



ACCM

Bible Study: Thursday, October 18th, 2018.

TOPIC: THE BACKSLIDDEN CHRISTIAN Part 5

TEXTS: John 17:12, 6:39

INTRODUCTION: God created us so that we can walk together and be helpful to one another. Ecc 4:9-10. Man is therefore a social animal. So, when we see a believer backsliding, it is our responsibility to help the backslider. The reason for restoring a backslider is to ensure that none is lost. You do not wait until the believer has backslidden terribly before you begin to talk. A backsliding believer should not be an object of gossip but should be seen and approached as someone that needs help. We must sharpen our brethren when things are not working well with them spiritually. Prov 27:17.

Two weeks ago, we studied Luke 15 when we read the parable of the lost sheep, the lost coin and the prodigal son. Having examined the unique characteristics of the various objects and person, I believe we are very prepared to discuss how to restore them. So today, we are going to begin a study which will eventually lead to how to restore a backslider. Before we do this, and so that it does not look like a theoretical exercise, we need to learn the importance of a soul to God

and invariably to us. If we understand the importance of a soul to heaven, we will be eager to ensure that the soul is not lost.

- 1) **WHAT IS GOD'S EXPECTATION FOR A BACKSLIDER?** Luke 15:7, 10, 19:10, Ezekiel 18:23. 33:11, Prov 11:30

So what is the duty of a Christian to a backslider?

Why should a Christian be concerned about the restoration of a backslider?

1. It adds to our reward in heaven and it shows we are wise. Dan 12:3
2. It is our responsibility – II Cor 5:11a
3. You save a soul from death. James 5:20
4. A desire to win people for God. I Cor 9:19b
5. Jesus did it. Luke 22:31
6. The backslider could be you. Gal 6:1-2
7. It is a sign of pure love. I John 4: 7-8

2) **ANALYSIS OF THE RESPONSES OF THE OWNERS/FATHER**

What is the similarity and the disparity between the three parables.

1. Although the people concerned namely, the shepherd, the woman and the father could make do with whatever they had but they wanted the lost ones back. Prov 11:30.
2. The owners were concerned. Gal 6:1-2

3. They showed that the items were precious to them (They were of great value) Luke 15:5
4. They committed time to restoring the missing item. Rom 15:1, Eph 4:2,
5. They rejoiced when the missing items or person were found It does not matter where he was, I am glad he is back. Heaven is sad when people live in sin Luke 15:10. Ezekiel 33:11, 18:23
6. They announced their joy to everyone – A way of telling everyone that he or she belongs to our fold. He has left the other side. Their joy was so because they all saw themselves as the losers. They saw the lost substance as their loss.

Compare these words: Luke 15:6b (which was lost), 9b which I lost, 24, he was lost and dead.