

THE TRAGEDY OF APOSTASY *from* 2 PETER 2:20-22

Ryan Martin, Associate Pastor

Apostasy is a total departure from the Christian faith. Having exposed the folly of false freedom in 2:17-19, Peter explains the tragedy of apostasy. The passage makes clear that turning away from Christ is actually worse than never hearing the Gospel. This requires a small excursus: can a Christian lose his salvation?

Excurses: *Does 2 Peter 2:20-22 teach that we can lose our salvation?*

1. Peter does not regard them as Christians.
2. The Bible says that God will save all those who truly turn to Jesus Christ believing the gospel.
3. Peter himself says in 2 Pet 1:3 that those who are true believers will reach future glory.
4. Peter uses the language he does to emphasize that those who fell away were at one time professing Christians.

Christians ought to hold two truths together: (1) We, as true believers, must continue on in faith and holiness by the gracious aid of the Spirit to the end of our lives; and (2) our salvation, which is by grace alone, can never be lost in Christ (Phil 3:12; 2 Tim 2:19; Jude 20-25).

This passage is a sober warning to us not to turn away from Christ. Peter gives us three reasons why apostasy is tragic.

1. Apostasy is Tragic in its Love for Sin.
2. Apostasy is Tragic in its Abandonment of God's Word.
3. Apostasy is Tragic in its Rejection of Jesus Christ.