

# **Systematic Theology: The Doctrine of Salvation**

## **Falling from Grace: Those who quit the race**

### **Introduction**

1. Seeing someone fall away from their profession of faith is a painful thing.
  - Sometimes the falling away is because of moral issues (Matt. 13:22; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:5-6; 2 Tim. 4:10).
  - Sometimes it is because of doctrinal issues (Gal. 5:4, 7; 1 Tim. 4:1; 6:1-3; 2 Tim. 2:16-18)
  - Sometimes it is because laziness and lack of watchfulness (Heb. 2:1-3)
  - Sometimes the pressure of persecution (Matt. 13:20-21)
2. What are we to make of those who fall away?
  - the theological level, where we wrestle with the theological issue of holding to perseverance
  - the personal level, where we deal with real people who fall away.

### **I. The Theological Assessment of Falling Away**

- A. The theological assessment is retrospective
- B. Conclusion: Those who fall away are not genuine believers  
The perseverance of the saints means that all those who are truly born again will be kept by God's power and will persevere as Christians until the end of their lives, *and that only those who persevere until the end have been truly born again.* (Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 788).

### **II. Biblical Support**

- A. 1 John 2:18-19
- B. Retrospectives on the warnings

### **III. Personal interaction with those who fall away**

- A. 1 Tim. 1:18-20
- B. 1 John 5:16-17

### **IV. Personal Application**

- A. We must apply this to ourselves first
- B. We must pray and exhort those who are falling or have fallen away  
Jas. 5:20