

Simply Christ
Gospel Newsletter
Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

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Why Does the Church Keep Falling?

I do not believe the church Jesus will present to himself is weak and sinful. Yet what is called the church in this generation is beset by immorality and scandal on every side. While the entire world was facing the onslaught of the COVID19 pandemic, the American church was being hammered by shocking revelations within. From Christian “apologist,” to Christian university presidents, to gospel singers, every echelon of the church has been included in this unveiling of iniquity. Even America’s so called “company of prophets” had “*the shame of their nakedness*” revealed. Revelation 3:18.

I do not share such things with joy. I am very aware that each of these travesties affect the testimony of every Christian in a horrible way. The unbeliever looks at these and concludes this is what Christianity really is. God said, “...*they profaned my holy name, when they said to them, These are the people of the LORD, and are gone forth out of his land.*” Ezekiel 36:20. Such revelations not only cause Christians to be disillusioned and confused, but it also gives many in the secular world more fuel to denounce Christianity as a religion of moralizing hypocrites.

Perhaps the greatest tragedy of all in this is when believers begin to accept these things as being normal. Why not? Most of us are told every Sunday that we are all still sinners, so why should we be shocked at such things in the ministry? In fact, many ministers regularly glory in their present sin. They find if they use a little profanity or talk about their wandering sexual desires, the congregants seem to identify better with them. Does anyone stop to consider that something has gone very, very wrong?

Jesus gave a warning in the days of his earthly ministry. He said, “**...if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.**” John 8:24. This was not spoken to the prostitute or street vandal, but to those who believed they were the elect of God. Jesus was letting them know that all their religious efforts would end up in failure. Why? The answer is simple. They refused to believe that Jesus was the Christ whom God promised would come into the world. Their unbelief condemned them to struggle in futile religious efforts which can never deliver from the power of darkness. Their labors ultimately failed them, and they died in their sin.

These same people had spent their lives looking for one called “*the Christ*” who would fulfill the prophecy of “*Messiah the Prince*,” which was given to the prophet Daniel. At the heart of this prophecy was the declaration that Messiah would come to “*...make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness...*” Daniel 9:24. The truth, which Jesus said, “*shall make you free*” John 8:32 is

the knowledge that Jesus of Nazareth is *“the Messiah the Prince”* and that he accomplished the work of Messiah through his death on the cross. Yet they rejected the truth and in doing so condemned themselves. John 3:18.

While Christians today accept that Jesus is “Christ,” as a whole they have rejected the promise that he came to *“make an end of sin”* in the believer. **They have accepted Jesus’ “Title,” but rejected his purpose.** Their unbelief condemns them also to “die in their sin,” just as Jesus foretold. You cannot reject the redeeming work of Christ without dire spiritual consequences.

John the Baptist described Jesus as *“the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”* John 1:29. If I offered to take away your money, you would not be confused about what I meant. Yet people twist God’s word inside and out seeking to deny that Jesus actually takes sin away. But he does! He takes it out of our heart, out of our life, and out of our nature! You will continue to struggle with sin until you believe God’s word and trust in Jesus to take it all away. He is the Christ, therefore this was his purpose; this was his promise; this is what he has done!