

SPIRITUAL FALL-OUT

Gal. 6:1-10

Paul says brethren if a man be taken in a fault, ye which are spiritual restore such a one in the spirit of meekness. Considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. There are many terms which Paul uses in his writings to describe modern everyday life.

This is a very descriptive text. He often spoke about the Christian life as being that in terms of the military where a man was to put on the whole armour of God that he might be able to withstand in the evil day. And having done all to stand. At other times, he used the terms fighting, a warfare. That I have fought a good fight. I have finished the course. I've kept the faith. And still other times he talked about Christians being soldiers. And a soldier needs to be true and must not drop out.

Back during the days of the Korean war, Johnny Mitchell came home - he was a young Christian. And he asked his pastor, when he came home, if he could share something of his experiences. He was delighted to share in the service. He said, if you will have the congregation sing "Onward Christian Soldiers" - first - that we might begin with that. So they started off. And then he began to talk about the Army and how it moves. He assured them that the Army does not move like the folks in the church. He said suppose the Army accepted such lame excuses. As Christian people give today.

If at 7 o'clock in the morning, squads are on the parade ground. The sgt. barks out - count fours. And they start - one, two, three. But the next spot is vacant. The sgt. says where is Smith. And the fellow standing next to him, to tell the truth, Smith was out late last night and he is sleeping a little this

morning because he greatly needs his rest. But he said to tell you that he would be here in spirit. And the sgt. said, that is fine. I hope he gets his rest.

The sgt. looks a little further - where is Brown. The fellow standing next to his vacant spot - well, he is playing a little golf today. He needs some recreation and this is about the only day in the week that he could get off to play golf. Well, that is wonderful. Please remember me to him - I hope he has a good game.

Where's Robertson - somebody will say that Robertson said to tell you that they have company in there home today. And he will be unable to be here for drill. And besides, he was here a couple weeks ago.

The sgt. said, well, that's fine. I hope he has a good day.

Did ever any such conversation like that ever take place, Johnny Mitchell asks. You bet your life it did not. Don't make me laugh. But you hear such stuff as that all the time - and said with a straight face on the part of church members. For not doing what they ought to do. Then he said, if a church moves like a mighty army, many of your people he said, would be court martialed and I might add, would be shot at sundown.

There is a very familiar to us, isn't it. Now we know something about the term "fall-out" for we read about it in the newspaper. This radio-active material. And scientists tell us about it. What we want to think about this morning is spiritual fall-out in our church. This is a sad thing. When people on our rolls - 5% of them do not exist. 10% of them cannot be found. 25% of them never darken the door of any church. 75% never attend any prayer meeting. 90% do not have any

devotion or family worship. 95% never raise their voice to win an unsaved person to Jesus.

This speaks of a cold and back-slidden condition of people. Where worldliness has crept in, and compromise has taken over our convictions.

We weep over the motion pictures on the screen, or the T. V. set, and we go to church unmoved over a lost world.

I read the story about ^{Dr. Parker} a man who attended a soccer game on a Saturday afternoon and sat in the hot sun for three hours where 50,000 people attended the game. He said he never saw such enthusiasm. The people were carried away - he said from the spot where he was, he could look in any direction and see three or four fights. Going on with the spectators in the stands. They were rooting for their own particular team. They were getting all worked up. Now he said, if this could happen in South Africa - what would happen if you could get a group of people worked up and they would be more interested in Bible characters than T. V. characters. And more interested in the star of Bethlehem, than the athletic stars. The Disciples even denied, betrayed, and forsook Jesus and followed him a far off.

Paul says if a brethren be found, or over taken in a fault. Now this speaks of some spiritual drop-out or fall-out. Now in school, we know something about the term drop-out - when a pupil just fades away.

I. THE REALITY OF FALL-OUT

This is something real we are speaking about. Now I want to talk about the reality of it. The reason for it. And something about the restoration of it.

There are many people, that you could close the door of the church, lock it with a key, throw the key away, and it would be 6 months or 12 months before they would know that it had been locked up. They would not find it out. They don't care enough to accept positions of leadership, or to sacrifice in anyway. They simply do nothing.

They are guilty of just playing around in their sin of living in the world.

This was the thing that took hold of David. And this was the thing that bothered Sampson, and Saul, even the whole nation fell by the wayside. People did not live according to the high blessings. And the expectation that God had upon their life.

Now many Christians who live unattached to any church in large cities for years. In fact, there are several million people who are unattached.

What they say is, as far as I'm concerned - my religion, my relationship to Jesus Christ does not mean one thing to me or to anybody else because I don't take it seriously and I'm not doing anything for the Lord.

Now we honor ex-governors, ex-mayors, ex-presidents. But I have not read anywhere in the Bible where there is room to honor any ex-Christians - God hasn't given anybody an honorable discharge. When it comes to living a Christian life.

