

S. N. Dec. 5, 82 P. M.

"THE BACKSLIDER IN HEART"

Proverbs 14:14

Apostasy of the seed of Abraham from their Lord greivous. A chosen people - high honour - received the law. Yet bent on backsliding - unfaithful. Hosea. 2:5-7.

Gods of heathen - a snare. Fell before blocks of wood and stone.

Chastened a 1,000 times - yet learned nothing.

Frequently visited with mercy - not bind to God.

Wander to and fro - no dwelling place.

Apostacy of Israel recorded for our learning. Methods which God used in that day to bring them back are in use today. Let us see God's hand upon them.

The Holy Spirit can instruct, restore backsliders.

I. WHAT IS A BACKSLIDER IN HEART?

1. It is (taking back consecration) to God and his service.
2. It is a Christian leaving his (first love)
3. It is a (quenching) of Christian zeal.
4. It consists in the Christian (withdrawing himself) from that state of entire devotion to God.
5. It is being controlled by a (self-pleasing) spirit.
6. It consists of keeping up a (form) of religion without dedication, purely a

7. It may for some be (giving up attendance) upon divine worship.

II. WHAT ARE EVIDENCES OF A BACKSLIDER IN HEART

1. Takes part in religious exercises as matter of (formality) Has ready made answers for saying and doing in his religious life. He is emotionless and cold as an iceberg.

2. There is a (lack of religious enjoyment) We always enjoy the sayings and doing of those things that please those we love. When the heart is not backsliden - communion with God is kept up - religious duties are a pleasure. If we do not enjoy the service of God, it is because we do not truly serve Him.
If we love him supremely, it is impossible for us not to enjoy His service. Whenever you lose this joy of serving God you may know that you are not serving him right.

3. (Religious bondage) is an evidence you have a backsliders heart.
God has no slaves - who serve because they must! He who finds religious duties a burden! This is like an unloving wife or husband. They drag painfully about their duty.

4. (An ungoverned temper.)
While the heart is filled with love the temper will naturally be chastened and sweet. The will, will keep it under. It cannot break loose with hateful words. A loving heart will break down and confess at any time temper gets out of control.

5. A (spirit of uncharitableness) another evidence.

I mean by this a disposition to put bad construction upon every one's conduct. A failure to see the good intentions and professions of others. To discredit - unloving heart.

6. A (censorious spirit) is conclusive evidence of a backsliden heart.

The spirit of fault finding as to motives of others. It is a disposition to put the blame upon others, to judge them in harsh judgments.

This state of mind is entirely incompatible with a loving heart.

7. A want of interest in (God's word) Loss of interest - heart full of love has no book so precious as The Bible.

Backslider does not read it, if he does, he does not have interest enough to understand it. Its pages become dark and uninteresting.

8. A want of interest in (prayer)

If you ever find yourself losing interest in secret prayer - stop short - return to God.

If you feel disinclined to pray or make your devotions short.

If you find that in praying it is almost exclusively for self, or friends connected with self.

The backslider has no heart to pray for the conversion of sinners. He will absence himself from stated prayer meeting.

No meeting should be more interesting to a wakeful Christian than a prayer meeting. A call such as a wedding, party or picnic, or call from a friend, committee meeting, etc. It is hypocrisy to say I was prevented, I really

wanted to go, while they can be kept away for slight reasons.

When prayer is regarded as a duty instead of a privilege, it is because the heart is backsliden.

It is an infinite privilege to be allowed to come to God and ask for the supply of all our wants.

9. A want of interest in the (conversion of souls.)

There is nothing in which a loving heart takes more interest than in the conversion of souls. Why there is joy in the presence of angels of God over one soul that repenteth.

The same is true of missions and missionary work. Interest in the conversion of the heathen.

10. A loss of interest in (benevolent enterprises) in the church. A loving heart takes deep interest in all benevolent efforts through the church to save mankind.

11. A loss of interest in (spiritual conversation.) Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh. This is a law of nature.

If you find yourself losing interest, in conversing about experiences of Christian life - beware.

12. The loss of interest in (sanctification.)

If you love God you have great interest in entire consecration to God.

You have felt that sin was an abomination to your soul.

