TEXT: Proverbs 14:14 - “The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways....

Other verses that pertain to a backslider are:

Matt. 24:12- “And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.”

Galatians 4:9 - “…how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements; whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?

Luke 8:13 - “They on the rock are they, which when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.”

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF BACKSLIDING?

1) Do not want to read their Bible or pray.

Joshua 1:18 / I Thess. 5:17 / Ps. 16:11

2) Not interested in faithful church attendance.

Psalms 92:13 - “…planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish…”

Psalms 84:4 - “Blessed are they that dwell in Thy house…”

Hebrews 10:25 - “Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together …”

Psalms 122:1 - “I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into go into the house of the Lord.”

Psalms 26:8 - “I love the habitation of Thy house, and the place where thine honor dwelleth.”

NOTE: Other places, people and interests crowd out the need and desire for church.
3) Lost souls are not important anymore. Not a soul winner, either.

Matthew 18:11 - “For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Mark 16:15 - “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”

Proverbs 11:30 - “…he that winneth souls is wise.”

Matthew 9:37 - “The harvest is truly plenteous, but the labourers are few.”

II Peter 3:9 - “…not willing that nay should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

II Corinthians 6:2 - “…now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation.”

NOTE: The backslider is full of his/her own cares! Doesn’t care about lost souls going to hell.

4) Uncontrolled temper.

Proverbs 22:24 tells us not to associate with angry people. “Make no friendship with an angry man…”

Ephesians 4:31 - “Let all bitterness, and wrath and anger, and clamour and evil speaking, be put away from you…”

James 1:19 - “…let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.”

5) Unforgiving and critical spirit.

Matthew 7:12 - “Judge not, ,that ye be not judged…”

Matthew 6:14 & 15 tells us that if we don’t forgive others, God will not forgive us. This is serious!
Here are some verses about how not to be critical of others:

Titus 3:2 - “Speak evil of no man.”

James 4:11 - “Speak not evil one of another brethren…”

I Peter 2:11 - “…lay aside all evil speakings…”

Proverbs 13:3 - “He that keepeth his mouth, keepeth his life, but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.”

Proverbs 21:23 - “Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his souls from troubles.”

I Peter 3:10 - “For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile.”

Psalms 101:5 - “Whoso privily slandereth his neighbor, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will I not suffer.”

Ephesians 4:29 - “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”

Matthew 12:36 - “Every idle word …they shall give an account in the day of judgment.”

HOW TO RECOVER FROM BACKSLIDDING:

1) Repent. John 1:9 / Rev. 2:5

2) Change your heart by the reading and meditation of the Bible and being obedient to it.

Hebrews 4:12 - “For the Word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword…”
I Samuel 15:22 - “To obey is better than sacrifice.”

I John 2:15 - “Love not the world…”

3) Love God. Love people.


John 15:13 / John 15:13 - “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

I John 4:21 - “And this commandment have we from Him, that he who loveth God, love his brother also.”

Luke 10:27(b) “…love they neighbor as thyself.”

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