

LADY LUST AIN'T NO LADY - Part 2

Proverbs 7:1-27

THE TEMPORAL DEATH OF A CHRISTIAN

2 Peter 1:8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. (KJV)

THERE IS A SERIOUS ILLNESS STALKING THE LOCAL CHURCH TODAY. THIS IS THE ILLNESS OF CASUAL CHRISTIANITY. THE FIRST SYMPTOMS OF THIS DISEASE IS BLINDNESS, THEN THE VICTIM'S MEMORY GOES BAD - THAT GLORIOUS DAY WHEN HE WAS SAVED FADES TO NOTHING. IN THE FINAL STAGES OF THIS DISEASE HE BECOMES COMPLETELY INEFFECTIVE IN MINISTRY, GROWTH STOPS COMPLETELY - HE BECOMES TEMPORALLY DEAD.

IS HE STILL SAVED - YES! GOD IS FAITHFUL -

2 Tim 2:11 It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: **12** If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: **13** If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

GOD WILL SAVE HIM BECAUSE HE TRUSTED IN THE BLOOD OF CHRIST - HE IS A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY OF GOD AND CANNOT BE BOOTED OUT. THE WORD FOR "DENY" HERE REFERS TO THE REWARDS OF THE BEMA JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST¹ - THE ISSUE OF SALVATION IS NOT IN VIEW HERE, BUT OF A REVIEW OF OUR LIFE WHILE HERE ON EARTH. MY POINT IS THAT WE DO NOT MERELY DEAL WITH THE ISSUE OF ESCAPING THE FIRES OF HELL BUT ONCE WE ARE SAVED WE ARE TO CHOOSE WHO WE ARE TO OBEY. EITHER WE FULFILL ROMANS 6:17 OR WE WILL GO BACK TO THE OLD LIFE OF SIN (IN PAUL'S WORDS, MAY IT NEVER BE!).

THE ISSUE FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN IS WILL HE OBEY CHRIST OR WILL HE OBEY HIS OWN LUSTS? TO OBEY CHRIST MEANS LIFE - TO OBEY LUST MEANS DEATH - TEMPORAL DEATH.

SOLOMON'S LITTLE PLAY ABOUT THE PROMISCUOUS WOMAN GIVES US SOME MORE DETAIL OF THE CHRISTIAN WHO HAS DECIDED TO FOLLOW, NOT LADY WISDOM BUT HIS OWN LUST.

MEET YOUR OWN LUST

Prov 7:6 At the window of my house I looked out through the lattice. **Prov 7:7** I saw among the simple, I noticed among the young men, a youth who lacked judgment. ⁸ He was going down the street near her corner, walking along in the direction of her house ⁹ at twilight, as the day was fading, as the dark of night set in.

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER DOES NOT SUBJECT US TO UNFAIR TEMPTATION FROM THE ADULTERESS, LUST². FREEDOM FROM SLAVERY TO LUST COMES FROM AN ACTIVE LIFE OF PURSUING LADY WISDOM AND HER KINSMAN, UNDERSTANDING - **Prov 7:4** Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," and call understanding your kinsman; ⁵ they will keep you from the adulteress, from the wayward wife with her seductive words. THE BATTLE OF LUST OVER THE MIND OF OUR YOUNG MAN IS A FIERCE ONE. HUMAN VIEWPOINT AND THE INNER DESIRES OF THE FLESH ARE AN UNHOLY TEAM THAT WOULD SEDUCE HIM TO COME INTO THEIR HOME.

THIS YOUNG MAN IS MAKING HIS FIRST MISTAKE - HE IS WALKING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF SIN. HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN WITH HIS SURROGATE SPOUSE WISDOM³. HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY CLINGING TO GOD'S WORD, LEARNING IT AND APPLYING IT TO HIS LIFE. YES, HE WOULD HAVE MADE MISTAKES - BUT THE PROMISE TO THE IMMATURE, NAIVE YOUNG MAN IS THAT WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING (LESSONS LEARNED FROM LIFE'S MISTAKES) WILL PROTECT HIM FROM LUST AND HER KNOWLEDGE, HUMAN VIEWPOINT. THIS IS A PROMISE TO THE YOUNG CHRISTIAN NO MATTER HOW IMMATURE HE IS⁴. HE JUST NEEDS TO FULFILL PROVERBS 2:1-7.

THERE IS NO REST FROM LUST'S ATTRACTIVE APPEAL

PROV 7:10-21. LUST SEEKS AFTER THE YOUNG MAN WHILE HE IS IN HER NEIGHBORHOOD. SHE IS CRAFTY - SMARTER THAN OUR YOUNG MAN WITHOUT LADY WISDOM'S COUNSEL (PV 9:10). SHE IS LOUD AND PERSUASIVE (VS' 11-21). SHE ACTIVELY SEEKS HIM (VS' 13-15). SHE OFFERS GREAT PLEASURE (VS' 16-18).

¹ 2 Cor 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad." (NIV) See also Heb 10:26-31 (This passage is addressed to believers).

² James 1:13

³ Prov 4:4-13

⁴ Proverbs 2:8

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SHE OFFERS A FALSE SENSE OF UNACCOUNTABILITY - VS' 19, 20.

Prov 7:19 My husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey. ²⁰ He took his purse filled with money and will not be home till full moon."

