

## APOSTASIA & APOSTASION

Well, in case you haven't realized it yet, I have a *very specific agenda* with regards to this chat room. That agenda is *not* to increase the size of the room; nor is it to expand my quote ministry; nor is it to start my own little religious group which goes by the name, "Zion's Trumpet". It's not even to provide a place for the brethren to come together and share—although that *was* my original reason for starting the room. My agenda is the development of spiritual warriors for God's Kingdom.

Of course, I am fully aware that Dan Mace will never be able to produce warriors for Christ—only the Spirit of God can do that. But I do believe that if people can accept the vision I share in this room, and ask God to fulfill that vision in their own lives, then the things I share will *help* bring them into the reality of what God is after in this hour.

I also realize that the term "*spiritual warriors*" might bring some negative images to your mind, since there is a lot of error being taught right now in that name. To most people, being a spiritual warrior means going out and trying defeat Satan in our American culture. It means pulling down strongholds over towns and cities and entire nations so the gospel will be accepted by the people in those towns, cities and nations. It means dethroning Satan in the earth and establishing the Kingdom of God before Jesus returns. But I'm not talking about that. God is looking for spiritual *soldiers* who's primary goal, who's primary focus, is to live a victorious life *in the spirit*. He's looking for a warriors who will sell everything they have (spiritually speaking) to walk in victory over all the power of Satan in *their own lives*.

You might say: "*But brother Daniel; I thought the goal was to be conformed to the image of Jesus?*" It is. But we are never going to be fully conformed to that image *unless* we have a fanatical determination to overcome everything—not just some things, but everything—that seeks to hinder us from attaining the goal God has for us. In other words, the only thing that will cause us to overcome everything is a warrior spirit. The only thing that will cause us to overcome everything is a take-no-prisoners attitude.

This is why I keep repeating certain things over and over again. When I talk about the need to have God before all things in our lives—before all material possessions, before all relationships, before all personal goals, before our jobs and hobbies and recreation, before our own self and our own wills—I'm not just saying it because doing so is wise and it's for our own spiritual good (though it is). I'm saying it because *unless* God is before all things, we will never become spiritual warriors.

When I talk about the need to have our doctrines straight, or about the need to reject all the garbage that John Calvin taught, and all the other theological trash that's being taught in the Church System right now, I'm not just saying it because it's for our own good (though it certainly is). I'm saying it because *unless* we get all this error out of our minds, we will never become spiritual warriors. When I talk about the need to be recognize the work of evil spirits in our lives, and the need to learn how to overcome these spirits, I'm not just saying it because it's for our own good (though it is). I'm saying it because *unless* we learn how to recognize the work of these spirits and defeat them, we will never become spiritual warriors.

When I talk about the need to separate from people, including other brethren and family, I'm not just saying it just because it's for our own good. I'm saying it because *unless* we separate ourselves from everything and everyone that is hindering us, we will never become spiritual warriors.

God has a big kingdom; and there are many places in that kingdom for all the different kinds of believers there are in the world. There are millions and millions of spiritual babies, spiritual children, and spiritual teenagers in His kingdom. There are millions of wounded believers and carnal believers in His kingdom. I by no means think that we (or those like us) are the only people who are doing kingdom work. God has all kinds of people doing all kinds of different things for Him. But He has very few spiritually mature *warriors*. He has very few who's primary goal is to walk in victory night and day. So there is a place for people like us, and there is a need for people like us. And those who pay the price that is required to get free from *every vestige* of Satan's *influence* in our lives, and walk in that freedom 24/7, will have a part to play in God's eternal plan that the rest of His people will not have.

If that sounds elitists or proud, I'm sorry; it's the truth. Within the ranks of Christendom there is a people—a *very small group* of people—who are willing to turn their backs on everything and everyone in order to apprehend that for which they have been apprehended of Christ Jesus. There is a group of people who have a take-no-prisoners attitude towards the spirits who are constantly waging war against us, and tricking us into walking under *their* influence and *their* power. If you want to know just how small this group is, you can figure it out just by going down the list of things the average Christian refuses to separate from, or the doctrines they refuse to let go of, which disqualifies them from this group.

For example, how many people in (or out of) of the churches believe that a Christian can't have a demon? You can be sure *they* won't be part of the group I speak of. How many people in (or out of) the churches believe that as long as we are human we have to sin? You can be sure *they* won't be part of this group. How many people in (or out of) of the churches believe the error of Eternal Security? You can be sure *they* won't be part of this group.

