

Backsliding Preventives

Introduction

1. **Backsliding:** "to slide backward in morals or religious enthusiasm; become less virtuous" (Webster's New World Dictionary)
2. **There are many backsliders in the world today and there are even some in the Lord's church.**
 - A. **Preventive medicine helps keep one from serious ailments.**
 - B. **Preventive maintenance keeps your automobile from needing major overhauls.**
 - C. **Backsliding preventives can and should prevent one from sliding backward in their religious enthusiasm.**
3. **In our study this morning, let us call attention to some effective backsliding preventives.**

Let God Say Something to Us Every Day

1. There is no better way to guard against backsliding than by letting God say something to us every day.

A. Many go day after day without looking into God's book.

1) This is a refusal to allow God to say something to them.

B. God has much to say to us - we ought to be anxious to listen to Him.

2. By listening to God - we will not have to walk in darkness.

Ps 119:105-106 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

1 John 1:6-7 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

John 1:9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

A. We should take delight in letting God talk to us.

Ps 1:1-2 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

B. Even the noble ones of old searched the scriptures daily to find out the truth - they let God talk to them!

Acts 17:11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

- 1) We should search also - not merely giving it a glance but to sincerely know what God expects of us. Jesus asks us to listen.**

John 5:39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

- 2) It is a command for us to learn of God.**

2 Tim 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

- 3. Did you ever know of anyone backsliding who allowed God to talk to him every day? We are more likely to backslide when we cease searching the scriptures!**

Say Something to God Every Day

1. Not only should we allow God to say something to us every day, but we should say something to Him every day.

A. We should pray to God and thank Him for our many blessings EVERY DAY.

1 Thess 5:17-18 pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1) When we fail to do so - it is basic ingratitude.

a) Don't we parents like to hear our children say "thank you"!

2. Prayer will stop Sin or Sin will stop prayer.

A. Has our sin separated us from God, so that he no longer hears?

Ps 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.

B. When we turn away from God - our prayers are an abomination to Him!

Prov 28:9 One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.

C. Real prayer avails so much!

James 5:16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Say Something for God Every Day

- 1. Read the Bible (God talking); Pray (Us talking); and say something FOR God every day.**
 - A. Many days may go by and we do not speak up for God.**
 - B. Our speech should have more of God and more for God in it every day.**
 - C. God uses us to speak to lost souls today. We can tell them of God's love for us.**

- 2. Many lives would turn from worldliness to godliness if we would only share God with them.**
 - A. What a joy it is to rescue a brother that errs from the truth by saying something for God.**

James 5:19-20 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

3. Our conduct should be worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Phil 1:27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,

- A. We're surrounded with opportunities to say something for God.**
 - 1) In our association with friends and loved ones, how good it would be to drop a few words for God into the conversation!**

Do Something for God Every Day

1. Our days are full of things that we do. But not enough of that doing is FOR God.

A. We should LOOK for opportunities to do good.

Gal 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

B. Others should be able to see our good works for God.

Matt 5:16-17 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

1) Powerful influences for God are exerted by the humble and sincere life of a Christian.

2) Let's not shine our lights, but rather let our light shine – there is a difference!

2. So much of what we do in this world is vain - but nothing that we DO for God is vain.

A. He takes note of all we DO. How good it is to KNOW that He knows!

1 Cor 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

