

Pornography : Flee Youthful Lusts! : Part 1

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Pornography Is Pervasive, Greedy Merchants And Mass Media, Satan Is False God Of This World, Apostle John's Admonition, My Facebook Activities, Encounter With Lesbian Porn Pusher, My Facebook Friend Vetting Practice, Our Great Commission, Foul Language, Doctrinal Debates, Avoid Appearance Of Evil, Stop The Mouths Of Our Critics And Accusers, Case Of Incest In Corinth, Deception Of Live And Let Live, Selfish Lot And Destruction Of Sodom And Gomorrah, Lot Was Left With Nothing Due To His Selfishness, Lot Fathers Moabites And Ammonites, Decades Old Propaganda War To Normalize And Legalize Gay And Lesbian "Marriages", No Need To Ban The Bible, Increasingly Liberal Attitudes, American Society When I Was A Young Boy, America's Tragic Moral Decline And Apostate Ancient Israel

Pornography. It is everywhere; from television programs, to movie theaters, to corner convenience stores, bookstores and drugstores, to many thousands of websites on the Internet, and elsewhere. Pornography -- whether it is so-called "soft porn", or hardcore porn -- has become such a pervasive part of our modern society, that it is virtually impossible to not come in contact with it in some form, even when we try to avoid it. The fact of the matter is that greedy merchants of all kinds have become so crafty and adept at flaunting the flesh in our faces -- from sexy screen stars, to body builders, even to characters that are found in cartoons and comic books -- that short of totally disconnecting ourselves from the grid, and divorcing ourselves from the world, there is no escaping it.

Sex surely sells; and these evil people know it! Inspired by the god of this present world -- Satan himself, who the Bible refers to as the Prince of the Power of the Air -- the shrewd leaders of the mass media, as well as Internet entrepreneurs and the head honchos of the entertainment industry have taken the Apostle John's sober admonition in his Epistle and turned it around and used it against us. These unscrupulous people have enticed us all by appealing to the lusts of our sinful flesh, as we see by the following verses:

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

1 John 2:15-17, KJV

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto

them."
2 Corinthians 4:4, KJV

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:"
Ephesians 2:2, KJV

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."
Ephesians 6:12, KJV

What actually motivated me to write this current article is an incident which transpired over the past twenty-four hours. As many of my online friends will know, I am very actively involved on Facebook. For those of you who may not be aware of this, you can find my Facebook page at the following URL:

<http://www.facebook.com/wordweaver.evangelist>

Being as my primary purpose in having my Facebook page is to be a witness to the world, and to extend the outreach of the Endtime Prophecy Net ministry, by hopefully inspiring more people to visit my website, where they will discover a lot of Bible-based articles, Bible verse lists and quite a few other resources which will feed their hungry souls and strengthen their faith, my Facebook page is viewable by everyone. Please note, however, that I have enforced a few comment and tagging restrictions.

At any rate, yesterday, while I was approving some new friend requests, I happened upon an individual -- who for their own protection will remain anonymous -- who had a number of links to lesbian porn sites in his "likes" section. I am certainly not a prude. However, I was quite taken back by the fact that someone who had shown an interest in being accepted as one of my Facebook friends, would so willingly offer this kind of sexually-explicit material on his timeline. The fact that it is so apparent that my Facebook page is Christian-oriented, made this person's friend request even more bewildering.

In determining who to accept as Facebook friends, I do tend to be judicious. I don't just accept people in order to build up my number of friends. I am not interested in quantity, as so many Facebook users are inclined to be. Rather, I am more interested in acquiring quality friends, and building up a quality list of friends. For this reason, whenever I receive a new friend request -- I usually receive a few dozen each day -- I will take the time to visit their page in order to hopefully learn more about them. Sometimes, they have their page so restricted, that I cannot learn anything whatsoever, so it really comes down to a matter of taking a small leap of faith. In other words, I will accept their friendship, just so that I can see what is on their page. Afterwards, I will make my determination.

Please note that regardless of whether or not I approve a person's friend request, as I stated a moment ago, they can still view my full timeline. In other words, in obedience to our Great Commission to be a witness to the world, even

if I reject a friend request for whatever the reason, I am still allowing said person to receive the Gospel message on my page. Consider these verses:

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

Matthew 24:14, KJV

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"

Matthew 28:19, KJV

"And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

Luke 24:46-47, KJV

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

Mark 16:15, KJV

"Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent."

John 6:29, KJV

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."

John 15:16, KJV

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Acts 1:8, KJV

"And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house . . . Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears."

Acts 20:20, 31, KJV

"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things . . . So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Romans 10:14-15, 17, KJV

"For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!"

1 Corinthians 9:16, KJV

"Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things."
Galatians 6:6, KJV

"Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:"
Colossians 1:4-6, KJV

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."
2 Timothy 2:2, KJV

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."
2 Timothy 4:2, KJV

Returning to our previous discussion, in determining who to approve as a friend, I endeavor to give people the benefit of the doubt. For example, I have encountered a few individuals who use very offensive expletives on their pages. While I do not like such language, and strive to avoid it in my own life -- some timelines have foul words which I would never use -- at the same time, I stop to think about what the Lord may possibly be doing in that individual's life. I consider that perhaps under the hard outer surface, there may actually be a hungry sheep inside, and that perhaps this is why they made a friend request with me. So, despite my personal objection to the language that I find on their page, I may still approve their friend request.

In other cases, I have received friend requests from people who demonstrate a clear propensity for engaging in doctrinal debates on their own Facebook page. Some of these people are very entrenched in their views, and sometimes their positions are very much in opposition to my own. Depending on the level of the adamancy which I find on their timeline, and how rigid they are, I may or may not approve their friend request. If I sense that they can be trusted, and will not endeavor to stir up trouble and division on my timeline, I may approve their request. However, as a precaution, I will sometimes send them a private message in which I will remind them of the rules and policies which are enforced on my own page.

So, for those of you who may be interested, this is the basic vetting process which I follow insofar as approving Facebook friend requests is concerned. Having said that, let me make it very clear that what I found on this particular person's page -- the links to lesbian porn sites -- is not acceptable to me in the least. However, as I said, I endeavor to be fair and balanced when I consider friend requests. So, while I did approve this person's request, I also messaged him privately and rebuked him. I also asked him if he is a Christian, being as I could find no evidence of this on his page.

As I explain in such articles as "Are You Just a Baby Huey?", "Halloween and Samhain: No Room for Compromise" and "Light Up

and Die!: The Smoking Addiction", the Apostle Paul informs us that in order to protect our Christian testimony, we should strive to avoid the "appearance of evil". Paul writes that we should all endeavor to "walk in wisdom", and "walk honestly toward them that are without", and strive to "live peaceably with all men". Consider the following verses:

"Abstain from all appearance of evil."

1 Thessalonians 5:22, KJV

"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."

Romans 12:18, KJV

"Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man."

Colossians 4:5-6, KJV

"That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing."

1 Thessalonians 4:12, KJV

The Apostle Peter offers similar advice in the following verses as well; because by so doing, we can hopefully stop the mouths of our accusers and critics:

"Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation. Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God."

1 Peter 2:12-16, KJV

Obviously, this person is not abstaining from the appearance of evil. Quite to the contrary, he is in fact being a rather poor witness of our faith. It would be bad enough if he was just doing these things in his private life; but he is not. He is in fact openly broadcasting his personal sins for the whole world to see. Furthermore, by providing the links, he is inviting his other timeline visitors to likewise partake of his sins. I am reminded of something that the Apostle Paul wrote when he was dealing with a case of incest that was occurring in the Church at Corinth. Paul wrote:

"It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you."

1 Corinthians 5:1-2, KJV

As you can see, rather than mourning and being in a contrite state of repentance, Paul informs us that the guilty parties who were involved in this shameful case of incest were rather puffed up. Derived from the Greek word "phusioo", what Paul

is actually saying is that these individuals were so deceived, that they were acting haughtily and proudly, as if there was absolutely nothing wrong with what this man had done. "Oh well; that's carnal Corinth for you. That's just the way it is here, Paul", seemed to be their misguided attitude.