How many people in (or out of) of the churches believe Calvin's twisted view of the Sovereignty of God, which effectively cancels out the free will of man? You can be sure *they* won't be part of this group. How many people in (or out of) of the churches believe that all the problems Christians face are just coming from their "flesh"? You can be sure *they* won't be part of this group.

How many Dispensationalists do you think there are in (or out of) of the churches? You can be sure *they* won't be part of this group because one of the main components of that system is the idea that God is *totally responsible* to keep us safe. How many people in (or out of) the churches reject the whole notion of an overcoming remnant within the Church? You can be sure *they* won't be part of this group.

I could go on and on, but I think you get the picture. Most of the errors that plague Christians both inside and outside the System are designed to produce *false* security, or *complacency* with regards to the battle we face, or *over confidence* towards an enemy who can destroy us. Until we renounce these errors and embrace the truth, we will never see the need to become a spiritual warriors. We will never see our walk in Christ as a life and death struggle. And we will never see a need to forsake everything and everyone in order to gain the victory that God has prepared for us.

So you see, the group of which I speak is very small indeed. Many years ago the Lord showed me what it would cost to be part of this remnant, and I soon realized that very few Christians would be willing to pay that price. I also saw how all the false doctrines of the Church System actually helped to strengthen the unwillingness to pay that price because they offer people the same rewards and the same destiny of this

remnant, *free of charge*. They tell the people we will all get the same rewards and glory in heaven, based solely upon our profession of faith in Jesus. Ever since then, I have been fighting against the false security, complacency, and over confidence these doctrines produce in people.

Also, about 10 years ago the Lord started showing me that the Antichrist which was predicted to arise in the last days was first and foremost a religious demonic prince who would have the power to perfectly imitate and duplicate every thing the Holy Spirit does in a person's life. As this revelation became more and more real to me in the ensuing years, I began sounding the alarm regarding how much danger we are in right now. But continually run into the same problem. So many of God's people simply can't take the warning seriously because of all the errors they have been taught over the years. The same doctrines that keep them from being willing to pay the price that is required to become a spiritual warrior for Christ, also keeps them from being able to grasp the seriousness of the danger we are facing.

Let me state something very clearly: God is not interested in making sure we have temporal happiness, or that we have all our temporal desires satisfied, or that all our temporal relationships are kept intact. He has an eternal plan that He is bringing to pass in this earth and He wants *eternal* fruit from our lives. He wants to bring us to a place of *honor* (ie: to be a vessel of honor) in His kingdom—and in order to become a vessel of honor in that kingdom we are going to have to be *different*, radically different, not just from the people and the culture of this world (which worships Satan), but also from the culture of the Church (which has been deceived by Antichrist) and from the vast majority of the "Christians" all around you.

I'm saying that we can't have a "normal" life and still end up a vessel of honor in the Lord's house. We can have a normal life and still be "saved". We can have a normal life and end up *in* the kingdom. But we can't have a normal life and also be one of God's *Mighty Men*. So we are going to have to make a choice between the two. Our lives must be strange to those around us. We should be considered abnormal, illogical, and unreasonable to those who are not walking on the same narrow path Jesus walked. If the people of this world and the people in the Church System understand where you are coming from, then you are *not* on the right path; you are on *their* path.

I get so grieved and aggravated with preachers who, in one breath say how dangerous the current apostasy is, and then, with the next breath, teach doctrines which will *prevent* God's people from taking the warning about apostasy seriously. Last week we got David Wilkerson's October news letter: "*Getting Ready For The End Of All Things*". He had some good things to say, but eventually he started preaching the Great End Time Revival error. The point of his message was simple. There is a great end time revival (ie: the Latter Rain) coming, and God is preparing His people to receive this out pouring. At the same time, God is *also* preparing us to face the horrible days ahead. The preparation for the dark days ahead, as well as the preparation for the out pouring of the Latter Rain, is exactly the same. We must learn to show *unconditional love* to others.

"Peter's summation is, "If you want to know **what survival** is all about—to see how God is leading his people through these times—then **show unconditional love to your brothers and sisters**. That has everything to do with the future of the church of Christ. . .

