

Bewares of the Bible

PMC Publications
180 Greble Rd
Myerstown PA 17067
Written by David M. Sweigart

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Forward

We live in perilous times. But that is not a new thought to a devout follower of Jesus Christ. We are told in II Timothy 3:1 “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.” But there could be several reasons why a study of the Bewares of the Bible is especially pertinent today. One cannot disregard the influence of Augustinian Calvinism. Present day versions of free grace and eternal security are lulling Christendom into a false security. This “grace” and “security” becomes especially serious when it is coupled with materialism (which gives a false security of its own), and propelled with television and internet ministries. The resulting package is a watered down, apathetic, religion of the easy road. In its ecumenical effort to exclude no one and accept everyone it ends up rejecting Truth. Being deceived becomes a part of Mystery, Babylon - the end time conglomerate of false religion. Revelation 17

Therefore we need warnings and God has blessed us with them. God’s Word is filled with warnings that we need to be reminded of. That is the purpose of this work. And yes, warnings are a blessing. They are a blessing to the careful, thoughtful, obedient Christian. But they will be a curse to those who reject them. Revelation 22:14 “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.” Let us thank God for His grace and conditional security that we experience as we deny the flesh and ungodly lusts, put on the new man in Christ Jesus, and live in obedience to His will. May God find us faithful.

Lesson 1

Beware Lest Thou Forget

Lesson Objective: Warnings against apostasy. To see how seductive apostasy is, and its catastrophic ending.

Scriptures to Study:

Deuteronomy 6:12 *Then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.*

Deuteronomy 8:11 *Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day:*

1 Timothy 4:1 *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;*

Proverbs 14:14 *The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways:*

2 Peter 2: 20 *For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.*

The word apostasy indicates movement, or more precisely a movement away from previously held faith, religion, or religious obligations. We are accustomed to the fact that we live in a world of change - it is all around us. Change can be for the better, but change left to happen in its own way often is a degenerative change. When degenerative change happens in our Christian lives, our homes, and our brotherhoods, it is dangerous and destructive to established beliefs and practices.

Apostasy is forgetting. The lesson title brings that out. Relating apostasy to forgetting helps us to realize that apostasy begins in the mind. But we need to understand that the mind set of forgetfulness toward the things of God and His Word will bring about a deterioration and downward spiral of our attitudes toward holy things, God's people, and separation from the world. As an individual spirals downward away from truth, he becomes a sponge that hungrily absorbs the gods the other kingdom offers

-entertainment, politics, sensuality, false religions, humanism, atheism, and many other seducing spirits.

Apostasy is sin. The scriptures listed above and others clearly teach this. Although the term is not used in Scripture the concept wends its way from the book of Genesis to the book of Revelation. Wherever there are a faithful people there will be a tendency to apostatize. We need to beware - I Timothy 4:1 seems to indicate that the latter times will see increased apostasy. The older one gets, the more an individual can see this. Churches and institutions that once stood for truth and were firmly anchored there by consistent applications of separation in areas of dress, political involvement, sports, and other areas, may gradually modify their positions and begin a process of reducing and then eliminating the applications. Disobedience to the Word of God becomes the new norm. Any sinful lifestyle is apostasy.

Apostates are deceived. When people are fully deceived, they cannot see themselves as they really are and it becomes almost impossible for them to return and see themselves as God sees them. Hebrews 6:4-6 "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame."

Combating apostasy includes being aware that

1. We are social beings; we are influenced by those with whom we associate. Those closest to us exert a far greater influence on us than those at the fringes of our relationships. The individuals that we rub shoulders with from day to day have a great influence on our beliefs and standards.

2. Attitudes of the heart also contribute to degenerative change. Procrastination is an attitude that enables apostasy. James 4:17 "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

3. The spirit of compromise can contribute to apostasy. This is not always wrong depending on what is at stake, but when it becomes an easy way out of dealing with hard issues, we begin to compromise on things that God's Word speaks on. Maybe the Word doesn't spell it out, but the principle is there. For the sake of "peace" the spirit of compromise is engaged, the principle is laid aside "just this one time", setting up a domino effect that is almost impossible to reverse.

4. Ignorance of the Word of God will lead to apostasy. It is easy for us to assume that since we have been raised in conservative homes that we

have the truth. We are thankful for the teaching and example that we have been given. However, we dare not assume we are of the truth unless our hearts and minds are saturated with the Word of God.

Practices and standards shifting may not be wrong in themselves; this is what happens in normal growth. What makes all the difference is the direction of travel. As was previously mentioned - we live in a changing world, and the real difference between a Christian and an apostate is that one is moving (changing) toward God - the other toward an eternity separate from Him. A high regard for God's Word and a vibrant, obedient brotherhood will ensure a path toward an eternity with God.

