

## Backsliding

Many live in the Body disconnected from the head — out of coordination, out of fellowship, not abiding in the vine, in Him (1 Jn 3:6). So they live a life of sin right here among the ones who ought to reprove them for their actions (that is, as Gal 6:1 says, the spiritual do).

The spiritual are those who have not stained their garments (Rev 3:4). They are those who encourage one another daily, who see to it that no one misses grace, considering how they can stimulate one another to love and good deeds. But many, Paul said, were living as enemies of the cross, having their mind on the flesh — earthly things — not on the spirit (Rom 8:5-7).

Phil 3:18,10, is a glaring contrast between people in the same clan or even household. Verse 15 — Those who are mature in their view of how true spiritual disciples should conduct their lives are contrasted to those who live as enemies of the cross of Messiah. Some of us have reached a certain level of maturity which we should live up to — not backslide (Jer 2:19; 3:22; 14:7; 15:6; 5:6; Eze 37:23). Old Israel backslid out of the kingdom and was taken captive by the enemy to do his will. The kingdom was eventually even taken away from them to be given to another nation who would not backslide because the love of God was poured out into their heart (Rom 5:5; 1 Pt 1:8). For this nation, to love the world, taking part in the world's enterprises and the things of the world, would be out of the question. How could anyone backslide from this love (Rev 2:4,15) and stain their garments (Rev 3:4)?

1 Jn 1:6, 2:4 — All through the epistles there is mounting evidence that the new nation was living as enemies to the cross of Messiah, even as Heb 6:4-6 or Heb 10:26 or Phil 3:18. Warnings such as the book of James (probably written to the 2nd century Edah) indicate they had already backslidden almost beyond remedy and were turning into the system we now know as Christianity — Roman, Greek, reformed, evangelical, Pentecostal, etc. Rev 18:2-5; Jer 51:8-9 — This is the Babylonian system of confusion of church and state, divided beyond hope of recovery, since Satan will not capitulate and give up his control over his “body” which has polluted the whole world (Rev 12:9; 18:23). He is waiting for the hour that the whole of

Christendom will be destroyed, as he now has all in his trap to do his will (2 Tim 2:26). Those in the first century could not be persuaded to come to their senses. They became deluded. Only those under an illusion can repent. Jms 5:19-20 calls it the error of his ways. This is a backsliding nation, as we see in Jer 5:6-7. Their rebellion is great and their backslidings many, even so as to live as an enemy to the very cross that Paul preached, for he preached Messiah crucified.

The cross was the central message of the gospel in the first century, before many became its enemy, even hanging Messiah up to public shame as Heb 6:6 says. They re-crucified Him as a worthless criminal who could not save anyone. Through an empty message, void of the cross, Satan adds multitudes to his “body” which is filled with evil spirits (Rev 18:2), deceiving spirits (2 Cor 11:3,4,13-15; Jer 2:2-5). They became as worthless as a harlot — giving themselves to the things of the world (Ps 24:4; Jer 1:16). Now they ride to church in their idols and ride back home to watch an idol all afternoon.

### **Earthly Things**

What does it mean to have your mind set on earthly things? Phil 3:19 — Their destiny is destruction (1 Cor 3:15,16,17). Their god is their stomach or their own appetites for earthly things as 1 Jn 2:15. Their glory is in their shame — in what spiritual men are ashamed of — that is, things which they should not even think about much less partake of. Phil 3:13-14 — One who runs this race has no time for anything but verses 10-11. If verses 10-11 is not attained, all of our waking moments and our labor in the Body are just vanity. Eph 2:10 — The works we were created for take our entire life to walk in them (Col 1:10). To be able to judge whether or not one is doing what Col 1:10 says, or to encourage others to do so, one must himself be spiritual. Unless one does what Col 1:10 says, as well as Heb 3:13; 10:24; 12:15 — unless one is actually doing these things commanded of us, 1 Jn 3:14 is not a reality in our lives (1 Jn 3:23-24) and we are not doing what is pleasing to Him. If we are not ourselves doing what Col 1:10 says we will not be overflowing with thankfulness, as in verse 12.

Col 2:6-7 — If we are not doing these things which we are commanded to do and which love demands, we may ourselves have been taken captive by the enemy and may not be *with* Messiah (Mt 12:30). Those held captive will not be building up, even with singing or playing instruments by which we encourage and edify and comfort (1 Cor 14:3). 1 Chr 25:1 — The ministry of prophecy is only possible by their overflowing with thanksgiving in singing, dancing, and playing instruments.

