

YOU CAN KNOW!

Sometimes when we encounter one who subscribes to the view that we "cannot fall from grace", we tend to cringe and go to the other extreme and say something like "we cannot truly know that we are saved until the judgment!" Both of these are false doctrines and those who espouse them *"do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God"* (Matthew 22:29). They are in danger of not holding to the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9).

There is among some brethren a frightening tendency to live a life of constant doubt and fear regarding individual salvation. The verse of Scripture I suppose most abused and misused to allow this doubt to live on is *1 Corinthians 10:12... "take heed lest ye fall."* The argument goes something like this: "We know it is possible to fall from grace. If a person starts getting too confident in his salvation, then he is not going to be as careful to take heed, thus he will fall. We do not know what circumstances are going to arise that will make us fall in the future, so we do not truly know that we are save until the day of judgment/redemption."

There are four faithless (sinful) flaws in that statement. Did you find them? Let us examine them: First, is it possible that we should *not* be confident in our salvation? **NO!** We *must* be confident in it, for it is parallel to being confident in the promise of God. *"And such confidence have we through Christ to God-ward"* (2 Corinthians 3:4). Again note, *"For Jehovah will be thy confidence, And will keep thy foot from being taken (Proverbs 3:26); In the fear of Jehovah is strong confidence (Proverbs 14:26); in whom we have boldness and access in confidence through our*

faith in him (Ephesians 3:12); being confident of this very thing, that he who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6).

Any questions? My, if we cannot be confident in the promises of God and our salvation, in whom or what may we have confidence? It is this confidence that keeps us *from* falling, from giving up and saying, "Oh, what's the use?!?" In fact, I know of some who have fallen away *because* they had no confidence in their salvation!

Second, it is beyond me how someone can figure this next phrase: "not going to be as careful." What shall we say, brethren? How many who have a car that they can count on are going to go out and smash it up on purpose? How many who have a husband or wife in whom they have strong confidence and love are going to turn their backs on them and desert them? If we are Christians, then let us keep doing what we have been doing. *"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not vain in the Lord, (1 Corinthians 15:58).*

Third, we must realize there are *no* circumstances that will "make" us fall away! In his great discourse on the assurance of Christ's love for the obedient believer, Paul shows us that *nothing* can separate us from His love (Romans 8:35-39). There is nothing that can happen to us externally that will cause the Lord to "look down" upon us and stop loving us! **NOTHING!** We may choose to leave, but nothing can force us to leave nor force Him to stop loving us.

Fourth, can we truly, really **know**? Do we have to wonder if God is going to save us? Do we have salvation now? The person who says "no" to these questions, or is not sure how to answer them has not yet read nor understood the New Testament! The one who says "you cannot know for sure" has called God a liar because he has not believed Him and His testimony (the Bible) about His Son and eternal life. The one who has trouble with such verses as *"Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1)*; or *"for by grace have ye been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8)*, will never understand the book of first John.

Brethren, we *can* know. The book was written so that we could know (*I John 5:13*). By our faith (obedient response to grace) we **know** where we stand with God. Otherwise, how could we call ourselves Christians? How could we say we are members of the church of Christ? The church is God's saved people. If you are saved, you are a member. If you are a member, you are saved. Please stop wondering. Stand tall and strong in your faith. This will help to bring others to Him. If you have no confidence, hare **dare** you try to teach another how to be saved? Consider these verses and **know** that you are going to Heaven. [Romans 6:11,17,18; James 1:21,22; I Peter 1:22,23.]

RAGER ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

SUNDAY MORNING	BIBLE STUDY	9:30 A.M.
	WORSHIP	10:30 A.M.
SUNDAY EVENING	WORSHIP	6:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY	BIBLE STUDY	7:30 P.M.
Preachers:	Robin W. Haley	614-751-1082
	James Grayson	614-409-0941

November 15, 2009

Weekly Budget: \$1360.00

Weekly Item Needed: Lysol Spray

Wednesday's Wisdom:

"What a blessing to know that our sins are forgiven.

When we err, repent and pray!" Zach Haley

Pray for those who lost family members in the Texas and Florida shootings last week. Pray also that our various officials will recognize the Islamic threat for what it truly is.

James & Suzie are in Pomeroy this morning, to return this evening.

Sign up sheet for the Ladies' Night Out hostesses is on the bulletin board.

Men's meeting notes and financial report are on the front bulletin table for you to read.

Sunday, November 29 is question/answer night. Please submit your questions.