

SINNERS IN THE HANDS OF AN ANGRY GOD

Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God – Part 8

We conclude this Illustrated Message Series by highlighting the sins of the flesh of drunkenness and revelries and then do a recap of the series, tying it altogether from a scripture in James.

Galatians 5:21 says; “*21 envy, [a]murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*”

The Greek word translated “revelries” in Galatians 5:21 is komos and is defined as “excessive and boisterous intemperance and lustful indulgence.” Revelries is defined as hard partying. Drunkenness and revelries are serious enough for the Apostle Paul to instruct the Church not to even eat with such a person if they’re a brother or sister in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 5:11 says; “*11 But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.*”

It sounds extreme and hard doesn’t it as they’re your fellow Christians, but not according the Apostle Paul. Drunkenness and hard partying will open up the door for the rest of the sins of the flesh to operate, and how many times have you heard it said that one or more of the sins listed in Galatians 5:19-21, were thought of in the heart or committed while drunk while not having a sound mind. If you do drink alcohol, this ought to motivate you to drink moderately and refrain from getting drunk and hard partying.

You’ve probably heard the after-glow stories around the water coolers at work of the party the night before. All of the ‘could-of’, ‘would-of’ and ‘should-of’s’. Those who say; ‘Did I do that? Oh, I shouldn’t have done that, I shouldn’t have said that’, OR ‘I slept with who? No, I didn’t do that, you’re pulling my leg.’, OR ‘I was snorting what? No, I don’t remember doing that, I’m not a cocaine addict, I don’t remember that. I just remember waking up in the bar on the floor, nothing else.’, OR ‘I got in a fight with who? No, I don’t remember that although I do feel some pain in my body but I don’t remember fighting with anyone.’

When you think about the story of Lot and how his daughters got him so drunk to have sex with him after fleeing Sodom, that he couldn’t even remember when they came in to have sex with him and when they left. Two nights in a row! That’s how drunk they got him. They took advantage of their father, committing incest with him, but he had no recollection of it.

Galatians 5:19-21 again says; “*19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: [a]adultery, [b]fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, [c]murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*”

Now maybe, Christian, this past weekend you didn’t get drunk and neither are you a hard partier (reveler), but you may be drunk with adultery. So drunk with adultery that you can’t even see that you are because there is no conviction any more like it used to be. Maybe it’s fornication that you’re drunk with and no longer are you convicted of your sin like you used to be. The same applies to idolatry, so drunk with it that you didn’t go to church today, worshiping the creation instead of the creator, prioritizing everything else except the house of God . Maybe your drunk with sorcery, medicated on prescription drugs and no longer trusting God to heal you and it’s justifiable because it comes from the doctor.

This can apply to all of the sins of the flesh, others can see that you’re drunk with sin, but you can’t.

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I hope you can draw the parallels here. You've seen the drunk person stumbling over their words and feet yet deny their intoxication. The same with those practicing the sins of the flesh, they deny their intoxication to them. They deny they're a gossip, murdering with their mouth and they deny they're a fornicator or an adulterer yet in their heart they are. Outside observers can see the outbursts of wrath, the selfish ambitions and heresies but they themselves can't.

This is how much the devil has perverted these sins of the flesh and no wonder God's judgment will come on Christians who practice them, being denied of heaven because they are so drunk with sin. That's why Jesus said in the parable of those who come to him and say, 'but didn't we do this and that in your name, and He says, I don't know you!' They try justifying themselves by their works while living unholy.

Paul adds at the end of those verses; 'and the like', meaning that more actions can be added that are types and shadows of this kind of worldly lifestyle. The religious are very quick to point the finger at the drunk, the drug addict, the prostitute but how many in the church are practicing envy, outbursts of wrath, hatred, idolatry and the like?

In **Ephesians 5:15-21**, the Apostle Paul says this; *"15 See then that you walk [a]circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another in the fear of [b]God."*

When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you are of a sound mind, and you're operating in the fruits of Holy Spirit listed in **Galatians 5:22-23** which are; *" 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 [a]gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."*

Ephesians 5:8-12 says; *"8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the [a]Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather [b]expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret."*

The Apostle Peter also says in **1 Peter 4:1-6**; *"4 Therefore, since Christ suffered [a]for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. 3 For we have spent enough of our past [b]lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. 4 In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you. 5 They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. 6 For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit."*

You maybe were once the life of the party, but now as a Christian you aren't and are now excluded from the party. So rejoice, you're in the light and not in the darkness any longer.