The Backslider pleads for worldly amusements. Due to spiritual blindness - he adopts lax principles of morality.

III. WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF A BACKSLIDING HEART?

V. 14

1. Filled with (own works)

But these are dead works - they are not works of faith and love acceptable to God, but filthy rags of his own righteousness.

They do their works to justify themselves before men. But God knows your heart. He says - "I know you, you have not the love of God in your heart."

2. Filled with own (feelings)

Instead of that sweet peace and rest and joy in the Holy Spirit that he once experienced, he finds himself in a state of unrest, dissatisfied with himself and everybody else. His feelings are often painful, unpleasant and unlovely.

Hard to live with a backslider, they are often censorious, and irritating in their ways.

3. Filled with own (prejudices)

Their willingness to know the truth is gone. They commit themselves against any truth that bears hard upon their self-indulgent spirit.

They will endeavor to justify themselves. Will not read or hear that which will rebuke their backslidden state.

If anyone reproves them they count him as an enemy.

They hedge themselves in, and shut their eyes against the light. On the defensive they criticize everything that would search them out. He is vexed and angry about almost every relation of life.

4. Filled with his own (lustings.)

His appetites and passions which had been kept under have now resumed their control. The animal appetities and passions burst forth, taking him as a slave.

5. Filled with his own (mistakes.)

He is not walking with God. He has fallen out of Divine order, he is not led by the Spirit but walking in spiritual darkness.

This leads to many mistakes, it will mar his happiness, and destroy his usefulness for life. Mistakes in business, in family relations, in church, in use of time, tongue, influence, and money.

His tongue will be unruly and will be set on fire of Hell.

He will complain of his trials and yet constantly multiply them.

6. Filled with his own (troubles.)

God is not with him and he is now working against himself.

He is not at peace with God, with himself, his church, nor the world.

He has no inward rest - conscience condemns him, God condemns him.

"There is no peace to the wicked saith my God."

He holds on to his possessions and believes he can care for himself.
Not cast his care upon God.

Having forsaken God, he is not walking with, but contrary to God.

He is full of anxieties, about his business, his reputation - He has taken all these things out of the hands of God. Thinks he is in control of events.

He has planned his ways pleasing to himself without consulting God.

Of course, God will frustrate his plans and troubles will become his cross. This will be irksome.

7. Filled with his own (self-condemnation.)

Having forsaken the love of God he feels condemned in everything.

If he attempts some religious duty, there is no heart in it and he is condemned.

If he reads the Bible, he feels condemned. If he does not read, he feels condemned.

If he goes to church meetings, he feels condemned, if he stays away - he feels condemned.

If he prays he feels condemned, because his heart is not right. If he neglects to pray, he feels condemned.

Everything condemns him.

Conscience is like thunder and lightning. Condemnation follows him wheresoever he goes.

Text - What could be clearer. "The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways."

IV. HOW TO RESTORE THE BACKSLIDING HEART

1. Remember whence you are fallen.

Consider your present state and make a contrast. When you were walking with God.

Discover your true present position.

What is your situation between God and your soul?

2. Repent now and return to your first love.

Do not attempt to get back by reforming your outside conduct.

Begin with the heart and at once set yourself right with God.

Do not act like you are recommending yourself to God by any works.

Do not think you can make yourself better on your own. Christ alone can make you better.

Until you repent, you will constantly grow worse.

Wake up to your coldness. If you are not bringing forth the fruit of the spirit, be suspicious of yourselves.

Carnal security is a heaven for fools. The eyes of the world are fixed upon you as a church, and upon me as a witness for God. Let us walk carefully.

May Christ look down upon us and say not one has been lost by backsliding. The enemy is fierce, arrows are thick about us, but our armour is complete. The good man reaps the harvest of his deeds.

Solemn warning to God's people -- backsliding may begin with (little) sins.
Little coolness of heart.

When God lights a life - there is brightness in the whole life. Repentance - return.

God wants to be gracious - He loves you.

Good Shepherd is seeking his wandering sheep. Blessed remedy Christ provides.

Dr. William to SC - If you old dropped pins
In open -
found under front -
Sam off to it - gave her hand to row -
"Beth told my hand." - now, can I do it -
I can't say it now, can I do it -
Blessed Howard Jesus in mind -