

The Absurdity of Christian Apostasy

Part 2

Galatians 4:12–16

Introduction: The Absurdity of Christian Apostasy.

Apostasy: “an act of refusing to continue to follow, obey, or recognize a religious faith.”

True Christians cannot become apostates.

Paul warns of Christian apostasy in order to bolster the faith of the true believer.

Paul warns of Christian apostasy in order to convert the false convert.

Christian apostasy is absurd because it is an abandoning of God’s sovereign grace.
Christian apostasy is absurd because it is a forfeiture of the privilege of participating in the ministry of the word of God.

Paul presents the blessing of participating in the ministry of the word by:

1. *Presenting the truth through a command spoken with compassion.* 4:12a

2 Timothy 2:24 The Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, **25** with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, **26** and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

2. *By reminding his readers they once fully supported the truth.* 4:12b–15

a. You participated in the ministry of the word. 4:12b–14a

b. You recognized the purity of the word. 4:14b

Luke 10:16 “The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me.”

c. You rejoiced in the blessing of the word. 4:15

Luke 24:32 They said to one another, “Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?”

Acts 13:47–49

Revelation 3:3 So remember how you received and heard and keep it and repent.
You now are vilifying the truth.

3. *By questioning their current vilification of the truth.* 4:16