Questions for Discussion

1. Why is apostasy not just a heart condition?
2. Explain how forgetting relates to apostasy.
3. What is the antidote for forgetting?
4. What are some attitudes that encourage apostasy?
5. How do we know if a change we are considering will lead to apostasy?
Is it possible to always know for sure?
6. Name some positive things a home, or church can do to resist degenerative change.
7. Explain the relationship between a high regard for Truth and a resistance to apostasy.
8. Why is it hard for an apostate to change?
9. Can we allow generational gaps and yet avoid apostasy?
10. What can brotherhoods do collectively to stem trends of apostasy?

Lesson 2

Beware of False Prophets

Lesson Objective: Warnings against false leaders. To see the influence and effects of leaders who lead God's people astray.

Scriptures to Study:

***Matthew 7:15** Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*

***Jeremiah 23:1** Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD. 2 Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD.*

***Matthew 24:11** And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.*

***John 10:12** But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.*

***2 Timothy 4:3** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;*

***2 Peter 2: 1** But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction*

Immediately following the flood (Genesis 9:5-6) God ordained that men are governed by a structure of authority. This structure of authority is evidenced in every aspect of society and the very nature of it calls for leadership. In this study we will look at how leaders influence church life, especially the influence of false leaders. These leaders are identified because they fail to portray a godly influence and witness to the brotherhood and those looking on.

The main focus of this lesson is on leaders, but all of us need to think about the areas where we are trusted with leadership. We also need to be able to identify characteristics of false leaders.

False leaders are deceivers. A leader who has many good qualities and abilities, yet is not genuine and true in his character, is a false leader. Many layers of sheep's clothing cannot conceal a wolf's heart - ultimately it will come out. They are deceivers because they are deceived themselves and do not realize it. Ultimately they will be recognized as "blind leaders of the blind". Matthew 15:14

False leaders scatter the flock. God's plan for the flock is beautifully pictured in John 10. A false leader is not concerned with unity and closeness within the fold (brotherhood). Because his mind is not focused on the threats to unity and peace, his instincts are not aroused when issues come that threaten that harmony.

False leaders leave the flock unprotected. Because his heart is taken up with things that detract his mind from the responsibilities of leadership, he is not present when leadership is really needed. This is the characteristic of a hireling. A true leader will always have the best interests of his flock foremost in his mind. This sincere interest will be noticed and felt by the brotherhood.

False leaders tickle the ears of the flock. 2Timothy 4:3 indicates that the time will come when lusting people will want their itching ears tickled with things that make them feel good. God's Word does not tickle - it is sharper than a sword according to Hebrews 4:12. Leaders who give in to the temptation to water down Biblical standards and explain away the cross in the lives of believers are false leaders.

False leaders are not connected to the Truth. This disconnect with truth will trickle down and affect the flock. Leaders who lead without regard for God's Word will lead astray those entrusted to their care, and will answer to God for their leadership. Hebrews 13:17. They also open themselves to every wind of doctrine and every modern relativistic twist to true wisdom.

False leaders are not serious with sin. Because they become disconnected from Truth, they become desensitized to sin, in their own lives and in the lives of the flock. When this happens, sin is first tolerated and then ultimately promoted.

The true test of the strength of any movement, church group or society is its connection with God's Word and the faithfulness with which it is worked out in the lives of their peoples. Leaders have a responsibility to provide a framework to establish a vision and then to unite the brotherhood to jointly carry it out.

Questions for Discussion:

1. What can be learned by the strong verbs used in Jeremiah 23:1 about the influence of false prophets?
2. Name some distractions that leaders may face that keep them from being alert to needs in the flock.
3. What are some expressions of carnality that hinder a leader's effectiveness?
4. Should peace in the brotherhood be the highest goal of a leader? Why or why not?
5. What is the highest goal of a faithful leader?
6. What are some qualities of faithful leaders?
7. How can we know a leader is not a wolf in sheep's clothing?
8. What responsibility does the flock have to deal with leaders who are unfaithful?
9. What is the end of a false leader?
10. Study the life of Saul. Under duress a false leader will make decisions based on human reasoning and not on obedience to God's commands. Explain Saul's reasoning in I Samuel 13:11-12, and 15:20-21.

Lesson 3

Beware of the Leaven

Lesson Objective: Warnings about sin and its corrupting influences.

Scriptures to Study:

Matthew 16:6 *Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.*

Matthew 16:11 *How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees?*

Mark 8:15 *And he charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod.*

1 Corinthians 5:6-8 *Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*

1 Corinthians 15:33 *Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.*

Proverbs 5: 22-23 *His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins. He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.*

James 1:14-15 *But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

Most of us are familiar with yeast (leaven) and how it works. It doesn't take much, but its presence in a lump of dough has a very visible effect. All it takes is a bit of time and the right environment and you have a risen loaf. Jesus likened leaven to sin because of its similarities to how sin works in a person's life.

