

DON'T STUMBLE

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INTRODUCTION

A. TEXT: *"These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be caused to stumble."* v. 1.

B. SETTING:

A. Jesus, to the apostles on the night of His betrayal .

B. Knowing the dangers they would face, He is preparing them so they will not stumble or fall. vs. 2-4.

C. THE NEW TESTAMENT OFTEN WARNS US ABOUT....

A. Stumbling.

B. Of encountering a stumbling block.

C. Of being a "stumbling block."

D. The word "offence" comes from same root word.

D. BY DEFINITION:

A. Originally was the name of the part of the trap to which the bait was attached.

B. That which entices or causes one to be snared or trapped, to stumble and fall.

C. Another word "proskamma" an obstacle against which one may dash his foot, to stumble, usually translated "offence". Used in reference to our NOT being a "stumbling block" (offence) which trips or causes others to fall.

4. What are some of the **Reasons Why We Stumble – Fall!**

DARKNESS

A. DARKNESS CAUSES ONE to Stumble and Fall in Physical Life.

1. We all recognize the danger of walking around in the dark.

2. Have you ever run into a chair, table, door, etc. that was hid by darkness?

B. SPIRITUAL DARKNESS - lack of knowledge is as dangerous to our soul, as night is to our body.

1. *"We grope for the all like the blind; yea, we grope as they that have no eyes: we stumble at noonday as in the twilight; among them that are lusty we are as dead men."* (Isa. 59:10).

2. The results of disobedience. *"And thou shalt grope at noonday, as the blind gropeth in darkness, and thou shalt not prosper in thy ways:"* (Deut. 28:29).

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C. HOW DO WE AVOID THIS DANGER? Spiritual Darkness.

1. Jesus..... *"I am The Light Of The World"*
 2. *"In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in the darkness; and the darkness apprehended it not....There was the true light, even the light which lighteth every man, coming into the world. (John 1:4,5, 9).*
 3. In I John 1:7, we avoid the Darkness, If we WALK in the Light.
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FALSE TEACHING

A. FALSE TEACHING WILL CAUSE ONE TO STUMBLE AND FALL.

1. *"Because thou hast there some that hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit fornication."* (Rev. 2;14).
2. The story begins in Numbers 22.
 - a. Balak, of Moab, sent for Balaam, Ask him to curse this people (Israel).
 - b. He could not do this "I cannot go beyond the word of Jehovah my God
3. His false counsel (Num. 31:16) led to the death of thousands of Israelites.
4. Cost him his life (Num. 31:8).

B. FALSE TEACHERS TODAY.

1. *"Woe unto you lawyers! For ye took away the key of knowledge; ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered."* (Luke 11:52).
 2. All of II Peter 2. It also alludes to Balaam.
 3. Because False Teachers cause one to fall we are warned... *"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but prove the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world."* (I Jn. 4:1).
 4. Paul's warning to Timothy of Sound Doctrine, Both Letters.
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Things Of This World

A. GOLD AND SILVER.

1. *"They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be as an unclean thing;....because it hath been the stumbling block of their iniquity."* (Ezek. 7:19).
2. Matt. 6:19,20, What and Where is Your Treasure?

B. IDOLS:

1. Ezek. 14:1-5. "Take his idols into his heart....the stumbling block"
2. An Idol is anything that has first place in our life.

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C. PRIDE: Self love.

1. *"And the proud one shall stumble and fall,"* (Jer. 50:32).
 2. Pride goes before destruction and the fall. (Prov. 16:18)
 3. *"Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall"* (I Cor. 10:12)
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CHRIST

A. TO THE JEW, The Cross Of Christ was a Stumbling Block.

1. *"but we preach Christ crucified, unto Jews a stumbling block, and unto Gentiles foolishness;"* (I Cor. 1:23).
2. What they (Jews) had expected and looked for.

B. CHRIST, BECAME A STONE OF STUMBLING.

1. *"Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by works. They stumbled at the stone of stumbling"* (Rom. 9:32).
2. When the teachings of Jesus (But I way unto you) was different from their teachings and thinking....they stumbled.

C. THE TEACHING OF CHRIST IS A STUMBLING BLOCK FOR MANY TODAY.

1. What must I do to be saved?...They stumble at the teachings of Christ. Preferring their own way, ways.
2. How many different "ways" do men teach for salvation today?

D. THE NECESSITY OF LIVING A CHRISTIAN LIFE.

1. Morality of the Christian life.
 2. People want to livelike they want to live. Yet have the blessings from God.
 3. Yet Jesus said..*Except ye believe that I am He, ye shall die in your sins.*
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CONCLUSION

A. HOW CAN WE AVOID STUMBLING AND FALLING?

1. *"Walk in the light"* (I John 1:7). Jesus is the light of the world.
2. *"Thy word is a **lamp** unto my feet, And **light** unto my path."* (Psa. 119. 105).

B. *Wherefore, brethren, give the more diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never stumble*" (II Pet. 1:10).

C. IF WE FOLLOW PETER'S LESSON (Christian Graces, 5-7) WE WILL:

1. Add to our **faith**. Accept the teachings of Jesus. Be His disciple.
 2. Avoid false Teaching, by **adding knowledge**, therefore walk safely.
 3. Recognize and avoid the things of this world that would make us fall. Add **self control, virtue, steadfastness. Etc.**
 4. **MAY WE ALWAYS WALK IN THE LIGHT, AND AVOID THOSE THINGS THAT WOULD CAUSE US TO STUMBLE AND FALL!**
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