

“YE ARE FALLEN FROM GRACE” (Perseverance of Saints)

INTRODUCTION

A major doctrine among some denominations is that of “Perseverance of Saints”, or the impossibility of apostasy. This doctrine is the 5th part of the TULIP doctrine of redemption as set developed by a philosopher in the early days of Christianity, and set forth in the reformation movement by John Calvin in the 16th century, during the time of Martin Luther and others who were breaking away from Catholicism in the development of Protestantism. The letters T-U-L-I-P represent a series of points of interest. The **“T”** stands for **Total Depravity**, meaning that every person born into this world is totally depraved, or evil, without any good qualities. The **“U”** in TULIP stands for **Unconditional Election**, meaning that God, from eternally, has Elected certain one’s to be saved, leaving all the rest lost in sin. This is false because we know God would like for everyone to be saved, if they will. Cf John 3:16; 2 Pet. 3:9

The **“L”** in TULIP stands for **Limited Atonement**, meaning that Christ did not die for everyone, but only for those that God has predetermined will be saved. Yet, the scripture says Christ died for everyone. Cf Heb. 2:9. Then, the **“I”** in TULIP stands for **Irresistible Grace**, meaning that God’s favor and saving grace will be given TO the one’s He has determined to save, and it will be given to those elected, whether they want to be saved or not, and they cannot resist it. Finally, the **“P”** in TULIP stands for **Perseverance of saints**. This is supposed to mean that those chosen of God, for whom Christ died, who cannot resist His saving grace, will always be saved, in any and all circumstances. They cannot do anything whatsoever that will hinder their eternal salvation with God after this life. They may murder, rape, steal and stay drunk, but they WILL be saved eternally, whether they want to or not.

Now the first 4 parts of the **TULIP** doctrine are false, and lead to a false conclusion. At this time we shall not examine these 4 parts, but only the conclusion. The scripture teaches that we must believe, repent and be immersed in water to BE saved from our *past sins*. We then must keep saved by righteous living, so as to enjoy *future salvation*. The scripture teaches that one who has been saved from past sins, can depart from the way of righteousness, and ultimately be lost eternally. We shall illustrate this from the Old Testament and the New Testament. To some, Paul wrote and said, “Ye Are Fallen From Grace” (Gal. 5:4)

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, let’s consider the OLD TESTAMENT.

- A. There are many examples in the Old Testament of righteous people turning away from God and being lost.
1. Adam and Eve were created without sin, and partook of the forbidden fruit and died without God’s favor. Gen. 2:16-17
 2. Cain, the firstborn son of Adam and Eve, rebelled against God and was lost.
 3. In Noah’s day, the world as a whole had departed from God, with the exception of Noah and his family. Gen. 6:1-8
 4. The residents of Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed for their homosexuality, as fire and brimstone came down from heaven and consumed them (Gen. 18-19).
 5. Then, there were the Israelites in the wilderness who rebelled against God and were not allowed to enter into the promised land. Heb. 3:6-19 (Analyze carefully and fully, pointing out that this was a lesson for the gospel age).
- B. There is **something** to be learned from studying these Old Testament examples. Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:1-12

II. 2nd, let’s consider the NEW TESTAMENT.

- A. Bear in mind that the New Testament was written to **Christians** (who have been saved) and they are exhorted to live right, and warned of the eternal consequences if they do not.
1. WHY would these warnings be necessary and given if there are no consequences?
 2. Consider a few passages. 1 Cor. 15:58; Rev. 2:10; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 6:7-8

- B. Now, let's look further and analyze some passages that **plainly show** that a saved person CAN become an unsaved person, and lose his soul forever and ever.
1. 1st, the example of the Jews of old. Heb. 4:1, 11
 2. 2nd, the example of false teachers and those who follow them. Matt. 15:14; cf 2 Pet. 2:1-22 (Discuss thoroughly).
 3. 3rd, the passages associating death with sin. Jas. 1:15; 5:19-20
 - a. There are sins that lead to death, and sins that don't lead to death. 1 John 5:17
 - b. The sins not unto death are those sins one repents and confesses, while endeavoring to walk in the light. 1 John 1;7-9
 - c. Then, the sins unto death are those from which some will not repent and turn from, and there is to be NO prayer and NO forgiveness for them.
 4. Then finally, we shall examine 2 plain statements to the effect that some CAN depart from the truth and fall from grace. 1 Tim. 4:1; Gal. 5:4
 - a. This statement in Gal. 5:4 was written to the churches in Galatia, which were all made up of those who had been baptized to become children of God and were in Christ, and heirs with Him. Gal. 1:2; 3:26-27, 29
 - b. But, in trying to claim justification by the law, THEY were: (1) Without the effect of Christ, and (2) They were "fallen from grace." Gal. 5:4
 - c. They had to be "in Christ" enjoying salvation **before** they could fall, so this passages clearly shows the possibility of apostasy, and the error of Calvinism.

CONCLUSION

- I. There are many more passages we could consider if time permitted, but these are sufficient to show the devilish doctrine of "once saved, always saved" is false indeed.
 - A. To avoid the loss of our souls, we must be faithful to God and grow stronger daily. Acts 20:32
 - B. We are to live right, and worship properly, in anticipation of the Lord's return. Tit. 2:11-13
- II. Are you ready to meet the Lord?

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