Sin corrupts good people. The Pharisees were a group that formed with the noblest intentions. The Pharisees (the word means to separate) were probably the most holy people among the Jews prior to the time of Christ. They separated themselves from the national corruption, with a

design to restore and practice the pure worship of the most High.-Adam Clark. By the time of Christ however, they were notorious for their pride and hypocrisy; and the Sadducees known for their worldly mindedness.

A little bit of sin will grow. It is tempting to think that a little bit of sin can be tolerated while continuing on a path of righteousness. But this is folly as all of us know by experience. The story of Samson is a vivid example of this. Step by step he violated his covenant. One day he suddenly fell, but each step of disobedience was a part of his fall. Judges 16

Sin enslaves. Again, go back to the story of Samson. The enslavement is vividly portrayed when his hair (which uncut symbolized his Nazarite identity) becomes the trap that ensnares him. “And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him. And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.” Judges 16: 19-20 Churches, counseling centers, 12 step programs, and halfway houses are busy helping people break with vices and sinful habits. Millions of dollars are spent annually by people longing to be free from the entanglement of sin.

Sin dulls the conscience. When a person becomes enslaved with sin they lose their sensitivity and awareness of their true condition. Satan capitalizes on this by blinding them to truth and distracts them by filling their minds with the filth and corruption of this world. The conscience then gradually becomes trained to ignore the promptings of the Spirit and is no longer doing its God ordained mission.

Sin brings death. Without repentance, toleration for and indulgement of sin will bring spiritual death. The enemy of our souls would like to make us think there is a middle ground - there is not. Toleration of sin in ones life brings an influence that spreads its death to those around him. Ultimately sin will keep us out of heaven if we fail to deal with it and bring it under the blood of Jesus.

More than just spiritual death, **Satan would like to bring people to commit suicide** so they are eternally within his grip. Our culture is fascinated with and glorifies death through the message of rock music, gothic influence and even Halloween. We need to understand this final end all begins with experimentation with sin.

All have sinned. (Romans 3:23) But because of Jesus, there is forgiveness. There is redemption. There is justification. There is freedom. Our sin then no longer stands between us and our heavenly Father. Praise His Name!

Questions for Discussion:

1. Discuss the root of the sin that made the Pharisees' profession of holiness hypocritical. How can we guard against falling into that same sin?
2. Is involvement in sin a single act or a process? Explain. Study James 1:14-15
3. How does allowing sin to remain in our lives affect our relationship with God?
4. Since sin enslaves a person, and as Romans 3:10 states; "There is none righteous, no, not one", what brings deliverance?
5. In the account of Samson, verse 20 mentions that he (Samson) wist not that the LORD was departed from him. Explain how a person can get to this point.
6. What does the story of Achan (Joshua 7) tell us about concealed sin? Is it possible to conceal sin?
7. What responsibility does the Christian have in relating to sin in the brotherhood?
8. What relationship does God - consciousness have to sin?
9. On what basis can we have forgiveness of sin?
10. Are there big sins and little sins? Explain.
11. What is the final end of sin?

Lesson 4

Beware of Covetousness

Lesson Objective: Warnings against materialism, and the folly of accumulating wealth without the fear of the Lord.

Scriptures to Study:

Luke 12:15 *And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth*

Deuteronomy 15:9-10 *Beware that there be not a thought in thy wicked heart, saying, The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand; and thine eye be evil against thy poor brother, and thou givest him nought; and he cry unto the LORD against thee, and it be sin unto thee. Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thine hand unto. For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.*

Proverbs 15:16 *Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith.*

Ecclesiastes 5:10-16 *He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity. When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes? The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep. There is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun, namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt. But those riches perish by evil travail: and he begetteth a son, and there is nothing in his hand. As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand. And this also is a sore evil, that in all points as he came, so shall he go: and what profit hath he that hath laboured for the wind?*

Habakkuk 2:9 *Woe to him that coveteth an evil covetousness to his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of evil!*

To covet means to have a strong desire for something one does not have or simply a desire to have more. This is most often used in a negative sense although it does not need to be. And, it could relate to a desire for many things - probably most things in this world have been coveted after. This beware of the Bible is found in Luke 12:15. The context relates to possessions, so our focus will be on what individuals accumulate in life. Because God's Word tells us to beware about possessions, we do well to take heed. Certainly the age we are living in is one that needs this message. Consider the confluence or convergence of several things in our society-

1. Wealth or perceived wealth (credit) - which make things obtainable.
2. Electronic advertising capabilities - which make us want things.
3. Efficient manufacturing and distributing systems - which makes things affordable.

