

BOOK OF GALATIANS

“Fallen from Grace”

Scripture Reading: GALATIANS 5:2-6

-) **SLIDES 1-6.** Bible Jeopardy!
-) **SLIDES 7-8.** Read today’s Scripture text.
-) **SLIDE 9.** Today we continue in our expository study of the Book of GALATIANS. This is message #34. I have titled today’s message *“Fallen from Grace”* (v4).
-) We have an issue going on within today’s Scripture text that is controversial in today’s churches. It shouldn’t be, but it is.
-) **SLIDE 10.** GALATIANS 5:4. Many will read that verse and say this; *“There. You were in Christ but now you have been severed. You have fallen from grace. You lost your salvation.”*
-) Question. Is that what this verse teaches? Does it teach that the Galatians who fell into this category of *“seeking to be justified by the law”* were once saved but no longer are saved because they are now seeking to be justified by the law?
-) Let’s simplify that question and generalize this issue. Can I lose my salvation? Can you lose your salvation? Can a believer lose his/her salvation? Can we fall from grace?
-) **SLIDE 11.** There’s actually quite a bit of debate about this issue in churches today. Here’s a very brief history.
-) **SLIDE 12.** Church denominations. Generally speaking.
-) There is popular teaching in these Arminian churches today that a believer can lose his/her salvation many times and get it back many times if they confess and repent of their sins each time. There’s even teaching in some churches today that a believer can lose their salvation but only once. Impossible.

-) **SLIDE 13.** And the Arminians love HEBREWS 6:4-6. It says just about the same thing as GAL 5:4. A person has once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and has been made partakers of the Holy Spirit and has tasted the good word of God. Are not those characteristics of a true believer?
-) Our decision in this matter really boils down to what you believe the Scriptures teach. What theology do you buy into? Do you believe in a God-centered theology or a man-centered theology? Do you believe God is sovereign or is man sovereign? Who really has the power? The Potter or the clay?
-) Are you relying on God to keep you, or are you relying on you to keep you? I can assure you, that if you are relying on you to keep and maintain your salvation, you will lose it.
-) And what you believe about the assurance of your salvation goes hand-in-hand with divine election. Once you believe that God has chosen you for salvation and not the other way around, then this choice is very easy to make.
-) To ask if one can lose one's salvation is asking the wrong question. The question should not be "*Can a believer fall from grace and lose their salvation?*" The question must be "*Is that person truly saved?*" Because this is what the Bible teaches.
-) **SLIDE 14.** If you thought that from one moment to the next you could lose your salvation, could you truly be joyful? JOHN 10:10. Here's both sides of that issue. I want us to have joy over the assurance of the salvation that we have in Christ.
-) What do the Scriptures teach us elsewhere about a believer keeping or losing one's salvation? I want to present to you this morning a few Scripture verses that attest to the security of the believer and the assurance that he/she will have.
-) **SLIDE 15.** JOHN 5:24-25. How does a person get saved? The elect hear the voice of the Son just like Lazarus heard the voice of Jesus and came out of that tomb.

-) **SLIDE 16.** JOHN 5:24-25. Eternal life begins the moment you are born again by the Holy Spirit—the moment you first believed. In the true believer’s life, there is a moment of Spiritual birth. Theologians call this rebirth “*regeneration.*”
-) To the Arminian, eternal life cannot possibly be eternal. Not if I can lose it. They make a mockery of the words and promises of Jesus. Folks, you cannot lose something that Jesus has pronounced to be eternal.
-) **SLIDE 17.** JOHN 6:35-37. Remember, we covered this a few weeks ago. The Father is giving a bride to His Son. It’s called the church—the elect. All that the Father gives to Christ, Christ will never drive away.
-) To the Arminian, yes, we can hunger again. And yes, we can thirst again. And Christ will lose some of those that the Father has given Him. They make a mockery of the words of Jesus.
-) **SLIDE 18.** JOHN 10:27-29. Jesus gives the believer eternal life, and the believer shall never perish. No one can snatch the believer out of the hand of the Father or the Son.
-) To the Arminian, there must be some power greater than that of the Son or the Father because they believe a believer can be snatched out of His hand. They make a mockery of the words and promises of Jesus.
-) **SLIDE 19.** PHILIPPIANS 1:3-6. God began the good work in the believer and will see it through until when? Until the day of Christ Jesus. When is that? When He returns.
-) To the Arminian, He who started a good work in us does not have the power to see it through. Christ loses to some other force out there that has more power than He does.
-) **SLIDE 20.** 1PETER 1:3-5. 1) His mercy saved us. 2) Our inheritance (salvation) is imperishable, undefiled, and will never fade away. 3) Our inheritance is shielded by God’s power by the faith which has been gifted to us (EPH 2:8-9).

-) To the Arminian, our salvation is perishable, defiled, and can fade away. And, once again, God's power cannot keep us.
-) **SLIDE 21.** ROMANS 8:35,38-39. Paul gives us here a laundry list of things that could potentially separate the believer from the love of God through Jesus Christ. It's a very comprehensive list and nothing can separate us.
-) To the Arminian, they will say Paul did not list Satan. So, Satan (the devil) can separate us. They fail to see that Satan falls under multiple categories in this list and he is also a created thing.
-) So, I just presented to you seven different Scripture texts that give the believer assurance of our salvation. The believer cannot fall from grace.
-) **SLIDE 22.** Well then Mike, what does Paul mean by his statement in GALATIANS 5:4?
-) **SLIDE 23.** He's referring to apostates—people who sit in churches week after week who have been enlightened by the gospel message, they have heard of the free gift of salvation, they have seen the work of the Holy Spirit, and they have been fed the Word of God but YET have not come to a saving relationship with Christ.
-) They are like Judas who walked with Jesus for over three years and still had a heart of stone because people like Judas are after something other than Jesus. They are apostates. They are people who profess a faith, but never possess a faith. They are the people in MATT 7:23 who claimed to have done this and that in the name of Jesus but are told to depart because Jesus never knew them.
-) So, let's ask the right question.
-) **SLIDE 24.** 2 CORINTHIANS 13:5. That's the question and there's the challenge. Not have you lost your salvation. Not have you fallen from grace. Are you saved, or not?

-) **SLIDE 25**. How can you spot a true believer? 1 JOHN 2:19 sums this up well.
-) We have a major problem in many churches today. And that problem is these churches are teaching really bad theology. They continue to teach a man-centered theology where man's power and choice trumps God's power and sovereignty.
-) Trust me. This teaching promotes condemnation instead of conviction, promotes guilt instead of victory, and promotes doubt instead of joy. That doesn't sound like abundant life to me (JOHN 10:10).
-) If I believe like the Arminian, how do I know from one minute to the next if I have my salvation or not every time I think, do, or say something stupid? And what do I need to do or not do to lose it and to keep it? Will someone please give me that list? There is no list.
-) Rest assured BGCC, God has you in His protective hands and His protective power and no one or nothing will ever snatch you away.

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