The Apostle Paul says in **Romans 13:11-13**; *"11 And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk [a]properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy."*

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Now maybe your life never was filled with drunkenness, revelries and the like, but examine yourself carefully that you're not practicing the other deeds of the flesh.

Let's recap some of the teaching on Galatians 5:19-21.

- ✓ We concluded that as Christians we are without excuse when we yield to temptation, because we are always given a way of escape and it is in our choice to take it or not take it.

1 Corinthians 10:13 says; *“13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to [a]bear it.”* Jesus ALWAYS makes a way of escape

- ✓ We concluded that as Christians, grace is not a card that we pull to remove our present and future sins, but rather is the power given to us to live holy, and to say no to the sins of the flesh when tempted.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10; *“7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to [a]buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”*

- ✓ We concluded that being weak in an area of temptation is no excuse to sin, for it says that, *“My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”*
- ✓ We concluded that just as Jesus used the Bible scriptures when he was tempted, we have to use the word of God as a sword by quoting the Bible scriptures that apply to the area of temptation to the devil that is tempting us with.

Matthew 4:1-11; *“4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. 3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” 4 But **He answered and said, “It is written,** ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ ” 5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’ and, ‘In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’ ” 7 **Jesus said to him, “It is written again,** ‘You shall not [a]tempt the Lord your God.’ ” 8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.” 10 Then **Jesus said to him, [b]“Away with you, Satan! For it is written,** ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ” 11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.”*

So, what it comes down to is that Jesus will not allow you to be tempted to party, get drunk or practice the sins of the flesh without providing a way of escape. But it's still up to you to take the way of escape and you are without excuse when you don't, regardless of how weak you are in the area. It's not about weakness, it has to do with your will to do right.

It is up to you to use the Bible as a sword when tempted, and quote the Bible scriptures that apply to drunkenness and revelries and other sins of the flesh. Remember grace is the power to live holy and is not a card to be played that allows you to continue in sin.

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Regardless of the sins of the flesh that you may be weak in one way or another, you will always be given a way of escape, and when you are weak His grace is sufficient for you to give you the power to not sin. So, you are without excuse when you don't take the way of escape because it is your free will and not your weakness that causes you to sin.

You may think that this teaching is an unrealistic expectation, and is legalistic, but is it? We're exercising our liberty in Christ to choose to live the life of a Christian by taking the way of escape when tempted.

Jesus died for your sins, rose from the dead, and returned to heaven but he didn't leave you as an orphan, because He sent the Holy Spirit for you to receive into your body and become born again.

This is what makes you holy, and will help you to live holy, but you still have a will to take the way of escape or not when temptations come your way. God does not take your will away from you when you become a Christian. You can will your way to heaven by obeying and take the way of escape or you can will your way to hell by disobeying and not take the way of escape. It's your will that will send you to heaven or hell.

Remember, that it's not God's will that any one perish but that all come to repentance, and if you sin, repent and take the way of escape found in the Bible that applies to your temptation and quote it out loud to the devil.

We close on **James 4:4-10**; “4 [a]Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a **friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God**. 5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”? 6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.” 7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”

All the sins of the flesh from Galatians 5:19-21 are of the world and are worldly. James not only addresses adulterers and adulteresses but those who are worldly. Jesus doesn't want you to ignore the world but to be salt and light to them to be friendly to them, so friendship with the world doesn't mean to hide from them, but when you participate in the sins of the flesh, that means you're being a friend of the world.

When you walk in adultery, fornication, lewdness, drunkenness, selfish ambition, anger, envy etc., the world buddies up to you and is friends with you because you participate in their fleshly sins, but if not, you're excluded from them. By participating in the sins of the flesh, the world, you become an enemy of God. No wonder God will send a Christian to hell who becomes an enemy of Himself, God. Any Christian who willfully practices the sins of the flesh with no repentance, makes himself an enemy of God!

The Holy Spirit yearns jealously for holiness and is grieved by the sins of the flesh. You have to humble yourself before God and repent of these sins. The cure for worldliness is submitting to God, resisting the devil, drawing near to God, cleansing your hands, purifying your heart, lamenting, mourning and weeping! THEN He will lift you up.

Search your heart today and ask yourself if it is worth it to willfully practice the sins of the flesh and in the end, lose your salvation.