It is no wonder that we need to beware of covetousness. It seems that if effort is not put forth, we tend to accumulate. The more we accumulate - the more we realize we don't have, which leads to even more accumulation. Accumulation becomes materialism when our focus turns from God to our possessions.

Covetousness closes our hearts toward needs of others. Selfishness is at the core of covetousness and materialism. When our motivation in life is wrapped up in our own things we lose interest in providing for the needs of others. Deuteronomy 15:9-10 The brother who refused to help because he saw he would lose the investment because of the year of Jubilee, ultimately robbed his own soul.

Covetousness closes our hearts to God. Actually, material things become a god to us when we think about accumulating them more than we think of God. A covetous, materialistic person will allow things to leverage God out of his life.

Covetousness enshrines the false god of humanism. It must be so because if our hearts are closed to others and to God, there is no other place for the focus to go but to ourselves. The covetous spirit then becomes one of the mechanisms through which God's people become ensnared in many of the false "isms" of the day.

Covetousness/Materialism complicates life, and brings many sorrows. It is a wonderful thing to live in a society and era that capitalizes on the new and improved model, the redesigned and upgraded version, and the revolutionary concept. But there is an ugly side to all this as Ecclesiastes 5:11 clearly teaches. Along with the "increase in goods" comes an increase in things that "eat them"- the initial high cost, items that break

one week out of warranty, and the regular maintenance that is required to prevent more troubles. Are we really further ahead? Also along with the "increase in goods" comes a greater worry & concern for those things. See Ecclesiastes 5:12. The less we have, the less there is for us to worry about.

We will be held accountable to God for how we view our possessions, and how much we allowed them to control us. Luke 12:20-21 “But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

Questions For Discussion:

1. Study the account of the rich man in Luke 12:16-21. Why did God call him a fool?
2. What attitudes of the heart foster a covetous spirit?
3. How can we experience the benefits of improvements and yet stay on guard against materialism?
4. What is the proper response to increase in wealth?
5. Why is it folly to base one's confidence on wealth? How do we know if we are basing our faith and confidence on our wealth or financial status?
6. How can brotherhood relationships aid in resisting materialism? Others can see us better than we see ourselves.
7. Why is covetousness an affront to God?
8. Why do 21st century Christians need to beware of covetousness?
9. How will God hold us accountable for the things we spend our money on?
10. What would I be willing to give up to avoid the snare of materialism?

Lesson 5

Beware of Evil Workers

Lesson Objective: Warnings against evil associations, and how their influence may have an effect on us.

Scriptures to Study:

***Philippians 3:2** Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers*

***2 Corinthians 11:13-15** For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*

***2 Corinthians 6:14** Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*

***Psalms 119:115** Depart from me, ye evildoers: for I will keep the commandments of my God.*

***Psalms 1:1-2** Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

***Acts 2:40** And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.*

***Ephesians 5:11** And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.*

***2 Thessalonians 3:6** Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.*

***Jude 4** For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

God created us to be social beings. In the Garden of Eden, God told Adam that it was not good for man to be alone. Ever since, a normal characteristic of humanity is that they associate with others. People with

similar interests and goals in life tend to relate closely. These relationships bring us great joy and happiness when we realize that others face the same trials, and discouragements, or fascinations and thrills that we do. But relationships can have a dark side, when we open our lives to them; we open ourselves to their negative influences.

The context of the verse where this beware is taken is a warning against Judaizers, who apparently were similar in characteristics to dogs because of their shameless, snarling, and contentious behavior. We are not faced with challenges relating to Judaizers today, but because we have an enemy of our souls we are tested at times with the influences of ungodly men.

Evil associates can appear as chameleons. Chameleons are creatures that are able to change their colors to fit into their surroundings. In 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 the apostle Paul explains how false apostles and deceitful workers are able to appear on the surface as apostles of Christ and ministers of righteousness.

Evil associates and Christians cannot be in fellowship. When people are in fellowship they are pulling together and headed for the same goal even if there are barriers like language or culture. Our churches and organizations cannot be linked in with the associations and fellowships of society. In our individual relationships as well there needs to be some distance reserved between believers and unbelievers.

Evil associations tear down moral reserve and Biblical obedience. It's tempting to think that it works just as well the other way around; that in close associations of the evil and the good, the good overwhelms the evil. But, that is not the way it works- good mixing with evil makes the whole lot evil as we noticed in Lesson 3. A study of light and darkness bears this out- the two cannot coexist. An example of where we may be tested with this is the question of whether to invite family members to weddings who are divorced and remarried or gay. Close associations with people who are clearly disobedient to Scriptural teaching will bear fruit.

Avoiding evil associations is necessary in business life. The unequal yoke is to be avoided in spite of whatever financial, fraternal, or logistical blessings there may be in a close business relationship. Amos 3:3 "Can two walk together, except they be agreed"? A partnership where one is a Bible obeying Christian and one is not (even though he may call himself a Christian), most likely cannot last with the true Christian remaining faithful.