In fact, I have wondered if after living near sinful Sodom for a time, Lot may have acquired the very same misguided attitude which says "Live and let live. To each his own. I don't agree with it, but it's their lives, not mine." There are Biblical indications that the livestock business must have been rather profitable for Lot. It is evident in the Bible that when Abraham and Lot each went their separate way, they were still living in tents. In fact, we are told that Lot "pitched his tent toward Sodom." Consider these verses:

"And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land. And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren. Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left. And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar. Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other. Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom."
Genesis 13:7-12, KJV

If there is one thing I have come to realize, it is that Lot must have been a rather selfish man. As the previous verses demonstrate, when his uncle Abraham gave him a choice, Lot chose the best of the land. Not only did Lot choose the best of the land -- right in that fertile plain of sin -- but he must have become quite comfortable living there as well. This point is made evident by the fact that when the incident with the two Angels occurred, we are told that Lot and his family were living in a house -- which obviously had a door -- and no longer in a tent. Thus, it is apparent that Lot had grown quite rich from dealing with the sinful people of Sodom and Gomorrah. Furthermore, the two Angels found Lot sitting in the gate of Sodom. Lot was obviously very comfortable as he sat there and offered his livestock products to passersby.

Another thing which indicates the level of Lot's selfishness is the fact that when the men and boys of Sodom insisted on knowing -- or having sexual relations with -- the two Angels, perhaps out of fear, Lot even offered those wicked people his own two married daughters. He outright told them to do with his daughters whatever they liked. Lot was willing to throw his own daughters to the wolves. In spite of the disgusting things which Lot obviously knew were occurring in the cities of the plains, he had absolutely no intentions of leaving. Life was just too good and too easy for him. He was making a lot of money, and living the good life, at the expense of the sinners of Sodom and Gomorrah.

As you may recall, the two Angels had to literally drag Lot and his family out of that wicked place. Even then, despite the Lord's Mercy upon him and his family, Lot still had the nerve to complain when the Angels informed him that he must take his wife and two daughters and flee to the distant mountains for safety. Lot did not want to go. After living the life of comfortable, sinful luxury in Sodom, life in the mountains would be too difficult, he must have thought. So, Lot whined and complained, and asked the Angels to let them go to Zoar -- which was another small city in the plain -- instead. While the Angels relented and gave Lot his wish, as it turned out, Lot fled with his two daughters to a cave in the mountains, because he was afraid to remain in Zoar after the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah had occurred.

Taking into consideration everything that happened, Lot's very own selfishness resulted in him having nothing in the end. His livestock business was totally destroyed. Lot's lifelong earnings were wiped out. The fertile plain he had once occupied was turned into a wasteland due to the Lord's strong judgments against it. Except for his two daughters, the rest of Lot's family was killed because they refused to leave the cities of the plain, even after Lot had warned them to do so. Lot's own wife was turned into a pillar of salt because she regretted leaving the old life and looked back in defiance of the Lord's command. Lot himself died an apparently broken, old man, spending his last days living in a cave in the mountains.

As an interesting side note, Lot's two daughters went on to give birth to Moab and Benammi. These two boys were actually the result of Lot's daughters engaging in incestuous sexual relations with him after making him drunk. Moab and Benammi became the progenitors of the Moabites and the Ammonites. Today, their former territories form a part of modern Jordan. You can read this amazing story in its entirety in Genesis chapter nineteen. However, for those of you who may not be inclined to pull out your Bibles, allow me to share it with you here as well:

"And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground; And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night. And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat. But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them. And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him, And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly. Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof. And they said, Stand back. And

they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door. But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door. And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door. And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place: For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it. And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law. And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city. And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city. And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed. And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my Lord: Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die: Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live. And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for the which thou hast spoken. Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do any thing till thou be come thither. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar. The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar. Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground. But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt. And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the LORD: And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace. And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in the which Lot dwelt. And Lot went up out of Zoar, and dwelt in the mountain, and his two daughters with him; for he feared to dwell in Zoar: and he dwelt in a cave, he and his two daughters."

Genesis 19:1-30, KJV

Concerning this attitude of knowingly living amongst sin, we have clearly seen the very same attitude expressed many times in our current day as well. As I amply explain in series such as "When Sin is No Longer a Sin", as well as in "The Gay and Lesbian Agenda: To the Point!", this is precisely what is now

occurring with the militant gay and lesbian rights movement. For decades now, they have been waging a fierce propaganda war with the ultimate goal of both normalizing and legalizing their sinful lifestyle all across the nation. To our shame, these rebellious and ungodly people have been successful in a growing number of states. They have absolutely no intentions of stopping either. They won't be happy until everyone views their sinful, perverted lifestyle as both normal and natural. As I will explain momentarily, there is cause for concern.

As for those of us who faithfully adhere to God's Word and give it precedence over man's laws, even if we don't like it, agree with it, or accept it, through legal means, the gay and lesbian community will force us to endure their carnal sins, and keep our mouths shut. In addition to legalizing same-sex "marriage", even now they are endeavoring to classify any negative talk about their sinful lifestyle as a hate crime, and the liberal media is happy to assist them in their crimes against God's holy and unchanging Laws.

In a discussion I shared a few weeks ago, I asked why there was any need to ban the Bible, as so many Christians seem to fear. As I pointed out, it certainly wasn't necessary to ban the Bible in order to legalize abortion. Neither was banning the Bible necessary before gay and lesbian pastors, priests and ministers were accepted in some of the wayward churches. Neither was it necessary to ban the Bible before some of the states began legalizing same-sex "marriage". Personally, I am convinced that these things which God-fearing Christians detest and regard as sins will continue to take place, even without God's Word ever being banned. Ungodly abortions will continue. The churches will continue to become more liberal. More states will continue to legalize same-sex "marriage".

In my view as a Christian, and as a man who is advancing in age, I think that what should be of great concern to us is the fact that over the past fifty years, social attitudes in the United States -- and no doubt elsewhere as well -- have become increasingly liberal. At this current time, we are without a doubt witnessing the most liberal generation which the United States has ever seen. The difference in attitudes between so-called "baby boomers" and their children is quite mind-boggling. In fact, I find it alarming. Those of you who have raised children of your own during this same period will know exactly what I am talking about.

For those of you who may be too young to understand why I am saying these things, allow me to explain it to you. You see, when I was a young boy growing up, there was zero cussing on the television set. Actors were always dressed modestly. Any form or suggestion of sexual promiscuity was nonexistent; at least in the TV shows that we were permitted to watch. If a white man were to date a black woman, it would still cause eyes to turn in disapproval. While homosexuality obviously existed back then just as it does now, the notion of same-sex "marriage", or openly gay and lesbian individuals serving in the priesthood would never have been imagined, and much less tolerated. I doubt that there were very many people who had the foresight to sense what is happening now, fifty years later. Back then, even the civil rights movement had just begun to gain strength.

How far we have come since those days. Sadly, it hasn't all been good. As we have seen, some of the social developments have been downright evil. How low we have gone; and what an abomination we have become in the eyes of the Lord. However, just like ancient Israel which likewise became an apostate nation despite many warnings from her Prophets, the tragedy is that I am convinced that we have not yet hit rock bottom insofar as our plunge into carnal sin and moral depravity is concerned. I suspect that the only reason why this has not happened yet, may be because conservative attitudes still remain strong in both the government and in American society in general. Consider the following verse regarding ancient Israel, and then think about the current state of America:

"And I brought you into a plentiful country, to eat the fruit thereof and the goodness thereof; but when ye entered, ye defiled my land, and made mine heritage an abomination."
Jeremiah 2:7, KJV

But the question we need to ask ourselves is how much longer this will continue to be the case. The aforementioned bulwark of conservatism is slowly but surely being eroded. This is clearly evidenced by the developments of recent decades; not only social developments, but political developments as well. As our much more liberal-minded children begin to come into their own, and take the reins of leadership, exactly what is it going to mean? How will the nation be affected?

