

should say to someone, "You cannot come to the Commencement Service unless it is given to you" something would obviously be lacking. Would it mean "unless a ticket is given you," "unless permission is given you" or "unless you are given money to enable you to travel to Philadelphia"? "Given" would require an object. The same is true here. In the context it obviously means that no one can come to Him unless he is first given the ability to do so. Thus translation of the phrase "it is given" by the word "enables" gives the exact idea of the original. One must have the divine gift of life before he can come to Christ. There is no Arminian prejudice involved here. In fact the NIV translation rules out all Arminian ideas....

LETTER 58
1975

APOSTASIA (APOSTASY)
IN 2 THESSALONIANS 2:3

As an Old Testament scholar, my work on the New International Version Bible has been restricted to portions of the Old Testament. Many scholars have been asked to assist in the preparation of various parts of this translation. Those in charge desire that all participants be individuals who thoroughly believe in the Bible as God's Word, but there is considerable variety of opinion on particular doctrines. It is my hope that it will be a very excellent translation and will be greatly used of the Lord, but it is impossible at this point to know how much of it will be in accordance with my ideas, and how much it will contain with which I might differ.

It is my personal belief that *apostasia* in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 refers to the departure of the Church, which I expect will take