Withdrawing from evil associations is necessary in church life. That everyone is on a journey is almost a cliché, but it is true. And while

Christians should be journeying on the narrow way that leads to life it is also true that some lose out by the way. This leads to the difficult decision of the faithful having to part ways with those that turn back. While we need to remain available redemptively, an outward separation or excommunication needs to be visible to reflect the separation that had already happened when the paths of travel diverged.

Questions for Discussion:

1. Explore ways that evil workers are deceivers.
2. How can we recognize evil workers if they are deceivers?
3. How should we relate to friends or family that have lost their separation from the world but yet still have a glowing testimony for Jesus?
4. How do we "save ourselves from this untoward generation"? Acts 2:40
5. What are some redemptive ways to relate to those who have chosen the way of evil associations?
6. Study John 17:14-17. Can we completely isolate ourselves from evil associations? Why or why not?
7. What are some present day areas where we are tested with the unequal yoke?
8. Study the account of Diotrephes given in 3 John. Was he an evil worker? How does his account contrast with Demetrius and Gaius?
9. What is the purpose for excommunication?
10. Study 2 Corinthians 6:15 and research the sons of Belial and the other places they are mentioned in the Scriptures. Note their behavior and how they fit the description of evil workers.

Lesson 6

Beware of Philosophy and Vain Deceit

Lesson Objective: Warnings against worldly knowledge and customs, and the danger of becoming a part of it.

Scriptures to Study:

Colossians 2:8 *Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*

Romans 1:22 *Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,*

1 Corinthians 3: 18-23 *Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain. Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.*

1 Timothy 4:1 *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;*

2 Corinthians 10: 5 *Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*

Hebrews 13:9 *Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.*

This beware, found in Colossians 2:8, has the apostle Paul warning against being spoiled (spoil here means to plunder and rob) by philosophy. We do not know for sure exactly what kind of philosophy he had in mind, although the context reveals that it was false - which is what most philosophy is. It probably included threats from three different fronts -

1. Jewish traditions
2. Greek culture
3. Gnostic heresy

While it may seem that none of these philosophies have an overt influence on us today, it is interesting to note how modern philosophy is repackaged humanistic thought that stems directly from the ancient Greeks.

Worldly knowledge today is saturated with worldly philosophies. We have no fewer and probably more false isms than what was evident then. The common thread connecting today with 50 AD is that we can be plundered and robbed of our relationship with Christ by the "seducing spirits" of worldly knowledge and culture, and that at their core they are administered by Satan the enemy of our souls.

A partial list may include:

- humanism - worship of man
- modern psychology
- hedonism - love of pleasure
- relativism - there is no truth

We need to beware of worldly knowledge today, because traces of the aforementioned current threats tend to attach themselves to us even though we are convinced we are a separated people. Acculturation is little by little accepting and adopting the way the world (present day culture) thinks. No separated life is immune to this. Wherever faithful Christians are, they will face this pressure.

Worldly knowledge comes up with a counterfeit for the origins of life. Since sinful man does not want to reckon with a divine Creator who holds him accountable for his actions, he must come up with an alternative solution. Even though it takes more faith to believe in the evolutionary process than to believe in creation, a man running from God chooses evolution. Why? Because there is no alternative; otherwise he knows he must answer to Him.

Worldly knowledge and customs honor man. At its core, all worldly knowledge and culture is humanistic because it takes the focus off God and redirects it to man or chance. God does not receive the glory, man heaps it upon himself- forgetting the God who created him.

Worldly knowledge is foolishness to God. If the nations are a drop in a bucket, indeed the ideals and goals of wicked men are finite and foolish to God. Psalms 2:1-4 "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let

us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.”

Worldly knowledge can spoil or destroy the Christian. To be drinking at the fountain of this evil world can be fatal for the Christian. What are some worldly fountains that we could be partaking of?

Worldly knowledge is addictive. The more one spends his time in it, the more he becomes like it. The more he becomes like the world, the farther he gets from God. This is a process, but the deceitfulness of it often prevents the addict from seeing his error.

Worldly knowledge is something a Christian cannot totally escape from in this life. We are inundated with it and face aspects of it nearly every day. The antidote for it is the Truth. A hunger for God's Word, a desire for holiness, a love for the brethren, and life in the Spirit are the means through which a Christian can navigate victoriously through the temptations that worldly philosophies bring upon us.

