

Restoring - cont.

interest in the erring (Galatians 6:1-2; James 5:19-20). Faithful Christians should make contact in some way with the erring and urge them to return.

Then, the erring must confess, repent, and come back (Jeremiah 3:13-14; Acts 8:21-23; 1 John 1:7-9). Erring brother, you can be restored!

What Incentives Do the Erring Have for Being Restored?

Are there any good reasons why an erring brother should return to the Lord? Indeed!

Think about your former joy (Luke 15:17). Think about all in heaven who want you to be saved (Luke 15:7,10; 2 Peter 3:9; Revelation 3:19-20).

Think about genuine sorrow for sin (2 Corinthians 7:10). Think about the goodness of God (Romans 2:4).

Think about the fear of punishment (Romans 2:5-9; Hebrews 10:30-31). Think about your bad influence on others (Galatians 2:11-14). Think about missing out on heaven (Rev. 2:7; etc.).

Let the erring be restored!
- Chris Reeves -

Sentence Sermons

- You are supposed to have a faith that makes you hopeful, not hopeless.
- When God speaks, don't raise doubts in peoples' mind about what he says.
- Sin keeps people from obeying God.
- The next time you go to your closet think about putting on Christ and clothing yourself with humility.
- Everything God created was good.

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THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

November 13, 2022



For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

My brethren, if any among you err from the truth, and one convert him; let him know, that he who converts a sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall cover a multitude of sins.
- James 5:19-20 -

In last week's bulletin, I discussed the fact that a Christian can indeed fall from grace. This, of course, is not desirable, but it is possible.

In the New Testament, we have examples of people falling away, we have plain statements that one can fall away, and we have warnings that one can fall away. For example, James wrote in James 5:19-20 that a brother in Christ can err from the truth and that brother is a sinner who needs to be converted in order to be saved from death.

In this article, I want to conclude this discussion by asking three questions: How does God describe those who err, can the erring person be restored, and what incentives do the erring have for being restored?

How Does God Describe Those Who Err?

When a Christian errs from the

truth, some people may not think much about it. They may think that person is ok, or it's no big deal. Others may think that it is not good, but not realize how serious it really is. We need to be reminded of what God thinks about the matter. How does he, in his word, describe the erring?

- Those who err are foolish. They are not using wisdom to remain faithful to the Lord (Matthew 25:2).
- Those who err are unfruitful. They are not bearing spiritual fruit for the Lord so they die (John 15:5-6).
- Those who err are hypocrites. They claim to follow Christ, while at the same time turning away from him (Galatians 2:13).
- Those who err are fallen from grace. They are no longer in "Gods' good graces" and are no longer in good standing with the Lord (Galatians 5:4).
- Those who err are rejected and burned. They are not accepted by the Lord and they will burn eternally in hell if they do not repent. Unfortunately, some who err are so far gone that they do not repent (Hebrews 6:4-8).
- Those who err crucify the Lord afresh.

Their sinful behavior is the same as those who crucified Jesus (Hebrews 6:6; 10:26-31).

- Those who err are dead. They are living, of course, but they are spiritually dead and separated from God (James 5:19-20; Revelation 3:1).
- Those who err are entangled and worse off. They are trapped in sin by the world around them and their lost state is worse than their saved state (2 Peter 2:20-22).
- Those who err have left their first love. They don't love Jesus anymore and do not do his commandments (Revelation 2:4).
- Those who err are lukewarm. They are spiritually neither hot, nor cold (Revelation 3:16).

Can the Erring Be Restored?

So, what are we to do about the terrible situation of Christians who err from the truth? Well, James tells us that faithful Christians should get involved with them and try to bring them back. What can be done?

First, the righteous must take an