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

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Pornography : Flee Youthful Lusts! : Part 2

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Increasingly Liberal American Electorate, Obama's Liberalism Defeated Romney's Conservatism, Future America That We Don't Recognize, It Is Dangerous To Become Comfortable With Sin, Beware Of Self-Imposed Deception, One Compromise Will Lead To Another, Christian Reconciliation, Experience With Lesbian Pornography Pusher, Once We Hear The Truth We Are Accountable For Living It, God's Spirit Is Very Faithful To Convict Our Hearts Of Sin, Avoid and Withdraw From Unrepentant Brethren, Lust: Forbidden Desire Or Craving, Flee From Youthful Lusts, Harmful Effects Of Pornography, We Will Be Held Accountable And Judged According To Our Works, Our Eyes Can Get Us Into Trouble And Cause Us To Sin, Adam And Eve Tempted By Satan In The Garden, Lust Of The Flesh Lust Of The Eyes And Pride Of Life, Don't Make Yourself Vulnerable To Temptation, Some Pointed Questions, God Sees All: Your Sin Will Find You Out, Jesus Tempted By Satan In Wilderness, Constant Bombardment

By Satan's Worldly Enticements, Modern Plastic Christianity,
Demas Loved This Present World, They Loved Not Their Lives
Unto The Death, Dog Returned To Vomit, Sow Wallowing In Mire

It would be dishonest for me to say that all will be well. Given the current trends and prevalent attitudes amongst the younger generation, personally, I am simply not convinced of this. While I believe that presidents and other political leaders are controlled and manipulated by unseen forces, it is also true that to some degree, they must likewise bend to the whims of the electorate. As I have said, that electorate is becoming increasingly liberal with each passing year. The fact that the United States of America is now led by one of the most liberal presidents it has ever seen is clear proof of this. Despite the vast political and financial power of the Republican party, not only was Barack Obama able to win the presidency in 2008, but he won a second term as well.

Obama's two victories say a lot about the electorate itself. It reveals an electorate in which liberal attitudes may be taking the lead over traditional conservative values. Despite the harsh economic problems which continue to plague the US, Obama's liberalism was still able to defeat the conservatism of Mitt Romney. That says a lot. Some of the very issues that grate us Christians, are what propelled Obama to victory. In light of this unpleasant truth, it seems to me that unless liberal attitudes amongst the younger generation suddenly go into reverse -- which is doubtful -- within a generation or two, the United States may no longer be what we once knew as children. It will be something else. It will be a place where I personally would not want to live. It may very well be just another Sodom and Gomorrah; and we all know what happened to those two cities.

Of course, as a Christian, what is of most concern to me is how the spirit of liberalism has invaded and in fact poisoned our faith. As I mentioned in part one, I cannot imagine that fifty years ago, any God-fearing, Bible-believing Christian would have believed it if someone had told them that many of our modern churches would not only be led by gay and lesbian priests, pastors and ministers, but that these same members of the clergy would be pronouncing their blessings over gay and lesbian couples. As we saw earlier, some of the brethren at the Church of Corinth apparently became comfortable with carnal sin as well. It seems that Lot may have done the very same thing for the sake of profit. It is downright dangerous to become comfortable with sin!

As I point out in some of the aforementioned articles, when we knowingly and willingly push aside and ignore God's holy Laws in order to fulfill our own lusts, we are headed for very serious trouble. Not only do we put ourselves at odds with the Lord, but we open the door to strong delusion and deception as well. We convince ourselves that relaxing the rules just a little bit, and slightly lowering the level of our moral conduct won't matter. After all, we aren't really doing anything that will hurt anyone else, are we? Beware! Once that attitude sets in, there is no end to it. What may start out as one little compromise, may very well lead to another, and then to another, until we are totally defeated.

If we are not careful, we can become so deceived by our own sins, that even when one of our brethren lovingly tries to help us by imparting a word to us, rather than yield to the conviction of the Lord's Spirit, we immediately take offense, go into defense mode, and proceed to lash out at the person who is trying to help us. In thinking about this process of reconciliation, I am reminded of the following verses:

"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."
Galatians 6:1, KJV

"Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."
James 5:19-20, KJV

"Open rebuke is better than secret love."
Proverbs 27:5, KJV

In the case of this person who made a friend request, this is precisely what I did. There was simply no way that I could possibly ignore what he was doing; because by his actions, he was being a very poor Christian example, as well as bringing reproach to the Cause of Christ. As I explained in part one, while I endeavor to give people the benefit of the doubt, and try to be fair, his actions of opening displaying links to lesbian pornography websites in his "likes" section, was more that even I was willing to accept. Thus, as I already said, I sent him a private, brief message in which I rebuked him, and asked him if he is even a Christian.

Upon waking up this morning, I discovered that he had sent me a short response. In his reply, he stated that he is a Christian. To my dismay, he also said that he only watches lesbian pornography for fun when he is bored. Sadly, I soon discovered that there was more to it than that. I decided to have another look at his Facebook timeline. I wanted to see if my earlier message had convicted his heart, and motivated him to remove the offensive links from his page. Tragically, to my surprise, rather than remove the links, he seemed to have added more during the past twenty-four hours. In fact, he has several dozen links in his "likes" section which lead to lesbian-oriented pornographic websites. This has led me to wonder if perhaps he may possibly be deriving some kind of financial benefit by serving as a conduit to said sites.

Realizing that he is more than likely in a state of strong rebellion, under powerful deception, and probably has no intentions of removing any of the pornography links, I sent him another private message in which I informed him that unless he removed all of the pornography links, I would be forced to unfriend him. Nine hours later, he still had not responded, so I sent him another short message in which I reminded him that I was still waiting to hear from him. When he finally did respond, I was flabbergasted by his response. He asked me "If you unfriend me, isn't preaching meant for sinners?" He also said that he would try to remove some of the links.

I found this person's response totally unacceptable. It was a devilish twist of words. Yes, as we all know, preaching is indeed meant for the ears of sinners. However, at the same time, once we hear the truth, we are accountable for taking action and living the truth. As Jesus said in the fifteenth chapter of the Gospel of John:

"If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin."
John 15:22, KJV

Even before I ever visited this man's page, I suspect that he already knew that what he is doing is wrong. The reason why I know this, is because I am convinced that God's Spirit is very faithful to convict our hearts of sin and evil. If anything, what I shared with this man was probably just a confirmation of what he already knew in his own heart. In response, I very pointedly told him that he already realized that he was sinning, and that he was sinning by choice, and resisting the conviction of God's Spirit upon his heart. I likewise informed him that by telling me that he would try to remove some of the links, he was compromising and being half-hearted about it.

I reiterated that if he is really serious about his faith in Jesus Christ, he must demonstrate it through his actions by removing every single pornography link from his timeline. I likewise said that if for some technical reason, this was not possible, then he should just terminate that Facebook account and open a new one so that he could get a fresh start and put all of that garbage behind him. I also asked him to consider what a poor testimony he was being of our Christian faith, as well as a bad example to other Christians. Finally, I told him that through his actions, he was bringing shame and reproach to the Cause of Jesus Christ.

As I said, from the beginning, I suspected that my words were falling on deaf ears. This was quite evident; not only by his lukewarm responses to my comments, but also by the fact that instead of making an earnest effort to remove the offensive links, he was in fact adding more of them to his timeline. It came as no surprise to me then, when only a few hours later, I discovered that this rebellious man had not only added more porn links to his page, but he had also unfriended me. So be it. I then proceeded to block him, as per the counsel that we find in the following verses:

"And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican."
Matthew 18:17, KJV

"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."
Romans 16:17, KJV

"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel

from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

Galatians 1:6-9, KJV

"If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself."

1 Timothy 6:3-5, KJV

"But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain. A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself."

Titus 3:9-11, KJV

"If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."

