

# TAKE HEED LEST YE FALL

by Robert Hatfield

There is a spot on campus where the sidewalk is always wet. The puddles provide homes to algae and mud. There were several times when I saw students slip and slide as they walked to and from their classes, but I never slipped; I did not think that sidewalk would get the best of me. Until one Monday morning, as I walked back from a class that dismissed early, I cut through the grass to avoid most of the wet area on the sidewalk. When I stepped back onto the concrete path my heel hit a wet spot and I took a hard fall! I quickly got back up, looked around, and let out a heavy sigh of relief when I saw that no one else was around to witness this event.

After telling this story to others and laughing at myself, I began to think of several parallels between my personal illustration and an important Biblical principle.

Paul wrote, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (1 Cor. 10:12). Paul referred to something *much* more important than a small accident on the sidewalk; he referred to eternal matters!

Please consider the following points:

**There were no signs.** The sidewalk was not heavily marked with warning signs about the possible danger. Such is the case with reference to temptation and sin. Satan sneaks and deceives men into sinful activity. We are told that Satan is as a sneaky lion hunting its prey (1 Pet. 5:8). He blinds the minds of men from the saving gospel (2 Cor. 4:3-4), and appears as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14). In reality, he is the god of this world and of unrighteousness (2 Cor. 4:3). Christians much be ever watchful for Satan's deceptions!

**That sidewalk did not look too dangerous.** So it is with Satan and sin. The writer of Hebrews mentioned that sin can be enjoyable and pleasurable (Heb. 11:25)! While sin may not seem very dangerous or harmful on the outside, the student of the Bible understands that God is serious about sin. The forbidden fruit in the garden of Eden must not have seemed very dangerous to Eve. Paul feared, "as the serpent beguiled Eve ...so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ" (2 Cor. 11:3).

**Sin is sin, whether public or private.** To my knowledge, no one saw me fall that morning, but that obviously does not change the fact that I fell. When someone sins against God, he or she is responsible for that sinful activity — whether or not other people may know about it! Men must remember that God knows everything (Heb. 4:13; 1 John 3:20).

**It is possible to get back up!** Christians sometimes fall, but they do not have to stay down. They have been washed by Christ's blood in baptism, and that blood can continually cleanse the sin-stained soul (1 John 1:7). Christians must continue to walk in the light, and repent of and confess wrongs when they fall to temptation (1 John 1:9). God is willing to forgive those who submit to His Will!

**You can avoid falling!** Familiarize yourself with God's Word. Assess your own spiritual weaknesses and work to grow stronger in the areas in which you are most tempted. Stay away from tempting situations (1 Thes. 5:22), and pray without ceasing (1 Thes. 5:17; cf. Mat. 6:13).

[www. East Hill Church .org](http://www.EastHillChurch.org)

From *The East Hill News*  
Published by the East Hill Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 329 • Pulaski, TN 38478  
(931) ~ 363-2777