

## When There is no Accountability

The freedoms we enjoy in the nation are great. We can come and go as we please, worship whom, what, why, when and where, as we please, without the fear of the government. Freedom as we understand it is not free. Lives were sacrificed to defeat the oppressors who would put others into bondage. Freedom also involves the accepting of responsibility. Individuals talk about their right to do this or that, but seldom vocalize their responsibility to society. The freedoms we possess secularly and religiously are often abused to satisfy the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the vainglory of life.

In the secular realm, we often mistake freedom for the ability to do as we please: speaking evil of our government officials, or violating the boundaries defined by law as if it is no big deal. This concept is often seen in the religious world as well. There is a misconception in the religious world that a child of God cannot sin in such a way as to lose their salvation. The idea that an individual who is saved cannot “fall from grace” is all too prevalent. If an individual, or group of individuals operating collectively, i.e., churches, believe they are in no danger of “falling from grace,” it would foster a belief that whatever they label “in Jesus’ name” would be authorized. When individuals believe they are above the law, they will in time become lawless and follow the ages of the judges when “In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes” (Judges 21:25).

Though there are numerous religious organizations, there are but two concepts that separate them all: doctrine and practice (what we believe and what we do). The doctrine of “once saved, always saved” stands in direct contradiction to the inspired word of God. The apostle Paul issued a warning to Christians, when he said, “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall” (1 Corinthians 10:12), as well as “Ye are severed from Christ, ye who would be justified by the law; ye are fallen away from grace” (Galatians 5:4). There are too many scriptures that deal with the dangers facing the child of God to give credibility to a concept of “once saved, always saved.”

Christianity requires that the child of God maintains a condition of spiritual stability. Spiritual stability can only be maintained as it relates to the inspired word of God. The fleshly minded man says, “I don’t see anything wrong with it;” “It seems good to me;” or “It doesn’t say I can’t.” Paul instructed the young evangelist, Timothy, and said, “Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness: that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Therefore, as the apostle Paul said, “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. Let all that ye do be done in love” (1 Corinthians 16:13-14). Ross Triplett, Sr.