



# The Good News

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## ***“It Ain’t Over ‘till It’s Over”***

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One of the most quotable baseball managers in the long history of the game, Yogi Berra uttered this jewel during a pennant race at the end of the 1973 season. It’s laughed at, quoted, pointed to for its obscure wisdom and referred to routinely still today—which is an indication of how true the sentiment Yogi was trying to get across with his comment really was: while there is still time left, things can still change. This is true universally, not just in sports. Indeed, life itself teaches us this very thing almost daily. Despite this, we often despair needlessly with plenty of “time on the clock,” we give up when we still have an opportunity to make things better than they are, sometimes thinking our mistakes are too much or too difficult or too severe to overcome. Likewise, when we have done things well for an extended time, we can slip into thinking that we can handle more than we are truly able to, simply because we’ve benefited from circumstances that are beyond our own influence or from things in life falling favorably for us. Just as we can turn a bad situation into a good one, we can easily allow a good thing to become tarnished by assuming a less humble, more lofty attitude than we held while working so hard to make a situation as good as it has become.

Enough generalities. Let’s take a specific example, such as an individual who has lived in sin their entire lives and has recently been made aware of the gospel—to which they have responded positively. What is their reaction to learning that they have essentially thumbed their nose at God and His will, not to mention His Son’s sacrifice, for as long as this person has known the difference between right and wrong? It may depend upon a great many variables, such as how strongly the gospel pricked their hearts, how they think of themselves presently and how that contrasts with how they think God sees

them, how “evil” their sins in their past were (people tend to grade sins even though God does no such thing), etc. True acceptance of God’s will and His teachings will render a believer—new or otherwise—sick with sorrow and regret over their transgressions. How strongly will a new believer react to knowing that decades of their life have been lived in sin? It is in some cases debilitating, and creates a sense of overwhelming guilt that to some is seemingly insurmountable. The Bible tells us otherwise, and we know that God forgives all sin in baptism and also in baptized individuals who ask earnestly for forgiveness through His Son, Jesus Christ.

How about the other side of things: is it possible to fall from grace? Absolutely! Gal 5:4 tells us this is possible, so for us to assume that once we’ve committed ourselves to God, once we’ve been baptized, once we’ve confessed our sins to Him and once we’ve claimed Christ as our own—that we can’t be removed from His Grace is a fallacy and a fatal one. Indeed, there is not a single thing that will separate us from God once we have committed ourselves to Him ***outside of ourselves***. It is ***absolutely*** possible for us to choose not to live a life that God demands of his children, and by doing so we CAN separate ourselves from God’s Grace. Gal 5:4 says as much. Why else would John 14:15 read the way it does? It doesn’t tell us to keep His commandments for a week, or a day, or a year and a day, or any length of time. It tells us to keep them—***indefinitely***. How much clearer can it be that we ***must*** adhere to His Will for life? Our obedience, our hope isn’t over—until it’s over.