



24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, 25 To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen (Jude 24-25).

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Lesson One.

Class Introduction

Introduction: Our study this quarter is somber and wide spread. It is a topic that we don't like to talk about, think about, or even seldom teach on. But ignoring it will not cause the problem to go away. We must meet it directly and honestly.

This quarter we want to seriously look into the problem of falling away and our part in the contribution and solution of this calamity. One of the most pressing and tragic problems facing the people of God today is the apostasy (falling away) of believers.

Seeing each other differently.

Who are you? You might say, Father, Husband, Son, Brother, Preacher, Citizen.

Is that really who you are? Often, we describe ourselves by what we do or relationships that we have.

Listen to how the Bible describes you.

Genesis 1:27; 2:7, 27 So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 7 Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

John 4:24, 24 God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Listen to how Jesus describes and sees people.

Mark 8:34–37, **34** And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. **35** For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. **36** For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? **37** For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

Luke 9:23–25, **23** And He was saying to them all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. **24** For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. **25** For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?

Matthew 9:36–38, **36** Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. **37** Then He *said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. **38** Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.”

Luke 19:41–42, **41** When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it, **42** saying, “If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes.

Looking past the physical frame and seeing each other as living souls. Those that have been created in the image of God. Game changer!!

We are called to aggressive action.

Jude 20–23, **20** But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, **21** keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. **22** And have mercy on some, who are doubting; **23** save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.

Having mercy, saving, and snatching are not passive activities. They bring to mind a "spiritual intervention" if you will, much like families do when one of their loved ones is trapped in addiction to some substance of abuse and are in grave danger. The family is called together and sometimes they are "called out" for enabling, passive, or unloving behavior. They determine that they must intervene, to save their love one, indifference is no longer an option.

It is also the attitude much like a parent who sees their child in the path of an oncoming car and runs to snatch and rescue them from harm's way.

If we do nothing the outcome is certain – death!

Physical death is the separation from physical life. Spiritual death is the separation from spiritual life, separation from God.

Romans 6:23, **23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ephesians 2:1–6, **1** And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, **2** in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. **3** Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. **4** But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

We can become entangled and overcome.

2 Peter 2:20–22, **20** For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. **21** For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them. **22** It has happened to them according to the true proverb, “A dog returns to its own vomit,” and, “A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire.”

Our Response Is Simple But Not Easy.

James 5:19–20, **19** My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, **20** let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Beloved of God, let us seek to save ourselves and others!

Lesson Two.

The Awful But Often Ignored Warning

Introduction: The word of God is filled with warnings of which none should go unheeded. However, if we're truthful with God, ourselves and each other. Apostasy or falling away from the Lord and the faith is something that happens to other people and would never happen to me! Oh, really!!

The Word of God is filled with warnings of the very real and present danger of leaving the Lord. Not to fill us with doubt and fear about our salvation. But on the contrary, to guard and keep ourselves in the love of the Lord.

These are not things that "just" happened to unbelievers, but rather to the people of God. To those who knew better and should have done better.

1 Corinthians 10:1-13, 1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; 3 and all ate the same spiritual food; 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness. 6 Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved. 7 Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and stood up to play." 8 Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day. 9 Nor let us try the Lord, as

some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents. **10** Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. **11** Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. **12** Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall. **13** No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

Hebrews 2:1-4, 1 For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. **2** For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, **3** how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, **4** God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

Hebrews 3:12-19, 12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. **13** But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. **14** For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end, **15** while it is said, "Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked Me." **16** For who provoked Him when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses? **17** And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies

fell in the wilderness? **18** And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient?

19 So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.

Important Questions to Consider:

1. What other passages can you think of that caution us about the danger of falling away?
2. What is the collective warning of these three passages of Scripture?
3. What positive ways are the people described in these passages?
4. Define the word “neglect.” In what ways is neglect witnessed in the Christian’s life?
5. What is the force of the warning to “take care?” To “take care” for what reason?
6. What happens when we think that “falling away” happens to others?
7. Assignment: Call, text, write a letter, send a card to three brothers or sisters and tell them what they mean to you.