### **Strange Fire**

Lev 10:1-3; 1 Chr 24:2 — These two were offering up strange fire. So we too as priests can offer up to God strange fire — praise and thanksgiving not coming from the fire of YHWH in your heart. Acts 5:1-11 — These two were lying to the Holy Spirit and going on in pretense. This *new nation* must realize as old Israel in Lev 10 and Acts 5 that we exist for YHWH, and not Him for us. We also have had those who have died before us (1 Cor 11:30-31).

Strange fire is *strange* — to God and Messiah and the holy angels and the saints. Ps 115:17 — It's quite strange that all week a person is not overflowing with thanksgiving, and then on Breaking of Bread night fire goes up to God. It is even strange that on a daily basis we would only give thanks at the minchot and not during the day (Col 2:7).

Ps 95:2; Ps 100:4; 1 Cor 10:16 — These things we are to do, it is true, *but* also during *our work, during the day*. 1 Ths 5:18; Ps 116:2 — all my life as long as I live, in every day's circumstances. Col 3:15; Heb 12:28 — We must be thankful during the day in order to worship Him acceptably at the evening minchah. Acceptable fire, not unacceptable worship, must be offered up, as Lev 10:1-3; Mal 3:3; Jn 4:19-24; Rom 12:1.

### **Spirit and Truth**

Jn 4:22 — Worship must be without hypocrisy — in spirit and in truth. He cannot receive strange fire. All of Christianity is strange fire. Mt 6:33 — No one qualifies. Each seeks first for his own food and clothing all week and then goes to church on Sunday morning. There is no spirit or truth in this kind of worship, for the week is spent doing worthless things that do not

build up His kingdom. But we could be just as irregular if our days are spent in complaint, or even not overflowing with thanksgiving, and we go to the *kahal* unprepared, in rote. “His praise shall *continually* be in my mouth” — not just “at church” (if even there). It would be better to admit your condition before all than to offer strange fire before all (and God too, Ps 116:14,18).

Anything other than 1 Pet 4:11 is strange fire and seeking our own glory (Mt 7:21-23; Acts 26:7; Eph 4:12; Titus 2:14). Acceptable fire is zeal for lawful deeds. All will be judged according to their deeds (2 Cor 5:10) and motives (1 Cor 4:5) to determine who is included in Rev 19:7-8. So we must be able to judge ourselves right. Walk in the spirit, and we won't fulfill the desires of the flesh.

### **The Works Prepared for Us**

Our Father saved each one of us for a *purpose*. He has an *expectation* for each of us to *live up to* according to our *faith*. Eph 2:10; Rom 12:3; Phil 3:12,13 — He *wants* us to live up to His expectations of *each one of us*. He looks forward for all of us to become fully developed *sons* of His. He waits in expectation of our fully developed human nature. We come back into His image — in its fullest development (Phil 1:9-10) — by loving and doing good to one another. He waits in *anticipation* of His fully developed sons — and in *apprehension* that we would respond to His love and His Spirit (of adoption as sons) (Rom 8:23-26,29).

So we have the throne of His grace to bring us to this fully developed sonship (each one of us individually and all together corporately) (Heb 4:16; Heb 5:9).

### **Godless Chatter**

2 Tim 2:16,20-26 Avoid like the plague (or like gangrene) *godless chatter*. Judge yourselves or you will be judged. If you don't judge yourself you will be just an ignoble vessel (one only useful for ignoble purposes) when you could be one used for noble purposes. So if one *cleanses himself* from this godless chatter character, tendency, and (inherited) temperament (Ex 20:5) he can be *made holy*, useful to the *Master*, prepared for *any good work*.

Verse 22 — Flee the evil desires of youth. Pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace with the spiritual men or youth.

Verse 23 — Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid speculations (opinions) — they produce quarrels (arguments).

Verse 24 — *Yahshua's* disciples must not *quarrel* but be kind to everyone, able to teach, not *resentful*.

Verse 25 — With those who oppose Him (and you as representing Him) you must be gentle, and instruct them in hope that God will grant repentance that they may escape the devil's snare, held captive to do his will (having come to their senses). So make sure you are gentle, kind, and forbearing when you speak to or instruct one who is held captive by Satan to do his will — like sulking.

Approved workmen do the works He has approved.