. . . You may say, "But I'm not holding onto any grudges. I don't have any bitterness toward anyone. I only have pure love for my brothers and sisters. When someone sins against me, I never expose their iniquity. So, I don't see how Peter's

admonition applies to me. What does he have to say to me about preparing for the end times?" The truth is Peter's message here has everything to do with the future of the church of Jesus Christ. You see, **God is preparing his church for a latter-day outpouring of his Spirit**. According to the prophets, the Holy Spirit will come in a great wave upon the earth, filling God's people with joy when the world is in upheaval.

This won't happen, however, in a church **where people hold grudges and wounds are left unresolved**. Peter is asking us, "Do you want to be ready for what's coming? Do you want to be fully prepared when all things are being shaken? Then make sure you have nothing in your heart **that hinders the flow of God's Spirit**. Something wonderful is just ahead. Make sure you are not left out of it."

What is this last-day outpouring of the Holy Spirit all about?". . .

. . . Beloved, this is why Peter's focus in his epistles is on the issues of the heart. He knew firsthand all these things had to be cast out and forgiven, lest the Spirit's work be hindered by any flesh. The same is true for Christ's church today, **we who are to receive his mighty harvest rain**. Will we hinder that work of the Spirit, by failing to forgive? Or **will we be prepared by allowing mercy to flow through us to others?**

Although I still have a great deal of respect for brother Wilkerson, the unpleasant fact is, his understanding of what God is doing right now has been twisted by the Latter Rain error he refuses to lay down. He does not have it right and he will *never* get it right until he lets go of that whole religious fantasy. God is not preparing channels of "mercy" to be released during the last great revival. Quite the reverse! He is preparing a company of people (called the Two Witnesses) to bring devastating *judgments* and *plagues* on an unrepentant world that hates God and murders His people, and upon a Church System which has been seduced by Antichrist and as a result, has become the cage of every unclean bird.

The only end time "revival" that's predicted in the Scripture is a false revival which will engulf the entire planet—and the last thing God's people need to do right now is walk in "*unconditional*" love towards all the unclean birds that dwell in that fallen Religious System. I'm sorry but it was not the Spirit of God who gave brother Wilkerson this last message. God is saying just the opposite of what David is saying. He is calling us to a place of even *deeper* separation from everything and everyone who will hinder us from attaining the call He has placed on our lives.

It's self defeating to warn about the apostasy and then preach doctrines that *produce* false security, complacency, and over confidence in the people. Doing so turns a genuine, life and death warning of the Holy Spirit into a religious game. I mean, hey, if a great revival is just around the corner, and if that is to be the hope we are to hold out for, things aren't really as bad as they seem, are they? If all the spiritual destruction we see happening right now is not really *eternal* destruction, but will soon be offset by a great end time revival, then what's the big deal about people like Benny Hinn or Todd Bentley? Why should we worry about our brothers and sisters being deceived? I mean, after all, when the great revival comes, won't most of those who have been duped, end up back in the faith anyway?

A couple of days after reading Wilkerson's message, somebody sent me a link to a message *Paul Washer* gave recently (10\_22\_08) at a Revival Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. The person who sent me the link thought the message was wonderful, and I guess they assumed I would think it was wonderful too. It was

called: “*Ten Indictments (A Historical 21<sup>st</sup> Century Message)*”. Since I am familiar with Paul Washer’s beliefs, I wasn’t really all that interested in listening to it. But I didn’t want to be rude to the individual who sent me the link, so I did. It was more of the same thing he always teaches—the problem with the churches is that people are not experiencing a genuine “conversion”. If they were, they would show it by a godly life and the production of spiritual fruit.

Of course this sounds good because it is true to a certain extent. But his big thing about people not being truly converted comes from his Eternal Security beliefs. He’s saying what he does because in his view, the person who *seems* to be saved, but who then fails to bear good fruit, just shows that they were never truly converted to begin with. Those who are truly converted do not *fail* to bring forth fruit. Those who are truly converted do not have a problem with carnality.

I realize that everyone thinks Paul Washer is wonderful, but I don’t. As a matter of fact, I think he’s spiritually blind and dangerous, not only because he preaches the error of Eternal Security—as well as most of the other errors of John Calvin—but also because he doesn’t understand that many of the problems Christians face right now are demonic in nature.

