

“The True Proverb”

by Everett Hardin

“But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: ‘A dog returns to his own vomit,’ and, ‘a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.’” 2 Peter 2:22.

It is not strange that dumb animals would act as here described, but men should not be expected to imitate them. It is sad, but true, that many who have turned from the right way have an instinct for sin as keen as hogs for the mire!

Frequently the Holy Spirit warns against backsliding: *“Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God”* (Heb. 3:12). *“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”* (1 Cor. 10:12). In the parable of the Vine & Branches (Jn. 15:1-6), it is the branch that abides in the vine, bearing fruit, that is spared from fire and burning.

There is no honorable discharge from the performance of duty in the kingdom of Christ. When you enlist under the Captain our our salvation, it is for life! Christians cannot give up or become weary in well-doing; they must endure hardships, suffer persecution and be faithful until death. *“No man having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God”* (Lk. 9:62).

You may respectfully resign from worldly positions, but not from the Christian life. We are not promised eternal joy for serving the Lord for so many years, but for being faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10). *“But when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and does according to all the abominations that the wicked man does, shall he live? All the righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; because of the unfaithfulness of which he is guilty and the sin which he has committed, because of them he shall die”* (Ezek. 18:24). Past righteousness will not save those who turn to sin.

What must the backslider do to be saved? After believing and being baptized, Simon the sorcerer reverted to his old way of doing, when he tried to purchase the Divine power with money. He was told to *“Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you”* (Acts 8:22). When the church of Ephesus had drifted away from the truth, the Lord said unto them: *“Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent”* (Rev. 2:5). *“Repent and pray”* is the law of pardon for a disciple when he has sinned.

Have you turned back? Renew your heart, revive your faith, rejuvenate your life with enthusiasm and truly get about the Father’s business. Make a total commitment to the Lord.

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