

# Bad Guys & Rascals of the Bible



Words to Find:  
Absalom  
Adonijah  
Ahab  
Ahaz  
Cain  
Eglon  
Goliath  
Hazeel  
Herod  
Hophni  
Horum  
Judas  
Nabal  
Nadab  
Phinehas  
Rehoboam  
Samson  
Satan  
Zedekiah

## Reflections of a Backslider

J. Newton

Sweet was the time when first I felt  
The Saviour's pardoning blood  
Applied to cleanse my soul from guilt,  
And bring me home to God.  
Soon as the morn the light revealed,  
His praises tuned my tongue;  
And when the evening shades

prevailed,  
His love was all my song.

In prayer my soul drew near the Lord,  
And saw His glory shine;  
And when I read His holy Word,  
I called each promise mine.  
But now, when evening shade prevails,  
My soul in darkness mourns;  
And when the morn the light reveals,  
No light to me returns.

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The **Bible View**




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## Neither Cold nor Hot

Bill Brinkworth

In Revelation 1 to 3, seven churches are mentioned. They were not only real churches that were existent at the time John penned Revelation, but they were also prophetic of major characteristics of church ages, in general, throughout history. Many believe that six of the church ages that were prophesied have already passed, and that many of the churches of the current church age are very similar to those of the church of Laodicea.

The church of Laodicea was the seventh church to which John wrote. This was a "lukewarm", complacent and ineffective ministry (Rev. 3:16). They had riches and many things the world had to offer, but they were doing very little for the Lord. God saw them as "wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked" (Rev. 3:17). Their failure to

do anything for the Lord disgusted the Father (Rev. 3:16).

Unfortunately, the Laodicean church pictures the church age we are currently in. Like all church ages, not all churches were or are the same. There has always been a remnant doing God's will and way, but the majority of churches at this time are much like the church of Laodicea. There is more concern for the social interests of man than

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## Causes of Backsliding

W. M. Punshon

? Was it the spirit of slothfulness that seized you? Did you shrink from the effort of continued resistance to evil and of prayerful watchfulness against your own insidious sin?

? Was it self-complacency which took possession of your heart?

? Was it anger that seized and shook you in its petulant grasp, because you were not "appreciated" by your friends?

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## Neither Cold nor Hot

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the spiritual. Clubs, committees, eloquent speakers, church entertainment, paid musicians, church appearance, and not offending anyone have a higher priority than do the needs of a man's souls. Preaching "Thus saith the Lord" is rarely heard anymore, and if it were, there would be many offended and those that would desert the church. Physical wealth does not cover up the fact that the majority of churches are not heeding the tugging of the Holy Spirit and in God's eyes are "... poor, and blind, and naked." The money these churches have may not be the "blessing of God" they proclaim it to be, but a curse that is voiding their usefulness to the cause of Christ.

Part of a Christian's responsibility is to live the way God commands, and to tell others what God's Word says. Watering down the message to "fit in", or "not to offend" is undermining its purpose. The Word of God is supposed to offend and convict the sinner. This conviction often stops the sinner from his downward slide and turns him around with a repentant heart. Where psychology, psy-

chiatry, counseling, and drugs often fail and mask the real problem, the Word of God exposes the root of the problem, and if allowed will change one's life. Drunkards have been converted, their addiction halted, and their lives restored. Adulterers have been enabled to stop their iniquity, and they and their family have been reunited. Murderers have also been saved, and their lives changed. God's Word has changed the lives of liars, cheaters, gossipers, unbelievers, and countless more. There is not one sin that God cannot help one stop, and there is not one life that God cannot change. Why would anyone want to hide God's message or water it down after it has done so much for countless lives!

No matter the climate of the majority of lukewarm, worldly churches, until the Lord comes there is still time for personal repentance and a return to God's ways of righteousness. The door of opportunity for personal revival is still open at this time! There is no reason an individual, or even a local church cannot have revival. There is no reason to be lukewarm and displeasing to the Lord. We can be as full of zeal, as the church of Philadelphia (Rev. 3:7-12) and others that

purposed to commit their lives to obeying and following the Lord's commandments. Do not be cold, indifferent, and useless to the cause of Christ; be on fire and effective!

## Causes of Backsliding

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? Was it because you envied pre-eminence that was denied you?

? Was it the spirit of indifference which exhausted your recent energy?

? Was it your rebellion to the godly advice you were given?

? Were your convictions superficial things that only touched the surface of your nature, but did not really come from your heart?

From these, and similar causes, many have rested in their ease or retreated until they have lost their joy, and usefulness for God's work and cause.

**"Sin will always take you lower than you have ever expected to go, and will cost you far more than you would ever have thought you would pay."**

**If you are not as close to God, or as "spiritual" as you once were, you are most likely backslidden.**

## Definition of Backsliding

*Noah Webster, 1828*

Backsliding: The act of apostatizing [*to forsake principles or faith which one has professed*] from faith or practice.

## Signs of Backsliding

*C. Buck*

- Indifference to prayer and self-examination of one's spiritual condition
- Trifling or unprofitable conversation
- Shunning the people of God
- Associating with the world
- Taking the commission of sin lightly
- Neglecting one's Bible-reading
- Immorality

## Consequences of Backsliding

*C. Buck*

- Loss of character
- Loss of comfort
- Loss of usefulness
- And as long as any remain in a backslidden state, a loss of well-grounded hope of future happiness.

**"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I [God] will spue thee out of my mouth." *Revelation 3:15-16***