Lesson Three.

Why Should I Care?

Introduction: The teachings of Scripture are clear on this point. Christians are called to love and care for one another. We impact others and are impacted by them. The topic of falling away from the Lord is a “life or death” issue. So the question, “why should I care?” is easily answered. I am commanded to care, and anything else is disobedience to the commandment of God. Also, there is the very real possibility that I could be the one on the fallen side. In other words, it could be me and what would I want others to do? I’d want them to come see about me”

As Christians are called to remember and reflect on how closely we are connected to each other.

Galatians 6:1–4, **1** Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. **2** Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. **3** For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. **4** But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. **5** For each one will bear his own load.

James 2:14–18, **14** What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? **15** If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, **16** and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,” and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? **17** Even so faith, if it has no works, is

dead, being by itself. **18** But someone may well say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works." **19** You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. **20** But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?

1 John 3:13–23, **13** Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you. **14** We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. **15** Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. **16** We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. **17** But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? **18** Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. **19** We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him **20** in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things. **21** Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; **22** and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight. **23** This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. **24** The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

Important Questions to Consider:

1. What is the attitude and action describe of the “spiritual” one towards the brother or sister that is “caught in a trespass?”
2. What does it look like to “think that you are something when you are nothing,” in connection to those who are overtaken in a trespass?
3. Why is an honest appraisal so important?
4. Let’s talk a little about “bearing one another’s burden” and “everyone must bear their own load.” Is there a contradiction? Give an example.
5. As you read Matthew 25:31–40, departure from the Lord is likened to what conditions? What should be the response of others who see this?
6. Caring about others spiritual condition is a MUST! Why?
7. Assignment: Share with a brother or sister in Christ what your and their salvation means to you.

Lesson Four.

The Reason(S) For Falling Away

Introduction: There are many things that impact and influence our faith, both positively and negatively. So, of a consequence, there are many things that contribute of falling away from the Lord.

Over the years here are a few of the “reasons” that I’ve heard from those who have left the Lord. (What can you add to the list?)

“God knows my heart”

“When I get things figured out, I’ll come back”

“Who are you to judge me?”

“You can be saved without the church”

“There are too many hypocrites in the church”

“I can always come back”

“No one has called me”

“I’m just taking a break”

“The preacher was talking about me”

While these may be contributing factors. There is but one true reason. Leaving the Lord is personal. It is a choice that no one can make for you. It is choice that I make myself, it’s personal. We

allow ourselves to believe something or to become influenced by things other than Jesus.

Luke 18:9–17, **9** And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: **10** “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. **11** The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. **12** I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’ **13** But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’ **14** I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.” **15** And they were bringing even their babies to Him so that He would touch them, but when the disciples saw it, they began rebuking them. **16** But Jesus called for them, saying, “Permit the children to come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. **17** Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all.”

John 6:66–71, **60** Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this said, “This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?” **61** But Jesus, conscious that His disciples grumbled at this, said to them, “Does this cause you to stumble? **62** What then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before? **63** It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. **64** But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would

betray Him. **65** And He was saying, “For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.” **66** As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore. **67** So Jesus said to the twelve, “You do not want to go away also, do you?” **68** Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. **69** We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.” **70** Jesus answered them, “Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?” **71** Now He meant Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him.

Galatians 6:7–9, **7** Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. **8** For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. **9** Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.

Important Questions to Consider:

1. Is it possible to “fall away” from the Lord while thinking that we are where we should be?
2. Find passages that talk about the danger of “self-deception” and our propensity to it.
3. What two things does humility call us to see? What does pride cause us not to see or care about?
4. While there are many “reasons” given for not following the Lord. What really is the one cause or reason?

5. Explain the declarative statement of Peter in John 6:68–69.
What is the impact of what he's saying?
6. Jesus uses a child to show us the mindset we must have.
Explain.
7. Assignment: Call a brother or sister this week and prayer with them.

Lesson Five.

