

# A Mistake That Can Be Prevented

**Intro:** As a basis for our study together let us read 2 Pet. 2:20-22 “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. <sup>21</sup> For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. <sup>22</sup> But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, the dog *is* turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.” There are many mistakes that Christians make in life. I believe the greatest mistake a Christian can ever make is that of backsliding. Our text gives us a picture of a Christian who has apostatized or of one backsliding.

1. Peter reveals that the backslider’s condition is worse than the beginning. His beginning condition was that of being lost. But think of it—now it is worse!!
2. There are many backsliders in the world.
  - a. Backsliding can be and should be prevented in ones life.
  - b. Rom. 2:1 “Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.”
  - c. The person must put forth a little effort.
  - d. Let us consider some backsliding preventives.

## I. LET GOD SAY SOMETHING TO US EVERY DAY.

### A. There is possibly no better way to prevent backsliding than this.

1. Psa. 119:11 “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”
2. So many go day after day without looking into God’s book, the Bible.
3. They, thus refuse to allow God to say anything to them.

### B. God has many things to say to us, we ought to be anxious to listen.

1. Mark 4:23-24 “If any man have ears to hear, let him hear. <sup>24</sup> And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given.”
2. Thus we should be like the noble Bereans; Acts 17:11 “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”
3. Psa. 119:105 “Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

### C. We should find great delight in God’s Word.

1. Psa. 1:1-2 “Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. <sup>2</sup> But his delight *is* in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.”
2. Psa. 119:97 “O how love I thy law! it *is* my meditation all the day.”

### D. This should not be just a mere glance, but an intensive study of God’s Word.

1. 2 Tim. 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
2. John 5:39 “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”

### E. Did you ever know of anyone backsliding who allowed God to talk to him every day? We backslid when we stop reading and studying the Scriptures.

## II. LET US SAY SOMETHING TO GOD EVERY DAY.

### A. Many times a day we should pray to God.

1. Luke 18:1 “And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;”
2. 1 The. 5:17 “Pray without ceasing.”

3. To do less is to show ingratitude on our part.
  - a. Phi. 4:6 "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."
  - b. Col. 4:2 "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;"

**B. Someone has said, "Prayer will stop sin or sin will stop prayer."**

1. Mat. 26:41 "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak."
2. Luke 22 40 "And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation."
3. Sin stops prayer.
  - a. Psa. 66:18 "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear *me*:"
  - b. Pro. 28:9 "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer *shall be* abomination."

**C. Prayer avails much;**

1. Jam. 5:16 "Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."
2. Thus, let us speak to God several times every day.

### III. LET US SAY SOMETHING FOR GOD EVERY DAY.

**A. Our duty and purpose deals with souls.**

1. Luke 19:10 "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."
2. John 18:36 "Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence."

**B. Thus, we should be saying something for God every day.**

1. to the alien.
  - a. God does not speak to the lost directly today, but uses us as His mouthpiece.
  - b. Mat. 28:19-20 "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: <sup>20</sup> Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen."
  - c. Mark 16:15-16 "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. <sup>16</sup> He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."
2. to one who has erred from the truth.
  - a. Gal. 6:1 "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."
  - b. Jam. 5:19-20 "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; <sup>20</sup> Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."
3. Our speech should have more for God in it.
  - a. We are far too prone not to speak a word for God.
  - b. Yet, opportunities are lying all around us for saying something on behalf of God and His scheme of redemption.
  - c. In our association in the social and business world, how glorious it would be if we drop a few words for God into our conversation. It might save a soul.

- d. While others are talking for error, we should be busily engaged in talking for God.
- e. Doing this will certainly keep us from losing our soul.

#### **IV. LET US DO SOMETHING FOR GOD EVERY DAY.**

- A. Our days are filled with doing things, but too often not enough of that doing is for God.**
- B. We should look for opportunities to do good.**
  - 1. Tit. 2:14 “Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”
  - 2. Gal. 6:10 “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”
  - 3. 1 Tim. 6:18 “That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;”
- C. One of the greatest things we can do for God is let our lights shine.**
  - 1. Mat. 5:14, 16 “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid...<sup>16</sup> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”
  - 2. Phi. 2:15 “That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;”
- D. God will take notice of the little things that we do for Him; Mat. 10:42** “And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold *water* only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.”

**Conclusion:** Each of these four things are effective preventives to keep one from backsliding if they will put them into practice. 1 Cor. 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”