

Backsliding

by A.W. Goff

The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself” (Proverbs 14:14, KJV).

The Hebrew term translated “**backslider**” means “to move, to go, to turn back, move away.” *It is the opposite of faithfulness!* For example:

“Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one” (Psalm 53:3).

“But turned back, and dealt unfaithfully like their fathers: they were turned aside like a deceitful bow” (Psalm 78:57).

“And them that are turned back from the LORD; and those that have not sought the LORD, nor enquired for him” (Zephaniah 1:6).

“But who is the backslider in HEART? Not he who was surprised and overcome by the power of temptation, and the weakness of his own heart. But he who drinks down iniquity with greediness. He who gives cheerful way to the bent of his own nature, and now delights in fulfilling the lusts of the flesh and of the mind. He who loves sin as before he loved godliness” [Adam Clarke, Clarke’s Commentary, Vol. III, “Job To Solomon’s Song,” p. 741].

“Who is the good man? The man whose heart is right with God, whose tongue corresponds to his heart, and whose actions correspond to both. The man who is everything that the sinner and backslider are not. ... He shall have the testimony of his own conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God..” [ibid.] “Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God” (1 John 3:21).

Does It Matter Where You Sit?

The Old Testament uses the term “**backsliding**” to refer to those who are **departing from the Lord!** You can **backslide** from the front pew, but often **allegiance** and **enthusiasm** are determined by where we sit! For example, at a football game, the **prime seat** is the 50-yard line! In a baseball game, the **best seat** is behind home plate, or behind the home team! And in religion, there are those who choose the “**best seat**” in the synagogue, **Matthew 23:6**. So often, one’s support and enthusiasm for the Lord’s Cause is determined by where you sit! But true apostasy from the Lord takes place long before one actually departs. **It begins with mental apostasy. Do you love God with all your heart? Is worship a weariness to you?** If so, then fix your heart problems while you can.

— Russellville, Arkansas, February 24, 2007

352404