

# Let Us Not Depart from the Living God!

## Introduction

1. Two great Kings of the Old Testament tried to rally the children of God to do what was right, keeping God's commandments before them so that they would not fall.

**READ:**

A. Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:1-6)

B. Josiah (2 Chronicles 34: 1-4, 21, 27, 31-33)

2. We too must beware of God's wrath if we depart from the living God!

**Hebrews 3:8-14**

3. The text refers to people who are with God as Enoch was in Genesis 5:22 and as we are in Hebrews 3:1.

Hebrews 3:1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,

A. Being away from God is a result of "going astray" as Isaiah points out to the people in Isaiah 53:6.

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way...

- B. The only way that we are brought back to God is to “turn back”, by repenting of those things which caused us to depart and that we got caught up in doing.**

***(Paul before Agrippa)***

Acts 26:20 "but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should **repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.**

2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

- C. Sin has always been that which separates man from God.**

Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.

I John 3:4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

## The Danger of Departing

### 1. Those that are in the kingdom of God will be gathered out.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

Matthew 13:41-42 "The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and **those who practice lawlessness**, "and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

### 2. There are those that will simply forget about God and as a result will be lost!

Jeremiah 2:32 Can a virgin forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? Yet My people **have forgotten Me** days without number.

Psalms 9:17 The **wicked shall be turned into hell**, and all the nations that forget God.

### 3. God tells us that it would have been better if we had never known the truth concerning Jesus than to turn from it!

**2 Peter 2:20-22**

### 4. There are many that will depart from the faith and turn to the teaching of men.

1 Timothy 4:1-2 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to **deceiving spirits** and **doctrines of demons**, **speaking lies in hypocrisy**, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

#### A. A general lack of continual Bible study.

- 5. It is a fact that we can fall from Grace and that is why we must recognize how serious it is to ensure that we are following God's directions.**

Galatians 5:4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; **you have fallen from grace.**

Romans 11:22 Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, **if you continue in His goodness.** Otherwise you also **will be cut off.**

- A. Israel fell from Grace, and we can fall, yet God gives us the chance to overcome--- we just have to accept it.**

**1 Corinthians 10:11-13**

- 6. We also must understand that God's ways are equal to everyone. There is no partiality with God. We are all responsible for our own selves where religion is concerned.**

**Ezekiel 18:21-25**

## Various Reasons for Departing from God

### 1. Influence of Religious leaders.

#### A. There are admonitions against this.

Ephesians 4:14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

#### B. The Galatian brethren were influenced by others along this line.

**Galatians 1:6-12**

#### C. Israel was caused to err by their leaders.

Isaiah 9:16 For the leaders of this people cause them to err, and those who are led by them are destroyed.

### 2. Overabundance of Self-Confidence.

#### A. How foolish we are to trust in ourselves and leave God out of our life's decisions.

Proverbs 28:26 He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but whoever walks wisely will be delivered.

#### B. This was Peter's fault.

**Luke 22:31-34**

#### 1) People say: "I love Christ" - yet their fruit show otherwise.

### 3. Lack of training.

- A. We must have faith in God as parents and then diligently teach God to our children.**

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

Ephesians 6:4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

### 4. The love of the world.

- A. The force that moves forward will move backward when in reverse.**
- 1) We need to keep our gears moving forward for the Lord and not to pause, put them in reverse, and destroy everything we have worked for to this point in our life!**
- B. The love of God and the love of the world simply do NOT mix.**  
**1 John 2:12-17**
- C. Demas is an example of this.**

2 Timothy 4:10 for Demas has forsaken me, **having loved this present world**, and has departed for Thessalonica...

- 1) One reflection of our faith in God is our church attendance. When we are not here because of worldly things, it is a direct reflection of our real faith toward our Father.**

## The Results of Departing from God

### 1. It kept Israel out of the land of Canaan.

Hebrews 3:10-11 Therefore I was angry with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart, and they have not known My ways.' So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'

### 2. It will also keep us out of heaven!

Hebrews 4:1 Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.

Hebrews 4:11 Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.

Luke 13:27-28 "But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.' "There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out.

## Conclusion

1. It is very easy to drift away from the living God.
2. A gradual fall is sometimes the hardest fall. We slowly drift into the ways of Satan, sometimes without realizing we are sliding.
3. We must stay with the book of God in order to guard against departing from our living God!
4. Let us rally around God's message as the children of Israel did long ago under Hezekiah and Josiah!
  - A. Be determined to do His will, knowing that our eternal destiny depends on it!

