

WRITTEN TO WHOM?

Jewish Christians

- Well acquainted with the Old Testament
 - O.T. References/Quotations
 - Jesus in the Psalms
 - Levitical Priesthood
 - Abraham/Melchizedek
 - Tabernacle
 - Animal Sacrifices
 - Moses/Patriarchs

CHRISTIANS FOR A GOOD WHILE

• 10:32-33: "But recall the former days..."

• 5:12: "For though by this time you ought to be teachers..."

• 6:10: "For God is not unjust to forget your work..."

• 13:3: "Remember the prisoners as if chained with them..."

 12:3-4: Consider Jesus sufferings—"You have not yet resisted to bloodshed..."

ON THE VERGE OF FALLING AWAY

- 3:12: "Beware brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God."
- 4:1: "Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest..."
- 4:11: "Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall"
- 5:11-6:6—"...it is impossible for those who were once enlightened...if they fall away."

• 6:10-12:" God will not forget your works—do not become lazy."

THOSE BEFORE ENDURED SUFFERING

 Jesus: 5: 7-9—"He learned obedience through His sufferings.."

- Chapter 11---Abel, Abraham, Enoch, Noah, Sarah, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, David, the Prophets, etc.
- 10:32—39: sufferings, reproaches, spectacles,--don't draw back!

• Chapter 12: "Surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses..."

BOTTOM LINE PROBLEM

- The issue was the interpretation and understanding of Judaism in light of the Ministry of Jesus!
- Acts 15: 8-10: "...He made no distinction between us and them.."
 A person could be right with God without living according to Judaism.
- Galatians 3:14: "the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus..."
- Hebrews: Accented the divide by presenting Christianity as better
 - Greater High Priest---PRESS On in their faith in Jesus!
 - Easy to see---2,000 year later!

THE PROBLEM

Pressure was not:

- Return to Jewish Kosher Laws—They never quit these things.
- Not working on the Sabbath—They never quit these things.

• Problem:

- Renewed persecution even from their Jewish brethren
- Continued social rejection
- Load was too heavy to carry
- They were being loaded down spiritually
- Therefore: Tempted to QUIT!

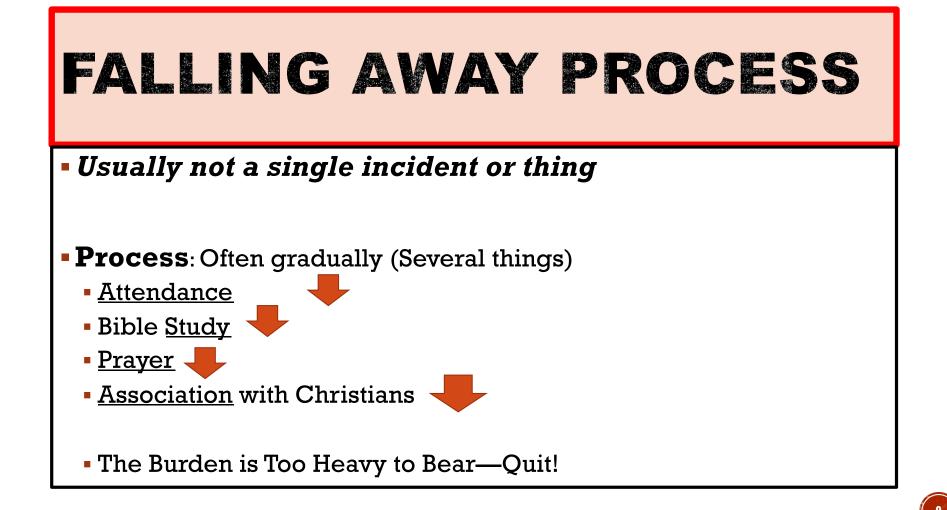
WEARING DOWN SPIRITUALLY

Their Problem:

- Social Rejection
- Renewed Persecution
- Felt marginalized
- Lines were being drawn by society
- Ancients: Importance of Identity, Belonging to established group.
- Tempted to Quit !!

• Feelings:

- Frustrated
- Angry
- Bitter



LESSONS FOR US

- I. Jesus is Better.
- 2. We all have problems.
- 3. People/Friends/Christians can disappoint you.
- 4. Everyone gets discouraged at times.
- 5. Persecutions will come.
- **6.** Count the Cost.
- 7. Don't Quit!