

Wednesday Word, August 17, 2016: Falling from Grace

Gal 5:4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

The apostolic gospel we preach is a full gospel. Although eternal (Revelation 14:6), the gospel was declared fully in the person, doing, dying and rising again of Christ. Here's a superb fact,... there's nothing in the apostolic gospel that should be out of it, and there's nothing out of it that should be in it. It is as complete as it is perfect. However, the Galatian church had forgotten this truth. And what was the result? They fell from grace.

What was the problem with the Galatian church? Was it that they no longer believed Christ had been crucified? No! They believed that!

Was it that they no longer believed in the bodily resurrection of Jesus? No! They believed that.

Was it that they no longer believed in the blood? No! They believed that.

They looked quite orthodox, but they had fallen from grace. How come? They fell from grace because they were adding a little law to the gospel. What a drastic error. In their case, they added circumcision, but they ought to have known that no law can save. The Law cannot give us acquittal of sins it can only condemn! The Law cannot bless, it can only curse. The Law cannot build, it can only tear down. The Law can show us our guilt, but it can't remove it. The Law holds the key to the prison of condemnation. It puts us inside and securely locks the door. However, although it can lock us in, it has no key to let us out. Only the Gospel possesses that key. Only the Gospel can set the captive free (Luke 4:18)!

Yet today, just like the Galatians, many people insist on adding a little something to the Gospel. They quietly think, for example, that the Gospel is insufficient to rest upon. So what do they do? They add feelings to it. "I know I'm saved," they say, "because I feel saved." In doing so, they've subtly perverted the Gospel and have fallen from grace. Still others look for evidence of salvation by their works. If they can see enough good works in their life, then they have peace. But again, this is to fall from grace. They are not resting on Christ alone.

In reality, every addition to the Gospel is a perverted wicked subversion. Jesus is our exclusive resting place. We grace believers really mean it when we sing, "Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to thy cross I cling!" We know and are certain that Jesus is our only and entire confidence.

Remember this, if we are resting on feelings for salvation, we have fallen from grace.

If we are resting on the fact that we have a good prayer life, we have fallen from grace.

If we are resting on the fact that we have come under conviction of sins, we have fallen from grace.

If we are resting on the fact that we have repented, we have fallen from grace.

Repentance, conviction, prayer and works are wonderful, but we dare not put our confidence in them. They constitute no part of our hope.

“On Christ the solid rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand.”

And that’s the Gospel Truth!