

Jim Martin
P.O. Box 291962
Dayton, Ohio 45429

September 2018 “HOLY MEANS HOLY”

Greeting in Jesus!

There is a cancer spreading at an alarming rate in the Body of Christ. Its symptoms are many, a few of which are the compromising of truth, a refusal to be corrected, rebellion to genuine spiritual authority and a willingness to accommodate sin. This deadly disease has a name and it is identified in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 as “a falling away.” In the context of that chapter, the falling away spoken of is referring to Christians turning from the uncompromising Word of God as the sole standard for how they live. This is further described in 2 Timothy 4:3-4,

³For 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; ⁴And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

The word “fables” is from the Greek word, “muthos,” from which we get our word “myths.” A myth, or fable, is a story wherein there is a blending of truth and fiction. A good example of this is found in Matthew 4:5-7,

⁵Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, ⁶And 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. ⁷Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

The devil quoted directly from Psalm 91:11-12; from that perspective, he was speaking truth. However, in the context of the entire chapter of Psalm 91, those verses have absolutely **NOTHING** to do with jumping off a building; using them as such is fiction. Thus, the devil delivered a fable unto Jesus.

When truth is used as the foundation of a story, it can be more difficult to detect whether or not it is a fable...*unless you know all the circumstances surrounding what is being said.* The success of a fable is based on a lack of knowledge on the part of the listener. Jesus fully understood the context of Psalm 91, therefore, He was not taken in by the devil's ruse.

Sound doctrine is established by a contextual use of scripture. The fables referred to by the Apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 4:3-4 are coming from teachers who use scripture as the foundation for their sermons, then add fiction to what they teach. For example, a preacher can use numerous verses of scripture about the blood of Jesus, the grace of God and His eternal love to explain the truth about salvation and the born again experience, then turn his sermon into a fable by teaching that Christians never need to repent if they sin. What confirms such a sermon as a fable is that several times in the New Testament, Christians are indeed told to repent for their sin. Doctrinal fables always appeal to the unmortified flesh of a Christian.

In Matthew 4:4, Jesus said that man is to live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. What many Christians seem to miss is that Jesus was giving us a *commandment* concerning how we are to daily live our lives. Living by every word of God is not just about trusting God for finances or healing; it is about His word having the final say concerning how we live.

¹⁵But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; ¹⁶Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. (1 Peter 1:15-16)

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; ²⁶That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. (Ephesians 5:25-27)

The verses in 1 Peter establish God as the standard and point of reference for holiness. The word “conversation” comes from the Greek word “anastrophe,” and it means “lifestyle; behavior.” We are to compare ourselves and how we live to God; if there are any discrepancies, WE are the ones who need to change. Furthermore, the passage from Ephesians clearly establishes the truth that Jesus died for us so we could live in a way that is holy. When He returns, it will be for Christians without spot, wrinkle or blemish, or, lifestyles of sin. Oral Roberts once said, "Jesus is not coming back for a church that is in bed with the world."

In January 2014, the results of a survey of single Christians revealed these shocking results:

- 60% said they were willing to have sex with no strings attached
- 23% said they would have premarital sex only if they were in love
- 5% said they would have premarital sex only if they were engaged
- Only 11% said they would wait until married to have sex

This means 88% of the Christians surveyed reject God’s standard that sex is to be restricted to married couples. In fact, there are preachers today who denigrate sexual sin as not being that serious. It has even been said there is nothing in the Bible saying Christians can’t have sex before marriage. Such teaching is a pure, unmitigated fable, for the Bible absolutely decries unmarried Christians being sexually involved:

¹²The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. ¹³Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. ¹⁴But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof. (Romans 13:12-14)

The word “chambering” is from the Greek word, “koite.” Koite was a term used during that time in reference to unmarried people “sharing a bed” by living together, occasionally spending the night together or a “one-night stand.” In unmistakable terms, God is saying Christians are not to make provision for their lust and engage in chambering. Premarital sex is a work of darkness and if you are involved with it, you are in sin.

The moment we accept Jesus as Savior we are spiritually reborn with a completely new nature. Gone is the old, sin nature we were originally born with and in its place we are given the life and nature of God. From that time on, God expects us to live according to the life He has given us.

²²That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; ²³And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; ²⁴And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. (Ephesians 4:22-24)

From the moment of salvation, our battle is no longer with an inner, spiritual sin nature, but with fleshly emotions and desires. If we choose to live by who we've become in Christ, we will not choose the flesh over our born again life. This is proven in scripture:

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.
(Galatians 5:16)

However, if we choose to give in to the flesh, the consequences are severe.

¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹Envyings, 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.
(Galatians 5:19-21)

The above verses were written to Christians, not the lost. God is making it very clear that Believers who choose to live according to the sinful desires of the flesh will NOT make it into eternity with Him. Holy living does not make provision for the flesh.

