

ABRAHAM: Growing Strong in Faith

Anatomy of a Backslider

Genesis 20

Sunday, August 27, 2017

Dr. Paul White, Senior Pastor

Though our iniquities testify against us, act, O Lord, for your name's sake, for our backslidings are many; we have sinned against you. (Jeremiah 14:7)

Backslide – someone who is going the wrong way, spiritually. He/she is regressing rather than progressing. The backslider had at one time demonstrated a commitment to Christ or maintained a certain standard of behavior, but he has since reverted to old ways.

UNDERSTANDING THE PASSAGE:

vv. 1-7 **Backsliders** _____.

From there Abraham journeyed toward the territory of the Negeb and lived between Kadesh and Shur; and he sojourned in Gerar. And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." (vv. 1-2)

vv. 8-13 **Backsliders** _____.

Abraham said, "I did it because I thought, 'There is no fear of God at all in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.'" (v. 11)

vv. 14-18 Backsliders _____.

Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, and also healed his wife and female slaves so that they bore children.
(v. 17)

JESUS' MESSAGE TO THE BACKSLIDDEN

And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: "The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. 'I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God.'"
(Revelation 3:1-2)

He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion. (Proverbs 28:13)

So remember and take to heart the lessons you have received and heard. (v. 3 AMP)

Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place – unless you repent.
(Revelation 2:5)

Keep and obey them... (v. 3 AMP)

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:14-16)

...repent [change your sinful way of thinking, and demonstrate your repentance with new behavior that proves a conscious decision to turn away from sin.]. (v. 3 AMP)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1John 1:9)

NEXT WEEK: ABRAHAM – GROWING STRONG:
God's Good vs. God's Best
(Genesis 21:1-21)

Legend:

Backsliders forget.

Backsliders fear.

Backsliders fail.

Remember

Return

Repent

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