Limping Christians & Lame Ducks

Lame ducks are on their way out of office. Sometimes limping Christians wonder if they are really saved. They wonder if they are lame ducks after all.

A limping Christian’s faith differs in several important respects from the faith of lame ducks. Limping Christians and lame ducks differ—

**1. In Their Attitude toward *Transgression***

A. Lame ducks—sinful *confidence*

Revelation 2:12-29

B. Limping Christians—sensitive *conscience*

**2. In the Object of Their *Trust***

Instead of Christ, lame ducks may trust in—

A. Their own *excellence*

Luke 18:9-14

B. Their own *experience*

Colossians 2:18-19

C. Their own *emotions*

Matthew 13:20-21; 2 Corinthians 7:9-10

**3. In Their Perseverance through *Trials***

Hebrews 10:19-39

A. Lame Ducks—*disillusioned deserters*

B. Limping Christians—*determined devotees***For Personal Reflection or Family Discussion**

1. What was the most important or helpful thing you heard in the sermon?

2. What questions did the sermon raise in your mind?

 What was the most convicting part of the message?

3. On the one hand, God does not want His children to doubt their secure place in His family every time they sin. He wants them to come to him with repentant hearts, confident that He will receive them.

On the other hand, believers who stubbornly and willfully cling to their sin inevitably lose a comforting sense of assurance in their salvation.

God’s word comforts the afflicted, but it afflicts the comfortable.

What passages have comforted you when you felt like a spiritual failure? What passages have convicted and afflicted you when you have become complacent and comfortable in your sin?

Note: There is good medicine for limping Christians in *The Bruised Reed*, by Richard Sibbes. Sibbes was an English Puritan who ministered in the early 17th century. This book, which is based on Matthew 12:20, has been valued and read for 400 years. It is available from The Banner of Truth Trust in an abridged form for modern readers. I still have one copy available at a good discount--$6.00.