

always expanding. Faith is like that. It is always expanding. It is always growing. Always looking forward to Christ. When we pause and look back we are in danger of turning back to perdition. We are in danger of letting go of Christ and the path that He is calling us to take. We are in danger of abandoning Christ and God's will for us.

Hebrews 10:38-39

*39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the **saving** of the soul.*

The flame of Christ is always burning to illuminate our path forward. The road is always a road ahead. We can not, we must not, turn our head around and look back. There is too much work to be done for the saving of souls in our future. We all have made mistakes and have failed in many ways. However, dwelling on the past, with it's

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past failures, is only a recipe for continued failure. It is only by moving forward that we will be positioned to undo our past mistakes and overcome our past failures. As we move forward with Christ, He will bring us around again to test us in an area of our life in which we have failed in the past and give us another chance to overcome our flesh by succeeding and passing a new test. A new test that will mimic the old test. Living by faith is living to overcome the world, the flesh and the devil and his kingdom of darkness. We are growing to succeed. To pass the new test and move forward in our faith walk into another level of growth. These new levels of growth will bring with them new challenges and new tests to pass. Life, this life in the Spirit, is a life of challenges, filled with both failures and successes and ultimately lots of growth. It is when we keep our single eye, on the prize that is Christ, that we continue to walk forward in the light and our success in Him is guaranteed and made complete.

IF ANYONE DRAWS BACK

by Ron Brick

Hebrews 10:38-39

*38 Now the just shall live by faith; **But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.***

*39 But we are not of those **who draw back to perdition**, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.*

The writer of Hebrews tells us plainly that the just are to live by faith and that if they draw back they will be drawing back to perdition. The Christian who begins in faith is to continue in faith until the end. Until the fulfillment of his or her salvation. Because if you draw back God will have no pleasure in you and you will not be saved.

Matthew 10:22

*22 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who **endures to the end will be saved.***

Luke 9:62

*62 But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and **looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**"*

This looking back is not simply remembering the past. It is looking at your past, before Christianity, with a desire to return to the world and the sin that Christ freed you from. The children of Israel did this after God freed them from the grip of the Pharaoh of Egypt. This longing in your heart to go back will put you in danger of turning back from the cross and cause you to lose your salvation. He who endures to the end of the journey is the

one who is saved. It is not the one who starts the race that gets the prize. It is the one who finishes it.

1 Corinthians 9:24

*24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may obtain it.***

Before the judgement of Sodom and Gomorrah, God rescued Lot, his wife and two daughters from the flames. However, Lot's wife looked back on the burning city and was judged by being turned into a pillar of salt.

Genesis 19:26

24 Then the Lord rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the Lord out of the heavens.

26 But his (Lot's) wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

In the New Testament *Jesus warns, "Remember Lot's wife". (Luke 17:32)*

Lot's wife looked back with a longing that translated into sympathy for sin and became sin in her. She was judged, crystalized, hardened. Every Christian that turns back will be judged. Their hearts will be hardened, their spiritual eyes blinded and their spiritual ears plugged up. When we draw back from obedience to the cross of Christ, we begin to lose our spiritual edge. Our spiritual senses grow dull. Our vision and our spiritual zeal is lost. The love

fire we had in our hearts for Christ goes out and our hearts grow cold.

Matthew 24: 12

*“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall **wax cold**. (KJV)*

Matthew 13: 15

*For this people’s heart is **waxed gross**, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; (KJV)*

WAX COLD - WAXED GROSS - The Greek word used here for these two expressions is PACHUNO. It means to thicken or to fatten, to render callous, to stupefy. It is the picture of the wax around the flame of a candle. The wax immediately begins to become callous, or thick, after the flame is extinguished. Without His burning, our hearts become cold and hard; we soon become callous and stupefied.

