

Introduction

Wherefore let him that thinks he stands, take heed, lest he **FALL**. —1 COR. 10:12

- ➔ This was Paul's warning to the Christians at Corinth, after explaining to them that:
 - Even though OT Israel was undeniably the people of God—with all the associated perks and blessings;
 - “Nevertheless, **with most of them God was not pleased...**” and *He overthrew them in the wilderness* (5)!
- ➔ He then informs that those OT saints are **examples** for us, “*that we might not*” fall, as they did (6-10).
- ➔ “**TULIP**”—THE FIVE POINTS OF CALVINISM (upon which all “Protestant” denominationalism is based)
 - **TOTAL DEPRAVITY**—At birth, all human beings are *guilty of Adam's sin*, and are thus hellbound.
 - **UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION**—One's election has *nothing to do with anything he does or does not do*.
 - **LIMITED ATONEMENT**—The blood of Jesus is *not for everyone*; but *only the elect*.
 - **IRRESISTIBLE GRACE**—If you are of the elect, *nothing you do will keep you out of heaven*.
 - **PERSEVERANCE OF SAINTS**—“*Once saved, always saved.*”
- ➔ Virtually every denomination was once based on these 5-points, but they eventually *rejected* it as *unscriptural*.
 - That is, they rejected **some** of it—they cast out **4/5** points of Calvinism.
 - However, they loved **one** of them a little too much to set aside—the last: “*Once saved, always saved.*”
- ➔ This morning let us look at what **GOD** has to say about the concept of apostasy—“*falling away from grace.*”
 - Is it possible for a truly saved person to become *unsaved*?
 - Or did John Calvin have *that* part right—as the majority of protestant denominations have concluded?

Biblical Examples

I. PRE-MOSAIC PERIOD

- A. **Satan & Co.** (2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6; Matt. 25:41; cp. Job 4:18)
- B. **Adam & Eve** (Gen. 3)
- C. **Cain** (Gen. 4)

II. MOSAIC PERIOD

- A. **King Saul** (1 Sam. 12-31)
- B. **King Solomon** (1 Kgs. 11:1-11)
- C. **Nation of Israel** (Exod. – Rev.; esp. Mal. 3:9)
- D. **Judas Iscariot** (Matt. 26:14-16,47-56; *et al.*)

III. CURRENT PERIOD (NEW COVENANT)

- A. **Ananias & Sapphira** (Acts 5:1ff)
- B. **Demas** (2 Tim. 4:10)
- C. **Christians of Galatia** (Gal. 5)
 - 1. “You are **severed from Christ...**; you are **fallen away from grace**” (5).

2. “You were running well. **Who hindered you from obeying the truth?**” (10).

D. **Congregations in Asia Minor** (Rev. 2,3)

1. All but one of these had good, pleasing qualities; but other qualities had put them **in jeopardy**.
2. They were thus on the verge of being *cast aside* by the Lord!

IV. Obviously, what Paul warned Timothy about was already coming to pass by the end of the first century:

FOR THE SPIRIT SAITH EXPRESSLY, THAT IN LATER TIMES **SOME SHALL FALL AWAY FROM THE FAITH, GIVING HEED TO...MEN THAT SPEAK LIES...**

– 1 TIMOTHY 4:1,2 –

Biblical Exhortations

- I. **HEB. 3:12-14**—“*Take heed, brethren, lest haply there shall be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief, in **FALLING AWAY FROM THE LIVING GOD... lest...you** be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin: for **we are partakers of Christ, IF we hold fast the beginning of our confidence firm unto the end...**”
 - A. **REV. 2:25,26**—“Only **hold fast what you have until I come**. The one who *conquers* and who *keeps my works until the end*, to *him* I will give authority over the nations...”
 - B. **REV. 3:4,5**—“Yet you have still a few...*who have not soiled their garments*, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. The one who *conquers...I will never blot...out of the book of life...*”
 - C. **REV. 3:11,12**—“*Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown*. The one who *conquers...*”*
- II. **2 PET. 3:17**—“**You** therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, **beware lest you also FALL from your own steadfastness**, being **LED AWAY with the error of the wicked**.”
- III. **REV. 2:1-5**—“...But I have *this* against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where **YOU HAVE FALLEN; repent**, and do the works you did at first. *If not*, I will come to you, and **remove your lampstand from its place...**” (4,5).
- IV. **JUDE 20-23**—“But you, beloved, *building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, **KEEP YOURSELVES IN THE LOVE OF GOD***, waiting for the mercy of...Jesus Christ that leads to *eternal life... hating even the garment stained by the flesh*.”
- V. **JAS. 5:19,20**—“My *brethren*, if any among *you* **err from the truth**, and one *brings him back*; let him know, that whoever *brings back a sinner from the error of his way shall **SAVE HIS SOUL FROM DEATH...***”
 - A. **2 JOHN 9**—“**Whosoever** [i.e., “believer” or “unbeliever”] who *goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God*. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.”

“DO NOT FEAR WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO SUFFER. BEHOLD, THE DEVIL IS ABOUT TO THROW SOME OF YOU INTO PRISON, THAT YOU MAY BE TESTED, AND FOR TEN DAYS YOU WILL HAVE TRIBULATION.

[BUT] BE THOU FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH, AND I WILL GIVE YOU THE CROWN OF LIFE.”

– REVELATION 2:10 –