

Escaping The Descent Into Paganism

I. Paganization Of America

A. The Life Of A Christ Follower

Galatians 2:20 (NIV84®)

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

B. Descent Into Paganism

Philippians 3:17–19 (NIV84®)

¹⁷ Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. ¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, **many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.** ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.

Revelation 21:7–8 (NIV84®)

⁷ He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. ⁸ But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

Revelation 22:14–15 (NIV84®)

¹⁴ “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. ¹⁵ Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

1. Lawlessness/Ungodliness/Wickedness

1 John 3:4 (NIV84®)

Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, **sin is lawlessness.**

2 Thessalonians 2:8–10 (NIV84®)

⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. ⁹ The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, ¹⁰ and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

Matthew 24:12 (NASB95®)

“Because **lawlessness is increased**, most people’s love will grow cold.

Matthew 24:12 (NIV84®)

Because of **the increase of wickedness**, the love of most will grow cold,



2. Violence

Genesis 6:13 (NIV84®)

So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.

3. Debauchery/Excess — Discontent

Amos 6:3–8 (NIV84®)

³ You put off the evil day and bring near a reign of terror. ⁴ You lie on beds inlaid with ivory and lounge on your couches. You dine on choice lambs and fattened calves. ⁵ You strum away on your harps like David and improvise on musical instruments. ⁶ You drink wine by the bowlful and use the finest lotions, but you do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph. ⁷ Therefore you will be among the first to go into exile; your feasting and lounging will end. ⁸ The Sovereign LORD has sworn by himself—the LORD God Almighty declares:

"I abhor the pride of Jacob and detest his fortresses; I will deliver up the city and everything in it."

4. Occult: Reject The Truth . . . Promote The False

Romans 2:8 (NIV84®)

But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.

2 Timothy 3:8 (NIV84®)

Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these men oppose the truth—men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected.

Galatians 1:6–8 (NIV84®)

⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— ⁷ which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!

II. The Opportunity To Believe

Romans 10:13–15 (NIV84®)

¹³ "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." ¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Acts 26:28 (NKJV®)

Then Agrippa said to Paul, "**You almost persuade me to become a Christian.**"

Acts 19:26 (NASB®)

"You see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but **in almost all of Asia, this Paul has**



persuaded and turned away a considerable number of people, saying that gods made with hands are no gods *at all*.

A. Turning Away & Turning Towards (To Be Negotiated. . .)

- 1. Hold Outs**
- 2. Hold Ups**
- 3. Hold Overs**

III. Step Of Faith — Conversion

John 3:3 (NIV®)

In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, **no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.**"

Acts 2:38-41 (NIV®)

³⁸ Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call." ⁴⁰

With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Prayer

Almighty God,

I am a sinner and I need a Savior. I believe Jesus is Your Son, that He died on the cross for my sins and was raised to life for my justification. Forgive me of my sins. I forgive everyone who has sinned against me. Jesus be Lord of my life, I want to live for Your glory. I thank You now, that I belong to the family of God, the best family in the universe. Amen.