The Warning Signings

Introduction: There are many things that we are told to do for our physical health. To either to detect or prevent physical illness. I have a confession to make. I have not always been good at, or even been concerned about health issues. That is until I was told, “Mr. Frazier you have cancer.” If your doctor has ever told you that you have “cancer” well, it gets your attention! Now, I have a physical once a year and a endoscopy screening every three years (sorry, I know, too much information). But you get the point! We watch out for things that impact us or we should. So it is with sin or the warning signs of falling away. We ignore them at our peril.

Christians are called to remember and reflect on how we are cautioned to guard ourselves against certain kind of thinking and behaviors.

2 Peter 1:5–11, **5** Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, **6** and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, **7** and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. **8** For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. **10** Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; **11** for in

this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

2 Peter 2:1–3, 17–22, But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. 2 Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; 3 and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. 17 These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the black darkness has been reserved. 18 For speaking out arrogant words of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error, 19 promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved. 20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. 21 For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them. 22 It has happened to them according to the true proverb, “A dog returns to its own vomit,” and, “A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire.”

2 Peter 3:14–18, 14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, 15 and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, 16 as also in all his letters, speaking in

them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. **17** You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, **18** but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Important Questions to Consider:

1. What is the collective thought of these passages in 2 Peter?
2. What positive or negative things can challenges to faith bring?
3. What is called for when we go through difficult times?
4. Is spiritual growth more than “going to church?” How so?
5. What is the condition of those that fail to hear and heed the warnings?
6. Talk about these 5 Warning signs of “spiritual-lessness”
 1. Prayerlessness
 2. Studylessness
 3. Fellowshiplessness
 4. Worshiplessness
 5. Lovelessness
7. Assignment: Read and meditate on 2 Corinthians 13:5–6

Lesson Six.

The Point of No Return

Introduction: The story is told about allied planes in WWII that left the security of home bases in England and they went on bombing missions into German territory. The trip crossed the English Channel and much of enemy held ground before targets could be reached. One of the features of these raids was the idea of the “point of no return.” The point of no return was that place on their trip where they could go no further because their fuel gauges registered half empty. Sometimes the planes had to evade enemy fire. Sometimes the bad weather caused them to use more fuel before they reached their target area. But when they were at half empty they were at the point of no return.

If they didn't turn back then they only had two options:

1. They crashed on their way back.
2. They had to land in enemy territory and hope for the best.

As believers we can reach the “point of no return.” That is we can get to the place where we “can’t” (won’t) come back to the Lord.

Hebrews 6:1–8, **1** Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, **2** of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. **3** And this we will do, if God permits. **4** For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, **5** and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, **6** and then

have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame. **7** For ground that drinks the rain which often falls on it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God; **8** but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.

Hebrews 10:26–39, **26** For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, **27** but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries. **28** Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. **29** How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? **30** For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge His people.” **31** It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God. **32** But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, **33** partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated. **34** For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one. **35** Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. **36** For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. **37** For yet in a very little while, He who is coming will come, and will not delay. **38** But My

righteous one shall live by faith; And if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him. **39** But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

1 John 2:15–17, **15** Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **16** For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. **17** The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

Important Questions to Consider:

1. Who determines that a Christian has reached the “point of no return?” Why is this distinction important?
2. How does it happen that a Christian gets to the place where they refuse to repent?
3. How do these passage describe what our hearts can become if they are not guarded?
4. Read the parable of Lazarus and the rich man in, Luke 16:19–31. What are the principle(s) of the parable?
5. While we are not to live in “jeopardy” we are to be sober, aware of the danger. Give a passage.
6. What part does our view of the world and its happenings play into this condition?
7. Assignment: Reach out to a brother or sister who seems to be at the “point of no return.”

Lesson Seven.

The Extreme Urgency of Now

Introduction: A weak faith like other things that are neglected becomes easier to ignore and get harder to overcome. And like anything that is neglected it doesn't simply self-correct or get better on its own. There must be an acknowledgment of the problem and decisive action taken.

This is how the dictionary defines procrastination, “the act or habit of putting off or delaying, especially something requiring immediate attention.