We have helped people get delivered from some powerful demon spirits over the last 20 years and I can tell you that if *any* of these people would have gone to Paul Washer for help, his answer to them would have been that they never experienced a real conversion—they just *thought* they got saved. He would have told every last one of them that if they were *really* saved, they wouldn’t be having the kinds of problems they were having.

Now let me tell you what this kind of theology does to the person who *really is* saved, but who also has serious problems because of a life that was heavily involved with demon spirits. After telling the person they were never really saved to begin with—they just *thought* they were—the person will naturally try and get saved *again*, according to Washer’s correct theological view.

But guess what? Nothing will change because the problem was *not* that the person never really experienced a genuine conversion. Rather, the problem was that he is bound by demons and he needs some deliverance to get past first base. Not realizing that he simply needs some deliverance, and instead believing what the great Paul Washer has told him, this guy will return to Washer and tell him he still has the *same* problem, even though he tried to get saved the *right* way this time—that is, Paul Washer’s way.

Would you like to take a guess as to what Mr. Washer will tell this poor guy? He’ll tell him that for some reason he just hasn’t gotten that true conversion yet! And of course we all know that whatever the problem is, it’s *not* with God. So the guy will become convinced it’s his fault God won’t save him. How long do you think that guy is going to keep trying to get a *true* conversion? After about the fourth time, he’s going to give up and walk away convinced that he just can’t be saved.

But this was not what grieved me the most. The thing that really grieved me was at one point near the end of Washer’s message, he warned against the “apostasy”. Now whenever OSAS people start talking about the apostasy I have mixed emotions. Part of me just wants to laugh because of how illogical and blind they are, and part of me wants to cry. I mean, how can they even talk about such a thing as “apostasy” when they don’t believe Christians can end up lost? I always want to ask OSAS people who they think is

apostatizing? The unsaved? How can the *unsaved* go into apostasy? Well then, who is apostatizing? The Christians? How can Christians who are *eternally secure* go into apostasy? Well, I decided to email Mr. Washer from his web site and ask him to *define* apostasy for me, and then, to tell me who it is that's going into apostasy right now. Of course, I didn't really expect to get an answer from him—and I didn't. But I did get an answer from someone from his ministry.

Dan,

Our pastor, Jeff Noblit, did a series on apostasy called Apostasy and the Unpardonable State. Also, take a look at another series called the Pretenders. You can **order** either one or both through Anchored In Truths online store at...In short, our view of an apostate is just that, **a pretender** who was 'once enlightened' and then turned from the faith **which at one point they were attracted to (to some degree) and warmed toward but were never truly regenerated.**

I Hope This Helps,  
Holden Barry

Jeff Noblit is the pastor of "Grace Life Church Of The Shoals", formerly First Baptist Church Of The Shoals, which is the church Paul Washer attends. Barry's answer reflects the position of Washer as well as his pastor. It's the same line all OSAS people use—those who end up in apostasy are really only "pretenders" (ie: false Christians). They are people who turned from the faith which at one point they were *attracted to* (to some degree) and *warmed toward* but were *never truly regenerated*.

So now you know how OSAS people can preach Eternal Security in one breath, and then turn around and warn people not to become part of the great end time apostasy. It's all perfectly logical to them because they have *redefined* the term apostasy. Apostasy is not the abandonment of the faith that actually saved you; it's the abandonment of the faith that never saved you. Duh!!

And so, once again, the edge was taken off of what should have been a life and death warning to God's people about the danger we face in this hour. "*Oh, be careful of the apostasy my friends*", people like Washer will say. "*We are living in dangerous times*", they will say. But then they turn right around and preach Eternal Security—or some other doctrine that produces a false security and complacency in the people's hearts. So just how *real* do you think the warning about not going into apostasy can be in the minds of those who sit under this kind of religious confusion?

In order to give myself some emotional release, I sat down at the computer and started to do a little word study on the term "apostasy". First, I looked up its definition according to different religious groups. It turned out to be a very interesting study. I learned some things I never knew before. One thing I learned was that a lot of Christians believe the term apostasy is actually a reference to the pre-tribulation rapture! That's right. When Paul said: "*Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come **a falling away** first...(II. Thess. 2:3)*"—pre-trib rapture teachers claim the term "falling away" there actually means, "a departure"—as in physically departing this earth in the Rapture!

