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FALLING FROM GRACE Decatur, IL

INTRODUCTION.

A. Scripture text: **Galatians 5:1-7**.
B. The Bible teaches that once an individual becomes a Christian, which means that their sins have been forgiven, they have been added to the church, receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and enjoy the hope of eternal life, that they can live in such a way (a sinful way) to be out of fellowship with Christ, devoid of the Spirit, and lose the hope of eternal life.
C. Please study the following passages that teach the possibility of apostasy.

I. CHRISTIANS ARE ACCOUNTABLE.

A. Each person is accountable to God for their actions (Rom. 14:12).
So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God.
B. We are accountable for what is said (Mt. 12:36).
"And I say to you, that every careless word that men shall speak, they shall render account for it in the day of judgment."
C. We are accountable to God for what is done (2Cor. 5:10; Jas. 2:24).
(2Cor 5:10) For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
(Jas 2:24) You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone.
D. We are accountable to God for what is owned (2Cor. 9:6-8).
Now this *I say,* he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully. **7** Let each one *do* just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver. **8** And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;
E. We are accountable to God for what is thought (Mt. 5:28).
but I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.
F. We are accountable to God for what is known (Jas. 4:17).
Therefore, to one who knows *the* right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin.

II. A CHRISTIAN CAN FALL FROM GRACE.

A. People do return to their worldly way (2Pet. 2:20-22).
For if after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. **21** For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment delivered to them. **22** It has happened to them according to the true proverb, "A DOG RETURNS TO ITS OWN VOMIT," and, "A sow, after washing, *returns* to wallowing in the mire."
B. Two brothers did fall away (1Tim. 1:18-20).
This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may fight the good fight, **19** keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith. **20** Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have delivered over to Satan, so that they may be taught not to blaspheme.
C. Some had fallen from grace by binding the Law of Moses (Gal. 5:4-7).
You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. *5* For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness. *6* For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love. *7* You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth?
D. The HS said some will fall away (1Tim. 4:1-3).
But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, **2** by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, **3** *men* who forbid marriage *and advocate* abstaining from foods, which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.

E. We are to warn others to keep them from falling (Heb. 3:12).
Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God.

F. Some will not endure sound teaching and fall from grace (2Tim. 4:4-10).
and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths. **5** But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. **6** For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. **7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; **8** in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing. **9** Make every effort to come to me soon; **10** for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens *has gone* to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.

G. Willful, unrepentant sin will cause one to fall from grace (Heb. 10:26).
For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

H. To fall from grace, in effect, crucifies X again (Heb. 6:4-6).
For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, **5** and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, **6** and *then* have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame.

I. Some will stumble and lose their salvation (Jude v24).
Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,

J. The last spiritual state is worse than the first (2Pet. 2:20; Lk. 11:24-26).
(Lk 11:24-26) "When the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and not finding any, it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' **25** "And when it comes, it finds it swept and put in order. **26** "Then it goes and takes *along* seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first."
(2Pet 2:20) For if after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.

III. CHRISTIANS CAN BE RESTORED.

A. The fact that there are Bible examples of Christians coming back to faithfulness shows they had fallen grace.

B. Restoration by repentance and prayer (Ac. 8:22).
"Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.

C. Restoration by repentance and works (Rev. 2:5,16,21).
(Rev. 2:5) 'Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you, and will remove your lampstand out of its place-- unless you repent.
(Rev 2:16,21) 'Repent therefore; or else I am coming to you quickly,… **21** 'And I gave her time to repent; and she does not want to repent of her immorality.

D. By deliverance to Satan so to not sin anymore (1Cor. 5:5).
I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

IV. ETERNAL SECURITY.

A. A Christian has "security" in knowing that he/she has eternal life because he/she continues to "walk in the light" which provides a continual cleansing of sins (1Jn. 1:6-7).
If we say that we have fellowship with Him and *yet* walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; **7** but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

B. Christians are to have confidence in their daily walk. John wrote so that we would know for sure, concerning our salvation (1Jn. 5:13).
These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.

