“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.


   (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


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.

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