

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

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Falling from Grace

“Some people believe you cannot backslide. We believe you can ...and we practice it!” I was young in Christ when I heard a minister make this statement in a sad attempt at humor. What made it so very sad was the realization that it was in large part true. I had already seen many who at one time professed to know the reality of salvation, but ended up very far from anything that resembled a walk with the Lord. The only difference I could see between these was that some believed they could not lose their salvation while the others did not seem to care. In the end I think it's safe to say that if a person finishes their earthly course without Christ, what they believe about it is not going to matter in the least. Hell will be full of those who thought they had it all figured out.

It is difficult to make the case that you cannot fall from grace when the Apostle Paul clearly told some in the Galatian church, *“You are fallen from grace.”* Galatians 5:4. The real question is: “What does it mean to fall from grace?” The answer to this question is actually discovered when you read the entirety of this simple verse. Paul said, ***“Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.”*** Galatians 5:4. When a person is *“fallen from grace”* the work of Christ has ceased to have any effect in or upon them.

To define “*grace*” as “*the favor of God*” is in large part true. Yet if that is your only understanding of grace, you do not even see “the tip of the iceberg.” Let’s say someone gave you a car. If another person asked what you received, it would be true to say you received a gift, but that would not reveal the whole truth. A gift could be a fifty-cent candy bar, a twenty dollar watch, or a twenty thousand dollar car. It is important to know what was given in order to understand the gift. It is the same with grace. If you are to understand what it means to fall from grace, you must know what those who stand in grace have received.

Grace to serve God acceptably! It takes grace to serve God. Anyone can be religious, but God will not accept anything that is not a product of His grace working in us. Paul wrote, “...*let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.*” Hebrews 12:28.

The gift by grace! The Apostle Paul speaks five times of a “*gift*” which comes by grace in the fifth chapter of Romans. He calls this “*the gift of righteousness.*” Romans 5:17. It is the work of Christ which not only delivers us from the work of Adam which made us to be sinners, but it also gives us a righteous heart and nature. Paul summarizes this gospel truth, saying, “*For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*”

Romans 5:19.

Grace to Be! Paul said, “*But by the grace of God I am what I am...*” I Corinthians 15:10. Grace has never produced anything sinful, but grace produces a child of God. Grace transformed Paul from being a hater, persecutor, and chief of sinners, into a

holy man of God who would freely lay down his life for the gospels sake. By grace, Paul was made to be a *“manifestation of the truth.”* II Corinthians 4:2.

Grace that makes free! Paul makes an astounding statement about those who are in God’s grace. He wrote, *“For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.”* Romans 6:14. Sin has dominion only over those who are not under grace. Any person in whom sin works has either never entered grace, or they have fallen from God’s grace, because grace is the very reason God’s people are *“free from sin.”* Romans 6:22.

This next statement may shock some, but nonetheless, it is true. **Sin does not cause a person to fall from grace. Sin is merely the evidence that a person has already fallen.** Grace is the means by which God delivers us, transforms us, and keeps us from sin and Satan. In His grace sin is destroyed; outside His grace, sin rules supreme. Before a believer falls into sin, they must first fall from God’s grace. On the other hand, those who simply believe the truth of the gospel and trust in Christ are lifted out of sin and kept by the grace of God. Jude said our Savior *“is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy...”* Jude1:24. Thanks be to God for His amazing grace!