"THE CONSEQUENCES OF BACKSLIDING"

Jonah 1:3-10

Have YOU ever RUN AWAY FROM GOD? Jonah was RUNNING FROM GOD, not sure of what He was running to, but away from God He must go. Jonah was putting up a RESISTANCE to PREACH the WORD of the LORD to a WICKED Nation. Even as we will see; it was JONAH'S RESPONSIBILITY to tell his CITY about God. Then in the night comes A REVELATION when the waves of death are lashing against the ship and Jonah was the only man on board the SHIP who KNEW the LIVING LORD and now HIS REPUTATION was in QUESTION.

I. JONAH'S RESISTANCE TO GOD.
Verse #3 "But Jonah ROSE UP TO FLEE unto Tarshish from the PRESENCE of the LORD, ...."

(a). The Start Of Jonah's Resistance.
Verse#2-3 "Arise, go to Nineveh, ... ;" "But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish"....

1. Our DRAWING NEAR to GOD is generally done at a SNAIL'S pace, but our DEPARTURE from GOD is done by LEAPS and BOUNDS.
2. We FILL our LIVES with TV hour after hour; but we NEGLECT the BIBLE and PRAYER day after day.

(b). The Seriousness Of Jonah's Resistance.
Verse #3 ".... Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD, ...." ......"He paid the fare thereof, and went down .... to go with them unto Tarshish FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD".

(c). The Success Of Jonah's Resistance.
Verse#3 "...and HE FOUND a SHIP going to TARSHISH"

Instead of being thankful, Jonah fled from God's will. 
{Peter = "I know not this man"} {ILL: The Backslider}

(d). The Stumbling Of Jonah's Resistance.
Verse #3 ."Jonah .... went DOWN to Joppa; ... He paid the fare thereof, and went DOWN into it,"

{The road away from God is always DOWN. = SAMPSON ..... WENT DOWN}. 
{LOT went down to SODOMY and GOMAR.}

JONAH WENT DOWN = {*Physically, Spiritually, Continually,*}

Once you take the FIRST DRINK, once you TRY DRUGS, once you start FLIRTING with IMMORALITY, once you begin SKIPPING CHURCH, once you BETRAY a TRUST, and once you COMMIT ANY SIN you will discover that, apart from the GRACE OF GOD, you will SIN MORE AND MORE.

II. JONAH'S RESPONSIBILITY TO GOD.
Verse#4-6 "But the LORD ...." Vr#5....."But JONAH was gone DOWN into the sides of the ship; and HE LAY, and was FAST ASLEEP. Vr#6 So the shipmaster came to HIM, and said UNTO HIM, What meanest THOU, O SLEEPER? ARISE, CALL UPON thy GOD, if so be that GOD will think UPON US, that we PERISH not.

When SAVED Men Do Not Keep their RESPONSIBILITY to GOD .... Things Begin To Be Troubled.
(a). The Sovereign God Was Troubled.
Vr#4 "But The LORD SENT out a GREAT WIND into the SEA, and there was a MIGHTY TEMPEST in the SEA, so that the SHIP was LIKE to be BROKEN.

(b). The Sailors Was Troubled.
Vr#5 "Then the MARINERS were AFRAID, ...cast forth the wares .. to lighten it ...

(c). The Shipmaster Was Troubled.
Vr#6 "So the SHIPMASTER came to HIM and said unto HIM, what MEANEST THOU, O SLEEPER? ARISE, CALL upon thy GOD....."

III. JONAH'S REVELATION FROM GOD.
Verse#7 "And they SAID every ONE to his FELLOW, COME, and LET US CAST LOTS, that WE MAY KNOW for whose CAUSE this EVIL IS UPON US. so they CAST LOTS, and the LOT FELL UPON JONAH.

(a). The System Of The Revelation.
Vr#7 ...so they CAST LOTS...

Numbers 32:23 ..."Be sure YOUR SIN will FIND YOU OUT"

The LAPSE of TIME will not ANNIHILATE SIN: CAREFUL CONCEALMENT will not HIDE it up; nor will DEATH screen it FROM DETECTION. .....{We CANNOT ES CAPE from OUR SINS} (ILL: Secrets Told To Preachers and Trusted Friends)

(b). The Sureness Of The Revelation
Vr#7 "And the LOT FELL UPON JONAH"....

II Samuel 12:7 "Thou art THE MAN..." {and the LOT fell UPON JONAH}

IV. JONAH'S REPUTATION TO GOD. (dependability, trustworthiness)
Verse# 8-10 Vr#8 "Tell us, we pray THEE, .... whose cause this EVIL is UPON US; ... What is THINE OCCUPATION? What is THY COUNTRY? and of what PEOPLE ART THOU?
Verse #10 ..."Why hast THOU DONE THIS? For the MEN KNEW that HE FLED from the PRESENCE OF THE LORD, because HE HAD TOLD them.

Romans 14:7 "For NONE OF US LIVETH to HIMSELF, and no MAN DIETH to HIMSELF".

II Cor 3:2 "Ye are our EPISTLE WRITTEN in our HEARTS, KNOWN and READ of ALL MEN:"