**Active Protective Religion**

**Jude 24, 2 Pet. 1:10**

**Introduction:**

I. Gospel’s twofold power:

A. Removes sin (Acts 2:38; Luke 24:47).

B. Prevents sin (1 Jno. 2:1; Heb. 3:12; 2 Pet. 1:10).

II. Gospel’s remedy for sin does not justify exposure (Rom. 6:1).

A. Like doctor’s recommending prevention or protective, rather than cure.

B. Returning to sin is worse than never having been saved (2 Pet. 2:20-22)

III. Three elements of protective 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).

**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)

B. Dependently (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 our own safety (1 Cor. 15:58).

1. Leaves less time for trouble (cf. 1 Tim. 5:13)

2. Improves spirituality (John 8:31, 32)

E. Work must be the work of ***God*** (Jas 1:25; 2 Tm 3:16,17).

**Conclusion:**

I. How many backsliders did not first decrease interest in the word, worship, and work?

II. How many backsliders are there that continue growth in the word, worship, and work?