

Last week, we learned that the mystery of godliness has been solved in the person and work of Jesus. Yet, many false teachers try to achieve godliness in ungodly ways.

Do you find yourself more focused on what Jesus has done for you or what you are doing for Jesus? What does it do to your joy when you are focused on whether you are doing enough for Jesus?

Two Biblical Realities:

At Harvest we believe the bible teaches that our salvation and the preservation of our salvation is completely a work of God. Those who have been genuinely converted can neither totally nor finally fall away from grace or lose their salvation. This doctrine does not mean that genuine belief cannot fall into long periods of grievous sin.

- **Apostasy - Not all who start well finish well.**

Read Matt. 13:18-23, 1John 2:18-19

Who do you know who once professed to be a follower of Christ yet no longer gives evidence of following him? What do you think happened to them? How do you pray for a loved-one that has fallen away?

Describe a time when you fell away from Christ. What brought you back?

- **Perseverance - All who are genuinely converted will persevere to the end.**

Read John 10:28-29, Romans 11:29, Philippians 1:6, 1Peter 1:5

How does a confidence in God's ability to save and keep you saved produce freedom and eliminate fear in your life? What evidence of God's ongoing sanctification do you see at work in your life?

Two Ditch-diggers:

- **Ditch-digger #1 – Deceitful Spirits (v.1)**

Do you sense that you are the target of a spiritual enemy? Describe the attacks that come at you.

- **Ditch-digger #2 – Insincere Liars (v. 2)**

What are some of the most common myths taught by false teachers in our time? How do these teachings contradict the good news that the mystery of godliness has been solved in the person and work of Jesus?

Two Ditches: There is a ditch waiting for you on each side of the road! (v. 3)

- **Right Ditch - When you turn good things into bad things.**

This ditch is the result of saying more than God has said on any subject. What kinds of things would fall in this category?

- **Left Ditch - When you turn good things into god things.**

This ditch is the result of saying less than God has said on any subject. What kinds of things would fall in this category?

Two Examples:

- **Marriage requires self-sacrifice.**

Those who fall away from God's design for marriage often are trying to escape self-sacrifice necessary for a godly, thriving marriage. How does your marriage require self-sacrifice? How is God using your marriage to sanctify you?

- **Food requires self-discipline.**

Those who fall away from God's design for food often are trying to escape the self-discipline needed for physical health. Have you indulged or abstained in extreme forms in your eating? How is God using your battle with your fleshly appetites to sanctify you?

How to crawl out and come back! (v. 4-5)**1. Thank God for his goodness to you.**

Do you have a hard time thanking God for what he is allowing and not allowing in your life right now? Why?

2. Let God's Word have final authority in your life.

Do you test the teaching of men with the written, objective Word of God? How are you becoming more familiar with the Bible? Describe one area you are struggling to bring under the authority of God's Word.

3. Ask God to turn your havoc into holiness.

Has your willful falling away from God created any havoc in your life? Describe it. Do you believe God can redeem your havoc and turn it into holiness? Describe a recent conversation with God regarding your havoc.

Additional Scripture

- James 5:19-20
- Psalm 51:13
- Galatians 6:1
- 1John 4:6
- Matthew 7:15
- Hebrews 13:4
- Colossians 2:16