They arrive at this conclusion by dissecting and twisting the meaning of the Greek word, "*apostasia*". So as I was busy *untwisting* what they had so cleverly twisted, I discovered that the Greek word apostasia is actually the feminine form of another Greek word, "*apostasion*", and that apostasion means "divorce".

Well that was very interesting. So I started tracing *apostasion* through the New Testament, and suddenly I was on a completely different trail, and that trail had to do with divorce and remarriage. Now, before I share what I learned, let me preface it by saying a few things:

(1) I have never been one of those who condemns or looks down my nose at people who have been divorced and re-married. The Lord showed me many years ago that His first concern is *not* protecting marriages per say, or the institution of marriage, but the people who are married. He also showed me that the Church *worships* the institution of marriage. So my attitude towards marriage and divorce has never lined up with the Religious System.

(2) Over the years I have watched individuals—both male and female—who had a call of God on their lives, be destroyed because they were married to someone who was filled with Satan, and who as a result, never stopped trying to kill that spiritual life in them until they succeeded. I'll tell you very frankly that I have seen more than a few Christians go into *eternal perdition* because they were taught by blind religious leaders who worshiped the institution of marriage that it would *never* be God's will that they even separate from their spouse, let alone divorce them. So in the end, they paid their dues to the institution, but the price was their souls.

(3) I need to make it clear that I am not encouraging people to get a divorced. I simply want to show you *the difference* between what religious leaders *say* the Bible teaches regarding this issue, and what it actually teaches. They are not the same thing. I'm going to show you tonight that the things we have learned about divorce did *not* come from the Scripture, but from the *worship* of an institution.

How many of you have ever heard a preacher say: "God hates divorce"—and then refer to Malachi 2:16? Well, if you read that passage in the King James Version, you will notice that it doesn't actually say God hates "divorce". It says He hates "*putting away*".

*For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth **putting away**: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, **that ye deal not treacherously.***

*Malachi 2:16*

The reason the King James translators rendered it "putting away" instead of "divorce" is because the Hebrew word used there is "*shalach*" (shaw-lakh')—Strong's # 7971. This word does not mean divorce and it has never meant divorce. It's a common word used throughout the Old Testament which means: to go, to separate, or to send. There is a specific Hebrew word which is used for divorce and it is "*keriythuwth*" (ker-ee-thooth')—Strong's # 3748. It means: a cutting (ie: of the matrimonial bond).

What God was talking about in Malachi was not divorce. It was something akin to what we would today call "desertion". Only in our day, it's the man who usually walks out and leaves the women with the house and the kids. In the days of Israel, it was the women who left the house because she was told to leave. A man would "put away" his wife without any concern for her future. He would not actually "divorce" her, so she was not free to go out and marry another man. Yet neither could she live with her husband. This left her in destitute circumstances. This is why God instituted the following law through Moses:

*When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him **write her a bill of divorcement**, and give it in her hand, and **send her out of his house**. And when she is departed out of his house, **she may go and be another man's wife**"*

*Deuteronomy 24:1-2*

Please notice that even under the Old Covenant, *remarriage* was not forbidden. If a man was displeased with his wife, he was to give her a certificate of divorce so she can become another man's wife and not be left destitute. Divorce had two stages. The writing of the certificate, and the sending away, which is the same as putting away. God gave this law to aid women because of the manner in which men were abusing them. It was designed to protect the women. You can see the difference in the Old Testament between the idea of putting away and divorce in what God says of Israel and Judah.

*Thus saith the LORD, Where is **the bill of your mother's divorcement** [keriythuwth], whom I have **put away** [shalach]? or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother put away."*

*Isaiah 50:1*

This passage is very important because it emphasizes the importance of the "bill of divorcement" and teaches us that until there is an actual legal divorce (with the papers) there is still hope for reconciliation. There was a "separation" between God and Israel, but not a divorce. Unfortunately, Israel would not repent and be reconciled. So later, in the book of Jeremiah, we find God saying the following:

*And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away (shalach), **and** given her a bill of divorce (keriythuwth); yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also."*

*Jeremiah 3:8*

So the term, "putting away" in the Old Testament does not mean divorce. It's a reference to depriving a woman of one of her most basic human rights—which is to be married and taken care of. Those who were put away, but who were not given a bill of divorcement, were left in a kind of limbo that would make them an adulteress if they ever tried to get married again. But of course, the same did not apply to the man! He could marry as many women as he wanted, and he could put away as many as he wanted. This is why Moses instituted the law of divorce.

