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Galatians 5:1-4

1. “It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.
2. Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you.
3. And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law.
4. You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.”

In this passage the apostle Paul dispels the notion of eternal security, often referred to as “once saved, always saved.” Notice especially verse 4 of this text: Quote: “You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.”

The pronoun “you” here is a direct address to the brethren in the churches of the region of Galatia, and most probably those in the cities of Lystra, Iconium, and Pisidian Antioch. In opening his letter to these Christians, Paul writes in chapter 1, “To the churches of Galatia: grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord

Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age. . . .” These people whom Paul writes to in this letter must be blood-bought children of God.

But Paul says to them, “You have been severed from Christ.” In other words, they were once part of the body of Christ, but are now “severed” or “cut off” from Christ.

The reason for their being severed from Christ is then stated in the following words: “you who are seeking to be justified by law.” Earlier in the Galatian letter, Chapter 3, verses 3 and 4, Paul asks these Christians the following questions: “This one thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?” Obviously, these people were in-dwelt by the Holy Spirit at one point, but they turned back from spiritual things to re-engage the flesh.

Galatians 5:4 then ends with this indictment: Quote: “You have fallen from grace.” Obviously the recipients of Paul’s letter at one time enjoyed the grace of God, but now had fallen from this blessed state of favor with God. Grace; God’s love, mercy, and kindness given to His adopted children, no longer applied to the people Paul wrote to in Galatia.

So once again the Scriptures clearly show the doctrine of eternal security, commonly known as “once saved, always saved,” to be absolutely false.

Paul himself even remarks that his own salvation was not signed, sealed, and delivered until he completed his life faithfully until the end. In I Corinthians 9:26-27 Paul makes the following statement with regard to his own salvation: “Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.”

Paul pulled no punches--Christians can and do fall from grace.

“Once saved, always saved” is a dangerous lie, lulling Christians to sleep and damnation.