Questions for Discussion:

1. What is the root of worldly knowledge?
2. Why are the philosophies of man foolishness to God?
3. Name some of the false "isms" of the day. Can you think of some that are not listed above?
4. How are we affected by worldly philosophy?
5. Why can we not escape the influence of contemporary culture?
6. What is the key for living in a culture, being influenced by the culture, and yet not succumbing to its call?
7. Contrast the account of Lot with the story of Daniel. What lessons can we learn from their experiences?
8. What responsibility does the Christian have toward worldly culture? See Matthew 5:13
9. How can we know when a thirst for knowledge becomes a lust for worldly philosophy?
10. What key for victory do we find in John 17:15?

Lesson 7

Beware Lest ye Fall from Your Own Stedfastness

Lesson Objective: Warnings against self sufficiency and pride and temptation.

Scriptures to Study:

2 Peter 3:17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.

Revelation 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

Matthew 9:12 But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.

John 8:33 They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

John 9:41 Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.

Deuteronomy 8:12-14 Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;

1 Corinthians 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

Romans 11:20 Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

1 Peter 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

The context of this beware is dealing with apostasy which we have already looked at in the first lesson. But there is another side to this that we want to look at here. How does one "fall from his own steadfastness"? If one is steadfast, why does he fall? One answer may be that his steadfastness is only in his mind. After all, everyone knows he is a strong man (or woman). Oh, he might even tell you that yes he can fall, but the way he lives his life tells a different story. This person may be unapproachable, arrogant, stubborn, and proud; and he leaves a wake of hurts behind him.

We live in a world where social standing is determined by success, or at least the look of success. This is where the problem begins. There is the temptation to think we are at the top and have attained. We have succeeded and have become the standard. It would be nice to think that we are not tempted with family pride, congregational pride, denominational pride, or any other kind of pride, but we fool ourselves.

When pride in any of these forms takes root, it begins a process of alienating others. The sad thing is that it is precisely at this point when others are most needed. They are needed to help the proud person to see himself as he is, but his arrogance prevents that from happening. He is standing, he is steadfast; but it is only in his own mind. In reality he, or the institution, is falling - falling from his own steadfastness. James 4:6 "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."

A self sufficient person is proud. Pride, being one of those things that the Lord hates, (actually the first one mentioned in Proverbs 6:17) is almost always the first step in a person's journey away from God.

A self sufficient person is blinded to his own susceptibility to falling. In his mind, he does not have needs, or at least thinks he knows how to supply them. This is the deadly effect of pride.

Self sufficiency and materialism go hand in hand. Riches and increase of wealth can delude their owner into a self sufficient spirit. A person's heart can swell with pride as he looks over what he has accumulated by his human strength, human knowledge, and luck. But Jesus said to the angel of the church at Laodicea, *thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.*

A self sufficient, proud person is unable to be helped in that state. Jesus' discussion with the Pharisees in John 8 & 9 proves this point. Again and again Jesus confronted them with the truth; in fact, Truth itself was speaking - but they could not see it. They were blinded by their self sufficient steadfastness. We remain in our sins when we are blind but say we see. (9:41)

A self sufficient person is alienated from God. He has no need of God because in his own mind he has it figured out; in fact, he is in the driver's seat. God is relegated to a lower position in his heart, even if outwardly he is trying to conform to the image of a Christian.

Questions for Discussion:

1. How can someone fall from his own steadfastness?
2. Explain the relationship of pride and self sufficiency.
3. Study the context of Matthew 9:12. Explain what you think Jesus is referring to when he says "They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick."
4. Why does God hate pride?
5. What are some ways God speaks to a proud, self sufficient heart?
6. Study 2 Corinthians 12:9. How is our strength made perfect in weakness?
7. How can we know that we are standing and yet take heed that we do not fall? (1 Corinthians 10:12)
8. How would denominational pride manifest itself?
9. Is there a connection between failing to have a vibrant prayer life and pride? Explain.

Lesson 8

Beware of Hypocrisy

Lesson Objective: Warnings Against Hypocrisy

Scriptures to Study:

Luke 12:1-3 *In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.*

Job 27:8 *For what is the hope of the hypocrite, though he hath gained, when God taketh away his soul?*

Mark 12:38-40 *And he said unto them in his doctrine, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces, And the chief seats in the synagogues, and the uppermost rooms at feasts: Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation.*

Matthew 23:13-15 *But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.*

Matthew 23:23-29 *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may*

be clean also. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous,

***Luke 11:47** But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.*

***1 Timothy 4:2** Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;*

***1 Peter 2:1-2** Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and all hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:*

Hypocrisy probably does not need to be defined. It is also probably not too strong a statement to say that all religiously observant people either struggle with it or have struggled with it at some point. In fact, it could be said that the more one speaks with his outside appearance and demeanor the easier it is for him to be something totally different on the inside. The Pharisees of the New Testament era were especially notorious for their complicated and exhaustive codes of behavior. Although their hearts were filled with uncleanness and iniquity, they tried to hide that with a veneer of righteousness.

