

## **WATCH AND TAKE HEED**

**TEXT: I CORINTHIANS 10:11-17**

**THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO THINK THAT BECAUSE THEY SIN IN SECRET AND NOT IN PUBLIC THAT THERE SIN WILL NEVER BE DISCOVERED. THEN THERE ARE THOSE WHO SIN WITHOUT ANY THOUGHT OF HOW WRONG IT IS HOPING THAT IT WILL NOT BE DISCOVERED ONLY TO FIND OUT THAT THE WORDS OF MOSES, 'BE SURE YOUR SIN WILL FIND YOU OUT,' ARE VERY TRUE. AND IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS FIND THAT THEIR SIN HAS BECOME AN IDOL IN THEIR LIVES THAT GRABS THEIR HEARTS AND WILL NOT LET GO.**

**THE STORY GOES THAT THERE WAS A LAWYER IN THE WINSTON-SALEM AREA OF NORTH CAROLINA WHO HAD PURCHASED A BOX OF 24 SPECIAL CIGARS AND EACH CIGAR WAS VALUED AT \$50.00 EACH. HE PROMPTLY PURCHASED INSURANCE FOR THESE CIGARS TO PROTECT AGAINST LOSS. BUT HIS DESIRE TO SMOKE THESE CIGARS OVERCAME HIS KNOWING THAT HE WAS DOING WRONG. AFTER HE SMOKE HIS FINAL CIGAR HE FILED A CLAIM WITH THE INSURANCE COMPANY CITING THAT THE CIGARS WERE ALL DESTROYED IN A SERIES OF SMALL FIRES. THE INSURANCE COMPANY DENIED HIS CLAIM WITH COMMONS SENSE PREVAILING THAT HE HAD SMOKED THE CIGARS. HE SUED THE INSURANCE COMPANY FOR BREECH OF CONTRACT AND THE JUDGE ALTHOUGH RELUCTANTLY SIDED WITH THE MAN THAT THE INSURANCE COMPANY HAD FAILED TO PAY IRREGARLESS OF THE REASON THEY WERE DESTROYED. THE JUDGE TOLD THE LAWYER: "ONE DAY YOU WILL REGRET YOUR ACTIONS." HE RECEIVED THE SETTLEMENT CHECK FROM THE INSURANCE COMPANY AND PROMPTLY WENT TO THE BANK AND CASHED THE CHECK. A DAY LATER TWO OFFICERS FROM THE WINSTON-SALEM POLICE DEPARTMENT SHOWED UP AT HIS OFFICE WITH AN ARREST WARRANT IN THEIR HANDS. THE CHARGES: TWENTY FOUR COUNTS OF ARSON, WITH THE WARRANT SIGNED BY THE SAME JUDGE."**

**PROVERBS 25:28 "HE THAT HATH NO RULE OVER HIS OWN SPIRITIS LIKE A CITY THAT IS BROKEN DOWN AND WITHOUT WALLS."**

**NIV: LIKE A CITY WHOSE WALLS ARE BROKEN DOWN, IS A MAN WHO LACKS SELF CONTROL.**

### **I. SELF CONTROL**

**A. EACH PERSON MUST COME TO AN UNDERSTANDING THAT HE/SHE IS NO BETTER THAN ANY OTHER PERSON IN OR OUT OF THE CHURCH WHEN IT COMES TO SELF CONTROL.**

**B. GOD DOES NOT IN ANY WAY CONDONE FAVORTISM OF SIN AND ESPECIALLY BY THOSE WHO CALL THEMSELVE CHRIST LIKE--CHRISTIANS**

**C. AND THE CHURCH CANNOT CONDONE SIN JUST BECAUSE IT BEING COMMITTED BY THOSE IN THE CHURCH JUST BECAUSE THEY ARE IN THE CHURCH AND ARE WELL LIKED.**

**D. EACH ONE OF ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE WALLS BUILT UP AROUND US TO REPELL SIN IN OUR LIVES. YES WE MIGHT OCCASSIONALLY SAY OR DO SOMETHING THAT DOES NOT SEEM CHRISTLIKE TO THOSE LOOKING ON US, BUT WE MAKE IT RIGHT WITH CONFESSION, ASKING GOD FOR HIS FORGIVENESS, ASKING THOSE WHO ARE HURT FOR THEIR FORVGIVENESS, BUT WE DONT LET IT BECOME CONTINUAL SIN IN OUR LIVES.**

