

**Intro: FALL RISK. Clyde Godwin.** Mentor. 73 yrs old. Hospital for surgery. Sticker. "Have you fallen recently?" "Spiritually or physically?" We're all "Fall Risks." We could stumble, trip, slip at any time. "No matter how far down road of sanctification, healing & recovery you are, always same distance from ditch."

**Thesis:** "God grafts us into Christ, to keep us connected to Him and give us eternal life"

### I. Fall Risk (11-14)

- A. The Jews unbelief and stumbling, led others to saving faith.** Ours & others sin, leads to good.
- B. Serves as a Warning.** Caution. Carefulness. God won't let His love and grace go to waste. He wants to love sinners. So if some reject Him, He'll go after others with his saving grace.
- C. No sin will go to waste.** Our stumbling can help others. And help us.
  - 1. **We learn from it. Learn to Appreciate grace.** Humbles us. Recognize weakness.
  - 2. **Others learn from our sin.** Through our own testimony and experiences. Warn others.

**ILLUSTRATION: Ever been on a hike? "Heads up! Watch out for that branch." "OW!" Walking. Slips** on a rock/muddy spot. Moss peels off. **Trips** over a root. Wobbly rock. **Stumbles.**

- D. Jealousy and envy leads them to salvation.**

**APPLICATION:** Not a single sin, regret, decision, choice will go to waste. God will use it. You & others

### II. Roots = Fruit (15-18)

- A. Root holy = fruit holy.** You must be connected to the good roots. Root alive = branch alive.
- B. "Abide in Me". Jesus.** Apart from me you can do nothing. Abide in me/my love, bear much fruit.
- C. If you break off, you'll die.** Must stay connected to Jesus through faith.
- D. Some pruned off b/c already dead.** Don't bear fruit. Connected physically, dead spiritually.
- E. if you are in Christ,** don't boast in your "branchyness." Fruit. Many branches/disciples you have.
- F. You don't support the Root (Jesus), the Root (Jesus) supports you.** He doesn't need you.

**APPLICATION: Don't be arrogant or proud if you're a "strong" branch with a lot of fruit.** We all equally need Jesus, the Root, when you think about it, those who are bigger (stronger) and more numerous and more fruitful, need Him (The Root) even more. Not less.

### III. Grafted into Christ (19-27)

- A. In order to graft some branches in, the tree has to be wounded/cut off.**
- B. Some Israelites were cut-off or wounded (some for a time).**
- C. Jesus ultimately was the one wounded/cut-off so we could be grafted into Him.**
- D. Three Categories of Branches (Church People).**
  - 1. *Those who were in, but were **broken off/cut-off** and are no longer in.*
  - 2. *Those who were not in, but by the Grace of God, are grafted into the **Family Tree**.*
  - 3. *Those who were in, then broke off, but God by his wonderful grace, grafts **BACK** in. **POWER!***
- E. God is not either/or.** He's severe and serious, and he's kind and gracious.
- F. All True Israel (The True & Complete Family Tree Abiding in Christ the Root) will be saved!**

**APPLICATION:**

- 1. **Continue in His kindness (grace) (by faith).**
- 2. **Remember you're a Fall Risk.** Stay humble. Teachable. Repenting. Believing the Gospel.

**ILLUSTRATION: George Kerr has a pear tree in his front yard. He vouches that they are some of the best pears a tree can produce.** The problem is, the tree is dying. He would love for someone to take one the branches off of his tree and graft it onto a healthy tree root, so that the pears can still be produced. So if anyone is interested, let me know and I'll get you in touch with George. His pears are ready as well. If you want some, let me know.

- 3. **In Christ, we will always bear fruit, and we will live forever. Because He's conquered death, and He will live forever. And if our Root lives forever, we (the branches) will live forever. In Christ.**