2 John 1:11, KJV

Having now informed my readers regarding the details of this incident, I want to share with you some of the lessons which we can all learn from it. Upon reading this man's response to me in which he said that he watches pornography for fun when he gets bored, the very first verse that came to me is the following:

"Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

2 Timothy 2:22, KJV

In the previous verse, the word "lusts" is derived from the Greek word "epithumia". Pronounced ep-ee-thoo-mee'-ah, this word signifies a desire, craving or longing for that which is forbidden; that is, a lust. It is usually used to refer to something negative, and not to something positive. I also find it rather interesting that the Apostle Paul chooses to use the word "flee". Paul's use of this word clearly suggests urgency and expediency in escaping from the temptations that result from the lusts of our flesh. According to Thayer's Greek English Lexicon, the word "flee" finds its origin in the Greek word "pheugo". Pronounced fyoo'-go, the lexicon offers the following definitions for this word:

----- Begin Quote -----

- 1) to flee away, seek safety by flight
- 2) metaph. to flee (to shun or avoid by flight) something abhorrent, esp. vices
- 3) to be saved by flight, to escape safely out of danger
- 4) poetically, to flee away, vanish

----- End Quote -----

Clearly, Paul is saying that rather than sit there and just entertain the lustful thoughts which enter our minds, rather than invite Satan and his demons to pull up a chair and spew their dirty words into our ears, we need to flee from, avoid and shun the sinful desires and lusts of our flesh. If you doubt that this is what Paul means, then consider the fact that when Jesus advised His followers regarding the future destruction of Jerusalem which occurred in 70 AD, He said the following to them:

"Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:"
Matthew 24:16, KJV

In the previous verse, the very same Greek word "pheugo" is used. So once again we see that the word indicates a rapid exit from a dangerous situation which may cause us harm. If you doubt that viewing pornography causes harm, then stop to consider that many cases of indecent exposure, incest, rape, pedophilia, sodomy and murder have occurred after viewing some form of pornography; whether it is in a magazine, in a girly bar, in a movie theater, on a television show, or on the Internet.

Sadly, as I point out in such articles as "Oh Be Careful Little Eyes!", rather than flee his youthful lusts of the flesh, this individual is allowing his eyes to get him into trouble. Not only has he pulled up a chair himself, but by offering those links on his Facebook page, he is knowingly inviting all of his friends and visitors to pull up a chair right along side of him so that they too can ogle at lesbian pornography. In short, rather than leading people to Christ, he is in fact leading people to sin. If only he realized that someday he will be held accountable for his actions. Consider the following verses:

"If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?"
Proverbs 24:12, KJV

"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works."
Matthew 16:27, KJV

"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."
Romans 14:12, KJV

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."
2 Corinthians 5:10, KJV

"And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:"
1 Peter 1:17, KJV

"Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead."

1 Peter 4:4-5, KJV

". . . I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works."
Revelation 2:23b, KJV

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."
Revelation 14:13, KJV

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works."
Revelation 20:12-13, KJV

The truth of the matter is that Satan is more than aware of our sins and human weaknesses. He has been the MC of the lust game for a very long time. He knows that if can just divert our eyes from the Lord, and get them on something else, he's got us in his bag. Adam and Eve certainly found out the hard way how our eyes can get us into trouble and cause us to sin if we are not careful. All it takes is just one simple look, or one quick glance for lust to take a stranglehold on our lives. In the case of Adam and Eve, that subtle serpent was able to distract Eve when she got her eye on the forbidden fruit, as we see by this verse:

"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat."
Genesis 3:6, KJV

As I point out in articles such as "The Salvation of Animals: Fact or Fiction?", in one fell swoop, Satan tricked Adam and Eve into succumbing to the very same temptations which John warns us against in his Epistle. I find it interesting that the exact same three elements are present in the account of the Fall, and in John's warning. In other words, the lust of the flesh -- "the tree was good for food" -- the lust of the eyes -- "it was pleasant to the eyes" -- and the pride of life -- "a tree to be desired to make one wise".

As I mention in such articles as "Science and Technology: The Forbidden Knowledge?", I have often wondered why Adam and Eve were even near the forbidden tree in the first place. It has occurred to me that perhaps they had contemplated committing their sin for some time, even before they actually disobeyed the Lord. While we obviously don't know how large the Garden of Eden was, it just seems unusual that they were near that

tree on the fateful day, particularly after the Lord had told them to stay clear of it. Was it merely a coincidence? Was it curiosity? Or is it possible that similar to a small child who is told "Don't touch!", they wanted to poke out a finger just one time and see if they could get away with it? Is it possible that Adam and Eve wanted to be tempted? Did they in fact knowingly make themselves vulnerable to temptation?

What about you? Is it possible that you do the same thing? Do you knowingly make yourself vulnerable to temptation? Do you hang around that porn theater because you want to be tempted? Are you just trying to deceive yourself, when in your wicked heart you know that you have already made the commitment to purchase that ticket? Or do you hover around the pornography section in that video rental, or in that bookstore, for the very same reason? Are you simply waiting for the moment when you will get up the guts to do what you already know you came to do?

Do you often go to that girly bar with a group of friends so that God's conviction on your heart is not felt so strongly? "Oh, well, everyone else is doing it, so it can't be too bad. We are just having a little bit of fun." And what about those bookmarks that you have secretly stashed in your web browser? Are they also there just waiting for the day when you will take the plunge into the online world of sexual promiscuity and sin? What about those "special" premium channels that you pay for on your cable system? Perhaps your family and friends may not know about your secret sins and addictions, but God most certainly does. Consider these verses and be warned:

"But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out."
Numbers 32:23, KJV

"For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings."
Job 34:21, KJV

"O God, thou knowest my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from thee."
Psalms 69:5, KJV

"The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."
Proverbs 15:3, KJV

"For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known."
Luke 12:2, KJV

"If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin."
John 15:22, KJV

"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."
Hebrews 4:13, KJV

As I likewise mention in the series called "The Urantia Book: A Dangerous New Age Doctrine!" Satan used the same big three

hooks when Jesus wandered in the wilderness for forty days and forty nights prior to beginning His ministry. That vile serpent tried to twist the meaning of the Scriptures, in the vain hope that it would cause Jesus to doubt His Father's Word, or at least result in Jesus doing something which would displease His Father. Twice he said to Jesus "If thou be the Son of God". Consider these verses. Carefully notice how the Devil purposely waited until Jesus was at His weakest moment in the flesh, after He had actually completed His forty-day fast, before he launched his attack against Him:

"Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him."
Matthew 4:1-11, KJV

It seems evident that the reason why the Devil first tempted Jesus with the lust of the flesh by telling Him to turn the stones into bread, was because the Lord had just completed a forty-day fast, and He was obviously rather hungry. We are also informed that Satan showed Jesus "all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them". This second temptation matches the lust of the eyes. Finally, two times Satan said to Jesus "If thou be the Son of God". This matches the pride of life. "So, you are the big Son of God, eh? Okay; prove it to me by jumping off of the pinnacle of the Temple!"

As we saw in part one, the crafty merchants of this current sinful world don't hesitate to rely upon Satan's "Big Three" -- that is, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life -- in order to entice and enslave humanity in their plastic, hedonistic, temporal, materialistic world of the flesh. From sunrise to sunset, we are all constantly being bombarded with Satan's enticements via the radio, via the television set, via books and magazines, via movies and videos, via billboards, via the Internet, and by any other means possible. We are told that we can drive the best car, we can have the best-paying job, we can live in the biggest house, we can attract the prettiest girl, we can have the best looks, we can be all that we can be, if we will simply bow down, and allow ourselves to be enslaved by the Devil's worldly system which is ruled by the desires and lusts of the flesh.