**E. LIKE THE WALLS: WALLS OF CONSCIOUSNESS, WE ARE EVER ON GUARD TO REPELL THOSE THINGS WE CALL AND KNOW ARE SIN. NEVER LETTING SIN GET A FOOT HOLD IN OUR LIVES SO THAT THE IMAGE OF JESUS CHRIST WE ARE SUPPOSE TO REFLECT WITH OUR LIVES IS TARNISHED OR DISTORTED.**

## **II. SIN CAN BECOME AN IDOL IN ONE'S LIFE**

**A. VERSE 11 OF THE TEXT READ SAY, "THESE THINGS HAPPENED TO THEM AS EXAMPLES AND WERE WRITTEN DOWN AS WARNINGS FOR US ON WHOM THE FULFILLMENT OF THE AGE HAS COME."**

**B. WHAT THINGS: THOSE THINGS MENTIONED IN VERSUSES 6-10 CONCERNING ISRAEL IN THE WILDERNESS WHO FAILED TO BELIEVE GOD AND HIS PROMISES CONCERNING THEIR UNBELIEF. HOW THEIR BONES BLEACHED IN THE SUN BECAUSE OF THEIR UNBELIEF, WE AS THE CHURCH ARE TO SEE THEM AS EXAMPLES TO US CONCERNING UNBELIEF.**

**C. A SPECIFIC PORTION OF THAT SCRIPTURE FOUND IN SEVEN (7): AND DO NOT BECOME IDOLATERS AS AS WERE SOME OF THEM. AS IT IS WRITEEND, THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO DRINK AND EATER AND ROSE UP TO PLAY.**

**D. THE PLAY THERE IS INDICATIVE OF PRACTICING SEXUAL IMMORALITY THOUGHT TO BE A FORM OF WORSHIP OF PAGAN GODS.**

**E. THE WORDS FROM THE EPISTLE TO THE GALATIANS SEEMS TO BE APPROPRIATE: "BE NOT DECEIVED, GOD IS NOT MOCKED, WHATSOEVER A MAN SEWS THAT ALSO SHALL HE REAP.**

**F. DON'T LET SIN BECOME IDOL IN YOUR LIFE THAT YOU ARE COMPELLED TO WORSHIP BY SINNING OVER AND OVER.**

## **III. GOD IS NOT PARTIAL NOR DOES HE WANT US TO BECOME PARTIAL CONCERNING SIN**

**A. I TIMOTHY 5:19-21: " I CHARGE YOU BEFORE GOD AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND THE ELECT ANGELS THAT YOU OBSERVE THSES THINGS WITHOUT PREJUDICE DOING NOTHING WITH PARTIALITY.**

**B. SIN CANNOT BE FOUND AS ACCEPTABLE JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE YOU LIKE, REVEAR, LOVE IS GUILTY OF ANY PARTICULAR SIN.**

**C. PREACHING MUST NOT ACCEPT SOME SIN AND REJECT OTHER SINS**

**D. IT MUST BE DEALT WITH BY THE INDIVIDUAL AND IF NECESSARY THE CHURCH**

**E. EXPOUND ABOUT PASTOR MIKE--A GREAT PREACHER WHO I WANTED TO BE LIKE AND THEN ONE DAY I HAD FOUND HE HAD FALLEN FROM GRACE. HE HAD LET A WOMAN HE WAS COUNSELLING GET INTO HIS HEART. HIS MARRIAGE TO HIS WIFE SEEMED TO BE ON SHAKEY GROUND BECAUSE OF HIS MINISTRY AND THE PLACES HE MINISTERED. AND NOW SOME OTHER WOMAN CAME INTO HIS HEART AND HIS LIFE AND HE FELL.**

**F. ANOTHER PASTOR NAMED PASTOR DARREL, TOOK THE JOB AS A CHAPLAIN FOR THE SHREVEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT. HE WORKED WITH ONE OF THE FEMALE POLICE OFFICERS ON THE SHREVEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT AND BEFORE KNOWING IT, LET HIS HEART BE DRAWN TO HERS. ANOTHER FALL FROM GRACE.**

**G. VERSE 12: "THEREFORE LET HIM WHO THINKS HE STANDS TAKE HEED LEST HE FALL.**

**H. THE MOST DANGEROUS TIME IN A MINISTER'S LIFE OR THAT OF A CONGREGANT IS WHEN HE OR SHE THINKS THEY NO LONGER NEED TO BE ON GUARD CONCERNING SIN SNEAKING INTO THEIR LIVES.**

**IV. THE ENEMY IS AFTER YOU EVERY DAY**

**A. THERE ARE SOME WHO THINK THAT A FALL FROM GRACE IS SOMETHING THAT COULD NOT BE HELPED, IT WAS JUST INEVITABLE; HOW WRONG THAT THINKING HAS BECOME.**

