

Not Falling Away In Our Later Years

I. Introduction:

A. It is a sad reality that Christians walk away, fall away; from their relationship with God and brethren (**Luke 8:13-14**).

1. Sometimes those once faithful (**Colossians 4:14-15** and **Philemon 1:24**) love the world too much to remain faithful (**II Timothy 4:10**).

2. Not just by going “back to the world” (so to speak), but also by following perversions of the truth (**Galatians 1:6-9**, **Galatians 3:1**, and **Galatians 5:1-4**).

B. There was a priest named Eli that Samuel labored under (**I Samuel 3:1**).

1. In his old age, his sons were worthless (**I Samuel 2:12; 2:22-25**).

2. Being a priest and the one who brought up Samuel, did not withhold the Lord’s judgment from him for his failures (**I Samuel 3:11-14; 4:15-18**).

3. “Time served” doesn’t accumulate for special treatment (**Matthew 20:1-16**).

II. Body: Faithful Unto [until; up to] Death (**Revelation 2:10**).

A. As we age, our bodies begin to weaken (**Psalms 71:9**).

1. We know, especially with widows, that families are often called upon to aid their aging relatives (**I Timothy 5:4; 5:8; 5:16**).

2. What if the relatives are not faithful Christians? Is it reasonable to assume they will look out for the soul of our elderly saints (**Psalms 1:6**)?

3. What about when a family decides to take a capable, but elderly Christian away from faithful saints (**Hebrews 10:24-25**)?

4. What about when we age if our carnal family does not help us in ways for us to continue to grow spiritually (**II Peter 1:1-11** and **II Peter 3:18**)?

B. Regardless of who is caring for us as we age, being vulnerable can be scary. What can fear cause someone to do (**John 7:12-13** and **John 9:18-23**)?

1. Think about what fear was like under the Old Law when the hope of Christ was not with them (**Hebrews 2:14-15**; cf. **Psalms 55:4**).

2. Fear can be torment (**I John 4:18**).

C. The world will tell us, “God understands”, but what does the world know (**John 1:10-11**, **I Corinthians 3:19**, and **I John 3:1**)?

1. Getting older isn’t a “free pass” (**Proverbs 16:31**).

2. When God sent the erring into captivity and slew sinners in Judah, the old were not exempt (**II Chronicles 36:14-17**).

3. Moses and Aaron were not exempt because of their ages or previous years of service to God (**Numbers 20:1-13**; cf. **Ezekiel 33:13**).

4. Think about the word “endure” (**Matthew 10:22**; cf. **Galatians 6:9**).

III. Conclusion: **II Peter 2:20-22**