To our own shame, many people -- including many Christians -- have fallen for these satanic lies. As I point out in a number of other articles, modern Christianity has in large part become a farce in which certain Christians deem their standing in the local community, and maintaining the status quo, more important than true godly worship and living. So many Christians, beginning with their worldly leaders and shepherds, have compromised their faith, in order to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. They prefer this present world to the eternal glories of the Kingdom of God. I am reminded of what the Apostle Paul wrote regarding Demas:

"For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia."
2 Timothy 4:10, KJV

From the few things that we learn about him in the Epistles, it appears that Demas was a First Century Christian, as well as one of the traveling companions of the Apostle Paul. Demas even seems to have accompanied Paul to Rome. Tragically, after Paul was imprisoned by Emperor Nero, Demas apparently lost his faith and decided that he really wasn't willing to die yet for Jesus Christ. Thus, he returned to Thessalonica. In contrast to Demas, consider what we read in the Book of Revelation:

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."
Revelation 12:11, KJV

"They loved not their lives unto the death." What a profound statement to make. How many of us truly possess that kind of faith today? Due to our pride, we convince ourselves that we are just as dedicated as the First Century Christians. We tell ourselves -- and perhaps our friends as well -- that we would not hesitate to lay down our lives for the Lord. But is it possible that we are just deceiving ourselves? In thinking about those people who come to know the Lord, who walk in the Light of the Truth of His Word, and then choose to backslide back into the sinful world with all of its carnal, fleshly lusts, I am likewise reminded of what the Apostle Peter wrote in the following verses:

"While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. 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. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."
2 Peter 2:19-22, KJV

Please go to part three for the continuation of this series.

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Pornography : Flee Youthful Lusts! : Part 3

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Wallowing In The Vomit And Mire Of Pornography, Brought Into Bondage Through Lust, Condemned When We Choose Darkness Over The Light, Sin Loves Company, Pleasures Of Sin For A Season, Moses' Wise Choice, Keep The Heavenly Vision, We Are Not Ignorant Of Satan's Tactics, Resist The Devil, Our Common Temptations, Carnal Lusts And Fallen Men Of God, Rebellious Sons Of God And Nephilim, Viewing Pornography Is Lusting With Our Eyes, Judah's Lust For Tamar, Samson And Delilah, Samson Lusted With His Eyes And Lost His Eyes, Great Leaders And Sinners, King David And Bathsheba, Serious Consequences Of Sinning With Our Eyes, Apostle Paul's Struggles With Sinful Flesh, O Wretched Man That I Am, Bring Your Body Into Subjection, Don't Let Sin Reign In Your Body, Lust Bringeth Forth Sin, The Difficulty Of Not Experiencing Lust In The Modern World, There Are None Righteous And All Have Sinned, Constant War Between Flesh And Spirit, Walk In The Spirit, Gain More Clarity Of Meaning By Comparing Verse With Verse

This is certainly the case with the person who motivated me to write this series. He is currently wallowing in the vomit and the mire of online pornography. He has certainly been overcome by his own sexual desires, and has been brought into bondage by his own sinful lusts. Pornography has him by the throat, as is evidenced by the dozens of links that he offers on his timeline. Each link is like a chain that is wrapped tightly around his head, and he just can't seem to break free of them.

While it is possible that this man is so past feeling the conviction of God's Spirit working on his heart, that he does not even realize that what he is doing is wrong, as I said, I honestly don't believe that this is the case. I believe that he knows full well that his current conduct is displeasing to the Lord, but he is consciously resisting the conviction to repent and change. That is in fact why he chose to unfriend me. He doesn't want to be reminded of his sins and rebellion. He doesn't want the light of God's conviction shining on his darkened, wicked heart. I am reminded of what Jesus said in the third chapter of the Gospel of John:

"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. But he that doeth truth cometh to the

light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."

John 3:19-21, KJV

Furthermore, as I noted earlier, while he fools himself into believing that he is a Christian, he is in fact serving as Satan's conduit, so that others will be led into committing the very same sins. As the old saying goes, misery loves company. Well, guess what? Sin does too!

In contrast to people like this man who have succumbed to the temptations of the world and the lusts of their sinful flesh, as the Apostle Paul points out in his Epistle to the Hebrews, such was not the case with the man Moses, as we see by the following verses:

"By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward."
Hebrews 11:24-26, KJV

Imagine that. The Hebrew Moses could have kept it all. He could very easily have continued "to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season". However, Moses looked at what the world offered him, and what God offered him, and he wisely made the right choice. He chose the eternal over the temporal. He said "No thanks!" to Satan's worldly enticements, just as the Lord would do not quite fifteen hundred years later following His forty-day fast in the wilderness. As I point out in articles such as "The Heavenly Vision: Have You Got It?" and "One From Beyond: Hebrew of Hebrews", all of the Patriarchs maintained their eyes and vision on the Heavenly Goal; and they did not allow themselves to become bogged down by the things of this current sinful world. Consider the following verses:

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city."
Hebrews 11:13-16, KJV

As many of you have no doubt come to realize yourselves, it is so very easy to yield to the temptations and lusts of our sinful flesh. It is resisting these fleshly, carnal desires that presents the real battle, but this is exactly what the Lord expects us to do. In reading some of the Epistles, we discover that the Apostles Peter, James and Paul were by no means ignorant of Satan's subtle tactics. Rather than yield ourselves to these carnal lusts, they admonish us to submit ourselves to God's Spirit, and to resist the Devil, as we see by the following sample verses:

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to

man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."
1 Corinthians 10:13, KJV

"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."
2 Corinthians 2:11, KJV

"And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."
2 Corinthians 11:14, KJV

"Neither give place to the devil."
Ephesians 4:27, KJV

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."
James 4:7, KJV

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"
1 Peter 5:8, KJV

It becomes evident then that it isn't that we don't know any better, it is simply that sometimes we are too weak when it comes to resisting the temptations and lusts of our flesh. However, if we are weak, there will be a heavy price to pay if we don't get back on track with the Lord. While it most certainly does not justify our actions, we can take comfort in the fact that we are not alone; for as the Apostle Paul wrote in the previous verse "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man". As I point out in such articles as "Oh Be Careful Little Eyes!" the Scriptures are filled with examples of men of God who made the mistake of yielding themselves to their fleshly desires and lusts. In fact, such battles are apparently not limited just to human beings alone, as we will see in a moment.

While Adam and Eve foolishly lusted after knowledge and power which was not meant for them to have -- "ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil" -- as we have already seen, these are not the only temptations which can lead us to sin. Not only that, but for the vast majority of us, Satan resorts to a lot less impressive weapons in order to cause us to fall; namely our own carnal lusts. For example, how often do we hear of so-called "respectable" men of the cloth who have engaged in sexual improprieties? Look at the shame and disgrace which has been brought upon the Roman Catholic Church due to the widespread cases of pedophilia. Of course, as we discussed earlier in this series, this is in addition to the liberal spirit which has invaded so many of the churches.

As I point out in the in-depth series entitled "Nephilim: The Giants of Genesis", as well as in its companion article "The Book of Enoch: Truth or Heresy?", in Genesis chapter six we learn that it was precisely a forbidden desire for illicit sex which led to a great rebellion in the Halls of Heaven. In the end, this rebellion resulted in the strong condemnation and imprisonment of a large band of the Angelic Sons of God. Consider the following verses:

"And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown."
Genesis 6:1-4, KJV

Please notice carefully what caused the downfall of these Sons of God. Moses tells us that they "saw the daughters of men that they were fair". Clearly then, these Angelic Beings sinned against the Lord when they lusted with their eyes. We are committing a similar error when we view pornography. We are lusting with our eyes. There is really no difference. If you would like to learn more about this topic, in addition to the aforementioned articles, please also consider reading "The Judgment of Angels, Demons and Men" and "Sex, a Bowl of Soup, and the Nature of Angels".

While this is not normally the case, it may surprise some of you to learn that in His Wisdom, God will sometimes use our human weaknesses of the flesh for His glory. As I explain in the series "My God is a Shocker", the Bible informs us that such was the case with the Patriarch Judah. Without delving into the details of the story, suffice it to say that Judah's sexual lust for his daughter-in-law, Tamar -- who played the harlot -- resulted in the birth of Pharez and Zarah. Pharez thus continued the Judean line, which ultimately led to the birth of Jesus Christ.

