

## Take Heed, Lest You Fall!

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by Wayne Goff

**Black ice** — a frightening thought in winter. It represents a real danger because it is often *invisible*, but very dangerous to one who drives on it or walks on it. “Black ice” refers to ice, sleet, or snow that has melted, and then frozen again from its watery state. It is not really *black*, but *clear*, giving off the appearance of that which is normal while hiding that which is dangerous. I wonder how many people have been killed because of “black ice.” Statistics of fatalities due to ice-related road conditions reveal that there is an average of 467 deaths each year. Missouri averaged 23 deaths, while Kansas had 16 deaths related to icy roads. Kansas City is in the “high risk” category for such deaths, so we must be ever vigilant in the winter.

All of this is suggestive of Paul’s admonition in 1 Corinthians 10:12 — “*Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.*” Just when you think you are **safe**, trouble comes. How many have been **warned** of a danger, only to *neglect* the warning and become a victim? It has happened too often to count! 1 Corinthians 10 is a chapter enumerating the many sins of the Israelites in the wilderness — lust, idolatry, fornication, tempting Christ, and complaining (vv.6-10). “*But with **most** of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness*” (v. 5). “*Most*” indeed — all but **two** died in the wilderness. Therefore, you and I must take heed lest we fall short of our eternal inheritance.

The man who says “I have done nothing wrong” or “I would never commit that sin, or this sin” is the very one who is in grave danger. His arrogant pride and ego will surely bring him down. If a man as righteous as King David can commit murder and adultery, then who are we to **guarantee** that we will not sin? The *self-righteous person* has already sinned in his haughtiness. So be humble, dear reader, and always “*examine yourself*” as to whether or not you are still faithful (2 Cor. 13:5). The fellow who strains at a gnat while swallowing a camel is a pitiful sight (Matt. 23:24). The man who sees a “*speck*” in his brother’s eye while missing his own “*plank*” is a poor judge (Matt. 7:3-4). Jesus calls him a “*hypocrite*” (Matt. 7:5). Satan walks about seeking whom he may devour! Be sure you’re not standing on “black ice”!

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