**B. VERSE 13: " NO TEMPTATION HAS OVERTAKEN YOU EXCEPT SUCH AS IS COMMON TO MAN."**

**C. THAT VERSE INDICATES TO ME THAT NO MATTER THE TEMPTATION YOU EXPERIENCE, SOMEONE BEFORE HAS EXPERIENCED THAT SAME TEMPTATION AND HAS EITHER FALLEN OR WITHSTOOD THE TEMPATATION. THE POINT BEING THIS, THEY STAND AS EXAMPLES TO US CONCERNING THE DECISION MADE.**

**D. VERSE 13 CONTINUES ON: "BUT WITH THE TEMPTATION WILL ASO MAKE THE WAY OF ESCAPE THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO BEAR IT."**

**F. NO MATTER THE TEMPTATIONS THAT COMES INTO OUR LIVES, THERE IS A WAY OF ESCAPE IF WE CHOOSE TO EXIT THROUGH THE DOORS.**

**G. AT GM SHREVEPORT WE HAD A SAFETY SLOGAN: " EVERY ACCIDENT IS PREVENTABLE," I WOULD CONTEND THE SAME FOR EVERY YIELDING TO TEMPTATION, THAT THERE WAS ALSO A WAY OF ESCAPE IF WE WOULD CHOOSE IT.**

#### **V. AGENTS OF ACCOUNTABILITY**

**A. AS CHRISTIANS AND AS CHURCH CONGREGANTS WE ARE TO CHECK EACH OTHERS LIVES OUT, NOT TO BE BUSYBODIES OR NOSEY, BUT CHECK THE FRUIT THAT EACH ONE OF US BEARS.**

**B. YOU OFTEN HEAR ME TELL THE STORY CONCERNING KING SOLOMON'S COURT. IN THE BOOK OF KINGS AND CHRONICLES THERE NO MENTION OF ANY SEER OR PROPHET IN HIS COURT. IT IS AS IF HE THOUGHT HE DID NOT NEED A SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES IN HIS LIFE. AS THOUGH HIS WISDOM ALONE COULD GUIDE HIM. PARDON THE EXPRESSION BUT WE ALL HAVE ROSE COLORED GLASSES SO WE CAN SEE THINGS THE WAY WE WANT TO SEE THEM.**

**C. THAT IS WHY THE WORD OF GOD IS SO IMPORTANT AND SO IMPORTANT THAT WE FEAST UPON THE WORD DAILY. IT IS A DISCERNER OF THE THOUGHTS AND INTENTS OF THE HEART. HEBREWS 4:12**

**D. THERE IS THE HOLY SPIRIT THAT IS TO BE OUR COMFORTER AND OUR GUIDE**

**E. THE REALITY IS WE MUST LISTEN TO HIS VOICE. 'IF YOU WOULD HEAR HIS VOICE TODAY, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS IN THE DAY OF PROVOCATION...' HEBREWS 3:15**

**F. NOT ONLY IS THE WORD OF GOD AND THE HOLY SPIRIT AGENTS OF ACCOUNTABILITY, BUT ALL OF US ARE AGENTS OF ACCOUNTABILITY TOO TO OURSELVES AND TO OTHERS AROUND US, SO WE CAN KEEP EACH OTHER ACCOUNTABLE, KEEP EACH OTHER FROM SLIPPING AND FALLING FROM GRACE, TO KEEP EACH OTHER FROM EMBARRASSING OURSELVES, OUR LORD, OUR FAMILY, OUR CHURCH**

**G. FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH**

#### **VI. WE DO BATTLE**

**A. PAULS WRITES TO TIMOTHY IN THE SECOND EPISTLE FOURTH CHAPTER, "I HAVE FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT, I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH, I HAVE FINISHED MY COURSE.'**

**B. WE DO BATTLE EVERY DAY AND MUST NEVER GROW WEARY**

**C. REMEMBER IT WAS WHEN DAVID DID NOT GO TO BATTLE WHEN IT WAS " TIME FOR KINGS TO GO TO BATTLE..." IS WHEN DAVID'S FALL HAPPENED. II SAM 11:1**

**D. WE MUST ALWAYS FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH**

**VII. KEEP ON KEEPING ON**

**A. NEVER GIVE UP OR GIVE IN.**

**B. THE VICTORY GOES TO THEM THAT OVERCOME NOT TO THEM THAT ARE OVERCAME**

**C. THOSE THAT ENDURE TO THE END, THE SAME SHALL BE SAVED. MATTHEW 24:13**