Another womanizer of the Old Testament period was Israel's famous strongman, Samson. It seems that Samson just could not keep his lustful eyes off of those pretty women, particularly some of the Philistine women, who were his people's enemies. As a result of his craving for foreign feminine flesh, Samson caused no small consternation for his parents, and his sexual shenanigans were constantly getting him into trouble. As you may know, Samson met his match in the Philistine beauty named Delilah, who was in fact his downfall. Captured and blinded by his enemies, Samson eventually brought down the temple of the false god Dagon, and in the process slew over three thousand of the Philistines. He likewise died as a direct result of his actions.

While the Book of Judges informs us that these events were a part of God's Will, and were used to punish the Philistines, at the same time, I can't help but wonder if there might not be a deeper lesson we can learn from this story. I think it is interesting that Samson's greatest weakness was the fact that he lusted with his eyes, and in the end he lost both of them. While I believe that Jesus was speaking in a symbolic sense in the following verse, and that He was referring to the individual members of the Body of Christ, we can draw an interesting parallel between what he states here, and what occurred in the life of Samson:

"And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one

eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire."
Matthew 18:9, KJV

If there is one thing that becomes clear upon conducting a diligent study of the Scriptures, it is that God's Word is filled with stories of men who were both great leaders in the eyes of the world, as well as great sinners. Perhaps the man with whom most people are probably familiar from the stories of the Old Testament is King David. After all, he led a very colorful life. We find the story regarding his illicit affair with the beautiful Bathsheba in the eleventh chapter of the Second Book of Samuel:

"And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon. And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house. And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child."

2 Samuel 11:2-5, KJV

Once again we see that it was a seemingly "innocent" lustful glance which led to disaster. As many of you will know, not only did King David commit second degree murder in order to conceal his act of adultery, but an innocent child died as well, as a result of David and Bathsheba's sin. It is plain to see then that there can be serious consequence when we choose to sin with our eyes. Adam and Eve's sin resulted in both the physical and the spiritual death of humanity. The rebellion of the Fallen Angels eventually resulted in the destruction of the Earth. Samson lost his eyes and his own life as well. A general was murdered and a newborn baby was slain as a result of King David's lustful glance. Viewing pornography may not result in such drastic consequences as these, but it will pollute your mind and spirit, and it is not pleasing to the Lord.

No doubt there are some of you who are reading this series who have had a problem with pornography for a long time. It has taken such control of your life, that perhaps you have begun to think that you will never be able to free yourself from your nasty habit, so why even try. Maybe you have cried out to the Lord for His help, and have obtained a temporary victory over pornography, only to fall back into it again in a moment of weakness. If this happens to be your situation, you may find it encouraging to know that even the Apostle Paul admits that fighting the sinful, lustful old man of the flesh was not always an easy task for him. On at least one occasion, he demonstrates frustration regarding his battle against sin and the carnal weaknesses of his flesh. Thus he writes the following:

"For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good

thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."
Romans 7:15-25, KJV

Consider Paul's desperation that is revealed in the words "O wretched man that I am!" Is that how you have felt at times? "O wretched man that I am!" Or perhaps "O wretched woman that I am!" Yes, women become involved in viewing pornography too. It is not just a guy thing, is it ladies? So perhaps you say to yourself, "When will I be delivered from this unsatiable, lustful appetite for pornography? When will I be able to tear my eyes away from this filthy material once and for all? Oh Lord, please deliver me from this lustful temptation and sin!"

In Paul's first Epistle to the brethren at Corinth, he again mentions the ongoing battle he endures against the carnal cravings of his flesh, and how he must continually keep his body in subjection, with these words:

"I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."
1 Corinthians 9:26-27, KJV

Paul reiterates the very same point in the following verse as well. Just as we saw a minute ago, he recognizes that our mortal flesh is sinful, and that there's really nothing that we can do about it, because we all inherit a sinful nature from our progenitors, Adam and Eve. However, the point that Paul stresses is that just because our flesh is sinful, does not mean that we should just let sin reign over us. We must fight against sin, and we must strive to bring our bodies into subjection. Obviously, when people choose to yield to the temptation of pornography and other sinful lusts of the flesh, they are not doing this. They are not bringing their body into subjection. They are in fact allowing sin to reign in their bodies:

"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof."
Romans 6:12, KJV

What Paul also seems to be saying in the previous verse is that it is bodily lusts which also result in the commitment of sin. This same point is also confirmed by the Apostle James who writes the following:

"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."

James 1:14-15, KJV

Stated another way, it appears that it is the actual carrying out -- or doing -- of the lust which results in the sin being committed. Lust comes first; then the sin. Thus James writes that lust "bringeth forth sin".

I imagine that there are very few sexually-mature people in the world who have not experienced illicit sexual craving -- or lust -- at some point. As I noted earlier in this series, considering how much greedy merchants and advertisers have saturated our lives with sexually-oriented material at every possible turn, it is quite difficult to not experience some degree of lust, no matter how righteous and holy we think we may be. Nobody is made of stone. Perhaps we cannot stop the feelings of lust which sometimes invade our bodies, but we can most certainly prevent that lust from being carried out in an inappropriate manner, such as by viewing pornography. Of course, at the same time, we need to remember what Jesus said in the Gospel of Matthew:

"But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."

Matthew 5:28, KJV

Oh well. It seems that no matter how we look at, we are all still guilty of sin, regardless of whether or not we have actually committed the deed. Thus, as the Apostle Paul also writes in his Epistle to the Roman brethren:

"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one . . . For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

Romans 3:10, 23, KJV

In writing to the brethren at Galatia, Paul again addresses the same issue regarding the continual battle which we must all fight, as our flesh wages unending warfare against the Spirit, and the Spirit wars against our flesh. Notice how Paul writes "so that ye cannot do the things that ye would", just as he had written in his Epistle to the Roman brethren in the previous verses:

"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

Galatians 5:16-25, KJV

Clearly, our sinful, lustful flesh does not want to yield itself to God's Will. Quite to the contrary, it wants to rebel, and do everything which the Lord finds abominable. It craves the things of the world, while our spirit craves the things of God, and it is a never-ending battle between the two.

If we dig deeper into the Scriptures of the New Testament, we discover that there are a number of other verses where the writers likewise address the daily battles we must all wage against the lusts of our sinful flesh. Consider the following ones. I will be making some interesting points afterwards:

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."
Ephesians 2:2-3, KJV

"This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."
Ephesians 4:17-24, KJV

"But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition."
1 Timothy 6:9, KJV

"For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,"
2 Timothy 3:6, KJV

"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 Timothy 4:3, KJV

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem

us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."
Titus 2:11-14, KJV

"For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another."
Titus 3:3, KJV

"Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."
James 4:3, KJV

"As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."
1 Peter 1:14-16, KJV

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation."
1 Peter 2:11-12, KJV

"Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot [a profligate, licentious, promiscuous life], speaking evil of you: Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead."
1 Peter 4:1-5, KJV

"For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error."
2 Peter 2:18, KJV

"Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation."
2 Peter 3:3-4, KJV

"These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage. But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should

walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit."
Jude 1:16-19, KJV

One interesting result of compiling verse lists such as the previous one, is that it gives us greater clarity regarding what certain words mean, and in fact, what certain verses actually mean. Why? Because we can see how certain words are used across a wide range of verses, as well as by different writers. When we understand that the Greek word "epithumia" -- translated here as "lusts" -- refers to a forbidden desire, longing or craving, it gives a whole new meaning to some of the previous verses. In fact, what caught my attention is how some of these verses can be more precisely applied to our own current times, and in so doing, expose the sins and deceptions of this present generation.

Please go to part four for the conclusion of this series.

