He Was Carried Away

I. Introduction:

- A. We are warned, in various ways, of the possibility of falling away from the faith (Luke 8:9-15, Galatians 5:4, II Peter 2:18-22, and Revelation 2:1-7).
 - 1. The purpose of lessons, such as these, is for us to be mindful that none of us are above the possibility of apostasy (I Corinthians 10:1-13).
 - 2. We'd all do well to be as hardworking and careful as men such as the Apostle Paul were (I Corinthians 9:24-27).
- B. Falling away is not necessarily a spiritual death sentence (**Ezekiel 18:20-23** and **James 5:19-20**).
 - 1. There is a point of no return (**Hebrews 10:26-31**) and that point is not up to us to determine (**James 4:11-12**).
 - 2. There are errors that brethren will attempt to aid with (**Galatians 6:1-2**) and those wherein we won't (**Titus 3:9-11**).
 - 3. At the end of the day, if one falls from the faith they should not pull a Judas (Matthew 27:3-5).

II. Body: Galatians 2:11-14

- A. Barnabas was, on several occasions, a chosen laborer in the kingdom (Acts 11:19-30, Acts 13:1-1-4, and Acts 15:22; Acts 15:35).
 - 1. He was there from the beginning and was self-less in giving to the saints (Acts 4:32-37).
 - 2. He was influential in Saul's [aka Apostle Paul; **Acts 13:9**] being accepted by the saints (**Acts 9:26-31**).
 - 3. He wasn't afraid to uphold the truth, even in the face of certain persecution (**Acts 13:46-50**).
 - 4. He was unwilling to be exalted (Acts 14:8-18).
 - 5. He once stood against the errors that carried him away (Acts 15:1-6).
- B. Let's look at the words translated "dissembled" and "dissimulation".
 - 1. The word translated "dissembled": "To act hypocritically in concert with: dissemble with; To dissemble with; to act hypocritically with (Strong's # 4942). This word only appears in this passage.
 - 2. The word translated "dissimulation": "acting under a feigned part, i.e. (figuratively) deceit ("hypocrisy"): condemnation, dissimulation, hypocrisy. An answering; an answer the acting of a stage player; dissimulation, hypocrisy" (Strong's # 5272). Cf. Matthew 23:28, Mark 12:15, Luke 12:1, I Timothy 4:2, and James 5:12 [condemnation].
 - 3. We know hypocrisy is sinful and crippling for one attempting to do the Lord's work (Matthew 7:1-6, Romans 2:1-29, Romans 12:9, I Timothy 4:1-5, etc.).
- C. Let's strive to not be carried away (I Corinthians 16:13)...

- 1. ... By others (Ephesians 4:14 and Hebrews 13:9).
- 2. ... By ourselves (**II Peter 3:15-17**).
- III. Conclusion: Keep GROWING to avoid falling away (II Peter 1:3-11).