

Behavior Of A Backslider

**‘There is not a more miserable creature
on earth than a backslider’**

- Why? He has too much . . .
 - . . . truth in him to enjoy the world to the fullest
 - . . . world in him to draw near to God. 2 Tim.4:10

Backsliding

“Backsliding occurs when the Christian is gradually led off from close walking with God, loses the lively sense of divine things, becomes too much attached to the world and too much occupied with secular concerns; until at length the keeping of the heart is neglected, prayer and the seeking of the Lord in private are omitted or slightly performed, zeal for the advancement of religion is quenched, and many things once rejected by a sensitive conscience are now indulged and defended”

Peter's epistles emphasize dangers of backsliding

2 Pt. 1:5-11

Denies common misconception: 'I was baptized, so I'm heaven bound.'

- 10: make calling and election **sure**.
- 10: if do these things ... **will not stumble** ['of the loss of salvation' – Th.].
- 11: 'so' – thus, in this way: **entrance...**

Peter's epistles emphasize dangers of backsliding

2 Pt.1:12-15

- 13: rest of his life...
- 14: his death...
- 15: after his death...
 - Peter repeats

Peter's epistles emphasize dangers of backsliding

2 Pt.2:1-3 – backsliding takes us down to depths of sin (20-22)

- 20: **escaped.**
- 21: **end** – from 'sinner' to 'hardened in sin.' Lk.11:23-26.
- 22: **eviler.** Prov.26:11.

Not surprising that Peter would stress this subject

- Happens frequently
- Usually happens gradually
- Often begins with small things: attitude...neglect...obsession
- Peter had firsthand experience

Behavior of a backslider

I. Pride

All disciples were proud

- John 13:1-11
- Luke 22:24-27
 - Each thought he was greatest
 - Lord especially concerned for Peter, Lk.22:31-34

A lesson unlearned – Mt.18:3-4

- 1 Pt.5:5
 - Gird on (apron of slaves)
 - Jn.13:4, Jesus set example
- 1 Pt.5:6, for Lord's sake

I. Pride

II. Inactivity

Mk.14:32-42

“But he was sleepy”

Love compels, 2 Cor.5:14-15

- Peter commands diligence, 2 Pt.1:5, 10 – hurry, hasten; work hard, do one’s best. Opposite of inactivity.
- Peter commands vigilance, 1 Pt.5:8

Stay awake, be alert, watchful

Important things deserve our best

I. Pride

II. Inactivity

III. Fear

Mk.14:54

- Why follow at a distance?
 - Peter was always at front of pack
... *while Jesus was popular*
- Mk.8:38
- Peter commands us to glorify God,
1 Pt.4:16 . . . Jn.21:19

I. Pride

II. Inactivity

III. Fear

IV. Worldliness

Mk.14:54

- Peter sits with Lord's enemies, warming himself
- 1 Co.15:33

Most backsliders
have worldly friends

Peter warns us to abstain

- 1 Pt.2:11-12
- Prov.6:27-29

The world's smiles are more dangerous than its frowns

I. Pride

II. Inactivity

III. Fear

IV. Worldliness

v. Denial

Mark 14:66-72

- Away from Christ, in presence of worldly people, Peter denies Lord – **a fall waiting to happen.**
- Peter commands us to give a defense, 1 Pt.3:15.
 - 'Chreasters'
 - 'Nones'
 - Compromise

Mt.14:...28-30

- When we take eyes off Jesus, we sink
- 2 Pt.3:12...13...14

“If you find yourself loving any pleasure more than your prayers, any book more than the Bible, any house more than the house of God, any table more than the Lord’s table, any person more than Christ, any indulgence more than the hope of heaven – take alarm.”