

Marks, Causes, and Cures for Backsliding (Hosea 7:9)

- The title describes a state of secret backsliding – the most dangerous of any
- It's not unusual for people to grow gray and age without realizing it
- Teeth fall out one by one, hands start to tremble, limbs lose elasticity, eyes dim
- Gray hairs, here & there on their heads & before they know it they've grown old
- So it is in the decay of the soul with regards to our spiritual well being
- Our spiritual life is prone to decay, it cannot ultimately perish, but we can wilt

I. What are the Marks that Indicate a Backslidden State?

1. The Bible neglected: 1 Sam.15:23; Ps.119:11, 81; Jer. 6:10
2. Prayer neglected: Col.4:2; 1 Pet. 3:12
3. Christ is not honored or esteemed: Luke 9:26; 12:9; 2 Tim 2:12
4. Sin is no longer hated or abhorred: Rev 3:16; 1 Pet 1:8
5. Christians are no longer highly esteemed: Gen 4:7; Ps.66:18
6. The ungodly are not warned: Ezek: 3:20; Acts 2:42,46; 1 John 2:19

II. How Did We Get into This Sinful State of Decay?

1. A lust or a sinful attitude is left to prevail: Hosea 7:4
2. Worldly company: Hosea 7:8

III. There Is a Cure

- There is a remedy: In Christ there is always hope: Matt 12:20; **Jer 3:12**; 31:18
- Search out the cause of the decay: **1 Cor 5:7,8**; **2 Cor 7:1*** **Eph 4:22**; Col 3:5-9
- Get forgiveness for it: Ps 32:5; Ps 51:2 130: 3-5; 1John 1:9
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*There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Emmanuel's veins;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains.
Lose all their guilty stains, lose all their guilty stains;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains.*