

From Where I Sit . . .

“Can A Child Of God Fall From Grace?”

A serious question comes to mind in two packages. First there are the traditional “Calvinists” who believe in the “perseverance of the saints,” also known as “eternal security” of the believer, as well as “once saved, always saved.” Most of these individuals would still strive to practice vigilance in their religious service as a way of glorifying God. The second manner in which this question comes to mind is evidenced by the attitude and actions of ones who become Christians yet do not choose to stay actively involved in the Lord’s work or in worship, yet they still maintain that they are saved. These individuals would not call themselves “Calvinists,” but in reality they are “banking” on a “wish and a prayer” as opposed to the Scripture admonition to “make your calling and election sure....”

The Apostle Peter teaches us the perfect Will of God on this matter. He does indeed assure us there is such a thing as eternal security for a believer, but he does not define that security the way either camp above mentioned would define it. **2 Peter 1:5 - 10 (KJV)** *“⁵And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; ⁶And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; ⁷And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. ⁸For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. ¹⁰Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.”*

The Apostle Paul reminds us in **1 Corinthians 10:12**, *“Wherefore, let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”* Further, he told the Corinthians that he practiced a daily vigil: *“But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway”* (1 Corinthians 9:27).

His concern for the Hebrew Christians was that they not incur *“an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God...”* (Hebrews 3:12,13). To the Corinthian Christians he admonished: *“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates”* (2 Corinthians 13:5). Note that the word *“reprobate”* is accurately translated by several translators as, “fail the test,” “fail to meet the test,” “be disqualified.”

One can hardly miss the clear message of **Hebrews 2:1-3** which ends with the strong words: *“how shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation . . .”* Paul tells us of individuals who *“were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come...”* and suggests that they can *“fall away”* (Hebrews 6:4-6).

Salvation is a gift of the good grace of God, but a gift that He has chosen to bestow upon those who are faithful to Him, **Revelation 22:14**, *“Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.”* Salvation is too precious for us to take it for granted through negligence. We all want security, and there is a security for the believer, but it would be fool hearty to rely on a false sense of security. Thus we must *“give diligence to make our calling and election sure...”* (2 Peter 5:10).

. . . Terry Broome

Printed in the *Broad Street Banner*, Volume XX, Number 21, May 25, 2005.