Why is procrastination so detrimental? Simply put, it is a tool of the devil. Why? Because it trusts in something that God has not given to us – tomorrow. What does it have to do with falling away from the Lord? Everything! Those who have fallen away and those who love them can/have become complacent of the “extreme urgency of now!”

The Word of God has several clear warnings about “letting things go” and what comes as a result.

2 Corinthians 6:1–2, **1** And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain— **2** for He says, “At the acceptable time I listened to you, And on the day of salvation I helped you.” Behold, now is “the acceptable time,” behold, now is “the day of salvation”—

Luke 13:12–21, **13** Someone in the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” **14** But

He said to him, “Man, who appointed Me a judge or arbitrator over you?” **15** Then He said to them, “Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.” **16** And He told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man was very productive. **17** And he began reasoning to himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?’ **18** Then he said, ‘This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. **19** And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.”’ **20** But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?’ **21** So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

James 4:13–17, **13** Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.” **14** Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. **15** Instead, you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.” **16** But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. **17** Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

Matthew 25:1–13, **1** “Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. **2** Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent. **3** For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, **4** but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps. **5** Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got

drowsy and began to sleep. **6** But at midnight there was a shout, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' **7** Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. **8** The foolish said to the prudent, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' **9** But the prudent answered, 'No, there will not be enough for us and you too; go instead to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' **10** And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut. **11** Later the other virgins also came, saying, 'Lord, lord, open up for us.' **12** But he answered, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.' **13** Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.

Important Questions to Consider:

1. Someone once said, "it's always easy to get up early the day before." How and why is procrastination so detrimental to our faith? How is it a contributing factor in falling away?
2. How do the Scriptures want us to view our lives? Why?
3. Making plans is not wrong. When does it become detrimental?
4. How did the man in the Lord's parable view himself? How did God view him?
5. In the parable of the wise and foolish virgins. What is the teaching and exceptions of the Lord for His "bride" believers?
6. How are procrastination and apostasy connected?
7. Assignment: what spiritual exercises are you putting off? Make it a priority to contact this week the person that you've been putting off.

Lesson Eight.

Keeping The Saved, Saved

Introduction: Do you remember the conversation that God had with Cain after he had killed his brother Able? “Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” And he said, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?” (Genesis 4:9)

Cain was his brother’s “keeper” but he hadn't cared for or about his brother’s welfare. He hadn't cared for his brother or his life and his attitude and actions showed it. The searching question that God asked Cain is just as pertinent today as it was when asked to Cain, “where is _____ your brother?”

It seems counter productive and certainly counter intuitive. When we’re talking about keeping the saving the saved and in the same breath talking about church discipline.

Keeping the saved, saved calls for decisive action.

1 Timothy 5:20:21, **20** Those who continue in sin, rebuke in the presence of all, so that the rest also will be fearful of sinning. **21** I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of His chosen angels, to maintain these principles without bias, doing nothing in a spirit of partiality.

2 Thessalonians 3:6–16, **6** Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us. **7** For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an

undisciplined manner among you, **8** nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you; **9** not because we do not have the right to this, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would follow our example. **10** For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either. **11** For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. **12** Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread. **13** But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good. **14** If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame. **15** Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother. **16** Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all!

1 Corinthians 5:1–11, **1** It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife. **2** You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst. **3** For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present. **4** In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, **5** I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. **6** Your boasting is not good. Do you not know

that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough? **7** Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. **8** Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. **9** I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; **10** I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. **11** But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one. **12** For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? **13** But those who are outside, God judges. Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.

Important Questions to Consider:

1. The New Testament is filled with the teaching that we are responsible to some level for each others spiritual welfare. Find two passages that talk about the responsibility that we have in each others salvation.
2. One of the easiest things to do is nothing when we see each other's in sin. Why is that?
3. What happens when we ignore the spiritual wellbeing of others?
4. How can we be guilty of "boasting" about sin?

5. What was the outcome when the church at Corinth decided to “keep the saved, saved?” Read 2 Corinthians 2:1–11
6. What are the urgings of 1 Thessalonians 5:14–23?
7. Assignment: Do you know a brother or sister in danger? Warn them! (In Love)

Lesson Nine.