And as we see in the verses above, Jesus was scathing in his attacks on the Pharisees. The intensity of his pronouncements tells us much about how God looks at man's hypocrisy. Oh, that we would grasp the futility of trying to hypocritically hide things that we know do not fit our profession. Our omniscient God knows it all, and one day all things will be open and honest before Him.

Hypocrisy is corrupt. In the business world a reputation of corruption is almost unforgivable; it leaves a stigma that is hard to erase. A reputation of honesty can be so quickly undone by a single act. The advertisements and slogans of the company at that point do not matter a whit. New paint covers rust but is hypocrisy - the rust will come back. Tampering with scales makes more money but is hypocrisy - it will be found out. Siphoning funds from an organization in secret is hypocrisy- God sees it all. The list could go on.

The hypocrite is often a fierce critic of others. This is because his dishonesty is preventing him from seeing himself and his own struggles. It is so much easier for him to see the needs in others. Matthew 7:5 “Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.”

Hypocrisy is dishonesty. Romans 12:17 “Provide things honest in the sight of all men”. Living honest lives before men is necessary for the Christian. It is an indicator of the presence of the Spirit. To be dishonest and hypocritical is to live a lie.

Hypocrisy does not fool God. Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Verse 13 goes on to say - “Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”

The hypocrite gains in this life, but will lose in the next. That is, it seems a gain to be able to live after the flesh and yet profess to be a child of God. But this is only fleeting at best because misery awaits him in this life and most assuredly in the next if he continues his course.

Questions for Discussion:

1. Why do Christians need to beware of hypocrisy?
2. How does hypocrisy affect the heart?
3. Explain the relationship of hypocrisy and a critical spirit?
4. How is hypocrisy dishonesty?
5. Is it hypocritical to have personal thoughts and feelings that you do not share with others? Why or why not?
6. What is the relationship between hypocrisy and pride?
7. How is Luke 12:2-3 a deterrent to hypocrisy?
8. Find other scriptures that have the same thought as Luke 12:2-3.
9. What makes it difficult for a hypocrite to become a sincere follower of Christ?
10. Name some steps to repentance for a hypocrite.

Lesson 9

Beware and Obey

Lesson Objective: Warnings against disobedience.

Scriptures to Study:

Exodus 23:21-22 *Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him. But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries.*

Judges 13:4 *Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing:*

Judges 13:13 *And the angel of the LORD said unto Manoah, Of all that I said unto the woman let her beware.*

Ephesians 5:6 *Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.*

2 Timothy 3:1-2 *This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,*

Titus 1:16 *They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.*

Hebrews 12:25 *See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:*

2 Thessalonians 1:8 *In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:*

Matthew 28:19-20 *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

We live in an age where it seems especially prevalent for professing Christians to emphasize their faith, but downplay or completely ignore Biblical obedience. Even among Bible believing and obeying peoples there is a constant pressure to exchange Bible commands for societal and cultural practices that are directly disobedient to the Scriptures. A few examples:

- The Christian woman's veiling. It is explained away with statements like- "the Spirit revealed to me that I may take it off", and "it was a cultural thing and only meant to be symbolic". It is direct disobedience to I Corinthians 11.
- The justification of involvement in the political affairs because the Christian has an obligation to witness to the state and bring it under the Lordship of Christ. Jesus said in John 18:36 "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence." The Christian has the responsibility to witness salvation to all men as individuals but not collectively as to a political or civil entity to force a shift in policy.
- Separation in my heart is enough. It hinders our ability to be a witness when we look so different. 1 Timothy 2:9 "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array." 2 Corinthians 6:17 "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you." Separation from the world is not a hindrance to our witness. Someone who is in the world and truly wants out of it will not want to appear like it.

A testimony of holiness without obedience to God and the brotherhood is an open door that leaves us vulnerable to defeat. Sad it would be for any of us to hear the words "I never knew you" because we were not obedient to the Father's will even though we had done many wonderful works and had a powerful testimony.

The Bible doctrine of obedience is central to the plan of salvation. If it is taken away salvation is nullified and of no value. For if one says he believes but never is obedient to the Spirit and the Word, his faith is worthless. James 2:17 "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."

Obedience is an expression of the heart. To expect practical obedience in our daily lives without having an obedient, Spirit controlled heart is folly. Psalms 119:10 "With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments."

Obedience is pertinent for today. Sometimes it seems there is a temptation to think of simple obedience as quaint and somewhat old fashioned- hardly suitable for the Millennium Generation. Simple obedience is overlooked in favor of more modern religious terms like social

justice and global awareness. We could ask why this is; why is there such a struggle with plain, simple obedience? One answer may be found in 2 Timothy 3:2 “For men shall be lovers of their own selves...” When self is not denied, but is instead loved, it becomes master. When it becomes master, obedience to any other authority becomes a struggle.