WHEN A CHRISTIAN PLUNGES HIMSELF INTO A LIFE-STYLE OF SIN. HE DOES NOT CONSCIOUSLY HATE GOD, OR HATE HIS WORD. FIRST, THERE IS AN EROSION OF INTEREST IN THE LORD'S WILL - THEN THERE IS THE DISTRACTION FROM THE LORD TO SELF'S NEEDS. IT'S LIKE AN UNHOLY AMNESIA CLOAKS THE MIND OF OUR "VICTIM." WHEN WE DEPART FROM THE PATH OF GOD'S WILL IT IS LIKE AN IDLE CURIOSITY - A DISTRACTION. WE PUT GOD ON HOLD WHILE WE TAKE THIS SIDE-TRIP INTO SINS'S NEIGHBORHOOD.

LUST SAYS THAT ACCOUNTABILITY HAS TAKEN A VACATION. THAT SIN AT THIS POINT CAN BE INDULGED WITHOUT CONSEQUENCE - THERE IS PLENTY OF TIME TO RETREAT FROM SIN TO OUR HEAVENLY FATHER'S SAFER NEIGHBORHOOD.

LUST CAN BE VERY PERSUASIVE ABOUT SIN'S PLEASURE - VS' 21.

Prov 7:21 With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk.

ACTUALLY, LUST CAN SPEAK TO THE MIND OF THE CHRISTIAN IN A VERY BASIC, PRIMEVAL WAY. THE WORDS DO NOT HAVE TO BE THERE - THE SUGGESTION OF PLEASURE IS ELOQUENT. THE SMOOTH TALK AND PERSUASIVE WORDS ARE COUCHED IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE BODY - THE FLESH AS OUR YOUNG MAN BEHOLDS HER THE TEMPTATION IS RUSHING TOWARD HIM LIKE A RUN-AWAY TRAIN - HE STANDS THERE TRANSFIXED BY THE PROSPECT OF IT ALL...

THE DECISION FOR SIN IS SUDDEN - VS 22.

Prov 7:22 All at once he followed her like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer stepping into a noose.

THE PICTURE OF OUR HAPLESS YOUNG MAN IS THAT OF A SUDDEN DECISION WITH GREAT FORCE OF MOVEMENT - IT'S ALMOST LIKE, BEING PERSUADED, HE LITERALLY CARRIES LUST OFF IN HIS EAGERNESS TO SIN. THE OX IS AN INTERESTING PICTURE - HE IS NOT FIGHTING HIS SLAUGHTER, BUT RATHER IS STUMBLING ALONG TO HIS DEMISE. THE DEER IS COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF HIS DANGER UNTIL THE SNARE SPRINGS ITS DEATHLY NOOSE. THE PICTURE HERE IS OF THE SUDDENNESS OF THE DECISION AND THE FRANTIC PURSUIT TO FULFILL LUST'S CALL TO SIN.

DEATH IS SURE - VS 23.

Prov 7:23 till an arrow pierces his liver, like a bird darting into a snare, little knowing it will cost him his life.

THE BELIEVER LIVING IN SIN IS AN ENIGMA. **OUR YOUNG MAN IS THE SON OF A KING, SOLOMON. IT MAKES NO SENSE FOR HIM TO BE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF THIS ADULTERESS IN THE FIRST PLACE. IT MAKES EVEN LESS SENSE FOR HIM TO THROW AWAY HIS INTEGRITY FOR THE FLEETING PLEASURES THAT A ADULTERESS COULD OFFER.**

WE ARE NOT TALKING OF THE OCCASIONAL SIN THAT A BELIEVER COMMITS. THE CONFESSION AND THE BLOOD OF CHRIST COVERS THAT SITUATION. IN HIS LATTER YEARS, SOLOMON DEPARTED FROM FOLLOWING THE LORD AND LIVED A SINFUL LIFE⁵. IN THIS "PLAY", HE IS TRYING TO TALK HIS SON OUT OF HIS OWN FOLLY - A LIFE-STYLE, A WAY OF LIFE WHERE THE SON OF A KING IS LIVING LIKE THE FOOL - WHOSE LOOSE LIVING EVENTUALLY IS HIS UNDOING. IN EITHER CASE THE QUESTION OF LOSING HIS ROYAL POSITION WAS NOT THE ISSUE - **HOWEVER, DIVINE DISCIPLINE WAS THE ISSUE AS WAS CONSEQUENCES FOR THEIR SIN.**

THE DEATH HERE IS OF A CHRISTIAN WHO IS LIVING AS THOUGH HE WERE STILL A SLAVE OF SATAN'S KINGDOM. FELLOWSHIP IS BROKEN WITH HIS HEAVENLY FATHER - HE KNOWS ONLY OF FLEETING PLEASURES OF SIN. THE JOY OF HIS SALVATION IS GONE. EVENTUALLY HE FORGETS WHO HE REALLY IS. THIS IS CALLED BY SOME THEOLOGIANAS AS THE CHRISTIAN'S TEMPORAL DEATH. THE ISSUE IS CLEAR - EITHER LET LADY WISDOM AND HER BROTHER UNDERSTANDING BE YOUR CLOSE COMPANIONS AND LIVE OR LUST WILL ENSNARE YOU AND YOU WILL DIE. THERE IS NO MIDDLE GROUND!

⁵ 1 KINGS 11:4-10