

January 23, 2011

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Monday

Gal. 5:4 You who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

Here is the crux of the matter. It is those who seek to stand before God on any merit except that of Christ's death who have 'fallen from grace'. His death is worthy, sufficient, and valuable enough to stand upon its own. No other merit can be nor would be acceptable to God. Those who try to add their own works or accomplishments merely dishonor the sacrifice of Jesus. Those who try to gain God's favor by baptism, membership, communion, or good deeds disparage the blood that Jesus shed. We live in such a works oriented world that it is hard for us to give all the credit to God. But to do anything less is to 'fall from grace.'

Tuesday

John 3:14-15 Even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that whoever **believes** will in Him have eternal life.

You who have believed upon Jesus for your redemption, is your salvation secure? Only if Jesus is God's Son. Only if God can be trusted. Only if heaven is true. Only if the bible is God's word. Only if the prophets were honest. Only if God created the world. Only if the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost. Only if God can be described as love or light or Father or Savior. Only if Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Only if all power was given to Him in heaven and on earth. Only if the Lamb is worthy to receive power and glory and riches and wisdom and might and honor and blessing. Only if God so loved the world. Only if grace and faith are real. So I will ask you, is your salvation secure?

Wednesday

Heb. 2:14-15 That through (His) death He might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

Pride is the source of our fear of salvation's loss. We have conditioned our thoughts and conversation to express our worth and our value. We have become conditioned to tell of the extent of our efforts and our associations. But salvation calls us to leave all such thoughts behind. "It is not of me; it is not dependant upon me," is the truth of salvation. In humility I understand that I cannot do anything to make myself right before God. In humility I relinquish any 'trying' or 'working at' or 'joining' anything to gain a place in heaven. When I rely upon Jesus only, upon His completed work on the cross, *then* pride is crucified and my fear is gone.

Thursday

Eph. 2:8-9 By grace you have been saved through faith; not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

If you know Christ at all, you know that good works do not serve unto righteousness, nor evil works unto condemnation. I do not want to withhold from good works their due praise, nor do I wish to encourage evil works. But when it comes to justification, I say, we must concentrate upon Christ alone, or else we make Him non-effective. You must choose between Christ and the righteousness of the Law. If you choose Christ you are righteous before God. If you stick to the Law, Christ is of no use to you. Ye are fallen from grace. --Martin Luther

Friday

John 3:15 so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.

Sinner, I ask you, now—and let your heart reply—are you willing that the scourging of Christ should be in the place of your being scourged? Are you agreeable that by His stripes you may be healed? Are you willing that His blood should be shed instead of your blood—His death instead of your eternal death? You Say, “I am all too glad to take this Substitute, this blessed Substitute and to accept God’s way of salvation.” Very well! You are saved then and there! Believing God’s testimony, relying on God’s Son, accepting God’s way of salvation—that is the faith that saves the soul! --C.H. Spurgeon