In the New Testament the situation is very similar with the Greek. There is a term that means put away and there is a term that means divorce. The Greek word for put away is "*apoluo*" (ap-ol-oo'-o)—Strong's #630. It means: to free fully, to relieve, to release, or to dismiss. The other word, as I mentioned, is "*apostasion*" (ap-os-tas'-ee-on)—Strong's #647. This word means divorce. You can see the difference between the two words when the Pharisees ask Jesus about divorce and remarriage in the gospels.

*The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, **Is it lawful for a man to put away [apoluo] his wife for every cause?** And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. They say unto him, **Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, [apostasion] and to put her away [apoluo]?** He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away [apoluo] your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. And I say unto you, Whosoever shall **put away [apoluo] his wife**, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is **put away [apoluo]** doth commit adultery.*

*Matthew 19:3-9*

*And he arose from thence, and cometh into the coasts of Judaea by the farther side of Jordan: and the people resort unto him again; and, as he was wont, he taught them again. And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, **Is it lawful for a man to put away [apoluo] his wife?** tempting him. And he answered and said unto them, **What did Moses command you?** And they said, **Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement [apostasion], and to put her away [apoluo].** And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*

*Mark 10:1-9*

The distinction between "put away" and "divorce," between the Greek *apoluo* and *apostasion* is critical. *Apoluo* indicated that women were enslaved, put away, with no rights, no recourse; deprived of the basic right to monogamous marriage. *Apostasion* ended marriage and permitted a legal subsequent marriage. The paper makes all the difference. "*Let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife*"—that was the law.

But hard-hearted men didn't care about the Law anymore than they cared about women. They unilaterally put away women without divorcing them and married others, thus leaving the women without recourse and deprived of the ability to ever marry again. Jesus changed all that. He demanded obedience to the law. He demanded equal marriage rights for women. Grace surely does abound in Christ Jesus! He told those men that to put away (*apoluo*) a wife and to marry another was adultery. Adultery! The law called for the death penalty for adultery, for both the woman and the man (*Deut. 22:22*); so that must have been a real shock to these men who were used to doing as they pleased with women.

If you go through the New Testament you will find that the term “*apoluo*” (put away) is used 94 times. Eighteen of those references relate to a separation in marriage or an intimate relationship (but not divorce). Seventy six times it’s used in other ways. Usually it has to do with sending someone away. It never means divorce—only separation. Jesus used this terms eleven times and in every instance but one, it is translated “put away” and not divorce. That eleventh instance seems to be the source of the problem.

In one place in the King James Version, the translators rendered *apoluo* as divorce instead of put away. It’s in Matthew 5:32: “...*and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery*”. But again, the Greek word there is not apostasion (divorce); it’s *apoluo* (*put away*); which means to send away without a legal writing of divorce.

Why on earth did they translate *apoluo* as divorce right there? I’ll never know the answer to that. But they did, and they were wrong. That one mistranslation has caused everyone to believe that Jesus was saying anyone who gets *divorced* and remarried is living in a state of adultery. But in fact what Jesus was really saying is that any MAN who puts away (abandons) HIS wife *without* giving her a legal divorce, and marries another women, he is living in a state of adultery. And he is also forcing the women he has put away without divorcing her to live in adultery too, if she gets remarried.

So, for hundreds of years, orthodox tradition has taught us to think *divorce* whenever we read *put away*. The incredible thing is this: divorce, as commanded in the Law, was actually *the solution* to the cruel practice of men abandoning their wives and leaving them destitute, instead of freeing them legally through divorce, se they were free to get remarried. Blind religious leaders who have missed the entire point of divorce have turned what Jesus said into another kind of legalistic bondage. I want to go on record right here as saying that divorce, in and of itself is NOT sin! And remarriage, in and of itself, is NOT adultery! What makes these things possible sins is the MOTIVE for what is being done.

Divorce is not sin when it is a corrective for an intolerable situation or an unworkable marriage. Has it been abused? Of course it has. What hasn’t been abused? Is divorce pretty or is it desirable? Not at all. In most cases it produces loneliness, rejection, a deep sense of failure, loss of self-esteem, child care problems, property settlements, and so on.

