

Where Art Thou?

Genesis 3:1-9

Here's the 1st question ever asked to man, not only the 1st question but also the last statement that I want to know about man, about you, where art thou?

1. Most of you know how much you weigh.
2. Most of you know how tall you are, your other measurements, but where are you spiritually?
3. The only reason I ask the question is because I'm concerned about your spiritual life.
4. There are only 2 people in this world that know where you are spiritually, you and God.

This morning I want to speak to you about backsliding..... (trusting you may see where you are spiritually)

1. Nothing is so detrimental to the Lord's work as backsliding.
 - a. It does harm to the Christian.
 - b. It hurts the church.
2. Yet it's probably the most common sin in churches all over the world.
 - a. All of us know of Christians all over the land that are has-beens
 - b. junkyard Christians
3. It was a problem in Jeremiah's day, and it is a problem today.
4. One of the hardest things to get a Christian to do is to recognize that he isn't in a backslidden condition.
5. But if we are, we need to face it!

1. What is a Backslider?

- a. A backslider is a saved person who falls into sin. Sliding back from point of progress. A turning away. A retreat. It's called apostasy in the New Testament. means to forsake. 1 Thessalonians 2: 3
 - 1) God's Word teaches once saved always saved. John 1:12; 3:3; 1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 5:12.
 - 2) If you have a problem with this. Learn the difference between relationship and fellowship.
- b. One who has left their first love. Revelation 2:4
- c. One who has turned from God with their heart. 1 Kings 11:9-10
 - 1) It is a heart condition. Proverbs 14:14. Jeremiah 3:10
 - 2) Not serving the Lord with a Full Heart. Half-heartedness. Lukewarm.

- 3) Everything we do begins in our heart first, then appears outwardly.
- d. The Bible is filled with examples of backsliders.
 - Noah after the flood. Genesis 9:20-28
 - Abraham in Egypt turned to the world. Genesis 12:10
 - David and Bathsheba, lust led to other sins.
 - Samson with Delilah took holy things lightly.
 - Peter with the wrong crowd, denying Christ.
 - e. Backsliding is gradual in occurrence. It does not happen all at once, but there are many symptoms.
 - 1) Will not examine self in God's light
 - a) They will examine everything and everybody else.
 - b) They measure themselves by every old sorry Christian in the church and world. Never by God's Word.
 - 2) Trifle with sin and temptations. Jeremiah 7:8-11
 - 3) No longer strict, afraid of being deemed fanatic.
 - 4) Neglect God's word, prayer, some of the services....
 - 5) Longing for worldly things instead of spiritual.
2. Why Do People Backslide? Jeremiah 8:5-6
 - a. The Old Adamic Nature. After salvation there is still the battle with the flesh, our carnal nature. Romans 7:14-25
 - b. Because of Satan our enemy.....1 Peter 5:8
 - c. Mainly because we do not walk in the spirit.... Galatians 5:16
Not submitted to the Lordship of Christ. Jesus is the boss. Romans 8:14-19
 - d. It seems that in the summertime, we leave the spirit behind: in our attendance, prayer, bible study, giving, and witnessing.
 3. The Price a Man Pays for Backsliding. Galatians 6:7-8
 - a. Sin will find you out.... Numbers 32:23
 - b. The backslider will be chastened of God...Jeremiah 2:19; Hebrews 12:5-6; Isaiah 59:1-2
 - c. Example of a man who backslides in his financial dealings with God...Acts 5:1-11
This is the first-place backsliding shows up.
 - d. The price of friends and loved ones in Hell because of our testimony and lack of effort to see them saved.
 - e. The greatest sorrow of all....2 Corinthians 5:10

4. Now, what is the Cure for the Backslider?
 - a. Know first that God never forgets or forsakes us.... Jeremiah 2:2, 11-13; Psalm 89:30-34; Luke 15:18-24
 - b. Confess and forsake your sins to Him. Proverbs 28:13
 - c. Acknowledge your sins. Jeremiah 3:13
 - d. Realize that only God can cleanse your sins. 1 John 1:9

5. Be honest with yourself and with God. Test yourself by this simple rule.
 - 1) Was there ever a time when you were nearer to God than now?
 - 2) Was there ever a time when you read your bible more?
 - 3) Was there ever a time when you prayed more?
 - 4) Was there ever a time when you had a better testimony. You were a better witness?
 - 5) Was there ever a time when you were more faithful?
 - 6) You say, Preacher, I have slipped but not very far. It all begins small.
 - 7) Is this true in your life today? Colossians 3:15-17
 - 8) I've wandered far away from God, now I'm coming home.
 - 9) Where Art Thou???????