

WHY DO CHRISTIANS FALL AWAY?

By Keith Greer

No matter where I have gone to preach the gospel over the past few years, all seem to have the same problems. One of these problems is members going back into the world. Why do they do it?

Depending on who you might ask, the answers would vary. Yet, we must admit that this problem does exist. Let me give my answer to our question.

LACK OF KNOWLEDGE. It never ceases to amaze me the lack of understanding many have for God's word in the church! Is this a new problem? Hardly! "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children." (Hosea 4:6)

When one lacks knowledge of God's word, it will affect many areas of his life as a Christian. How can he teach others what he does not know? How can he get an advantage over the devil if he does not know his "devices"? "... lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices." (2 Corinthians 2:11)

How does one grow in the "grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ", without knowledge? Please read 2 Peter 1:5-10; 3:18; If one does not have the information to defeat the enemy, he will always be overtaken!

LOVE FOR THE WORLD. Sadly, the world that we live in is full of temptations. The devil is always trying to lure us away from God. We live in the world, but we must remember our "citizenship" is in heaven, Philippians 3:20.

In the first century it happened to Demas and it continues to happens to others, 2 Timothy 4:10. We need to remember the words of Paul and John.

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:2)

"Do not love the world or the things in the world If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."(1 John 2:15) Yes, the world has it's appeal. We must see it for what it really is, enmity with God! Please consider the words of the Lord's brother in James 4:4

LACKING A CLOSE BROTHERLY RELATIONSHIP. How much time do we spend in each other's company? Are the only times we see each other on Sunday and Wednesday? We are brother and sisters in Christ. Yet, most of the time we are really strangers.

"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works," (Hebrews 10:24) How can I "consider" my brethren if I do not really know them?

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34,35) If we truly love one another then we will have a relationship apart from the times we come together.

When Christians begin to spend more time in the world, make more friends in the world, then they begin to be part of the world. I'm not saying we cannot have friends in the world. But who do we depend on and turn to first, a Christian or one in the world? Give some serious consideration to this point, please!

My hope and prayer is that you will not be one of those who fall away. Satan is a sore loser and he delights in nothing more than getting one of God's children back into his domain. Study His word and grow in the knowledge of truth. See the world for what it is and surround yourselves with those of like precious faith. Truly we have too much to lose to turn back now! ***