



**Take Heed, Lest You Fall**  
**1 Corinthians 10:1-13**  
**#1680 January 17, 2010 AM**  
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I. Introduction

A. Ever wondered what happened to someone who had once professed Christ?

1. In the SBC we cannot find 60% of our members – Jim Eliff!
2. In the SBC 75-80% of youth who graduate from youth groups fall away from the church – Don Whitney.
3. Why is this the case?

B. This, in part, is why we have a membership process, deal carefully with children and don't have an "altar call".

1. Because we believe in regenerate membership, we elders seek to affirm only credible professions of faith.
2. Elders will give an account to the Chief Shepherd (Heb. 13:17; cf. 1 Cor. 3:10-15; 1 Pet. 5:4).

C. It's not only the elders' responsibility; the Bible actually calls us to examine ourselves to be sure we are in the faith.

1. The Bible assumes that we are capable of self-deception; therefore, we need self-examination.

II. Proposition

A. Participation in spectacular spiritual experiences or the identifying practices of the church does not ensure that one is a Christian and will persevere to final salvation.

III. Exposition

A. **Spectacular spiritual experiences do not ensure that you are a Christian and that you will persevere unto final salvation (10:1-5).**

1. The Corinthians were not lacking in any spiritual gifts/experiences (1 Cor. 1:4-5).
2. Spirituality or having spectacular spiritual experiences is not guarantee that you belong to God's people.
  - a. Paul's example: Israel (10:1-5).
  - b. Many claim spirituality, spiritual experiences today (heaven, hell, youth camp, etc. . . )
3. God may pour out abundant spiritual blessings among His people and you may simply be privileged to be a part: as a spouse or child of a believer (1 Cor. 7:13-14); as a friend of a believer; as a church attender.

**B. Participating in church practices does not ensure that you are a Christian and that you will persevere unto final salvation (10:1-5).**

1. The Corinthians stood at a crossroads-unless they repent from their sinful cravings and idolatry and serve Christ alone in faith, then they too will perish like Israel did-this is Paul's point (10:1-5).
  - a. The Corinthians were clearly observing that which had been passed on to them (11:2).
2. Conforming to external rituals, practices is no guarantee of a changed heart (see Deut. 10:16; 30:6)
  - a. ILLUS: Baptist turned atheist
    - 1). A word to parents about their children.
  - b. Therefore – If you think you stand, watch out, lest you fall (10:12)!
3. On what are you standing to assure you of your place in Christ?
  - a. Some spiritual experience; a decision, walking an aisle; baptism, church membership – watch out!
  - b. The good news of the gospel is that there is nothing else to stand on but Christ, the Rock!

**C. Who are those who have confidence and are assured they are Christians and will persevere unto final salvation (10:6-11)?**

1. Answer: Those who persevere, endure to the end in faith will be saved (9:24-27; see James 1:12).
  - a. Israel fell because they did not continue believing the God of the promises (Jude 5).
2. Warning: If you turn away from Christ, like Israel, you too will perish (10:6-11; Heb. 3:12-19).
3. Promise: If you endure to the end, you will be saved (Heb. 4:1-7; cf. Matt. 24:13; Revelation).

**D. What assurance do we have that we who trust in Christ will persevere to the end in faith (10:12-13)?**

1. Answer: God is faithful (10:12-13; see also 1:4-9)!

**IV. Conclusion**

**A. Do you believe? Do you profess to be a follower of Jesus Christ?**

1. The Bible urges us to examine ourselves to be sure we are in the faith (2 Corinthians 13:5).
2. The Bible urges us to make our calling and election sure (2 Peter 1:10-11)!
  - a. As parents we have responsibility for our children – family discipleship: catechism, reading . . .
  - b. As elders we have responsibility for the church – membership process, member care.

**B. How can we make our calling and election sure-as individuals, parents and elders? Ask the following questions:**

1. Do I/they trust Christ alone for salvation (Romans 10:9-11)? Look to the promises! Read 1 John!
  - a. Do not trust in your goodness!
  - b. Do not trust in spectacular spiritual experiences!

- c. Do not trust in church practices like Lord's Supper, baptism, etc.!
  - d. Do not trust in church membership!
2. Do I/they show fruit, evidence of salvation (John 15:1-8)? If you cling to Christ, you will!
    - a. And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God (Colossians 1:9-10, ESV).
    - b. Parents – do your children show fruit?
  3. Does the Spirit testify with my/their spirit that I/they am/are a child of God (Romans 8:12-17).

## Scripture

### Hebrews 13:17 (ESV)

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

### 1 Cor. 3:10-15 (ESV)

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. <sup>11</sup>For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup>Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— <sup>13</sup>each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. <sup>14</sup>If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup>If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

### 1 Peter 5:1-4 (ESV)

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: <sup>2</sup>shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; <sup>3</sup>not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup>And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

### Deut. 10:16 (ESV)

Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn.

### Deut. 30:6 (ESV)

And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

### James 1:12 (ESV)

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

## **Jude 1:5 (ESV)**

Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

### **Southern Baptist Statistics on membership**

Jim Eliff, "Southern Baptists, An Unregenerate Denomination" 2005

<http://www.cwonline.org/sbc.html>

- Out of the Southern Baptist's 16,287,494 members, only 6,024,289, or 37%, on average, show up for their church's primary worship meeting (usually Sunday morning). For an average church this means that if you have 200 in attendance on Sunday morning, you likely have 500-600 or even more on your roll.
- In 1996, the last time the SBC kept these statistics (for Sunday night attendance), the number of Sunday evening attenders was equal to only 12.3% of the membership (in churches that had an evening meeting).
- When all factors are considered, these figures suggest that nearly 90% of Southern Baptist church members appear to be little different from the "cultural Christians" who populate other mainline denominations.
- In the Assembly of God's 1990s "Decade of Harvest," out of the 3.5 million supposedly converted, they showed a net gain of only 5 new attenders for every 100 recorded professions. SBC statistics are startlingly similar.

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