



# FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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## A GREAT FALL



THE BONFIRES ARE GLOWING, THE HAYRIDES ARE SCHEDULED AND THE WHINE OF LEAF BLOWERS ECHO ON EVERY STREET. IT'S FALL. THE LEAVES ON THE TREES HAVE REACHED THEIR FULL COLORS AND EVEN IF COLD WEATHER IS GETTING CLOSER, WE'VE HAD AN EXCEPTIONALLY WARM OCTOBER. I THINK WE COULD SAY IT'S BEEN A GREAT FALL. BUT THINK OF ANOTHER, FAR LESS THRILLING GREAT FALL.

WE OFTEN REFER TO ADAM AND EVE'S SIN IN GENESIS 3 AS "THE FALL," AND TRULY IT WAS. IN FACT BECAUSE THEY SAW, TOOK AND SHARED FORBIDDEN FRUIT (GEN. 3:6) THEY SINNED AND FELL AWAY FROM THEIR PRIVILEGED FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD. THIS HOWEVER, WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF GREAT FALLS.

CONSIDER THE GREAT FALL INDICATED BY THE PRE-FLOOD DEBAUCHERY WHEREBY EVERY THOUGHT FROM EVERYONE EXCEPT NOAH WAS ONLY EVIL CONTINUALLY. (SEE GEN. 6:5). THINK TOO OF THE GREAT FALL AT THE TOWER OF BABEL WHERE MAN'S ARROGANT DESIRE TO MAKE A NAME FOR HIMSELF (GEN. 11:4) BROUGHT GOD'S JUDGMENT AND CONFUSION OF THE LANGUAGES. AND WHAT ABOUT LOT'S CORRUPTION? HAVING ESCAPED THE DESTRUCTION OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH HE DRUNKENLY YIELDS TO INCEST WITH HIS DAUGHTERS (NOTE GEN. 19:30-38). THEN THERE'S ALSO KORAH'S REBELLION IN NUMBERS 16 AND DAVID'S LUST AND ADULTERY IN II SAM. 11:2-4. REMEMBER ALSO SOLOMON'S DEMISE WHEN HIS WIVES TURNED HIS HEART AWAY FROM GOD (I KINGS 11:4-6). ALL OF THESE ARE GREAT FALLS.

THE NEW TESTAMENT ALSO RELATES GREAT FALLS. JUDAS' BITTER BETRAYAL IS AN EXAMPLE (MATT. 16:15). AND ACTS 5:1-10 TELLS US OF ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA'S HYPOCRISY AND DECEIT THAT LED TO THEIR DEATH. JOHN MARK WAS AN EAGER MISSIONARY INTERN UNTIL THE GOING GOT TOUGH AND HE WENT BACK HOME (ACTS 13:13). DEMAS LIKEWISE, THOUGH FOR MANY YEARS FAITHFUL, FELL INTO CARNALITY AND DESERTED PAUL AT THE END OF THE APOSTLE'S LIFE (II TIM. 4:10). THEN TOO DIOTROPHES IN III JOHN 9-10, WITH HIS SELFISH ATTITUDE AND ACTIONS, WICKEDLY DISRUPTED THE CHURCH HE PASTORED.

I CORINTHIANS 10:12 REMINDS THAT WHEN WE THINK WE'RE STANDING TO TAKE HEED LEST WE FALL. FURTHERMORE JOHN 16:1-5 INDICATES THAT JESUS' PROMISE ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT'S COMING WAS SO THAT WE MIGHT BE KEPT FROM FALLING. FINALLY, PROVERBS 4:27 SAYS "DO NOT TURN TO THE RIGHT NOR TO THE LEFT; TURN YOUR FOOT FROM EVIL."

MIGHT EACH OF US BE CAREFUL LEST WE TOO EXPERIENCE A GREAT FALL.

LOOKING UP,  
PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE