

# Calvinistic False Teaching

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If Believers cannot apostatize, why are they warned against it? Isn't this the confusion of Calvinistic false theology?

Yes, the confusion comes when people try to interpret clear biblical warnings through a theological lens (such as Calvinism's "perseverance of the saints") rather than letting Scripture speak plainly and interpret Scripture.

The Bible is filled with real warnings to Believers against departing from the Faith, and those warnings only make sense if apostasy is possible. If Believers could not turn away, then God would be warning them about something impossible, which would make the warnings meaningless and even deceptive.

**Here's the biblical reality:**

### **1. Scripture speaks to Believers, not hypothetical unbelievers.**

Many warnings are addressed directly to those who have truly believed and been partakers of the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 6:4–6). These are not "pretend" Christians, as they are those who have tasted the good Word of God and the powers of the world to come but are in danger of falling away.

#### **Hebrews 6:4-6**

4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh and put him to an open shame.

## **2. Apostasy is departure from Faith, not mere weakness**

The New Testament warns against turning from Christ to something else:

### **Hebrews 3:12**

Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

### **1 Timothy 4:1**

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the Faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

Departing from the Faith means abandoning the only object of saving Faith, which is the Sacrifice of Christ which severs one from the Grace of God (Galatians 5:4).

### **Galatians 5:4**

Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

## **3. The “once saved, always saved” reading ignores CONDITIONAL statements**

Promises of Salvation are often tied to continuing in the Faith:

### **Colossians 1:23**

If ye continue in the Faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

### **John 15:6**

If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

These “IF” statements are not rhetorical flourishes as they are conditions that must be met.

### **4. Calvinism redefines the warnings to preserve a system while disregarding Truth rightly divided**

To maintain the doctrine that the truly elect cannot fall away, Calvinists tend to say:

- The warnings are only hypothetical and will never actually happen to the elect.
- The people warned were never truly saved in the first place.

Both approaches require reinterpreting the plain meaning of the text and ignoring the real possibility Scripture presents.

### **5. The cross-centered truth**

Faith in Christ’s finished work on the Cross must remain the present and exclusive object of Faith (Hebrews 10:38–39).

The Holy Spirit only works within that Faith (Galatians 3:3), and departure from it is spiritual ruin. The warnings are there because God loves us and wants us to keep looking to Jesus (Hebrews 12:2), knowing that he that endures to the end shall be saved (Matthew 24:13).

### **Hebrews 10:38-39**

38 Now the just shall live by Faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

### **Galatians 3:3**

Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

### **Hebrews 12:2**

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

## **Through the New Testament we see many warnings of Apostasy spoken to Believers**

### **Matthew 10:22**

And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

### **Matthew 24:12-13**

And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

**Luke 8:13**

They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.

**John 15:6**

If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

**Acts 14:22**

Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the Faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

**Romans 11:20–22**

Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by Faith. Be not highminded, but fear: For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

**1 Corinthians 9:27**

But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

**1 Corinthians 10:12**

Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

**Galatians 5:4**

Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

**Colossians 1:23**

If ye continue in the Faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel...

**1 Timothy 1:19**

Holding Faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning Faith have made shipwreck.

**1 Timothy 4:1**

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the Faith...

**2 Timothy 2:12**

If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us.

**Hebrews 2:1–3**

Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip... how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation...

**Hebrews 3:12–14**

Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God... For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end.

**Hebrews 6:4–6**

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened... if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance...

**Hebrews 10:26–29**

For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins...

**Hebrews 10:38–39**

Now the just shall live by Faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

**2 Peter 2:20–22**

For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

**Revelation 2:4–5**

Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent...

**Revelation 3:5**

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life...

**Revelation 3:16**

So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

These passages make it unmistakable that the New Testament treats apostasy as a real possibility for those who truly believe.

Here's a side-by-side look at some of the major apostasy warnings you saw earlier, showing:

1. Plain meaning in context (what the text is actually saying to Believers)
2. Calvinistic reinterpretation (how "perseverance
3. Why that reinterpretation fails (biblical and logical problems)

### **Matthew 24:12–13**

And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

**Plain meaning:** True Believers must endure to the end in Faith to be saved; the "love" here is agape love, which is shed abroad in the hearts of the saved (Romans 5:5). It can grow cold through lawlessness.

**Calvinist view:** The "many" whose love grows cold were never truly saved; the truly elect will automatically endure.

**Why it fails:** The warning is pointless if only unbelievers can fail. Jesus is addressing His disciples (v. 4), not random hypocrites, and using "love" (agape) which in the NT is consistently used of the regenerate toward God and others.

