

A CHILD OF GOD CAN FALL

I. **Matthew 5:22.**

- A. This is a very simple statement to understand.
- B. Someone speaking in this manner to another is said to be in danger of hell fire.
 - 1. Jesus was preparing people for His kingdom in this sermon.
 - 2. Why would he use an empty threat?
- C. It's very clear that this verse teaches a saved person can be lost.

II. **Galatians 5:4.**

- A. There is no logical way that one who believes this false doctrine can deal with Galatians 5:1-4.
- B. Most of the books that I have seen that support this idea don't even mention this passage.
 - 1. Some who do mention say these people weren't saved anyway.
 - 2. He was writing to the churches in Galatia (1:3).
 - 3. The Calvinist says that these people were on the edge of God's grace not in it.
 - 4. The word "fall" in this text means to "fall out of."
 - 5. There is another Greek word that means to "fall from the edge" and this is not that word.
- C. These were people who had obeyed the gospel but were now going back to the law of Moses and the doctrine of circumcision.
- D. To those that say they were never saved, the American Standard Version (ASV) begins this verse by saying, "Ye are severed from Christ..."
 - 1. You sever an arm from the body.
 - 2. You can only sever something that is attached.
 - 3. These people were part of the body of Christ and had severed themselves from it by going to Moses' law.

III. **Hebrews 6:4-6.**

- A. The people described are ones who have been in Christ.
 - 1. They were once enlightened.
 - 2. They had tasted the heavenly gift.
 - 3. They had been partakers of the Holy Spirit.
 - 4. They had tasted the good Word of God.
 - 5. They had an understanding of the powers of the world to come.
- B. The ASV renders it "and then fell away."
 - 1. Some point to the word "if" and say that would be the case if it were possible but it is not.
 - 2. The ASV takes that argument away.
 - 3. Not only that, the Greek takes that argument away because there is no "if" in the Greek text.
 - 4. I have a note in the margin of my Bible that there is no authority for the word "if" in this verse.
- C. This is a passage plainly speaking of children of God who have fallen away.

IV. **Hebrews 10:28-29.**

- A. The person under consideration for punishment is one who "was sanctified" by the blood of the covenant.
 - 1. The blood is that of Jesus, because the blood of bulls and goats could not sanctify (Hebrews 10:4).
 - 2. One comes into contact with the blood of Jesus at baptism (Romans 6:3).
- B. This is in reference to one who has become a Christian by being baptized and added to the church by the Lord.

V. **1 Corinthians 10:12.**

- A. There is absolutely no reason for the tenth chapter of 1 Corinthians if a child of God cannot fall.
- B. This chapter contains warning after warning about falling away.
 - 1. Verse 12 means nothing if it does not mean a child of God cannot fall.

2. It is preceded by examples of the Israelites falling (vs 5-11).

VI. 1 Corinthians 9:27.

- A. If a child of God cannot fall then the inspired apostle Paul did not know it.
- B. Despite the fact that Paul was an apostle, he felt that he could fall away.
- C. There are those that have said that men would cast him away.
 - 1. Since when did Paul care what people thought about him?
 - 2. Since when did Paul care what people did to him?
- D. Paul knew that he could be lost if he did not practice self-control.

VII. 1 Timothy 4:1.

- A. How can someone depart from something if he is not in or with it?
- B. A plane departing from Birmingham can only depart from Birmingham if it is in Birmingham.
- C. Someone can depart from the faith only if they are in the faith.
- D. Paul was warning of a period of apostasy.

VIII. Several parables teach the possibility of apostasy.

- A. The parable of the ten virgins - compares the kingdom with ten virgins, showing some will be saved and others lost in the kingdom (Matthew 25:1-13).
- B. The parable of the net - some were cast out of the net which is compared to the church (Matthew 13:47-50).
- C. The parable of the vine and the branches - the branches, individual Christians, that did not bear fruit were cast out (John 15:1-8).
- D. Other parables could be mentioned as well.