

Today's Sermons


Morning: The Crown of Life
Afternoon: "Be Thou An Example"

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| Offering | \$2125 |

The Perfectness of Christ

- His perfect **WORK** →
"For the works which the Father hath givn me to finish, the same works that I do." (John 5:36)
- His perfect **FORGIVENESS** →
"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)
- His perfect **CARE** →
"Casting all your care upon him for he careth for you." (1 Peter 5:7)
- His perfect **VICTORY** →
"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Cor. 15:57)
- His perfect **SUPPLY** →
"I can do all things through Christ whcih strengtheneth me." (Philippians 4:13)
- His perfect **GRACE** →
"That ye may be perfect, and entire, wanting nothing." (James 1:4)
- His perfect **OPERATION** →
"If this man were not of God, he could do nothing." (Luke 9:33)



Barnes Bible Charts



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Times of Services:
Sunday
Bible Study:... 10:00am
AM Worship:...11:00am
PM Worship:...6:00pm
2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday
Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program
Sunday:.....7:30am
"Back to the Bible"
AM 580 WSKK
93.5 FM

**We Extend A
Warm & Cordial
Welcome
To All Our
Visitors!**

FALLING AWAY FROM GOD
by Bill Jackson

In God's very earliest dealings with man, there was the warning of apostasy. Liberties were given to that first couple, but also there was prohibition: "for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Gen. 2:17). In the next chapter, we find man entering into sin, thus falling into condemnation, and we find repetition of this down through the ages. In keeping with our title, above, we stress that God does not first move away from man; rather, man makes the move away from God, bringing in the sin, and causing the breach (Isa. 59:1-2). As it happens regarding the individual, so it can happen to an entire congregation, and yea, to the brotherhood as a whole. It must be said, and sadly so, that we live in a time of departure, a time of falling away.

MOVEMENT FROM THE STANDARD

When we mention a "falling away" or a "departure," there is presumed then a standard from which men have turned. Jesus pointed out that His Word would be the basis of our eternal judgment (John 12:48). Paul said that the Scriptures are inspired by God, to our profit, and that we are thereby furnished unto every good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17). We are given the warning that if we transgress, or go beyond, the doctrine of Christ that God is no longer with us (2 John 9). In these verses, then, we have the setting forth of the standard.

Continued Inside

There will be obedience and with it continued blessing from God if His people abide by the standard, and there can be only eternal ruin if we fall away from God. We fall away from Him, be it remembered, when we no longer will abide by the standard He has given us.

LESSONS FROM THE PAST

We begin with Adam and Eve, and we see falling away on the part of God's people all down through human history. Prominent in the Bible's record of such departure are the case of Nadab and Abihu, who added into the worship strange fire which the Lord had not commanded (Lev. 10:1-2), and the case of king Saul, who inserted his own will before the will of God and refused to carry out all of God's instructions regarding the Amalekites (1 Sam. 15). In the New Testament, Paul uses the sins of Israel—lusting after evil, idolatry, fornication, tempting the Lord, and murmuring—as examples of those who fell away from God, and thus the warning, “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall” (1 Cor. 10:6-12).

Surely then, for all these examples, and for the warnings of departures from the faith (1 Tim. 4:1), and of grievous wolves entering in to destroy the flock (Acts 20:29-30), and of the time when men will not endure sound doctrine (2 Tim. 4:2-4), the church of the Lord should always be faithful to the Word and should be continually on guard against every kind of departure from the Standard God has given us. But, we have not been faithful, and today the kingdom is suffering terribly because of present-day departures. We will list some of them now.

MARKS OF FALLING AWAY

(1) This first point may well serve as the sum point in all of these departures: a lack of respect for Bible authority! In our lifetime in the church, we have not known a time when there was such a feeling, on the part of so many, that “it really makes no difference.” That which we have so often condemned in sectarianism now is manifest in the church of the Lord! Whereas God warns that we must abide in Christ's doctrine (2 John 9), many in the kingdom now care very little for a “thus saith the Lord.” With that attitude, falling away must come!

(2) There is, in our day, a falling away due to our loss of sense of being undenominational. Jesus built the one church (Mat. 16:18; Eph. 4:4) and had long since promised that the Father would root up all else (Mat. 15:13). Those in the church of the first century moved as the one body of Christ and preached the Gospel for God and against everything of sectarianism. When God's people lose that sense of being God's own—a people peculiarly God's—and see themselves as “just another religious group,” they have lost their glory! In all of this, there then must come an acceptance of denominational means, methods, terminology that simply carries us further and further away from God. We see evidence, day by day, that many of our preachers, elders, teachers, and members accept that which is sectarian just as freely as they will accept that which is of the New Testament!

(3) With the departures just mentioned, there is, as part and parcel of it, the fellowship of error! In the church, we are in a fellowship with God, with His Son, and with one another (1 John 1:3-7), and it is exclusive. We have left the world, and error, and all

things of darkness in order to take our place with God (Col. 1:13; 1 Pet. 2:9). Fellowship with the world, and fellowship with false teachers, is condemned (Jam. 4:4; 2 John 9-11) and is out-of-place among the saints of God. Yet today, there is the sectarian inroad into the church of the Lord, and many members, and not a few preachers, are leading in this departure from the truth.

(4) Men today are falling away from God due to seeking motivation in the wrong places and by the wrong things. Ours is an age of gimmickry, not Gospel, and much of our present misery is due to our borrowing things from sectarianism and to use any and every method to motivate people. The hurt being administered to the Lord's body through the “Crossroads philosophy” had its origin in the desire to move and motivate young people. From that, an “end justifies the means” attitude has developed, and fruits of this are seen in a decidedly non-spiritual atmosphere—yea, even the teaching of false doctrine and all of it because men have turned to the wrong source for motivation. Since the Bible is the full and complete and authoritative guide, then the Bible must be the sole basis for our motivation (2 Tim. 3:16-17). If one is motivated by sectarian gimmickry, then the behavior, spirit, and doctrine will also be sectarian!

(5) Finally, we must also mention the current marriage heresy growing so rapidly in the church. Of late, men have decided that God does not have one marriage law, that God's law on marriage does not apply to those in the world, that baptism washes clean an adulterous state, that the guilty fornicator has the right to re-marry as well as the innocent party, and that repentance is merely saying, “I'm sorry” and the parties can continue in their sinful condition, and a host of others. Satan must certainly rejoice in this rejection of Matthew 19:1-9, and especially does he delight in the prospect of the church being filled with fornicators and adulterers! Men of prominence, power, and talent in the brotherhood, in promoting such views as these, are doing disservice to the King and to the kingdom and causing many souls to be lost evermore!

"THE TIME WILL COME"

Paul said that the time would come when men would not endure sound doctrine (2 Tim. 4:2-4) and we live in such a time. In that context, Paul tells what we have to fight with, and how we are to use it: “Preach the word!” May we be up and doing just that! Peter pointed to the Word in our lives, and states: “if ye do these things, ye shall never fall” (2 Pet. 1:10). The time of falling away is now, and we have touched on a few departures. Let us do what we can to counteract this tide of apostasy!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Aug 11 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- Aug 25 – Song Service
- Sept 1 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Class
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell