

**Simply Christ**  
Gospel Newsletter  
*Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ*

July 18, 2024

## **Falling Stars**

Recently, a minister asked for my thoughts concerning a continuous stream of well-known ministers being exposed for sexual sins. I had no immediate thoughts, but for the next two days in my spirit I heard the record John gave when the sixth seal was opened, saying, *“And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.”* Revelation 6:13. I then understood that a great wind from God is blowing through the American church and casting many religious “stars” to the ground.

None of us are exempt from the words of Jesus, who said, **“...if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”** John 8:24. This was not spoken to the prostitute or street vandal, but to those who thought they were the elect of God. Although they had climbed to the top of their religious system, all their religious activity and wisdom would end up failing them. Why? The answer is simple. They refused to believe that Jesus was the Christ whom God promised would come into the world. These same people had spent their lives looking for one who would fulfill the prophecy of *“Messiah the Prince,”* which was given to the prophet Daniel. At the heart of this

prophecy was the declaration that Messiah would come to *"...make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness..."* Daniel 9:24. While the religious leaders of that day believed Christ would make an end of sins when he came, they rejected that Jesus of Nazareth was in fact the Christ. In rejecting Jesus, they were rejecting the deliverance God had prepared for them. All their religious efforts and wisdom would change nothing. Their religious devotion could not make them free, so they died in their sin.

Today, there is a similar but opposite condition in the American church. Jesus is believed upon and extolled, but the work of deliverance God promised he would accomplish is rejected. Few accept or believe that Jesus died to *"make an end of sin"* in anyone. In fact, the greatest boasting of religious leaders seems to be that we are all sinners and sin every day. It is then no great wonder that these religious "stars" end up proving it to us over and over through their shameful deeds.

You do not have to live or die in sin. The Apostle John told us, *"And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin."* 1 John 3:5. The truth, which Jesus said, *"shall make you free"* John 8:32 is the knowledge that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, and that on the cross he truly did *"...make an end of sins, make reconciliation for iniquity, and brought in everlasting righteousness..."* This same work is what he will do today in the heart of anyone who will actually believe him.

John the Baptist described Jesus as *“the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”* John 1:29. If I offered to take away your money, you would not be confused about what I meant. Yet, people revolt at the assertion that Jesus actually takes sin away. But he does! He takes it out of your heart, out of your life, and out of your nature! Jesus is the Christ; therefore, this is his purpose; this is his promise; this is what he has done!

The great religious “stars” will continue to fall. They do not have to die in their sin, but they will if they continue to reject the work Jesus Christ accomplished on the cross to make them free. Every time a religious “star” falls in shame, it is evidence that what they taught and believed has not worked. If it had, they would not be in the darkness of sin. We must remember, however, that for anyone who will believe the truth and trust in Christ, there is a Savior who ***“is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy...”*** Jude 24.