

## DIFFERENT TYPES OF SINNERS #4 THE BACKSLIDER

A lamb that was to be sacrificed would be tied to the altar. He would smell the burnt lamb's flesh. When he smelled this form of death he would begin to pull back on the rope. He did not want to die. This is where the word "backsliding" came from.

The word backslide actually means: to turn away from, to be faithless or to be disloyal.

This terminology is used in three books: Proverbs once, Jeremiah mostly and three times in Hosea.

### I. The characteristics of backslider.

#### A. Self-willed

Pro. 14<sup>14</sup> The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: .... KJV

#### B. Commits spiritual adultery

Jeremiah 3<sup>6</sup> The LORD said also unto me in the days of Josiah the king, Hast thou seen *that* which backsliding Israel hath done? she is gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there hath played the harlot.<sup>7</sup> And I said after she had done all these *things*, Turn thou unto me. But she returned not. And her treacherous sister Judah saw *it*.<sup>8</sup> And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce;... KJV

This is of course speaking to us concerning Israel's idolatry. They were worshipping other Gods. One may say that they do not worship other Gods but if they are resisting God in rebellion and stubbornness the Bible warns us of becoming our own God. The God of self.

1Samuel 15<sup>23</sup> For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry. KJV

#### C. They deceive themselves

Jer. 8<sup>5</sup> Why *then* is this people of Jerusalem slidden back by a perpetual backsliding? they hold fast deceit, they refuse to return. KJV

#### D. They put their trust in their riches

Jer. 49<sup>4</sup> Wherefore gloriest thou in the valleys, thy flowing valley, O backsliding daughter? that trusted in her treasures, *saying*, Who shall come unto me? KJV

#### E. They have no fear of God.

Jer. 2<sup>19</sup> Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that *it is* an evil *thing* and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, and that my fear is not in thee, saith the Lord GOD of hosts. KJV

### II. The correction of God

#### A. The backsliders own sin will judge him.

Jer. 2<sup>19</sup> Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee:

#### B. God withholds his favor.

2Chr 6 When the heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; yet if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou dost afflict them; <sup>27</sup> Then hear thou from heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, when thou hast taught them the good way, wherein they should walk; and send rain upon thy land, which thou hast given unto thy people for an inheritance.

2Chr 7<sup>14</sup> If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

There many ways in which we will not take the time that God deals with the backslider.

### III. The compassion of God toward a backslider that returns to him.

#### A. Mercy

Jer. 3<sup>12</sup> Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the LORD; *and* I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the LORD, *and* I will not keep *anger* for ever.

#### B. Healing from backsliding

Jer. 3<sup>22</sup> Return, ye backsliding children, *and* I will heal your backslidings.

#### C. Love

Hosea 14<sup>4</sup> I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him.

A Biblical example of backsliding in the New Testament is Demas.

He is with Paul when he writes to Philemon and Colossians but he reports to Timothy....  
2Tim. 4<sup>10</sup> For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica;

It is not reported that Demas made it back.

Another example is Peter especially with all the other disciples.

Luke 22<sup>31</sup> And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired *to have* you, that he may sift *you* as wheat: <sup>32</sup> But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren. <sup>33</sup> And he said unto him, Lord, I am

ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death. <sup>34</sup> And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.

We remember that he did deny Christ. However Jesus seeks him out and asked him 3 times, “do you love me”. Peter’s response was “Lord I love you”. One confession for each time he had denied him. He found healing, mercy, and love.