

THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

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FALLING FROM GRACE

Is it possible for a saved person to fall from grace? One of the several clear Bible answers to this question is to be found in I Corinthians 10:1-12. Verses 1-5 refer to the deliverance of Israel at the Red Sea and amply demonstrate the truth of Christ's statement that "no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand." (John 10:29).

The occasion of God's delivering the people of Israel from Egyptian bondage under the leadership of Moses is scripturally referred to as, "the day that I took them by the hand to lead them forth out of the land of Egypt." (Heb. 8:9, quoting from Jer. 31:31-32; see also Deut. 5:15).

Exodus 14:23-31 informs us that Pharaoh and his powerful army were unable to take them out of God's hand. I Corinthians 10:6-10 reminds us that many of them fell after becoming disciples of Moses and after having eaten "spiritual food" and having drunk "spiri-

tual drink" (verses 1-4). No power in earth or heaven or hell could "snatch them out of the Father's hand," but they could let go of His hand—and many of them did.

Verses 6 and 11 declare that God intended the experiences of Israel to serve as examples (types) for us. How and why, if a saved person cannot fall as the Israelites did? Verse 12 emphatically warns: "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

—Taken from THE COMPASS

SOLOMON SAID:

Proverbs 23:13-14: "Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell."

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Editorial.....

Are You A Fool?

Who is a "fool?" It is not left for us to answer of our own opinion or wisdom because we might not really know. However, we are not left to wonder who is foolish because God knows and He has seen fit to reveal in His word a description of fools. "All things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do." (See Heb. 4:13). "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." (Prov. 15:3). Let us consider some characteristics of a fool.

HATES KNOWLEDGE

The preacher tells us in Prov. 1:7 that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction." We learn from this passage that fools **despise wisdom and instruction**. In verse 22 we further read that "the scorners delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge. Thus we see that Solomon informs us that fools despise or hate wisdom, instruction and knowledge. We learn from Hosea 4:6 that some of God's people had rejected knowledge and that God would reject

them. They would be destroyed for a lack of knowledge.

IS SOON ANGRY

We read in Eccl. 7:9 that "anger resteth in the bosom of fools." This being so, Solomon said, "Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry." We are also told that "he that is soon angry deal-eth foolishly: ..." (Prov. 14:17). Verse 16 tells us that "the fool rageth, and is confident." James admonishes Christians to "be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God." (James 1:19-20). The apostle Paul tells us to "put off...anger, wrath... (see Col. 3:8), and to 'let not the sun go down upon your wrath.'" (Eph. 4:26). One of the qualifications of a bishop is "not soon angry." Many people do not control their temper at all. No self-restraint is shown. They allow themselves to get completely out of hand. This is sinful. This is one of the characteristics of a fool. Some people become angry because some one would dare differ with them and would make any effort to point out error.

TRUSTETH IN HIS OWN HEART

The wise man describes a fool when he says: "He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered." (Prov. 28:26). One reason this is so is because "it is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps." (Jer. 10:23). God's ways and thoughts are as much higher than our ways and thoughts as the heavens are above the earth. (See Isa. 55:8-9). God, in His wisdom, so designed things that men in and of his own wisdom could not know God. (See I Cor. 1:21). Paul describes some in Rom. 1:22 by saying: "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools."

SAYS THERE IS NO GOD

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The psalmist said: "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." (Psa. 14:1). The atheist denies the existence of God. He says there is no God. While claiming to be a "free-thinker," he denies both revelation and reason. He tries to destroy the hope of all Christians although he has nothing to offer in place of it. In describing those who became fools, Paul said, "they did not like to retain God in their knowledge. Paul shows that God gave them over to a depraved condition. Some who profess to know God deny him in their works. (See Tit. 1:16).

ARE YOU A FOOL?

A person does not have to be guilty of all these things in order to be foolish. But if we are characterized by one or more of these traits we are acting foolishly. Do you hate knowledge? Do you despise wisdom and instruction? Do you "know it all" and thus are not willing to be instructed and receive knowledge? This attitude is characteristic of a fool.

Are you soon angry? Does anger rest in your bosom? Do you "rage" while being confident? Does your anger cause you to deal falsely?

Are you trusting in your own heart? Do you consider your ways and thoughts to be superior to God's? Is your wisdom "more reasonable" than God's?

Do you say either by word or deed that there is no God?

If a self-examination proves you to be a fool, you cannot die in hope of eternal salvation unless there is a vast and vital change in your life.

THERE ARE SOME WHO CANNOT BE SAVED

Although God has made salvation possible, and everything to placing it within the reach of all men has been done, still a great many people cannot be saved. Is there a weakness in the gospel? Is God partial? Are some without hope because of an eternal decree? The answer is a positive, No! They, who cannot be?

1. Those who do not desire it.

However wonderful heaven is, if a person does not will to go, then neither he nor his loved ones can have any hope of his going. God does not force him to love Him and to dwell in eternal happiness; he was made a free moral agent to choose for himself his eternal destiny, and God respects his choice, whether it is wise or unwise.

2. Those who refuse God's call.

According to Paul's writing in Romans 10:13-15 people must hear the word and answer the call. The gospel is preached that men may know what to do, and those who refuse to respond cannot please Him.

3. Those who hold to their sins.

Iniquity is a cloud that separates the guilty from God (Isa. 59:1-2), and that must be removed if God would be approached. The one who will not turn away from evil will not let God save him. (Lk. 13:3).

4. Those who trust in their own works. To have confidence in self is fine, but no man can save himself (Jer. 10:23); additional help must be accepted. A man may decide on what pleases him, but God does not see as do men, and He is the one to specify the conditions by which the lost may return to safety. If he is not obedient, man cannot be saved.

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5. Those who hold grudges.

The Lord said, "But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your father forgive your trespasses." (Matt. 6:15). The one who will not forgive another hows that he has no capacity for the quality, hence can receive none.

6. Those who are careless.

Since men have no lease on life it is exceedingly unwise to put off serving God. The careless are wasting opportunities, exhibiting little faith, having the wrong influence, and being possessed of a spirit of lethargy, are not true to the Lord, and cannot be saved.

—L.L. Geiger in CHRISTIAN WORKER

Be Not As The Horse

"Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding." (Psa. 32:9). Israel was often branded "stiff-necked," like a restless horse or mule. These animals obey by constraint. James says, "We put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us, and we turn about their whole bodies." But man is not to be like them. He must render a willing service to his Master. The horse and mule have no understanding, therefore are excusable. Man is a rational being and is inexcusable if he acts like them. Since he is made to be guided by reason, he must render to God a reasonable service.

—Burl Grubb in MOUNT AIRY
MESSENGER

Sentence Sermons

Those who have the most in the show case often have the least in the stock room.

When you try to make an "impression," often that is the impression you make.

When a man get too big for his breeches, his hat doesn't fit either.

We spend a life time making true friends; and only seconds destroying them with a thoughtless word.

One's judgment can be no better than his information.

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