

Preventative Religion

Jude 24, 2 Pet. 1:10

Introduction:

- A. Gospel's twofold power:
 - 1. Removes sin (Acts 2:38; Luke 24:47).
 - 2. Prevents sin (1 Jno. 2:1; Heb. 3:12; 2 Pet. 1:10).
- B. Gospel's remedy for sin does not justify exposure (Rom. 6:1).
 - 1. Like doctor's recommending prevention, rather than cure.
 - 2. Returning to sin is worse than never having been saved (2 Pet. 2:20-22)
- C. Three elements of preventative religion:

Discussion:

- I. The Word of God.
 - A. Needed to meet God's approval (2 Tim. 2:15; cf. Psa. 1:2)
 - B. Needed to save the soul (Jas. 1:21-25).
 - C. Needed to grow spiritually (1 Pet. 2:2; cf. Job 23:13).
 - II. The Worship of God.
 - A. Regularly.
 - 1. Publicly (Acts 20:7; Heb. 10:25)
 - a. To edify one another (1 Cor. 14:26)
 - b. To gain strength from one another.
 - (1) In order to cope with life.
 - (2) In order to remain faithful.
 - 2. Privately (Matt. 6:6; Acts 16:25; Jas. 4:13)
 - B. Dependently (cf. Acts 17:25).
 - 1. God does not need our worship.
 - 2. We need God and communion with Him.
 - III. The Work of God.
 - A. Jesus was a worker (John 9:4)
 - B. Early Christians were workers (Acts 8:4).
 - C. Word of God produces workers (Jas. 1:25)
 - D. Christians and congregations need to work for own safety (cf. 1 Cor. 15:58).
 - 1. Leaves less time for trouble (cf. 1 Tim. 5:13)
 - 2. Improves spirituality (cf. John 8:31, 32)
 - E. Work must be the work of *God* (Jas 1:25; 2 Tm 3:16,17).
- Conclusion:
- A. How many backsliders did not first decrease interest in word, worship, and work?
 - B. How many backsliders that grew in word, worship and work?