## **John 15:6**

If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered... cast into the fire, and... burned.

**Plain meaning:** One must continue (“abide”) in Christ to avoid being cut off and destroyed. Branches are in Him before being cast out.

**Calvinist view:** These are false disciples who were never truly united to Christ; they only appeared to be in Him.

**Why it fails:** Jesus says they are branches in Me (v. 2), indicating real connection. The only “life” in a branch is from the vine; if it’s “in Him” it shares that life until cut off. The metaphor collapses if “in Me” means “never really in Me.”

## **Romans 11:20–22**

...thou standest by Faith... if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

**Plain meaning:** Believers stand by Faith and can be cut off if they do not continue in God’s goodness.

**Calvinist view:** Paul speaks of the visible church collectively; individuals in the elect can’t be cut off.

**Why it fails:** The verbs are second-person singular (“thou”), not plural. Paul is speaking to individuals. And being “cut off” from the root (Christ) is spiritual ruin, not loss of a church seat.

## **1 Corinthians 9:27**

...lest... I myself should be a castaway.

**Plain meaning:** Paul himself recognized that without discipline he could become disqualified (Greek: adokimos, “rejected after testing”).

**Calvinist view:** “Castaway” refers to loss of ministry reward, not salvation.

**Why it fails:** Paul’s example is about eternal stakes, not just crowns (cf. v. 24, “obtain” the prize). Elsewhere adokimos is used for the reprobate (Romans 1:28, 2 Corinthians 13:5).

### **Galatians 5:4**

...ye are fallen from grace.

**Plain meaning:** Turning from Faith in Christ to law-keeping severs a believer from Christ’s benefit as they “fall from grace.”

**Calvinist view:** “Fallen from grace” means losing the enjoyment of grace’s benefits, not salvation.

**Why it fails:** In context (v. 2), Paul says “Christ shall profit you nothing” as this is complete severance from saving benefit. Grace is not a mood; it’s God at work in salvation (Titus 2:11–12).

### **1 Timothy 4:1**

...some shall depart from the Faith...

**Plain meaning:** The Holy Spirit warns that some Believers will leave the Faith.

**Calvinist view:** They “depart” from the profession of Faith, not true Faith.

**Why it fails:** Paul calls it “the Faith” which is a term consistently used for the actual Christian Faith (Acts 6:7,

Gal. 1:23). Departing from it is apostasy, not merely leaving a church membership.

### **Hebrews 3:12–14**

Take heed, brethren, lest... in departing from the living God... we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold... steadfast unto the end.

**Plain meaning:** Believers (“brethren”) can depart from God through unbelief; perseverance is required to remain a partaker of Christ.

**Calvinist view:** The “brethren” here are Jews in the congregation, some of whom are not saved yet.

**Why it fails:** The writer includes himself (“we are made partakers...”). He’s not warning pretend brethren but actual ones. And “partaker” (metochos) in Hebrews always refers to genuine participation (Heb. 3:1, 6:4).

### **Hebrews 6:4–6**

...once enlightened... made partakers of the Holy Ghost... if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance...

**Plain meaning:** It is possible for those who have truly experienced salvation to fall away irreversibly.

**Calvinist view:** These are those who came near salvation but never truly received it.

**Why it fails:** Being “partakers of the Holy Ghost” is never used of the unsaved in Scripture. These are descriptions of true conversion, not near misses.

## **2 Peter 2:20–22**

...after they have escaped... through the knowledge of the Lord... they are again entangled... the latter end is worse...

**Plain meaning:** Believers who escape sin through knowing Christ can return to bondage, ending worse than before conversion.

**Calvinist view:** They had external moral reform through contact with the gospel, but never true regeneration.

**Why it fails:** The “knowledge” here (epignosis) is full experiential knowledge, always used for saving knowledge of Christ (cf. 2 Pet. 1:2–3).

## **Revelation 3:5**

...I will not blot out his name out of the book of life...

**Plain meaning:** Names can be blotted out which implies real loss.

**Calvinist view:** This is a figure of speech assuring the elect that their names will never be blotted out.

**Why it fails:** The conditional promise (“He that overcometh...”) means that not overcoming results in the opposite. The same Greek for “blot out” is used in Acts 3:19 for sins being removed which is literal, not rhetorical.

## **Case closed:**

Calvinism’s need to preserve an unbreakable perseverance doctrine FORCES IT TO REINTERPRET or sidestep clear, repeated warnings. But taken at face value, which is in their redemptive, cross-centered contexts, these warnings are God’s love calling us to continue in the Faith, grounded and

settled (Col. 1:23), because only he that endures to the end shall be saved.