shall stand when he appeareth (Malachi 3:2)? But praise God if a man wants to make peace with God he can make peace with God (Isaiah 26:21-27:5)!!!!!!!!!!!!