See Something, Say Something

Introduction: September 11, 2001 was a dark day in our nation's history. 2,977 were killed and nearly 6,000 others were injured that day. What helped cause this tragedy? Well, the criminals that hijacked the planes and slammed them into the Twin Towers, Pentagon, and a field in Pennsylvania. The terrorists, they were to blame. While that is true. What if the warning signs leading up to 9/11 hadn't been ignored?

July 10, 2001 – FBI Agent Kenneth Williams writes a memo about Middle Eastern men training at Phoenix area flight schools, speculating that they could be connected to al Qaeda. CIA Director George Tenet briefs officials, including National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, about the al Qaeda threat

August 15, 2001 – The Pan Am International Flight Academy in Minnesota alerts the FBI to their suspicions about Moussaoui. He had paid for the training in cash and requested instruction on flying large jets, even though he had little experience. They wanted to learn about flying and said than he had no interest in landing. Moussaoui is later questioned by the FBI and arrangements are made to deport him.

August 23, 2001 – The CIA sends an urgent cable to the FBI, State Department, Customs and INS, alerting them to the CIA's concerns about individuals linked to bin Laden.

What happen because these warning were ignored? Well, it's in the history books as the greatest act of domestic terrorism. But what if

the warnings rather than being ignore had been taken seriously. 9/11 may have been prevented. But, we'll never know. Out of the events of 9/11 and the failure to report suspicious behavior, came the slogan, **"See Something, Say Something."**

Now, let's apply this to our topic of falling away from the Lord. How many precious souls could be kept from apostasy if brethren were more proactive rather than passive. If we did something or said something about a situation. If we showed compassion and concern. Rather than expecting the circumstances self correct.

1 John 4:7-21, 7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

9 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

12 No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. 13 By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. 14 We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us.

God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 17 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. 19 We love, because He

first loved us. **20** If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

21 And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

James 2:14–20, **14** What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? **15** If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, **16** and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,” and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? **17** Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. **18** But someone may well say, “You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” **19** You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. **20** But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?

Important Questions to Consider:

1. What is expectation of the believer if he/she sees a brother or sister in need?
2. What causes us to respond to what we see?
3. What is the connection between faith and works?
4. How does this transcend physical needs? Give a real life example.

5. What does the phrase, “as He is, so also are we in this world.” mean?
6. What is the impact of 1 John 4:20,21?
7. Assignment: Who in the church has a need? Do something!

Lesson Ten.

You Can't Miss What You've Never Had

Introduction: Fellowship is so critical when it comes to helping and restoring the fallen. But it is equally important in preventing the falling away.

Sadly, but true, the biblical teaching of fellowship has been relegated to halls and potluck dinners. However, the wonderfully distinct life of the believe is that he or she called out of the world and into a new reality of sharing faith, life, hope with others of that same calling.

The World English Dictionary states that fellowship is the act of people sharing activities, goals, interests, duties, trials, troubles and alike with one another in a group.

Fellowship as designed by God is to help us to bond together, to get through the tough times. To help us overcome the trials and temptations that we encounter to our faith. This special unity is given to encourage us, when all around us is discouragement. But what if you never really enjoyed this powerful bond with other believers. You can't miss what you've never had.

One of the clear and decisive things that we see in the beginning of the church is the strong bond of faith and fellowship of the believers. Take another look at these familiar passages.

Acts 2:40–47, **40** And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation!” **41** So then, those who had received his word were

baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. **42** They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. **43** Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. **44** And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; **45** and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. **46** Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, **47** praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 4:32–35, **32** And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them. **33** And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. **34** For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales **35** and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.

