

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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TAKE HEED LEST YE FALL

Nicolas Edwards

Paul wrote to the Corinthians, *“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall”* (1 Cor. 10:12). This warning shows that it is possible for one to fall. There are many things that can cause one to fall:

HAVING NO ROOT. In Luke 8:13, in the parable of the sower, the Lord said, *“They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.”* The wise man penned, *“A man shall not be established by wickedness: but the root of the righteous shall not be moved”* (Prov. 12:3). In time of temptation, affliction or persecution for the word’s sake, will you fall? We need to be the person described in Psalm 15. *“He that doeth these things shall never be moved”* (v. 5).

PRIDE. Among the qualifications of a bishop, Paul told Timothy, *“Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil”* (1 Tim. 3:6). Solomon warned, *“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall”* (Prov. 16:18).

DESIRING TO BE RICH. *“But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows”* (1 Tim. 6:9-10). *“...having food and raiment let us be therewith content”* (1 Tim. 6:8).

NOT LABOURING. We must labour to prevent falling! *“Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief”* (Heb. 4:11). Paul wrote the church at Corinth, *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord”* (1 Cor. 15:58). You must *“work out your own salvation with fear and trembling”* (Phil. 2:12).

SWEARING. *“But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation”* (Jas. 5:12). The Lord taught, *“But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God’s throne: Nor by the earth;*

for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black; but let your communication be, yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil” (Mt. 5:34-37).

NOT GIVING DILIGENCE. *“Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall”* (2 Pet. 1:10). By not giving diligence, we may fall! *“And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity”* (2 Pet. 1:5-7).

“Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness” (2 Pet. 3:17).

**THE BOOK OF
REVELATION**

October 23-29

Ron Halbrook

BIBLE BINDINGS

John Edwards

This article does not deal with the binding of your Bible, whether it is morocco, calfskin or bonded leather, but rather with some things the Bible talks about being bound.

ISAAC BOUND. Genesis 22 records how Abraham *"bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood"* (v. 9). This binding was an expression of heroic faith (Heb. 11:17-19).

THE SOUL BOUND. Did you know that your soul can be bound? Whenever we make a vow, we are binding our soul (Num. 30:4-11). When we say we will do something, we are obligated to do it. *"Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay"* (Eccl. 5:5).

FOOLISHNESS BOUND IN THE HEART OF A CHILD. The wise man declared, *"Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him"* (Prov. 22:15). If we want our children to be wise, then we will have to use the rod from

time to time.

SOME THINGS HAVE BEEN BOUND IN HEAVEN. The Lord told the apostles in Matthew 18:18, *"...whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatsoever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven"* (NASV). We must not bind what God has loosed or loose what God has bound.

CHRIST BOUND. The record of Matthew 27 shows where *"the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death: and when they had bound him, they led him away"* (vv. 1-2). Christ was bound so we could be loosed from our sins (Is. 53).

CHRISTIANS BOUND. Early Christians suffered persecution at the hand of evildoers as they were bound in prison for their faith and practice (Acts 9:21; Rev. 2:10). The apostle to the Hebrews instructed, *"Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body"* (Heb. 13:3).

THE WOMAN BOUND TO

HER HUSBAND. It is God that joins a man and woman together in marriage (Mt. 19:6). Since God ties the knot, only He determines when the bond is loosed. How long is the woman bound to her husband? *"So long as he liveth"* (Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:39). To be married to another while your spouse is living is to be guilty of adultery (Rom. 7:3). Our young people need to fully understand, before they are married, that when they marry they are bound to each other for life.

THINGS TO TAKE BACK TO SCHOOL:

1. A focus on priorities (Mt. 6:33)
2. A renewed mind (Rom. 12:2)
3. A purposed heart (Dan. 1:8)
4. A mind to work (Neh. 4:6)
5. The fear of the Lord (Ps. 33:18)
6. Love (Mk. 12:30)
7. A good example (1 Tim. 4:12)
8. Soberness (1 Th. 5:6-8)

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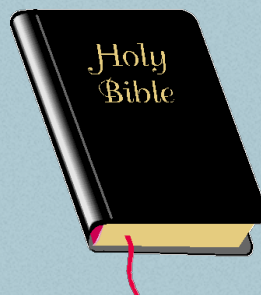
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