

## James White Continues “Foolishly Speaking”

11/3/2009

Dr. James White continues to call me “an apostate” on his website Alpha and Omega Ministries. He has done it about seven times in four posts. On his program “Dividing Line,” on October 27, 2009, he was responding to remarks by anti-Trinitarian Anthony Buzzard. He then commented on me, Servetus the Evangelical, for about five minutes. As he began to do so, his associate showed him one of my responses to White, posted on my website and entitled “Foolishly Speaking without Knowledge,” which White had not seen. He then read each paragraph and commented on them.

In that first paragraph, I state that I believe “that Jesus died for my sins and arose from dead, and I have made him the Lord of my life... According to Paul in Romans 10.9-10, that makes me a believer in Jesus and thus a saved person. Biblically, an apostate is someone who has fallen away from the Christian faith, which I certainly have not done. So, Mr. White doesn’t know what an apostate is.” When I penned these words, I mostly had in mind Paul’s use of the Greek word *apostasia*, from which we derive our English words apostasy and apostate, in 2 Thessalonians 2.3, but also Jesus’ prophecy that people will “fall away” from the faith (Matthew 24.10 NASB).

White then defended his allegation that I am an apostate. He did so by defining the word in a general sense, as one who departs from a previous belief or religion. He then gave as an example a Mormon and a Jehovah Witness apostatizing from their religion. He said I am an apostate because I used to believe in the doctrine of the Trinity and that I later abandoned that belief.

Notice that I defined an apostate “biblically” as “someone who has fallen away from the Christian faith.” Mr. White is a Reformed theologian. The early Reformers’ motto was *sola scriptura*. This means that they claimed to base their doctrinal beliefs “only on Scripture,” i.e., the Bible. That is what I claim as well about my beliefs. If Dr. White is going to identify someone as an apostate, he should do it biblically.

The Bible certainly does not expressly teach the institutional church doctrine of the Trinity—that God is one essence subsisting in three co-equal and co-eternal Persons. In fact, the Bible doesn’t even mention the word “trinity.” The Catholic Church developed this teaching during the late fourth century and then declared it as official doctrine. The Catholic Church thereafter deemed that a person must believe this doctrine to be saved, and the later Reformed Church uncritically accepted the same.

That is clearly a departure from the New Testament (NT). It establishes that in order for a person to receive God’s forgiveness, and thus his eternal salvation, that person must believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who died for our sins, arose from the dead, and make Jesus the Lord of their life. Abandoning belief in the post-apostolic church doctrine of the Trinity is not falling away from Christian faith as taught in the NT.

Dr. White continues foolishly speaking about what biblically constitutes an apostate.