

IV. GUIDELINES FOR AVOIDING APOSTASY! (VS 17-23)

A. Remember The Teaching Of The Apostles! (Vs 17-19)

- 1. Acts 20:29-30
- 2. 1 Timothy 4:1
- 3. 2 Timothy 3:1-5
- 4. 2 Timothy 4:3-4
- 5. 2 Peter 2:1-3; 3:3-5a

B. Nurture Yourselves In The Things Of The Lord! (Vs 20-21)

1. Building Up Yourselves On Your Most Holy Faith! (Vs 20a)

Romans 10:17—“Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.”

2 Peter 3:18—“But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”

2. Praying In The Holy Ghost! (Vs 20b)

That is, praying out of hearts that are indwelt, filled, and illuminated by the Holy Spirit!

It is praying in the power of the Holy Spirit!

Ephesians 6:18—“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.”

3. Keeping Yourselves In The Love Of God! (Vs 21a)

This does not indicate that salvation depends on one’s own efforts, for that would contradict other Scripture passages. (Vs 24)

Instead, a believer is nurtured as he is occupied with God’s love for Him and is in fellowship with God!

a. We See The Plan — “Keep”

The word **“keep”** means –a watch; to guard by keeping the eye upon;

When we think of *“keeping”* something, several things should come to our minds.

- 1) **There Is A DUTY!**
- 2) **There Is A DILIGENCE!**
Be Conscientious!
Be Cautious!
- 3) **There Is A DELIGHT!**

We See The Plan — “Keep”

b. We See The Person – “Keep yourselves...”

It isn't my responsibility as your Pastor to keep you in the Love of God!

It isn't any other preacher or teacher's responsibility!

It's not your parent's responsibility!

It's not anyone else’s responsibility!

You're the one responsible to keep yourself!

c. We See The Position! —“Keep yourselves in”

Stay in it! Don’t leave it.

d. We See The Place – “Keep yourselves in the love of God”

A believer is nurtured as he is occupied with God’s love for Him and is in fellowship with God!

John 15:9-10

4. Looking For The Return Of The Lord! (Vs 21b)

“Looking” means *“looking expectantly.”*

The Rapture will be the consummating evidence of His mercy bringing us to our eternal home in God’s own presence. *Titus 2:13*—“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.”

Conclusion

Are you building up your faith?

Are you praying in the Holy Spirit?

Are you keeping yourself in God's love?

Are you looking expectantly for the return of the Lord?

If not, you are subject to being moved away from the faith by those who are apostate.