

Mercy Ministry to Believers (Part 2)

We are currently studying two mercy ministries of Contenders of the Faith recorded in (Jude 3, 22-23).

- **First mercy ministry** was to doubting unbelievers (Jude 22-23a)
- **Second mercy ministry** is to reversionistic believers (Jude 23b)

(Jude23b) “**On others** (de hos) **have mercy** (eleeo / p.a.impv.2pl) [command] **with** (en+inst. of assoc.) **fear** [phobos], **hating** (miseo / p.a.ptc.nplm) **even the garments** (ton chiton) [inner] **polluted** (spiloo / perf.p.ptc.asm) **by** (apo+ablative of source) **the flesh** (tes sarx) [OSN].”

We will examine our lesson text by the following three homiletical points on Mercy Ministry to Believers.

Reverence (with fear) - Mental attitude of Contenders of Faith of mercy ministry to reversionistic believers (2 Cor.7:1).

Righteous indignation (hating) - Mental attitude of Contenders of Faith of mercy ministry towards sinful behavior not towards the believer (not judgmental/ Rom.2:1-4; Luke 18:9-14).

Reversionism (the garment polluted by the flesh) – this is a reference to believers whose life style is known by their sin (drunkard, drug addict, prostitute, liar, idolater, gossip. (1 Cor.5:9-20).

We will study four aspects of the Mercy Ministry to Believers by Contenders of Faith.

1. There are several biblical words or terms that describes the spiritual status of reversionistic believers.

We will put six of these terms into two categories.

- The first category will have three terms that describe the spiritual status of reversionistic believers.
 - Back sliding (Prov.14:14)
 - Falling from grace (Gal.5:4)
 - Luke warm (Rev.3:15-16)
- Second category has three terms that describe the condition of the heart of reversionistic believers.
 - Stiff-necked and uncircumcised heart (Acts 7:51)
 - Harden heart (Heb.3:8, 15; 4:7)
 - Evil, unbelieving heart (Heb.3:10, 12, 19)

2. Normally we use a biblical word or term if it can state the doctrine sufficiently. Most Christian theologians accepted the English words Backslide or Reversionism.

English dictionary defines **backslider** as “to lapse morally or in the practice of religion.” It defines **reversion** (#3) as “an act or process of returning (as to a former condition).”

Based on the English definition of these two words neither of them can be used theologically with Adam and Eve’s perfect status of without Adam’s “Original Sin” (AOS) or our Old Sin Nature (OSN).

Eve went through a spiritual process of thinking and actions that led to transgression of the Law of (Gen.2:17) and a fall from perfect spiritual status (Gen.3:1-7, 13; 1 Tim.2:14; 2 Cor.11:3)

3. Probably the best term from our list to describe Adam and Eve's transgression would be "Falling from Grace"

(Gal.5:4) "You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace."

- Eve went from spiritual enlightenment (Gen.2:17; 3:8) to cosmos diabolicus [worldly] thinking (Gen.3:13; **2 Cor.11:3**).
- Remember what Eve fell from that required her to be "saved" in order to be restored:
 - **Secondary Negative Volition**, rejection of applying the known Directive Will of God as revealed by His word
 - to "an evil and unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God" (Heb.3:12)
 - to falling in Adam's transgression (1 Tim.2:14; Rom.5:12-21)
 - **Primary Negative Volition**, rejection of the principle of studying or taking in the Directive Will of God as revealed by His word [(Gen.3:8).

4. Because of the Fall of Adam, the curse of Adamic Sin (was / is / will be) passed down to every member of the human race with the result of mankind being born into a "state of the sin" or "Spiritual Death". (John 1:29) (Rom.5:12-21; 3:10, 23).

Therefore the term **reversionism** is an appropriate terms for the Church Age Believer (CAB)

It is "An act or process of returning (as to a former condition)."

It is not "An act of returning to a status of once again falling under God's "Condemnation" as a result of Adam's Original Sin (AOS), but a falling back to or a submission to the lust trends of one's Old Sin Nature (OSN) and worldly thinking (CD).

Jesus to Peter: "Get behind Me, Satan! You a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's." (Matt.16:23; 26:75)

A Doctrinal Definition of Reversionism:

A "retrogression from any stage of spiritual enlightenment because of Negative Volition (NV) towards God, the Gospel of Jesus Christ or the revealed Word of God due to cosmos diabolicus thinking. [Worldly thinking under the directive of Satan]" (2 Cor.2:11; 2 Tim.2:26)

As a doctrinal term, reversionism fits best to explain an important aspect of reversionism called **Reverse Process Reversionism (RPR)**.

SEE "Suicide, Judas Iscariot" in our [Database of Biblical Studies](#) for a study on Judas Iscariot's RPR that ended in his suicide.

(Heb.3:12-13) "**Take care, brethren, that there not be** in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. **But encourage one another** day after day, as long as it is still called, 'Today,' **so that none of you** will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."