II. THE REASON

Spiritual Fall-out

Let us try to see the reason for this spiritual fall-out as we call it this morning. There are multitudes of reasons. I remember hearing a professor from New Orleans Seminary once, giving a brief lecture. And he was talking about man

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and his relationship through faith with God. And he was talking about man outside of God - lost in the world. And he said there were several Greek words in the Bible that described just what took place in a man. And I've been thinking about those as reasons for fall-out. In the Bible, it doesn't tell us to grit our teeth and try a little more. But it tells us to have faith and then these things will disappear. *INcompletion - Symptoms*

Let me mention some of these reasons that I think are behind the fall-out.

Ad-die-Keia

1 First, the word Adikia. Luke 18:6. This word is used as injustice - as a judge, in a man's life. And the Lord said here, that the unjust judge saith. Here is a reason. 2 Unrighteousness of heart and life. Rom. 1:18. "For the wrath of God is revealed from Heaven. Against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who hold the truth in unrighteousness."

3 That further means an act or a deed of unrighteousness. I John 5:17. For unrighteousness is sin. Then here is one of the reasons. (Unrighteousness, injustice - which results in deeds of unrighteousness)

HA'-MAR-T-IA

4 Second, Hamartia. Missing the mark. Now this can be an error of the understanding or it can refer to a bad act or an evil deed. Whether it be omission or commission. As Hebrews 3:13. "But exhort one another daily while it is called today. Lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." The idea is in Roms 5:12-20. Which means, as a man shooting an (arrow) - he misses his target. Now this helps you to see why we have spiritual fall-out. Your life is like an arrow - you have missed the target.

AN-NO-MIA

5 Third, Anomia. Now this is a condition of one without law. You know what you did and you know what you ought to do. So you have rules or laws. And you do it. I John 3:4.

" Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law. For sin is a transgression of the law." Now here is a condition as described in 2 Cor. 6:14. A man lives as though he is without any law at all. This is a reason for your fall-out. Your life goes along as though God has no law or program for it. *ignorance or disregards.*

Ah'-PisT-Ti'a

Fourth, Apistia. This means faithless or unfaithful. It is contrary really to faith. Hebrews 3:19. So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief. There was no faith to enter in. And in Romans 4:20, the same idea is presented. "He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief, speaking of Abraham. He had a strong faith - giving glory to God. But people suffer spiritual fall-out when they are unfaithful and have no faith in God.

Ah'-See-I-Bee

Fifth, Asebia. Which means a lack of reverence to God. Romans 1:18. "For the wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness." This means ungodliness. A man lives as though there were no God.

Ah'-seak-gee

Sixth, Aselgeia. Now this is used 10 times in the Bible and it speaks of unbridled lust. It speaks of excess, lust and shamelessness.

This is letting the animal nature take over and leading one. Jude 4. For there are certain men that crept in unawares, who were ordained to this condemnation. Turning the grace of our God and denying the only Lord God, Jesus Christ.

The Gospel of Mark 7:22. Expresses the same idea.

Epp'-pi-Thw'-I-me

Seventh, Epithulacy. Which means strong desire - whether it is good or bad. But it is according to your desire. That this takes place. Luke 22:15. "And he said unto them, with desire, I have desire to eat. This Passover with you." That is where Jesus expressed his strong desire. Now men express a strong desire in the

other way. For the world. And this is where spiritual fall-out takes place.

EX-CA-THA

Eighth, Echthra. This is used 6 times in the Bible. Luke 23:12. And the same day Pilate and Herrod were made friends together. For before, they were at emnity between themselves. Emnity, hostile feelings. And this brings about spiritual death to him so to speak.

Key-AH
Rock-~~AKA~~

Ninth, Kakia. This is a very strong term - it means malace - ill-will. To injure someone. Matt. 6:34. It is also described in Rom. 1:29. Take therefore no thought for tomorrow. For tomorrow shall take thought for the things of itself. And this is a strong desire that is expressed here. Rom. 1:29 - being filled with all unrighteousness. Fornication, wickedness, covetousness. And on and on.

PAR-RAB-SIS

Tenth, Parabasis. Rom 2:23, That thou maketh thy boast of the law through breaking the law. Dishonors thy God. Rom. 4:15. Because the law worketh wrath - but where no law is there is no transgression. Going over a law - disregarding a law. Violating a law. This has brought spiritual fall-out to individuals. Gal 5:19 -

PONER-REIA

Eleventh, Poneria. This means to be wicked. Wickedness. You take something good and you debase it and you make it evil. Depravity - Phonography -

Everything one has, God gave.

Now if you have satisfied your desires in the wrong way, is what he is saying. This word is used. Matt. 18:22. Jesus said unto them, I say unto you until seven times - but until seventy times seven. Here is a strong desire to go in the right

way - a man should go.

PAR-RA-PAR-TO-MA

Twelveth - Paratptoma. Falling beside or near something. As in Matt. 6:14 - 15. "For if ye forgive men that trespass - your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you forgive not men their trespasses - neither will your Father forgive you your trespasses." Now lots of people that fall beside or near something - they get very close to the truth. And then they stop there. That is the problem.

PAR-RAR-Kore

Thirteenth - Parakore. Now this has to do with (hearing a miss.) Hearing short.