Earlier I mentioned that the spiritual cancer of falling away was spreading among Christians. This is further confirmed in 2 Timothy 3:1-5,

¹This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ²For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, ⁴Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; ⁵Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Many believe this passage is speaking of the lost. But in the context of 2 Timothy, this is speaking of Christians. "Having a form of godliness" means they have professed Jesus as Savior, but they are denying the power thereof. The "power thereof" is speaking of the power of godliness. What is the power that enables us to live according to godliness? It is the power of our new man which, after God, is created in righteousness and true holiness. These Christians are attending and involved with church, joining in praise and worship, yet denying the power of God's life within to dominate their flesh, choosing instead to yield themselves over to a lifestyle of sin as described. God gives us explicit instructions to turn away from, or avoid, such people.

The more Christians choose sin, then justify and validate their sin, the harder it is to reason with them. They keep scratching the itching ears of their flesh with sermons of myth delivered by

pastors who long ago got their eyes off Jesus and true meditation of the Bible. This ultimately leads to Believers turning away from truth.

¹Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; ²Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron (1 Timothy 4:1)

When a wound is seared, a scorching hot rod of iron or blade of a knife is applied to the wound to prevent further bleeding. However, the nerves around the wound are deadened as it is seared. As the flesh is allowed to increasingly control a Christian's life, the conscience of the new nature is seared. Conviction slowly becomes non-existent and justification of sinful behavior is adamantly defended. Approximately one year ago, the Holy Spirit gave this prophecy,

A church committed to supporting lifestyles and behavior that God calls an abomination cannot lead people into the fullness of salvation. Look at the example of Israel when the Jews tried to intermingle and intermarry with the pagan cultures and participate in their debauchery, all while observing the Sabbath, the feasts and festivals, and offering the sacrifices: they were still led into captivity and destruction.

Do you think I have now turned My eye away from such behavior just because there is a new and better covenant? Do you think the death of My Son diminishes the severity of such sin? Yes, many of you do, indeed, think these things. But you are wrong. Just as the Jews who approved of and even indulged in such behavior spoke condemnation against the priests and prophets who confronted them over their sin, Christians this day are doing the same.

But Christians today are no less accountable than the Jews were under the Law. But I would ask you, who do you think would be held more accountable: one who shows disrespect for the Law and the blood of the sacrifices it required; or one who shows disrespect for My mercy, grace and the shed blood of My Son?

Why is this happening? Why are Christians falling away from the holy standards of the Bible? Why do they continue to listen to unqualified preachers and accept fables? One way to summarize the answer is found in what Jesus said in Matthew 24:12,

And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

At the beginning of Matthew 24 the disciples asked Jesus for the signs of His return and the end of the world. His answer was prophetic, looking beyond His completed work on Earth, and therefore was relative to those who are born again. He begins by warning that we should guard against deception because many will declare they are sent by Him. The "many" identified in verse 12 speaks of Christians, not the lost. The love He mentions is not love for each other, but a genuine love of God. The word "iniquity" comes from the Greek word "anomia" and its lengthy definition could be summed up as, "transgression of law (God's Word) through acts of unrighteousness, sin and uncleanness." One way to accurately paraphrase Matthew 24:12 would be, "A great number of Christians will allow their hearts to become increasingly colder in their love for God, resulting in them yielding more and more to acts of unrighteousness, uncleanness and sin."

When you truly love someone, you want to do what pleases that person. If we truly love God, would we not choose to live holy as He describes in the Bible? Living holy pleases Him; choosing sin displeases Him.

It never ceases to amaze me when pastors I thought would take a stand for holiness voice their endorsement of sinful behavior. Oh, they don't necessarily tell people it's okay to sin; but when they talk about accepting everyone "just as they are" and requiring no change, allow people in open sin to serve in leadership and refuse to confront what God calls sin, they are endorsing sin. Based on the reports I'm reading, there are many churches - some of them with thousands in attendance - which have begun walking down a path of sin and degradation, leading many of their members further and further away from Jesus.

Again, God is our standard for holiness and the Bible gives us a revelation of what it means to live a holy lifestyle. Preaching the true holiness revealed in scripture does not make one a Pharisee; but more and more, it appears to make a person "one crying in the wilderness," with the wilderness being so much of today's Church.

In Matthew 24:13, Jesus said, "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." This was a warning to Christians: Only those who hold on to truth and refuse to compromise will make it into eternity with Him. If you are born again, the power to endure is alive within; live by that power and you will be ready for His return...Hallelujah!

Your friend in Christ,

Jim

P.S. - Use the order form below to request the CD of my sermon, "No Excuse to Sin," an excellent companion to this letter.

- - - - -

☐ Check this box to receive a CD of the sermon, "No Excuse to Sin."

My love gift for this month is \$_____

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Email_____

Jim Martin Ministries
PO Box 291962
Dayton OH 45429

www.jmmgrace.com
PastorJimGCC@gmail.com