

## SO COLD, SO SOON

April 12, 2015

Jeremiah 3:6-25

**“And the Lord said unto me, the backsliding Israel hath justified herself more than treacherous Judah.” Jeremiah 3:11**

God described Israel’s condition with the repeated expression “backsliding Israel.” These “backslidings” are defined as “an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the Lord thy God, and that my fear is not in thee, saith the Lord God of hosts” (Jer. 2:19). Backsliding is forsaking God, which reveals an absence of the fear of the Lord. It can happen quickly. Israel’s idolatry at Sinai followed very soon after God made His presence known by the miraculous deliverance at the Red Sea. The suddenness with which our hearts are overcome by sin exhibits that “the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked” (Jer. 17:9).

### I. Recognizing Backsliding

- A. “Thou hast left thy first love.” (Rev. 2:4)
- B. “If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” (I John 2:15)
- C. Ignoring the means of grace: Prayer—both private & public, God’s Word, preaching, public worship.
- D. Self-approval: “The backsliding Israel hath justified herself.” (Jer. 3:11)
- E. Willful indulgence in sin, without confession or lament
- F. Absence of spiritual fruit (Gal. 5:22, 23)

Might it be that our condition is not a failure to recognize our backsliding, but pride that keeps us from acknowledging it?

### II. Repentance from Backsliding

- A. Return to the means of grace: Prayer, the Word of God, preaching & worship.
- B. “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29)

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” (II Cor. 3:18)

“... Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Heb. 12:1, 2)