

WHY I AM A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST #19

(part 2 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.

If one can't fall from grace and be lost, then why does the Bible say **there are things one must do to keep from falling?** To abide in the Lord and continue in salvation, Christians must give every effort to add to their faith: virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity. Then the Bible says, "**...For IF ye do these things, ye shall never fall**" (2 Peter 1:5-10). Continuing to be saved is conditioned on doing these things! But what if one does not do these things? The obvious point is, that one will fall from grace! Do you want to test the Lord and see if it's true?

To those in the church at Laodicea the Lord said, "*...I will spue thee out of my mouth*" (Rev. 3:16,19). They had to repent to avoid being spued out. Do these words of the Lord mean it was impossible for them to fall? Was he just teasing them? Was He joking with them? Did he really mean what he said?

If one cannot fall from grace and be lost, then why is 2 Peter 2:20-22 in the Bible? Read these words, "**For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world...they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.** For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, **after they have known it, to turn from the holy com-**

mandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."

Did the Holy Spirit forget to tell Peter about the impossibility of a Christian sinning in such a way that he/she could be eternally lost? No, heaven did not forget. Peter did not speak these words of his own accord, he spoke and wrote by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:3,20-21).

Jesus said that one who departs from Him will be cast into the fire to be burned (John 15:6). If the impossibility of apostasy is correct, did the Lord forget about it when he uttered these words?

The unfaithful servant was cast into outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matt. 25:24-30). This is speaking of those who are "servants" of the Lord, yet at some point they become unfaithful (obviously not repenting) and are cast into hell.

Galatians 5:4 makes it so plain, "**ye are fallen from grace.**" If we can't understand this verse, the Bible is just gibberish and we can't understand anything it teaches. How terrible it is to decide on a doctrine and then go to the Bible to try to support it! The way of the Lord is the reverse of this practice. The right way is to go to the Bible first, study it, obey it and then teach what it says without addition or subtraction.

Let the Bible fall open at almost any place and you will find a passage that points out the possibility of falling away. That's how much the Bible speaks of it!

— Garland M. Robinson