My point here is not to encourage divorce. My point is that it is not a sin when it is the *only answer* left to a marriage that has failed—and remarriage is no more a sin under the New Covenant than it was under the Old Covenant. So if anyone in this room, or anyone listening to the recording, has been divorced and remarried, and you have been fighting the guilt and the shame that blind religious leaders and Christians continually dump on people like you, just know that *they* are the ones who have the wrong attitude. And in the end, many of them will find out that they are committing *spiritual* adultery (idolatry) by worshiping the institution of marriage.

Now, lets read what God said in Malachi again:

*For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth **putting away**: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, **that ye deal not treacherously.***

*Malachi 2:16*

Take heed that ye deal not treacherously, the Lord warned. What was He talking about? Deal treacherously with who? First, He is talking about Judah dealing treacherously with Him.

***Judah hath dealt treacherously, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the holiness of the LORD which he loved, and hath married the daughter of a strange god. The LORD will cut off the man that doeth this, the master and the scholar, out of the tabernacles of Jacob, and him that offereth an offering unto the LORD of hosts.***

*Malachi 2:11-12*

Judah was in a covenant relationship or a marriage relationship with God. But they forsook Him for another god. They put the true God away and joined themselves to (married) another false god. But their wicked hearts were not just turning against the true God who was married to them as a nation. The MEN were also dealing treacherously with their wives by putting them away too, and marrying other women with giving their true wife a legal bill of divorcement. God hated this.

*And this again ye do: ye cover the altar of Jehovah with tears, with weeping, and with sighing, insomuch that [or because] he regardeth not the offering any more, neither receiveth it with good will at your hand. **Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because Jehovah hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously, though she is thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant. And did he not make one, although he had the residue of the Spirit? And wherefore one? He sought a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth. For I hate putting away, saith Jehovah, the God of Israel, and him that covereth his garment with violence, saith Jehovah of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.***

*Malachi 2:13-16 ASV*

The men of Judah were walking in wickedness towards their God and towards their wives—and God talks *specifically* about the mistreatment of the wives. He said he HATED what the men of Judah were doing. To their wives. He HATED the practice of putting them away *without* giving them a legal divorce. It was sin, and it's one of the reasons God no longer heard their prayers or accepted their offerings.

Now, back to the New Testament and the “*apostasia*” (falling away). Since apostasia is the female form of apostasion, and since apostasion means divorce, do you think the end time apostasy Paul referred to, which we are seeing right now, might have something to do with the concept of divorce? Do you think it's possible that multitudes of Christians have been deceived into “putting away” (*apoluo*) the true Jesus, and accepting a counterfeit Jesus? Do you think it's possible that these people who have been deceived are so *in love* with the counterfeit Jesus that they are actually divorcing (*apostasion*) the real Jesus; the one they were once married to, and are actually marrying the other Jesus?

The term *apostasia* means to “forsake” something. The only other time it is used in the New Testament is in the book of Acts, when Paul was told that the Jews in Jerusalem were convinced that he was teaching all men to *forsake* Moses.

*And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake [apostasia] Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children, neither to walk after the customs.*

*Acts 21:21*

We usually think of the apostasia as a forsaking of Christianity in general, as in casting off the doctrines and the values and the restraints of Christianity. But maybe something a little deeper is involved. Maybe the term contains the idea of a large portion of what was once the bride of Christ getting so deceived in the last days that they end up becoming the bride of Antichrist.

Well, that’s exactly what I believe is involved. It’s not just the unsaved, or the “fake” Christians who are becoming part of the bride of Antichrist. Multitudes of God’s people, people who were once genuine believers, are ending up in that horrible state.

So we need to be sounding the alarm for REAL—and I’m not talking about constantly exposing false prophets and false teachers in the Religious System. There is a place for that. But I’m talking about exposing the *spirit of Antichrist* that’s deceiving so many people (clergy and laity) both inside and outside the System. We need to be warning God’s people in earnest about what’s happening. We need to encourage them to let God work His “rod of iron” and His “take-no-prisoners” attitude in them towards anything or anyone who would seek to lead them into that company of people who have married a false god. And we need to ask the Lord to deliver us from any and all doctrines that would take the edge off that warning or cause it to be watered down.

God’s is looking for some mature soldiers and warriors in these days.

Does He have any takers?