

Contending For The Faith Once For All Delivered To The Saints (Jude 3)
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THE STATE OF THE WAYWARD CHRISTIAN

"For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again: and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."

--II Peter 2:20-22--

- "THE BEGINNING":
1. Condemned Already (Jn. 3:18)
 2. Not See Life, God's Wrath Abides On Him (Jn. 3:36)
 3. Dead Through Sin (Eph. 2:5)
 4. Without God & Christ (Eph. 2:12)
 5. Alienated From Life (Eph. 4:17,18)
 6. No Hope (I Thess. 4:5)
 7. God's Enemy (Rom. 5:10)
 8. Lost & Blinded (II Cor. 4:3)
 9. Having A Part In The Second Death (Rev. 21:8)
 10. Ready For Punishment (II Thess. 1:7-9)
 11. Made A Liar (I Jn. 5:10)
 12. Guilty (Rom. 3:19)
 13. Children Of Wrath (Eph. 2:3)
 14. Strangers & Foreigners (Eph. 2:19)

"But I Thought You Couldn't Fall From Grace?" You're dead wrong friend for it is possible for one once standing in the grace of God to remove himself from this blessed position and be lost in hell! We are saved by grace (Eph. 2:8) and we enter this saving grace through faith (Rom. 5:2). When we believe God strong enough to obey Him we haveva saving faith and are "saved by grace. (Jas. 2:17-26) Now let's notice some who once stood in the grace of God and then removed themselves by transgression.

At one time if one received him--JUDAS--"by transgression fell, that he received Jesus (Matt. 10:40) he might go to his own place." Note entire chapter. (Acts 1:25)

"Therefore it became a --KING SAUL--"the Lord is departed from thee, and is become thine enemy." (I Sam. 28:16)

"..Simon himself believed also"--SIMON--Through transgression he is now (Acts 8:13) said to "perish" (Acts 8:20)

"Paul...unto the churches of --GALATIANS--"Christ is become of no effect Galatia...grace be to you unto you, whosoever of you are from our Lord Jesus Christ," justified by the law; ye are (Gal. 1:1-3) fallen from grace." (Gal. 5:4)

"And did all drink the same --ISRAELITIES--"they were overthrown in sprrtual drink: for they the wilderness,--idolaters, drank of that spiritual Rock fornicators, tempters, and that followed them and that murmurers" (I Cor. 10:1-11) Rock was Christ." (I Cor. 10:3,4)

I Jn. 2:24--If what you heard in the beginning remains--you shall continue in the Son.
 Col. 1:21-23--Reconciled..If..continue in the faith grounded and settled and not moved away from the hope of the gospel.
 John 8:31--If you continue in word then are you disciples indeed
 Gal. 6:9--We shall reap..If..we faint not.
 II Pet. 1:8-11--If ye do these things ye shall never fall
 Heb. 3:14--We are made partakers of Christ..If..we hold beginning of confidence stedfast unto the end
 Heb. 10:38--If any man draw back..my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

THE PARABLES

Luke 8:13--Some believe for awhile but in time of temptation fall away
 Matt. 25:1-13--The Kingdom of Heaven likened to TEN virgins..five of which were foolish and were lost
 Matt. 25:14-30--Kingdom of Heaven likened unto stewards one of which did not work and was lost.
 Luke 12:41-48--Much the same as above

"BUT WHAT MUST I DO TO BE RESTORED?"

Brother or sister if you can be moved by the Bible to ask that question you can be. At present your state is the lowest of the low for there is nothing worse than a fallen Christian. Your actions have shamed the Son of God who has never done one evil thing to you, hindered the work of the church, and caused you and the congregation to be a laughing stock in the eyes of the world. Yet there is hope for you... God has provided a second law of pardon in His Word:

"Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way, shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."
 (Jas. 5:19,20)

Restoration involves repentance of what caused you to leave the church.

The fallen Simon was told his condition and what to do in Acts 8. Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity."

This repentance involves the confession of one's sins: "And many that believed came, and confessed, and showed their deeds." (Acts 19:18)
 See also Jas. 5:16.

Restoration Involves Prayer By The Righteous. "...and pray one for another, that ye may be healed."
 (Jas. 5:16) See also Acts 8:22,24

NEWS & NOTES: I'm thankful for the fellowship received from the Lousia congregation and happy for the opportunity to go there and report on the Indian work. May our Father richly bless bro. Preston and each and every one of the saints at Lousia!

The Rejoicing: The depth of our rejoicing should be indicated by the apostle Paul when he said, "...what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead." (Rom. 11:15) Jesus said, "...likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." (Luke 15:7)

"And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." (Luke 9:62)