Mark 9:49

*49 “For everyone will be **seasoned with fire**, and every sacrifice (we are called to be living sacrifices) will be **seasoned with salt**.*

The sacrifice is seasoned with fire and salt. It is the fire of God. The burning in the heart of the believer for Christ. A love fire in the heart that burns to consume the sin nature of man and progressively works to displace it with Christ. The salt is a similar picture. It is the picture of the seasoning affect of salt to produce flavor. Every person who is a sacrifice to God, must be seasoned with salt to produce the flavor of Christ. The sacrifice of obedience to your own personal cross produces Christ in you, the flavor of Christ, for the benefit of the world around you.

Romans 12:1

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present **your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. (True worship)*

Matthew 5:13

*13 “**You are the salt of the earth**; but if the salt loses its **flavor**, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.*

You are no longer the salt of the earth if you lose the flavor of Christ. If you stop revealing Christ your fire will go out. You will lose the fire and you will no longer be salty.

Lot’s wife became good for nothing salt. The church, the salt that loses the flavor of Christ, is in danger of becoming worthless. It is in danger of being thrown out and trampled under the foot of men. The flavor of Christ is the nature and character of Christ. Christ obeyed the Father. We are called to walk in the Spirit. To obey the Spirit of Christ and thereby obey the Father as Christ did. A disobedient Christian or Church will lose the flavor of Christ. It will not reveal Christ because it will not be like Him. The sacrifice of God is a humble and obedient heart. The Church, that is not seasoned with Christ’s obedient nature, the nature of the lamb, will take on the nature of the wolf dressed up like a lamb. It will be in danger of becoming good for nothing salt. The Church, the living sacrifices of God, must be seasoned with salt and fire. If we are not, we are in danger of being without Christ, the fire of God. It is this church, the church that has lost

the light of Christ, that is in danger of becoming the false church to be judged with the world.

*Revelation 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “**Come out of her**, (the false harlot church) my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.*

The bride is called to escape the false harlot church. To come out of it. The false church is of the world. Babylon, Egypt and Sodom and Gomorrah become pictures of the world. The kingdoms of the world. The false church, the harlot church is of the world. She is of the world because she is in love with the world. She is not a chaste bride. She is a harlot with many lovers. She is in sympathy with the sin of idolatry: the love of self. When Lot’s wife looks back, she looks back to the world with longing. It is a longing for what she has been rescued from. After the children of Israel were rescued from Egypt they also longed to return. The love of Egypt was still in their hearts. Lot’s wife escapes the geographical location of Sodom and Gomorrah but she does not escape from the place it occupies in her heart. We too can fall back when we look back. Looking back and longing for the past will put us in danger of repeating the sin of the past and never being free from the past. We must overcome the desires of the sin nature that are of the world and in love with the world. We must be careful to look only upon Christ with a single or good eye. He must be our first love, our only heart focus and true desire.

Matthew 6: 22

*22 “The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your **eye is good**, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your*

***eye is bad**, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!*

Matthew 6: 22 (KJV)

*22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine **eye be single**, thy whole body shall be full of light.*

*23 But if thine **eye be evil**, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!*

Lot’s wife took her eye off of her walk forward and looked back. She took her eye off the prize. She did not keep her eye on the promise of Christ. Her gaze was not set on Christ; single on Christ. If our gaze is not single it is set on the many. Others besides Christ. We are no longer beholding Christ alone. We have other lovers. Other places that we are setting our eyes upon and our eye is no longer good. A good eye is a single eye. Set upon Christ and Christ alone. It is only by following Christ with our whole heart that we will be able to escape the judgement of the world. Christ alone must be our light, our destiny and our future.

Hebrews 10:38-39

38 Now the just shall live by faith;

Walking by faith is living by faith. It is always active, always moving forward. It is a journey, a road of holiness, a narrow way, it is always going forward into salvation. It is always letting go of the past and always setting our hearts on the future. Christ is the God of the living not the dead. He is alive and always moving forward. Scientists tell us that the universe is