Why People Fall Away

Tony Mauck · 1 Timothy 1:18–20

INTRODUCTION

- I want to talk for a few moments this morning about people who surrender the walk of faith, the journey of faith, and make shipwreck of it.
- None of that is even closely to be compared with the shipwreck of a soul.
- There are several things that are in common to everyone's decision who leaves the Lord.

1 Always an Issue of Unbelief

Jude 1:20–21; Hebrews 3:12–13

- When people leave the Lord, it is always without exception an issue of unbelief.
- For so many, the line between belief and disbelief is very thin.
- Beloved, build yourselves up in the most holy faith. Keep yourselves in the love of God and await anxiously the mercy to be shown to us.
- Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart in falling away from the living God.
- They didn't become atheists, they didn't quit worshiping, they just stopped believing.
- If I trust in God and the reliability of his message, no amount of evil, no amount of disappointment, no amount of discouragement or opposition or pain will thwart my allegiance to him.

2 Always an Issue of Trust and Sowing and Reaping

Galatians 6:7–9; 2 Corinthians 4:16; Ephesians 4:22–24

- It is always an issue of a failure of trust. It is always an issue also of sowing and reaping.
- Whatever a man sows, that shall he also reap. He that sows to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption, but he that sows to the spirit shall of the spirit reap everlasting life.
- If a person loses heart and grows weary and stops in the journey of faith, it is because they have started sowing to the wrong thing.
- Make sure that your investment in sowing to the Spirit remains constant and substantial and unwavering.
- Sometimes, even though the feeling is not there, you have to plug along, and it'll come back. Keep sowing to the spirit.
- Our outer man is decaying, Paul says, but the inner man is being renewed day by day.

3 Always About Selfishness

Philippians 2:3; Hebrews 4:9; Judges 21:25

- Let me tell you also, it's always about selfishness.

- When people leave the Lord, they have taken self and exalted him or exalted her back to a place that is improper for him or her to be.
- Do nothing from selfishness and empty conceit. Self must constantly be harnessed and controlled.
- You know why people leave the Lord? Because they want to.
- The fundamental rule of human behavior is people do what they want to do.

4 Always an Issue of Perspective and Values

2 Corinthians 4:18; Hebrews 10:35–39

- It is always an issue of perspective and values. And the one leads to the other.
- Do not look to the things which are seen. Because the things which are seen are temporal. But look to the things that are unseen.
- When people leave the Lord, they stop thinking about the unseen world that is real and important and more valuable than anything that we see.
- Focus on the unseen vanishes. Focus on the seen dominates.
- Do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance.
- We are not of those who shrink back to destruction. But of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

THE CHALLENGE

Have you responded by faith to the saving of your soul? Can we assist you?

MY NOTES