C. We make certain God's calling and choosing us when we grow in grace (2Pet. 1:10-11).
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; **11** for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

D. Christianity is a religion of choice. We must make a choice to follow Christ each day, striving to be faithful to what He has called us, so that He can eternally save us (Rev. 2:10).
'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

E. One of the reasons that Paul was confident in his salvation at the end of his life is because of the kind of life he lived, making his choices for God and against sin (2Tim. 4:6-8).
For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. **7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; **8** in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

A. We are saved by grace through faith.
B. But we can forfeit our salvation by turning from grace to a life of sin.
C. Who is willing to turn from sin to grace?
D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.

SOME ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES.

The following list of Scriptures was compiled by Robert Shank in his book, *Life in the Son*, showing that the Bible does teach the possibility of falling away once one has become a Christian, thus forfeiting their salvation.

1. Mt. 18:21-35.
2. Mt. 24:4,5,11-13,23-26.
3. Mt. 25:1-13.
4. Lk. 8:11-15.
5. Lk. 11:24-28.
6. Lk. 12:42-46.
7. Jn. 6:66-71.
8. Jn. 8:31-32.
9. Jn. 8:51.
10. Jn. 13:8.
11. Jn. 15:1-6.
12. Ac. 11:21-23.
13. Ac. 14:21-22.
14. Rom. 6:11-23.
15. Rom. 8:12-14,17.
16. Rom. 11:20-22.
17. Rom. 14:15-23.
18. 1Cor. 9:23-27.
19. 1Cor. 10:1-21.
20. 1Cor. 11:29-32.
21. 1Cor. 15:1-2.
22. 2Cor. 1:24.
23. 2Cor. 11:2-4.
24. 2Cor. 12:21-13:5.
25. Gal. 5:1-4.
26. Gal. 6:7-9.
30. Col. 1:21-23.
31. Col. 2:4-8.
32. Col. 2:18-19.
33. 1Th. 3:1-8.
34. 1Tim. 1:3-7,18-20.
35. 1Tim. 2:11-15.
36. 1Tim. 4:1-16.
37. 1Tim. 5:8.
38. 1Tim. 5:11-15,5-6.
39. 1Tim. 6:9-12.
40. 1Tim. 6:17-19.
41. 1Tim. 6:20-21.
42. 2Tim. 2:11-18.
43. 2Tim. 2:22-26.
44. 2Tim. 3:13-15.
45. Heb. 2:1-3.
46. Heb. 3:6-19.
47. Heb. 4:1-16.
48. Heb. 5:8-9.
49. Heb. 6:4-9.
50. Heb. 6:10-20.
51. Heb. 10:19-31.
52. Heb. 10:32-39.
53. Heb. 11:13-16.
54. Heb. 12:1-17.
55. Heb. 12:25-29.
59. Jas. 1:21-22.
60. Jas. 2:14-26.
61. Jas. 4:4-10.
62. Jas. 5:19-20.
63. 1Pet. 1:5-9,13.
64. 2Pet. 1:5-11.
65. 2Pet. 2:1-22.
66. 2Pet. 3:16-17.
67. 1Jn. 1:5-2:11.
68. 1Jn. 2:15-28.
69. 1Jn. 2:29-3:10.
70. 1Jn. 5:4-5.
71. 1Jn. 5:16.
72. 2Jn. 6-9.
73. Jude v5-12.
74. Jude v20-21.
75. Rev. 2:7.
76. Rev. 2:10-11.
77. Rev. 2:17.
78. Rev. 2:18-26.
79. Rev. 3:4-5.
80. Rev. 3:8-12.
81. Rev. 3:14-22.
82. Rev. 12:11.
83. Rev. 17:14.
84. Rev. 21:7-8.

27. Eph. 3:17.
28. Phil. 2:12-16.
29. Phil. 3:4-4:1.
56. Heb. 13:9-14.
57. Heb. 13:17,7.
58. Jas. 1:12-16.
85. Rev. 22:18-19.