

### **FALLING AWAY FROM THE FAITH (Part #3)**

Today's lesson comes with great sadness in my soul. I love the New Covenant doctrines of Grace; and it pains me when believers who have heard the truth of Grace and its importance to the Christian Way of Life fall away from Grace and return to the Law (legalism).

Paul expressed it when he said, "Where then is that sense of blessing you had? For I bear witness that, if possible you would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me. So have I become your enemy by telling you the truth?" (Gal.4:15-16)

For most of us our paths would have never crossed except for the hunger of the truth of God's word.

**This lesson will study two aspects of Falling Away from the Faith of grace to the Levitical Law.**

1. There are three New Covenant Grace doctrinal areas you must never abandoned or compromise GRACE for the Law.

- **SALVATION** – Gospel **plus** works in order to be saved (Acts 15:1, 5; Gal.1:6-8; 2:16; 3:24-25)
  - Message            1 Cor.15:3-4
  - Mechanics        Rom.1:16
  - Means             Eph.2:8-9; Acts 15:11
  
- **SPIRITUALITY** – Holy Spirit **plus** works in order to be spiritual (Gal.3:1-5; Acts 15:5) (Law)
  - Message            1 Cor.6:19-20; Gal.3:1-3
  - Mechanics        Gal.5:16-17, 22-25
  - Means             1 John 1:9, 7, 5
  
- **SPIRITUAL GROWTH** – Word of God **plus** works in order to be a spiritual mature believer (Gal.5:1-10; Heb.5:11-6:6; Acts 15:10; 21:17-24 (vs20) and Acts 15:5 [Observe the Law]).
  - Message            2 Pet.3:18; Gal.4:19; Eph.4:13; Rom.10:4
  - Mechanics        2 Cor.5:7; Col.2:6-7
  - Means             Rom.10:17      [Faith Cycle]

These three areas are very important because they all deal with the **soul of mankind**, before and after salvation (Gen.1:26-27) [Tselem Demuth]. God's Grace is essential in all three areas because of the worth of the human soul (Matt.6:26; 10:28-31; Rom.5:8).

- **Non-sense:** Why would believers leave a church that teaches the truth of Grace in these three areas in search for a church that teaches the truth regarding Grace in these three areas.
  
- **But in the end,** they settle for a church that teaches grace in salvation and maybe spirituality but not in spiritual growth or they don't go to any church.

**2. Therefore, it is important to give you a quick doctrinal “reality check” of the Levitical Law on how it works and why it produces spiritual bondage.**

(Gal.5:1) “It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore, keep standing firm and **do not be subject again** to a yoke of slavery.” (Gal.2:3-5) [Liberty vs. bondage]

The yoke of slavery was the **leaven of the Pharisees** of Matt.16:5-12. The Legalism of the Levitical Law attacked the Grace Work of Christ. The Law was intended to lead us to Christ to be saved and to live by Grace (Gal.3:24-25).

This yoke of slavery of the Levitical Law was being taught by the sect of Pharisees (legalists) in the Jerusalem church (Acts 15:1-5, 11) [Church conflict].

**Listen why Levitical Law is spiritual bondage.**

(Gal.5:7-9) “You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth? This persuasion did not come from Him who calls you. **A little leaven the whole lump of dough.**” (Law and legalism)

(James 2:10) “For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become **guilty of all.**”

(Gal.5:3) “And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is **under obligation to keep the whole law.**”

**Once you put yourselves under the Law, God obligates you to keep it ALL!**

**You cannot pick and chose which ones you want to obey  
and which ones you do not want to obey!**

(James 2:12) “So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the **law of liberty.**” (Gal.5:1, 13)  
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**Next week** we will study part four of Falling Away from the Faith. We will study one Levitical Law that most Christian churches practice that attacks the Grace of Spiritual Growth.