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Pornography : Flee Youthful Lusts! : Part 4

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False Prosperity Gospel, God Promised To Provide Our Needs And Not Our Wants, The Danger Of Wealth, Lukewarm Church Of Laodicea, Timing Of Book Of Revelation, Laodicea Destroyed, Spiritual Adultery With The World, Seek First The Kingdom Of God, God's Scriptural Promises To Provide Our Needs, Warning Regarding Promiscuity In The Churches, Dangerous Sex Cults, Mormon Renegades, David Koresh And The Branch Davidians, The Children Of God Or Family Of Love Sex Cult, Sharing, Loving Jesus Revolution, Flirty Fishing, How To Avoid Pornography And Other Lusts Of The Flesh, Walk In The Spirit, Battle Of The Mind, Renewed In Our Minds, Bring Into Captivity Every Thought, What We Decide To Do After The First Glance, My Web Surfing Habits And Brushes With Nudity And Pornography, To Walk In The Spirit We Must Have The Conviction Of The Spirit, Past Feeling, Conscience Seared With A Hot Iron, Cauterize The Wound And Deaden The Nerves, Diligently Study God's Word To Strengthen Your Resolve And Conviction, Fight The Good Fight Of Faith, Closing Remarks, Suggested Reading Resources

As I concluded in part three, by compiling verse lists as I do on a regular basis, we can acquire much greater clarity regarding what certain words and verses actually mean. We have already seen that the word "lust" is derived from the Greek word "epithumia", and that it refers to a forbidden desire, longing or craving. Armed with this definition, I

realized how some of the aforementioned verses can be more precisely applied to our current time. For example, consider the following verse:

"Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."

James 4:3, KJV

Exactly what does James mean by this? Well, if we apply it to our own time, it is the perfect exposé of the false so-called "prosperity gospel" which appears to have flooded the world. My friends, this false doctrine is not just being taught in the United States. From several online conversations I have engaged in, and a few Facebook pages I have visited, it is my impression that this damnable heresy is also prevalent in places such as Africa as well, where we might least expect it to occur. What the Apostle James is basically saying in that verse is this: "Brethren, you are praying for and asking for the wrong things. Your petitions to God are misguided. They are motivated by your selfish, fleshly desires. That is why He is not answering your prayers. Rather than ask for things that you want, ask for things that you actually need."

Does that sound familiar to you, my friends? "Oh Lord, please give me a brand new car. Oh Lord, please give me a big, fancy house. Oh Lord, give me a pile of money. Oh Lord, please make me famous." I have taught for many years now, that this isn't how the Lord operates. God promised to provide our needs, and not necessarily our selfish wants. Most of us probably can't be trusted with great wealth anyway. It would probably cause us to get the big head and backslide from the Lord. No doubt, we would become comfortable and worldly, just like the Church of Laodicea, of whom the Apostle John writes the following:

"And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. 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: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent."
Revelation 3:14-19, KJV

On a side note, while some Bible scholars believe that the Book of Revelation was given to John towards the very end of the First Century, similar to a number of other students of the Bible, in more recent years, I have been leaning towards the belief that it may have been written considerably earlier than that. In fact, as I will be explaining more fully in a future series, I suspect that Revelation may have even been written prior to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD. If this is the case, it may interest you to know that Laodicea -- which was an affluent, wealthy city that was located in Phrygia, which today forms a part of southwestern Turkey -- was totally destroyed by an earthquake in 60 or 66 AD, and

then rebuilt. The question which arises in my mind is this: Is it possible that Laodicea was destroyed by God because the Christian Church there never repented of its sins? Is this possibly how the Lord spewed Laodicea out of His mouth?

At any rate, returning to our discussion of James 4:3 and what the verse means, if you personally doubt that James was rebuking the brethren because they had slipped into a kind of "prosperity gospel", then read the remainder of his Epistle, beginning with the very next verse, all the way to the end of chapter five. What you will discover is that James lambasts the rich and the elite, and chides the brethren for desiring to be friends with the world. Consider the very next verse:

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."
James 4:4, KJV

So you see, James was chiding the Christian brethren, because they wanted to be just like the children of the world. Some of the brethren apparently wanted to have, and were praying for, the very same material things as the rest of the sinful world of their day. As I have said before, the "prosperity gospel" is nothing new. Satan has been preaching it for many millennia. As I mentioned a moment ago, the Lord promised to provide our needs, and not necessarily our selfish wants. As I point out in such articles as "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God", there is no doubt in my mind whatsoever that God will provide for us -- sometimes in miraculous ways -- if we are truly placing Him first in our lives, as well as seeking His highest Will for our lives, and obeying that Will once He reveals it to us. This Biblical truth is supported by verses such as the following:

"Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:"
Isaiah 59:1, KJV

"Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart . . . I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."
Psalms 37:4, 25, KJV

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."
Malachi 3:10, KJV

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."
Matthew 6:33-34, KJV

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him

that knocketh it shall be opened . . . If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"

Matthew 7:7-8, 11, KJV

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."

Matthew 21:22, KJV

"Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows."

Luke 12:6-7, KJV

"And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment. Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls? And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit? If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest? Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith? And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Luke 12:22-31, KJV

"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"

Romans 8:32, KJV

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19, KJV

"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."

1 John 5:14-15, KJV

Returning to our previous discussion, with my new expanded understanding regarding how the word "lusts" is used in the New Testament, what I also discovered hidden in the previous set of verses appears to be a warning against promiscuity in the churches, as well as against dangerous sex cults. As we learned in part one of this series with the example of the Church at Corinth, the Early Church did in fact have to deal with problems that were of a sexual nature. If we consider that both the Greek and Roman cultures were very sexualized

societies, and that the First Century Church was founded in the middle of this environment, it really shouldn't surprise us that the Apostles had to deal with such issues. Corinth must have been one wild city. In particular, consider the following verse that I shared with you in part three:

"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 Timothy 4:3, KJV

Keeping in mind that "lusts" refers to forbidden desires and illicit cravings of the flesh, it seems that Paul is warning that a time would arrive in which sound Christian doctrine would be rejected, and backslidden Christians would seek out teachers who would teach things which would cater to their carnal desires. In other words, these backslidden Christians would seek out and support teachers who would in fact approve of and encourage their carnal sins. Tragically, if that does not perfectly describe the backslidden, modern Church which now permits gay and lesbian pastors, priests and ministers, and which blesses gay and lesbian relationships, then I don't know what does. These practices are most definitely not sound doctrine. They are damnable heresies which are only designed to justify the sexual sins of these misguided, wicked people.

The previous verse is also highly suggestive of modern sex cults. In recent decades, how many times have we heard or read about a particular cult leader who not only engaged in sexual relations with the female members of his sect, but who in fact claimed that it was his God-given right to do so? We have also heard of renegade Mormon leaders who still follow the "old ways" by engaging in polygamy, even though the Mormon church claims to have abandoned this doctrine many years ago. Many of you will likewise be familiar with David Koresh -- or Vernon Wayne Howell -- the deceased leader of the Branch Davidians cult who had multiple wives, as well as multiple children by those wives, in the cult. There were also allegations of sexual relations with minor children. I discuss this cult in such series as "Heaven's Gate, Suicide and Other Death Cults".

However, by far, of the modern, so-called "Christian" sex cults, the most notorious one that I am personally aware of would have to be the Children of God. Over the decades, this cult has undergone a variety of name changes, including the Family of Love, the Family, and a host of other local names which it purposely uses to try to conceal its true history and identity. They may be in your neighborhood, and you may not even realize it. That is just how deceptive they are.

As I point out in such articles as "Women Shepherds: The Family Sex Cult Exposed Again!", this cult takes the cake when it comes to the issue of sexual promiscuity. With their controversial doctrines of "sharing" -- consensual sexual relations with other cult members, whether they are married or not -- the so-called "Loving Jesus Revolution" -- young members engaging in sex with older members -- and "flirty fishing" -- cult women freely prostituting themselves in order to win people to Christ -- this cult was notoriously in blatant violation of a variety of Biblical teachings. It is a cult which is governed by lust, and not by love, as it

claims. It is a very deceptive cult which will not hesitate to lie to the public in order to protect its secrets and inner workings. For years now, it has claimed that it no longer engages in the aforementioned sexual practices.

