

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Galatians 5:1-7.**
- B. I read recently, that some 7.5 million youth will drop out of school in the next decade. This is tragic for our country and society.
- C. But more tragic is that of spiritual dropouts. God desires the eternal salvation of all men, He does not want any to drop out!

WHY CHRISTIANS BECOME DROP-OUTS.

- A. **Some do not count the cost.**
Let's not make more of this than what is here. The cost is that of finishing the race, not become mature before baptism (Lk. 14:25-27).
Now great multitudes were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, **26** "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. **27** "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.
- B. **Some do not realize they are spiritually dying.**
Satan doesn't always attack in ways easily seen or felt (Heb. 3:12-13).
Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God. **13** But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called "Today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
- C. **Many have grown weary in well-doing.**
This is why encouragement is so important (Gal. 6:9)!
And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary.
- D. **The original commitment was for wrong reasons.**
Pep, power, and propaganda do not last--discipleship does (Lk. 9:57-62).
And as they were going along the road, someone said to Him, "I will follow You wherever You go." **58** And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." **59** And He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Permit me first to go and bury my father." **60** But He said to him, "Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God." **61** And another also said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home." **62** But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."
- E. **A failure to feed spiritual appetites.**
When Bible study and prayer are non-existent spirituality and faithfulness suffer (2Pet. 1:5-10).
Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge; **6** and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness; **7** and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love. **8** For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind *or* short-sighted, having forgotten *his* purification from his former sins. **10** Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;...
- F. **An unreasonable expectation of others.**
There may be hypocrites in the church but our example is Christ (1Pet. 2:21).
For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,
- G. **Worldly success.**
Money brings things, and things bring problems, and problems bring unfaithfulness (Mt. 16:26; 1Tim. 6:9-11, 17).
(Mt. 16:26) "For what will a man be profited, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

(1Tim 6:9-11, 17) But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. **10** For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang. **11** But flee from these things, you man of God; and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness... **17** Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.

H. **Love for the world.**

Demands like the lust of eye, lust of the flesh and the pride of life (1Jn. 2:15-16; 2Tim. 4:10).

(2Tim 4:10) for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.

(1Jn 2:15-16) Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **16** For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

I. **Marriage out of the Lord.**

This is not always fatal but usually is (2Cor. 6:14).

Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?

J. **Evil associations.**

Bad company corrupts good morals 9 times out of 10. We need to be together as much as possible (1Cor. 15:33).

Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

K. **Neglect of public and private worship.**

For paint to work well it needs to be stirred up. So do Xians by coming to worship (Heb. 10:24-25).

...and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, **25** not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. The sobering conclusion to all of this is found in Luke 9:62, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."
- B. May we resolve in our hearts to never become a spiritual drop-out.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.