

Living the Christian Life Successfully series!

A Bible, History, Faith, and Mission Course for New Adventist Believers

Lesson 8—No Turning Back

Now that we've given our lives to Christ in repentance, faith, and Baptism, what will the testimony of our lives tell? Shall we advance in the life of holiness, and press on faithfully and diligently to receive the joys of Heaven hereafter? In this lesson, discover what Jesus and the other Bible writers have said about "No turning back." As men and women who've committed our lives to Jesus Christ in Baptism, we have much to look forward to; the blessings and joys of eternal life with our Loving Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Set on the pathway to eternal life through Jesus Christ, find out how you can surely be a finisher of the race that is set before us. Find out how we can fulfill Christ's high calling for our lives by remaining faithful to Him forever, and never turning back!!

- 1. What did Jesus say about the good news of the gospel? How can we experience His saving power? (Mark 16:15,16)** *These words of Christ are so true and blessed! Unfortunately, many have stopped just right there and closed the Book. Is there yet anything to the plan of salvation beyond this point? Is there never a chance one may wander away from God's grace? What does the Bible have to say to us?*
- 2. Is there danger beyond the waters of Baptism for which we must guard against? (1 Corinthians 10:1-12)** *For those who God led out of Egypt, after the waters of Baptism, there were still many dangers and temptations that lurked in the wilderness between those waters of Baptism, and the land that had been promised to them. Sadly, a number of them fell into sinfulness, and complaining, and were lost there in the wilderness, never making it to the Promised Land! The Lord has warned us not to meet the same kind of fate. Satan and his angels drew back from God's way of life in heaven too—they fell into sinful rebellion, and were lost (Ref. Jude 1:6,7). We must put our trust in Christ the Rock alone and draw our strength for victory through Him!*
- 3. What else does God's word say about "drawing back" or backsliding into sinfulness? (Hebrews 10:38,39; Luke 9:62)** *The Lord's soul will have no pleasure in those who pursue this course, but let us not be of those who do so! Let us not be as "a dog who returns to his vomit" (Proverbs 26:11). "Henceforth, we should not serve sin..." (Romans 6:6,7). And surely, let us repent from such a course if our foot had ever stepped in that way!*
 - a.** *We must continue in God's way and not be backsliders who are "moved away from the hope" of the gospel (Colossians 1:23). The Bible says, "If you continue..." (Romans 11:22) in the faith you'll receive the blessings and joys of God's rewards for the redeemed!!*
- 4. Might Abraham have had the opportunity to turn back from the Lord if he so chose? (Hebrews 11:8,9, 13-16)** *But what did Abraham choose to do instead? Shall we not also choose the same? We should never cower or fear to press on in faith to the Promised Land where the Lord is guiding us*

to. Let us be not as the children of Israel when they sinned, though we may surely be tempted even as they (Numbers 13:33-14:3).

5. **Can we just follow the example of anyone and everyone belonging to God's church by baptism? Is it safe for us? (Philippians 3:17-19)** Paul counseled the believers in Philippi to be very careful about such a thing. Very sadly, "many" who had received the waters of "baptism" had not remained faithful to Jesus Christ! Paul counseled to only follow a safe example—Christ being the one, and any who genuinely live by the same rule as Christ!
6. **What personal responsibility does the Lord give to us as we seek the glories of His Kingdom? (Philippians 2:12,13)** We surely must take a personal responsibility for our faith. Our original teachers and guides in the Lord will not always be there. But, you and the Lord must always be together!! Seek Him!
7. **As God's people, what does the Lord desire that we should become for others? (Hebrews 5:11,12)** We need to become strong in the Lord! We should come to the place where we can be a teacher and guide for others in the Lord. We must have our "senses exercised" that we may be able to discern clearly between good and evil (v.13,14), and may be able to not only walk in the truth ourselves, but also teach others!
8. Though some have turned into the way of sin and bondage again (2 Peter 2:19-22), let us be sure not to go there, and to pray and labor for those poor and miserable souls who have (and some of whom, may yet be saved from their evil). **Let us never think or choose to live outside of Christ. Jesus longs for even that one lost sheep. He would leave the side of the faithful just to seek and look for that one lost sheep. Come home, come home, if you've wandered from the Lord's way. Come home! Jesus longs for you to come back to His fold! (Luke 15:4-7, 11-24).** Jesus cares for you and for me. Forgetting what is behind, let us "press on" in the Lord (Philippians 3:12-14).
9. **The Bible warns us also to be careful to watch out for false teachers who may lead us astray from the truth of heaven (Jude 1:3,4; 2 Timothy 4:1-5; Acts 20:26-30).** We must study, know well, and live by the truth of God. Be able to discern between truth and error, between the false and the true. Know your Bibles! If they came in among the early Sabbath keeping, Christ-believing, truth-filled church, then you know for sure, we are not immune to this danger! The devil tries just as hard today as he did back then. Let us not be deceived, but rather, be prepared! Know what you believe and the truth that we teach! Be able to explain things and to recognize things that aren't correct so that you can spot error when perhaps it may arise!
10. **Though some have turned from Jesus or failed the Lord, what shall we do? (John 6:64, 66-69)** Is there really anywhere else to go? Certainly not! And though one should fall or turn away from the Lord by foolish choices (even be it your teacher), may your soul never turn away! "Let God be true, but every man a liar" (Romans 3:4). The fault is in us, not in Him!

Is it your desire and choice, by God's grace, to never wander from His Holy love? _____ Will you press on to grasp the joys of eternal life in Christ? _____