

Topic: Backsliding

Text: Revelation 2:4-5, Hosea 11:7, 2 Peter 2:20-22

Aim: To warn believers about the dangers of backsliding.

Introduction: According to the Oxford dictionary, backsliding means “to relapse into bad ways or errors”. Therefore, backsliding simply means the falling away of believers from following Christ, which is, going back to their old sinful way of living before receiving Jesus. Backsliding in the life of a Christian usually results in terrible consequences, that was why the Spirit of God began to warn the church in Ephesus (Rev.2:4-5) to repent quickly and return to their first love. In Hosea 11:7, the Lord expressed His displeasure in the falling away of believers which brought them to disfavour with God. In this study, we shall be examining the root cause of backsliding and the attitudes of believers towards backsliding brethren.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What do you understand by the word “backsliding”? Discuss. Jer. 11:10, 1 Jn. 2:15-16, 2 Tm.4:10; Judges 16:1.
- 2). What are the root causes of backsliding? Discuss. Luke 12:15, 1Tim. 6:6-10, 1 Jn 2:15-16.
- 3). How can you guard against backsliding? Discuss. Prov.4:23; 1 Corth.15:33-34; 2Tm. 2:15; Heb. 10:25.
- 4). What should be our attitude towards backsliding brethren? Discuss Gal. 6:1; John 21:15; James 5:19 -20

Conclusion: When we do not allow the word of God we hear and read daily to have an impact in our lives, going back to our old ways of living is the consequence. As followers of Christ, we ought to take the admonition and teachings of our Lord to heart. In Luke 12:15, Jesus said, one's life does not consist of the abundance he possesses. It is very important as Christians to always make steady progress in our spiritual growth. Second Peter 2:20 - 22 reminds of the danger of backsliding. Examples of such people are King Saul, Samson, Demas etc. As Christians we can prevent backsliding by allowing the word of God reflect in our lives; guarding our heart with all diligence and staying away from bad company. As believers, our attitude towards backsliding brethren, should to be that of empathy.

Memory verse: Galatians 6:1 “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, let's though also be tempted”.