Hearing ordinarily means obeying. How many times have you heard a mother say, why did you not hear me? What she really meant was - why did you not obey me. This word is found in Heb. 2:2 - for a word was spoken by angels was steadfast and every transgression of disobedience will receive a just recompense of reward. 2 Cor. 10:6, Rom. 5:19.

OP-Felt-I-MA

Fourteen - Opheilema. This is a debt. Matt. 6:12. Where we have the matter of prayer. And "forgive us our debts and we forgive our debtors." It is really not a trespass but it is a debt. Rom. 4:4. We find this as well.

Now it is very strange here that all of these words, ways, in which spiritual fall-out takes place.

This brings spiritual inactivity. It causes a person to do very little spiritually. Like the little girl who fell out of bed one night and when her mother came and asked her why she was on the floor - she said, "I guess I went to sleep too near where I got in." Lots of church people and people today are in that

same condition.

A newspaper article sometime ago told about a man who died in Cincinnati, Ohio, and he was referred too as patient X. He had had some sort of an injury in an automobile accident. Doctors tried to perform some surgery on him but his death did not come until nine years later. And finally, the interesting thing about his death certificate was this -- death was caused by "inactivity". His lungs broke down, the vital parts of the organs of his body gave way.

Think about this. How many people today would this apply too. They cut out prayer out of their lives. They have cut out giving anything of their income to God. They cut out worshipping God. They stay away from church. They have nothing to do with anything that God offers them. And it is a matter of death by deterioration.

And these 14 ways or words that have been used here to day mean that people desert spiritual. The old Welsh shepherd who prayed, and gave his testimony in church. He said "Lord, I got among the thorns and the briars today. And was scratched, torn, and bleed. But Lord I think it only fair to say - it wasn't on your ground - I had wandered out of your pasture completely."

No wonder we get into trouble. People get mad about something or their feelings are hurt. Somebody wronged them. Now if you have an incurable place on your body and you irritate it - what is going to happen. It will never get well.

I read about this family that was wayward. They had three sons. Jim, John, and Sam. The Deacons had talked to them. One day when one of them was in the

pasture, a rattle snake bite John. He became very ill. The physician came and said there is really nothing we can do in his critical condition. All that is left to do is to pray. So they called the preacher and the preacher prayed for his recovery. "Oh wise and righteous God we thank thee that thou hast in thy wisdom sent this rattle snake to bite John in order to bring him to his senses. He has not been inside the church for years. And it is doubtful that he has ever felt the need for prayer. Now we trust that this will prove a valuable lesson unto him. And Oh Father, would thou send another snake to bite Sam. And another to bite James. And another big one to bite the old man. We have all been doing everything we know for years to restore them - but to no avail. It seems that all of our efforts have come to nothing. But what this snake has done - there is only one thing left that will do this family any good - and that is rattle snakes. Lord send them bigger, better, rattle snakes in the name of Jesus. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Now that is a funny story but it may be true.

Somebody who needs at this point. The only time they ever look to God is when something goes wrong. You ignore him. We can do and leave him alone - if we so desire.

In Quincy, Ill. a church there said any member absent from the church for a period of a certain number of months without any interest or without any support, by his own action would be placed on an inactive roll. He will no longer be carried as an active member. And the thing about it was - it said all able bodied people. Not those that were shut-in or sick. But the clincher of it was that the church did not want to drop anybody. It would let each member decide this entirely for himself.

III. RESTORATION

What can we do about this. How can we change the spiritual fall-out.

Now in the operating room - a person breaks his leg or arm. The Doctor does not cut it off, and throw it away. He tries to restore it. He sets it - he puts it back in position. He tries to get the patient and the bone to knit together. It says here, restore such a one, in spirit of meekness. That is what we are talking about today - restoring someone. It is strange how we can play at religion. We act as though we have no one sin in our lives.

Hypocritical lives

And maybe the preacher plays like that, the deacons play like that, and the members play like that. But we have to deal with this problem through faith. And Christ speaks to us - and Paul says he was a sinner - he was honest and had not arrived. And these speak of a condition that we need to have some restoration about.

Here is a five gallon oil can. The top is on it. The top is sealed. We are out here in a boat off Virginia Beach in the Atlantic Ocean. We push it under the surface. How much water gets into it. Where, there is pressure within, and without. But nothing gets in. Now God wants to get in but he can't get in. Now if we take the top off and put it down - this is not that we are going to pray or beg God. But by faith, all of us have to let God in. Now if the can is 9/10 filled with rocks how much water can get in the can. The rocks have to come out one by one. And we can't take the rocks out but God can. And God can't get in until we turn loose of the rocks. What happens is as they come out - more water comes in. His life comes in to your life.

Injustice, missing marks, Without law, Unfaithfulness, Lack Reverence, Unbridled lust, Strong Evil Desires, Enmity, Hostile Feelings, Malice, Disregard law, Depravity, Falling short of Truths, Hearing Amiss, Debt of Sin -

This is a great principle. What can we do. We can open our lives and these - this will help us to have faith in God.