Philippians 2:1–8, **1** Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, **2** make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. **3** Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; **4** do not merely look

out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. **5** Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, **6** who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. **8** Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Important Questions to Consider:

1. The sad reality today is that fellowship is sorely lacking in the way that we see it among the early disciples. Is fellowship something that just happens? Explain.
2. What is the mindset behind this call to fellowship?
3. Describe the fellowship that you see in these passages.
4. If this type of fellowship has not been established and cultivated what is the likelihood of falling away? Give an example.
5. Can fellowship prevent falling away? How? Is favoritism every a problem? How should it be dealt with?
6. Describe how this passage outlines fellowship and its importance. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27
7. Assignment: This week “look out for the interest” of someone else. When do you know that has either chosen or been left out

Lesson Eleven.

God, The Prodigal, and Me

Introduction: Some of the greatest stories of restoration are found in Luke 15. In these parables we are invited to see God, others, and ourselves.

In these three stories, Jesus teaches us about God's desire and determination. About His grace and mercy. Also both our foolishness, hopelessness and surrender. And then we are invited to see our "pet peeves," shortsightedness and and blinding and binding pride.

Read it again, as for the first time.

Luke 15:1–32, **1** Now all the tax collectors and the sinners were coming near Him to listen to Him. **2** Both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." **3** So He told them this parable, saying, **4** "What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? **5** When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. **6** And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' **7** I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. **8** "Or what woman, if she has ten silver coins and loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? **9** When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors,

saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I had lost!' **10** In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

In this story of the prodigal it doesn't take us very long to find ourselves somewhere in this story.

11 And He said, "A man had two sons. **12** The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So he divided his wealth between them. **13** And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living. **14** Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished. **15** So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. **16** And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him. **17** But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! **18** I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; **19** I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.'" **20** So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. **21** And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' **22** But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; **23** and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; **24** for this son

of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.’ And they began to celebrate. **25** “Now his older son was in the field, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. **26** And he summoned one of the servants and began inquiring what these things could be. **27** And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has received him back safe and sound.’ **28** But he became angry and was not willing to go in; and his father came out and began pleading with him. **29** But he answered and said to his father, ‘Look! For so many years I have been serving you and I have never neglected a command of yours; and yet you have never given me a young goat, so that I might celebrate with my friends; **30** but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.’ **31** And he said to him, ‘Son, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours. **32** But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and has begun to live, and was lost and has been found.’”

Important Questions to Consider:

1. Have you ever been a prodigal? What was that like for you?
2. In what ways can we display a “this is my life” attitude?
3. In what ways have you been like the older brother? Tell the truth!
4. What was the profound message that Jesus was trying to teach them (us) about God?

5. What does it often take for a person to come to their senses about their spiritual condition?
6. What does the attitude of the father in the parable teach about God?
7. Assignment: Who do you know that is “away from home” (God)? Reach out, share this story with them, and ask them to come home.

Lesson Twelve.

From Stuck To Starting Over

Introduction: Have you ever been stuck? Have you ever been lost? What did you need? What did you want more than anything else? You needed and wanted help! That's exactly what we've been talking about this quarter. Being stuck in sin and needing and wanting help. God's help and the help of those that love us.

These Psalms have been called "the penitential" Psalms. They are the plaintive cry for help and forgiveness that God offers those who turn to Him for help.

Psalms 32:1-7, **1** How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered! **2** How blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit! **3** When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away Through my groaning all day long. **4** For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. Selah. **5** I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord"; And You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah. **6** Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when You may be found; Surely in a flood of great waters they will not reach him. **7** You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah.

Psalms 51:1-9, **1** Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. **2** Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin. **3** For I know my

transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. **4** Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge. **5** Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. **6** Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom. **7** Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. **8** Make me to hear joy and gladness, Let the bones which You have broken rejoice. **9** Hide Your face from my sins And blot out all my iniquities. O Lord, rebuke me not in Your wrath,

Psalms 38:1–9, 18–22, **1** And chasten me not in Your burning anger. **2** For Your arrows have sunk deep into me, And Your hand has pressed down on me. **3** There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your indignation; There is no health in my bones because of my sin. **4** For my iniquities are gone over my head; As a heavy burden they weigh too much for me. **5** My wounds grow foul and fester Because of my folly. **6** I am bent over and greatly bowed down; I go mourning all day long. **7** For my loins are filled with burning, And there is no soundness in my flesh. **8** I am benumbed and badly crushed; I groan because of the agitation of my heart. **9** Lord, all my desire is before You; And my sighing is not hidden from You. **18** For I confess my iniquity; I am full of anxiety because of my sin. **19** But my enemies are vigorous and strong, And many are those who hate me wrongfully. **20** And those who repay evil for good, They oppose me, because I follow what is good. **21** Do not forsake me, O Lord; O my God, do not be far from me! **22** Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation.