God will not share the throne of man's heart with any other entity. The reality is that obedience is always present in man's heart. If an individual is not obedient to God, he will be obedient to his own lusts. This is made clear in 2 Peter 3:3 “Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts.” Lusts could include sensual pleasures, money, power, position, and many other carnal and materialistic pursuits. So the question is not whether someone is obedient, but to whom or what is he obedient. Who is on the throne in my heart? Who am I obeying?

Questions for Discussion:

1. Why is obedience central to salvation? James 2:17
2. How is Jesus our most excellent example in obedience? See Philippians 2:8
3. Study Judges 13. Note that the angel told them to beware twice. Why was it important that they obey the instructions given?
4. Explain the relationship of self denial and obedience.
5. What are some results of obedience?
6. What are the results of disobedience?
7. Why is simple obedience a scarce commodity today? Simple Biblical obedience runs counter to the flesh and what comes easily.
8. We are living in the last days and since one of the earmarks of the last days is disobedience to parents (2 Timothy 3:2), how can parents teach obedience?
9. Is obedience better taught by example and encouragement or by compulsion and force? Or both?
10. How do we know whom we are obeying?

Lesson 10

Wherewithal Shall a Young Man Cleanse His Way? By Taking Heed...

Lesson Objective: Warnings against immorality and sensuality. To see the damning effects of loose and licentious living.

Scriptures to Study:

Psalms 119:9 *Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed (beware) thereto according to thy word.*

Proverbs 6:23-32 *For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life: To keep (beware) thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman. Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids. For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life. Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned? So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent. Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry; But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house. But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.*

Proverbs 7:22-23 *He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.*

Matthew 5:27-28 *Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*

***Romans 1:24** Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:*

***James 1:15** Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

***Ephesians 5:3** But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;*

While the word beware is not used in the English in the verses listed above, the same Hebrew word used for beware in the Old Testament is also used in verses above in the English "to keep". If the word beware is not used as such it is certainly implied. It is hard to imagine how stronger terms could be used to deplore the illicit relationships of men and women. While the spotlight is more directly focused on the man, in reality condemnation is on both participants - the supply (women's beauty) and demand (men's lust). Women need to be conscious of the power that their femininity has on a man, and men need to be alert to the slightest temptation to lust in their heart after it.

These God ordained interests and drives are natural and innocent in themselves and in their proper context (marriage) can express themselves in mutually satisfying ways. It is good for us to remember that when God created mankind, He created him with the ability to control his passions. But when Satan inserts himself into this picture, it becomes unnatural, distorted and unclean. The repercussions of these distortions are evident all around us and have become part of the fabric of contemporary culture. The plethora of devices that Satan is using to expunge morality and promulgate pornography and alternative lifestyles keeps multiplying. Does this affect the Christian? Do we need to beware?

Lust is the fountainhead of immoral actions. Lust is an emotion articulated in the heart, but if left to grow will always express itself in actions. If played with beyond a certain point it is impossible to reverse. James 1:15

Illicit love prevents one from showing true love to those around him. Many have tried to live a life committed to more than one relationship only to find out it is impossible. One will win out, but it leaves loved ones in a tangle of tears and heartache.

Illicit love is sin and sin brings bondage. Experimenting and dabbling in it only brings more bondage. This is graphically portrayed in Proverbs 7:22-23. The inexorable slide into bondage is almost imperceptible. But in

the end it is for his life. Satan is never satisfied with just a little bit of sensuality and lust. Only an intense immersion of repentance and the blood of Jesus can break the bondage of sexual sin.

A life of immorality brings unforeseen circumstances and hardships. This happens in part because the focus is on feeding the lust and not on the important things of life like his relationship with God, his wife, his family, and his church. Also the proper material pursuits like financial and business suffer because of the distraction of feeding carnal lusts. He will be brought to a piece of bread.

There is more sympathy for a thief than an adulterer. This is the thought expressed in verses 30-32 of Proverbs 6. There is almost an "automatic" forgiveness that is extended to a starving person who steals to stay alive that a person who commits adultery foregoes. This brings to mind the story of David and Bathsheba and might explain the severity of the retribution that God brought upon them.

Questions for Discussion:

1. Explain the involvements of cleansing his way in Psalm 119:9?

2. Why is the sin of looking on a woman especially relevant in the 21st century?

3. Study Romans 1:32. Why is it a sin to take pleasure in the wickedness of others even if you are not involved yourself?

4. How does the increase of immodesty affect personal and public morality? And how much of that responsibility falls on women?

5. What is feminism and how does it contribute to the decline of morality (I Corinthians 11:3)?

6. What are some keys to victory in this present evil age?

7. Explain the importance of close parent/child relationships in providing a safeguard against moral failure.

8. Why is accountability important in relation to our individual journey of sanctification?