

**“GIVE DILIGENCE TO MAKE YOUR CALLING AND ELECTION SURE”
II Pet. 1:10**

INTRODUCTION:

- 1. In our text we are urged to “*give diligence*” to make our calling and election sure—constant effort.**
- 2. Peter tells us IF we will add the graces and give diligence we will never fall.
II Pet. 1:10**
- 3. If we don’t give diligence we will FALL.**
- 4. Paul warns – I Cor. 10:12; I Cor. 9: 27**
- 5. In this lesson I want to look at some causes of falling away, and some preventives of apostasy.**
- 6. Many Christians become disenchanted with the Church and go back into the world.**
 - (1) They have misconceptions about it.**
 - (2) Some have thought it was to be a utopia—a heaven on earth.**
 - (3) And when the imperfections of the people are manifested, disappointment sets in.**
 - (4) Some have thought of it as a social club.**
 - (5) Some have thought it was an undisciplined relationship where members are free to live as they please.**

I. SOME OF THE CAUSES OF FALLING AWAY

1. Inactivity:

- (1) Little or no participation in worship, work, and study.**
- (2) When one is not busy in the Lord’s work his faith will become weak, interest will wane, and love will grow cold.**
- (3) What the Lord will do with the unfruitful branch – John 15: 1 – 6**
- (4) The result of inactivity. Heb. 5: 12 – 14**

2. Discouragement:

**(1) Trouble in the congregation (trouble will come from time to time).
I Cor. 11: 19; Matt. 18:7**

(2) Criticism of friends. Matt. 13:21

(3) Not enough cooperation in the family.

(4) Let us consider some passages that give us admonition:

a. Gal. 6:9

b. Heb. 3: 12 – 13

c. Heb. 12: 1 – 3

d. Rev. 2:10

3. Because iniquity abounds:

(1) The love of many waxes cold in times like these. Matt. 24:12

(2) Many members of the church get caught up in worldliness that abounds on every hand in our society.

4. Cares of the world. Matt. 13:22

(1) Business interests, social activities, and domestic duties can fill one's life until the emphasis in life is on these things.

5. A root of bitterness. Heb. 12:15

(1) Most every church has a few members who set the tone for bitterness and strife. James 3: 14 – 16

6. Deceitfulness of riches. Matt. 13: 22

7. The lust for other things. Mark 4:19

(1) Lust for popularity. John 12: 42 – 43

(2) Lust for power. III John 9 – 10

(3) Lust for unlawful sexual relationships. Matt. 5:28

8. Many have erred from the truth because of pride. Rom 12:3

II. PREVENTATIVES OF APOSTASY

- 1. Get yourself vitally and genuinely involved in the Lord's Supper each Lord's Day. I Cor. 11: 27 – 30**
- 2. Get yourself involved in the worship in song. Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16**
- 3. Search each sermon for something meaningful to you.**
- 4. Give liberally to the church. Matt. 6: 21; II Cor. 9: 6 – 7**
- 5. Look for something you can do, and do it.**
- 6. Try helping others with their problems. Gal. 6:2**
- 7. Pray often. I Thess. 5:17**
- 8. Discipline yourself to read the Bible regularly.**
- 9. Get involved in Bible classes.**
- 10. Lead just one soul to Christ and you will do it over and over.**
- 11. Associate frequently with other Christians.**
- 12. If you have trouble with doctrinal points, seek aid of knowledgeable Christians.**