



May 15, 2009

Dear Friend,

It grieves me to bring you sad news from within our own ministry family about someone who has walked away from the Lord.

Several months ago, we received a shocking, heartbreaking letter. It was from a long-time listener and supporter of Grace to You named Steve. His short note explained in stark, simple language that he has rejected Christ, turned his back on the church, and wants nothing further to do with our ministry. He wrote:

Over many years I have been blessed to receive free tapes, CDs, and books from your ministry. Thank you. At the time, I really appreciated them.

Now I no longer believe in the God of the Bible or in Jesus Christ. Ten years of full-time ministry proved to me that there is no God and that the God of the Bible does not care. I now reject Christianity and have come to peace. What was at first a great loss has now turned to joy, peace, and freedom. I did not leave the faith because of some extreme sin. I left because the God of the Bible, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit are all a fantasy. I'm happy I now live in the real world.

I only feel guilt about the many people whom I led to Christ and exposed to the lies of Christianity. I'm not mad at Christians. I'm not mad at you. However, I am mad at myself for not being a more critical thinker. I won't make this mistake again.

Again, thank you for the many years of "help" and "teaching" you all shared with me. I do appreciate what you all are trying to do with the knowledge you have.

The Bible Teaching of John MacArthur

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Please remove me from your mailing list. Save the money. Don't waste it on an apostate like me. I was just giving your CDs away. But now my conscience no longer can tolerate the further spread of a false hope and disappointment.

Steve

Sadly, we may never fully know what led Steve to walk away from God. We've tried repeatedly to contact him since receiving his letter, but so far he hasn't responded. Hopefully he will—until then, we'll keep praying that the eternal truth he's been taught will take root in his heart, and that the Lord will grant him true repentance and faith faithful believers sacrificing.

I've mentioned in my last few letters that we're feeling the effects of the current economic uncertainty along with you. God's people are faithfully supporting the teaching of His Word, but there's still much work to be done. I trust you'll continue to do what you can to bring verse-by-verse Bible teaching to people in your community and beyond. Thank you for your part in that.

It's a joy to serve you, and to serve with you for the sake of God's kingdom. His richest blessings to you and your family.

Love in the Truth,



John MacArthur
Pastor-Teacher

P.S. Apostasy is a dangerous, complicated, and confusing sin, but one that touches every believer. To help you find biblical answers to the difficult questions, I want to send you a copy of my new interview, "When Believers Stop Believing: Portrait of an Apostate." Fill out and return the enclosed response card to request your free copy today.

JM/jdj