

In God's Providence

- *as though the day of Christ had come. 3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless **the falling away comes first**, 2Th 2:2-3*
- *Now the Spirit expressly says that **in latter times some will depart from the faith**, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, 1Tim 4:1-2*

The Falling Away

- *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ...and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 2Tim. 4:3-4*

Fulfillment: The Falling Away

- Many different opinions based on perspective:
- Catholics saw falling away in Reformation:
- Luther/Calvin Protestants: Catholicism
- Mormons: All churches following the Bible the Catholics corrupted.
- Some think the man of sin was Roman emperor
- Others the man of sin was the pope
- Many are now proclaiming it is still to occur:
- The man of sin is the antichrist who will appear after the rapture which is still to come.

The Falling Away

- The best method to draw a Scriptural conclusion is to become knowledgeable and aware of the apostasies the apostles were dealing with then.
- When Jews were the main adversary, apostasies centered on merging the law and the gospel.
- Judaizing teachers bind Law to pervert Gospel
- When the Gentiles became the main adversary, they brought human philosophies they respected into the church.
- Gnosticism blended human wisdom of the age with gospel in various ways that pleased them.

The Falling Away

- The apostles and prophets combatted both of these with strong warnings of condemnation.
- Both are clearly part of Paul's reference:
- *For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work 2Th. 2:7*
- Earlier books combatted Judaizing Teachers:
- Galatians, Corinthians, Romans
- Later books combatted Gnosticism
- Colossians, Timothy, Titus, 1John
- Ultimately Gnostic teachers combined human philosophy, Law of Moses and the gospel.

Universal Truth – Never Forgotten

- Works just as well with false teaching and apostasies and with other truths of life.
- *That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done, And there is nothing new under the sun. 10 Is there anything of which it may be said, “See, this is new?” It has already been in ancient times before us. 11 There is no remembrance of former things, Nor will there be any remembrance of things that are to come By those who will come after. Eccl 1:9-11*

The False Doctrines of Today

- *That which has been is what will be,*
- *That which is done is what will be done,*
- *Is there anything: “See, this is new?”*
- *already been in ancient times before us.*
- *The real problem for those today:*
- *There is no remembrance of former things*
- *Every Generation thinks all is new.*
- *No remembrance of things that are to come*
By those who will come after. Eccl 1:9-11

What has been is What will Be.

- This is what makes the OT so valuable to us today. As we watch how their false prophets worked, we see exactly how they will work today.
- *But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. 2Pet 2:1-3*
- *For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation... Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. Jude 1, 11*

What Has Been, Is

- All errors we face today have already been faced.
- Specifics change from generation to generation, but the misuse of the Law and the blending of human philosophy to adorn the gospel have not.
- Paul fought against human philosophy of Greeks, Romans, Egyptians & Middle / Far East.
- Our contending earnestly centers on the science of evolution, Big Bang, Day/Age, Inspiration.
- While they contended with circumcision and keeping the Law, we contend with tithe, divorce, Instrumental music, Sabbath, foods Priests

The First Apostasy

- *And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." 2 Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them, Acts 15:1*
- *But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, "It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses." Acts 15:5*

The First Apostasy - Combatted

- *Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, "You must be circumcised and keep the law" — to whom we gave no such commandment — Acts 15:24-25*
- *And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage), 5 to whom we did not yield submission even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you. Gal 2:4-5*

The First Apostasy Identified

- *I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, **to a different gospel**, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want **to pervert the gospel of Christ**. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, **preach any other gospel** to you than what we have preached to you, **let him be accursed**. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if **anyone preaches any other gospel** to you than what you have received, **let him be accursed**. Gal 1:6-9*

The Yoke of Bondage

- *Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and **do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.** 2 Indeed I, Paul, say to you that **if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing.** 3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is **a debtor to keep the whole law.** 4 You are **severed from Christ**, you who attempt to be justified by the law; **you have fallen from grace.** Gal 5:1-4*

A Lawful and Lawless Use of The Law

- *But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully, 1 Tim 1:8*
- *“desiring to be teachers of the law, though they understand neither what they say, nor whereof they confidently affirm.” 1Tim 1:7*
- Doesn't matter if it is circumcision, tithe, instrumental music, or Sabbath, still the same.

The Lawful Use of the Law

- The Holy Spirit made it so clear it is impossible to misunderstand if we “*love the truth.*”
- *have been discharged from the law Rom 7:6.*
- *it is done away in Christ. 2Cor 3:14*
- *were made dead to the law through the body of Christ Rom 7:4*
- *the law of the Spirit ...made me free from the law of sin and of death. Rom 8:2*
- *‘the law is our tutor ...now faith is come, ... no longer under a tutor.’ Gal 3:23*

The True and Lawful Use of the Law

- *abolished in the flesh the enmity, the law of commandments (contained) in ordinances*
Eph 2:15
- *he has taken it out that way, nailing it to the cross* *Col 2:14*
- *priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law.* *Heb 7:12*
- *He takes away the first, that He may establish the second* *Heb 10:9*

The Real Problem is Authority

- *Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" — 6 because he did not know what to say, for they were greatly afraid. 7 And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!"* Mk 9:5-7
- Peter thought he was giving Jesus great honor.
- He was elevating Jesus to the level of the greatest
- The reality – He was dishonoring the greatness of Jesus. Can't give any honor/authority to another.

The Absolute Truth Solving Everything!

- *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. Mt. 28:18-20*
- Apostles/Prophets did their job flawlessly thru the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. We have "All things," "Once for all delivered." Any addition from Law or Human ideas takes away from Jesus

The Absolute Truth

- *God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds Heb 1:1*
- Can't give authority to Moses without taking it from Christ.
- Just like Pharisees could not give any authority to their traditions without taking it from Moses.
- If we respect that Jesus truly has all authority then we can't be moved by Law or philosophy.

Lawless Use of the Law Today

- Jesus commanded: all Christians are priests
1Pet 2:9-10; Rev 5:9-10 some have priests based on 'the Law'
- Jesus commanded give as prospered on the first day of the week(1 Cor 16:1-2) but some want tithe of "the Law."
- Worship under "the law" clearly allowed instrumental music, while the Christ commanded we sing and making melody within our heart. (Eph 5:19).

Lawless Use of the Law

- Jesus commanded that all foods are clean. Yet some still seek to follow the Law. Mk 7:18-20
- Jesus commanded the first day of the week, but some still follow the Sabbath. Col 2:13-17
- Even though they are “*borrowing*” it from God’s Old Law, since it was done away in Christ it is just another form of lawlessness.
- By setting aside Christ’s Law to keep Moses, they are still violating the Law of Christ.
- By respecting Moses they disrespect Christ. That is why they “*fall from grace*” and are “*severed from Christ.*”

Is it Really that Hard?

- *“Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a feast day or a new moon or a sabbath day: which are a shadow of the things to come; but the body is Christ's.”
Col 2:16-17*
- *In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away. Heb 8:10*
- We can be protected from all apostasies if we understand that any Law of Moses will sever us from Christ if we use it to violate Christ's Law.