Psalms 130:1–8, **1** Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord. **2** Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive To the voice of

my supplications. 3 If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? 4 But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared. 5 I wait for the Lord, my soul does wait, And in His word do I hope. 6 My soul waits for the Lord More than the watchmen for the morning; Indeed, more than the watchmen for the morning. 7 O Israel, hope in the Lord; For with the Lord there is lovingkindness, And with Him is abundant redemption. 8 And He will redeem Israel From all his iniquities.

Important Questions to Consider:

1. Why is coming to grips with our sin and what it has cost us so difficult, yet so important?
2. Speak to how guilt and shame can be both damaging and beneficial?
3. Explain the expectation that the psalmist had in view of his returning to God.
4. How important is it to know that you can be forgiven and start over?
5. Take a look at these passages, and let's discuss how Paul viewed himself and his current course. 1 Timothy 1:12–16; 1 Corinthians 15:9–11; Philippians 3:12–21. How should his example impact me?
6. Jesus spoke about something that keeps us away from God and others. Read Matthew 18:21–35
7. Assignment: Think about a time in your life when you felt stuck. What did it take for you start over? Be that for someone.

Lesson Thirteen.

God is Able To Keep You From Falling

Introduction: While the teaching of “once saved always saved” is an incorrect doctrine. However, there is an element of the teaching that is very true. God is able to keep us from falling away.

That fact that we fall away cannot be charged to God. Everything that He does is to save us. This, rather than causing us to become complacent and negligent, should be a cause of great rejoicing and hope filled living.

Jude 17–25, **17** But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, **18** that they were saying to you, “In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts.” **19** These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit. **20** But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, **21** keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. **22** And have mercy on some, who are doubting; **23** save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh. **24** Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, **25** to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

John 10:22–30, **22** At that time the Feast of the Dedication took place at Jerusalem; **23** it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the

temple in the portico of Solomon. **24** The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, "How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." **25** Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me. **26** But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. **27** My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; **28** and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. **29** My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. **30** I and the Father are one."

1 John 2:25–29, **25** This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life. **26** These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you. **27** As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him. **28** Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming. **29** If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.

Romans 8:31–39, **31** What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? **32** He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? **33** Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; **34** who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. **35** Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will

tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? **36** Just as it is written, “For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” **37** But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. **38** For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Important Questions to Consider:

1. It should be unquestioned. God wants us to be saved. What is the cost of our salvation and what should be our response?
2. The challenge to our salvation is not on God’s part but our own. From the text in Jude what are some of the things we are called to do?
3. Jesus taught a parable about The Vine and branches. Also The Shepherd and the sheep. What are some of the important principles.
4. From the listing in Romans 8:31–38, there is nothing that can separate from the love of God. What is the one thing that is missing from that list. Explain your answer.
5. What does the command “abide in Him” mean? What two things come as a result of embracing this teaching?

6. Define eternal life, do we have it now? 1John 2:25; 5:11-13,20. What is the importance of knowing this?
7. Assignment: When you think of God holding you in His hand and not allowing any force to take you from Him. How do you feel? What do you think? Share those feelings and thoughts with someone.

Conclusion: Thank you for being a part of the important study. It has been my aim and my prayer that we seriously consider ourselves and others in a transforming way. All of us face challenges to our faith and one of the great blessing that our Heavenly Father has given us is each another.

Let's take the "assignment" to loving one another from a pure heart fervently as daily goal. And to do all that is within our ability to help each other to make heaven our home. I love you!

Finish Well,

Rennie

Adult Class

Inver Grove church of Christ

Summer Quarter, 2021