

Five Ways to Fall Short

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Internet Sources)

Introduction:

- A. This sermon is titled: "Five Ways to Fall Short."
 - 1. It is not titled: "Five Ways Denominations, Liberals, False Teachers, and Sinners Fall Short."
 - 2. It is spiritually wearying and discouraging to see how instinctively and automatically we apply the word of God to others, when God wills that we begin every application of every text with the edification and examination of ourselves.
 - 3. 1Cor. 9:27
- A. Jesus supplied us with the means to reach the goal - Heb. 5:8-9
 - 1. When one falls short, he becomes responsible - 2Thes. 1:8-9
 - 2. In what ways can one fall short?

I. BY DOING WHAT GOD HAS FORBIDDEN US TO DO

- A. "As long as your sin breaks your heart, as long as your disobedience makes you lie awake nights and wet your pillow in tears there is hope for you. But when you become contented with your wickedness, when you come to believe that it is the best possible for you, then you are in danger indeed."
(Clovis Chappell)
- B. Bible examples:
 - 1. Adam and Eve - Gen. 3:1-19
 - 2. Lot's wife - Gen. 19:17, 24-26
 - 3. Jeroboam - 1Kings 12:26-30
- C. Today, we focus on the worldly; it keeps us from looking at us
 - 1. Unprecedented fornication among disciples - Gal. 5:19; 1Cor. 6:18
 - 2. Disregard and disrespect of civil authority - Rom. 13:1-7

II. BY REFUSING OR FAILING TO DO WHAT GOD HAS COMMANDED

- A. "It is possible to miss God's perfect will for our lives through carelessness or disobedience." (Zac Poonen)
- B. Bible examples:
 - 1. Jonah - Jonah 1:1-3
 - 2. Saul - 1Sam. 15:1-3, 9-11, 13-21
- C. Today, we focus on the materialists and pragmatists; it keeps us from looking at ourselves - Titus 3:1-7
 - 1. What about professed Christians overlooking the transformation into the new man?
 - 2. 1John 2:4; Col. 3:8-10, 12-14

III. BY ADDING TO GOD'S WORD

- A. What is written? - Prov. 30:5-6; Matt. 15:9; Rev. 22:18; 2John 9
- B. Today, we focus on institutionalism; it keeps us from looking at us
 - 1. Organizations larger or smaller than the local church

2. Generating scruples and personal rules and binding them on others
3. Creating or accepting excuses for falling short and for bad behavior

IV. BY SUBTRACTING FROM GOD'S WORD

- A. What is written? - Deut. 4:2; Rev. 22:19
- B. Today, we focus on denominations; it keeps us from looking at us
 1. Decreasing the frequency of the Lord's Supper; increasing the frequency of the collection; salvation without baptism
 2. But what about dumbing down the doctrine
 3. Lowering the bar on attendance, modesty, dedication, moral conduct

V. BY SUBSTITUTING FOR GOD'S WORD

- A. Bible examples:
 1. Cain - Gen. 4:3-7
 2. Nadab and Abihu - Lev. 10:1-2
 3. Naaman - 2Kings 5:11-12
- B. Today, we focus on progressives; it keeps us from looking at us
 1. They endorse denominational worship practices
 2. But what about emphasis on entertainment instead of edification?
 3. Increased interest in quality rather than quantity time in worship

Conclusion:

- A. We need to be careful lest we fall short in one or more of these five ways while directing most of our attention on others.
 1. The Adversary is well served when most of our focus is external; it means that we are less likely to see our own personal or congregational vulnerabilities
 2. 1Cor. 9:27; Heb. 12:15