There are no doubt many other such cults which claim to be Christian, which probably engage in similar sinful practices. However, being as I don't have the time, or the interest, in keeping track of such things, I am not aware of them. The few examples I have provided here should be sufficient proof that what the Apostles wrote almost two millennia ago, is in fact occurring in our present time. But the question which we need to address is this: How do we avoid these lusts of the flesh? How do we steer clear of pornography, sex cults, peep shows and other things which cater to our base, carnal desires?

In part three of this series, the Apostle Paul gave us the answer when he stated "Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh . . . If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." Okay, but what does it mean to walk in the Spirit? How exactly do we do that? As I noted earlier in this series, quite often these temptations of the flesh begin with a simple look, or a quick glance. That is all it takes for Satan to plant the seed of temptation in our hearts and minds. It is by understanding this point that we can begin to learn how to walk in the Spirit. As I point out in other articles, it is in our own minds where the real battle is being waged. This is made quite evident by verses such as the following:

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."
Romans 12:2, KJV

"For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."
1 Corinthians 2:16, KJV

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."
2 Corinthians 4:4, KJV

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 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;"
2 Corinthians 10:3-5, KJV

"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."
2 Corinthians 11:3, KJV

"And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;"
Ephesians 4:23, KJV

"And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your

mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled"
Colossians 1:21, KJV

"For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."
Hebrews 12:3, KJV

"Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;"
1 Peter 1:13, KJV

The First Century Apostles clearly recognized that if we are to lead a victorious Christian life, if we are to resist the temptations of the flesh which Satan hurls our way, if we are to walk in the Spirit, then we must be renewed in our minds; we must gird up the loins of our minds; we must bring into captivity every thought, and we must have the mind of Christ. Basically, we need to build a spiritual wall around our minds so that Satan cannot penetrate it.

Believe it or not, but the first look or glance is not the most dangerous one. It is what we decide to do after that first glance. Let me give you a simple example. Because of this ministry, I am probably working on my computer close to seventy-five per cent of each day. As some of you will know, I spend a lot of time making new graphics for my Facebook timeline. As a result, I am always surfing the web and using the Google search engine to find graphic elements that I can use in my timeline images. I also conduct a lot of research for my articles as well.

If there is one thing that we all realize, it is that one never knows what he may find on a particular page until he gets there. You just never know what a web page developer has in store for you. Even if you aren't purposely looking for pornography, you may still have something thrown in your face which you really don't wish to see, and when you least expect it. That is just the nature of the Internet. I'll be honest. I see sexy women, half-clad beauties, bare breasts -- and sometimes worse -- on a regular basis. If, like me, you use the "images" link on Google SERP's -- Search Engine Results Pages -- you no doubt know exactly what I am talking about. No matter what search term you use, there will always be some clowns who will find ways to attach those search terms to a sexy image.

As I said a moment ago, it is what you do after that first glance, whether the image was expected or not. It is in this precise moment that the real battle occurs; and that battle occurs in your mind. If you are walking in the Spirit, you will tell yourself, "Nope. I shouldn't do this. It is wrong. It is displeasing to the Lord." As the Apostle Paul writes, you will flee youthful lusts. You will get out of there, or at least ignore it.

As I explained earlier, that individual had literally dozens of lesbian pornography links in the "likes" section of his Facebook page. They all had tempting little images. I could have very easily clicked on any one of them and engaged in some porn. However, I did not do that. I wasn't even tempted to. Please don't get me wrong. I am by no means boasting by

saying this. I am not a spiritual giant. I simply had the conviction that it was wrong. You see, to walk in the Spirit, we must have the conviction of the Spirit. That is precisely what that man does not have. In fact, as I said earlier, he is outright resisting the conviction of God's Spirit on his mind and heart. I have written about this very same issue in previous articles. Allow me to share the following verses with you again:

"This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness."
Ephesians 4:17-19, KJV

"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; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"
1 Timothy 4:1-2, KJV

Please notice some of the descriptive phrases that Paul uses in the previous verses. He speaks of having our understanding darkened, becoming ignorant -- or lacking in knowledge -- and suffering from spiritual blindness in our hearts. Please note what Paul writes next to further emphasize what a terrible state this is. He says that people become "past feeling". In other words, as I mentioned earlier, they become numb to the conviction of God's Spirit speaking to their mind and heart.

In that second set of verses, that is exactly what Paul means when he talks about their conscience being "seared with a hot iron". I believe he is describing the process of cauterization. When a doctor cauterizes a wound with a hot iron, electricity, or with some other agent, not only does the tissue become very scarred, but the nerve endings are deadened as well, so that the person can no longer feel anything in that part of their body. This was a common practice in times past. It helped to prevent infection, stopped the bleeding, and caused a wound to heal more quickly. Of course, it was also very painful as well, but nevertheless necessary.

So that is what this particular individual has done through his own hardness of heart. His conscience has been seared with a hot iron so that he has become past feeling, and no longer feels the conviction of God's Spirit working in his life.

What about you? When you see that first tempting image, or that first video, or that first link which is beckoning you to click on it, whether you expected to see it or not, how do you choose to react? In that brief moment when the battle is raging in your mind, and your spirit is warring against your flesh, and your flesh is warring against your spirit, how do you choose to respond? Do you yield to God, or do you succumb to the lusts of your flesh? Please remember what I stated earlier. In order to walk in the Spirit, we must have the conviction of the Spirit. "How do I acquire the conviction of the Spirit?" you may be asking yourself. The answer is really

quite simple, and is revealed in the following verses:

"BETH. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word."

Psalms 119:9, KJV

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

Psalms 119:11, KJV

"Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."

John 15:3, KJV

"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 discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Hebrews 4:12, KJV

Quite simply, the more you dedicate yourself to the serious study of God's Word, and the more that you memorize it and hide it within your heart, the stronger you will also grow in a spiritual sense. God's Word will begin to act like a spiritual sentinel in your life; and just like the spiritual sword that it is, it will convict you of sin. It will provide you with the strength and the conviction to say "No! I will not do this! It is wrong! It is a sin! It is displeasing to the Lord! I will resist these youthful lusts! I will not yield myself to the addiction of pornography!"

That is how we learn to walk in the Spirit, and by so doing, resist the sinful lusts of the flesh, so that sin does not reign in our bodies, exactly as the Apostle Paul wrote. It may not be easy, and you may not win every single battle; but cheer up, because by God's Grace, we are winning the war! Allow me to leave you with the following verses for your encouragement and inspiration:

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

Ephesians 6:10-11, KJV

"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."

1 Timothy 6:12, KJV

"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

2 Timothy 2:3-4, KJV

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:"

2 Timothy 4:7, KJV

With these verses I will now bring this series to a close. I hope that you have found it informative, and I pray that it has been a blessing and an inspiration in your life. Most of

all, I hope that this series has provided you with both the spiritual strength and the conviction to resist pornography and other youthful lusts in your life.

If you have enjoyed reading this series, please consider sharing its URL with your online friends. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter or Google+, I would also appreciate if you would take the time to click on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were also mentioned in this series, or which are related to topics which were discussed in this series. All of them are likewise located on the Endtime Prophecy Net web server:

Are You Just a Baby Huey?
Beholding the Evil and the Good
Going Down the Highway
Halloween and Samhain: No Room for Compromise
Have You Sold Your Soul for a Pound of Flesh?
Light Up and Die!: The Smoking Addiction
My God is a Shocker
Nephilim: The Giants of Genesis
Oh Be Careful Little Eyes!
One From Beyond: Hebrew of Hebrews
Science and Technology: The Forbidden Knowledge?
Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God
Sex, a Bowl of Soup, and the Nature of Angels
Speak the Pure Language of Truth
The Battle is Not Yours Alone!
The Book of Enoch: Truth or Heresy?
The Fruits of Disobedience
The Gay and Lesbian Agenda: To the Point!
The Heavenly Vision: Have You Got It?
The Judgment of Angels, Demons and Men
The Lord Will Lift You Up!
The Salvation of Animals: Fact or Fiction?
The Urantia Book: A Dangerous New Age Doctrine!
When Sin is No Longer a Sin

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