

WHY I AM A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST #18

(part 1 of 2)

I Am A Member Of The Church Of Christ Because...

IT BELIEVES AND TEACHES THE BIBLE'S WARNING ABOUT FALLING FROM GRACE AND BEING LOST ETERNALLY.

Some believe and teach that once a person becomes a child of God, they can never do anything that would cause them to be eternally lost. If this is so, then why does the Bible give so many **warnings** about falling away? Why does the Bible say **some would depart** from the faith and forfeit salvation? And then, why does it give examples of **some falling away**?

To the church at Corinth, the Holy Spirit writes, "*Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth **take heed lest he fall***" (1 Cor. 10:12). If a person can't fall, why take heed (beware) about falling away and being lost?

Paul wrote concerning himself, "*But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, **I myself should be a castaway***" (1 Cor. 9:27). If one can't fall from grace and be lost, the words of Paul mean nothing. That would mean Paul did not know what he was talking about when he wrote these words! Such a wild and reckless view denies the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Heaven revealed there would be some who would fall away from the Lord. "...*The Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times **some shall depart from the faith...***" (1 Tim. 4:1). Is this passage a mistake? Is it so

worded that people can't understand it? No. A thousand times NO. It is the teaching of the Lord.

Many in the congregations of Galatia were teaching the Old Testament law of circumcision as a part of the teaching of Christ. They were demanding that Gentiles who obeyed the Gospel must be circumcised to be faithful to God. To correct this and other false teaching, the book of Galatians was written. In chapter 5 and verse 4 we read, "*Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; **ye are fallen from grace.***" How could the Bible be any clearer? What more would the Lord have to say before people would understand they can lose salvation if they depart from the teaching of the inspired apostles? The Bible teaches that one is saved by **grace** (Eph. 2:8); and, it also teaches that one can **fall from grace** (Gal. 5:4; 2 Peter 2:20-22)!

The parable of the sower shows there will be those who obey the teaching of the Lord and then fall away. "*They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which **for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.** And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection*" (Luke 8:14-15). Did the Father in heaven forget to tell Jesus that once a person becomes a Christian they can't fall away and be lost? You know He didn't!

— Garland M. Robinson