

Galatians

Chapter 5

Verse 4

1. There is a phrase in this verse that many have taken out of context and corrupted the true meaning. It is the phrase "fallen from grace."
2. There are churches that have taken this phrase (with no regard to its context) and built an entire doctrinal system that teaches that believers can lose their salvation.
3. After studying this book verse by verse, it is abundantly clear that this is the furthest thing from Paul's mind. If the Galatians had lost their salvation, why did Paul say:
 - *"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus"?* 3:26
 - *"And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts..."?* 4:6
 - *"But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God..."?* 4:9
 - *"So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free"?* 4:31
 - *"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free..."?* 5:1
4. It is important to understand that there are two kinds of grace discussed in the dispensation of grace.
 - There is grace that saves. **Romans 5:21; Ephesians 2:8**
 - There is grace that we are to live by **after** we are saved. **1 Corinthians 15:10; 2 Corinthians 1:12, 9:8, 12:9; 2 Timothy 2:1; 1 Peter 4:10, 5:12; 2 Peter 3:18**
 - Both of these graces are rooted in Jesus Christ.
5. From the context, it is clear that Paul is discussing the latter. This verse has nothing to do with **saving** grace.
6. They had already experienced saving grace. Instead of resting in the sufficiency of His grace in their daily walk, they were attempting to live their Christian lives by the rules, rites, and rituals of the law.
7. The Spirit of Christ lived within them (4:6), but was of no effect (useless) while they were trying to be justified through the deeds of the law.
8. They had fallen, not from a **position** of grace, but from a **life** of grace, and traded it for a life of bondage under the law.
 - The word "fallen" means "to be driven out of one's course, to become inefficient."
 - It is also translated "hath taken none effect" in **Romans 9:6**.
 - Paul had taught them how to live by grace, but they had been driven off course by the Jewish legalists. Paul is trying to get them back on the path of grace.
9. This is a struggle for so many Christians after they are saved. They get enmeshed in a religious system of rules and requirements, thinking that this will make them spiritual and more acceptable to God. At first, it is appealing, but it turns into bondage and frustration.
10. Instead of resting in the grace of Christ to live through them, they struggle to meet the church's or other people's expectations. They end up frustrated and miserable.

11. This is exactly what happened to the Galatian believers. They had fallen away from the life of pure grace that Paul had taught them and were trading it for a life of Jewish legalism.
 - Living by grace means that we are depending totally on Christ's resources.
 - Living by law means that we are depending on our own fleshly resources.
12. Paul was writing this letter to get them back on track, standing fast in the liberty wherewith Christ had made them free.