1Thess #67

If you do not possess your own vessel, Satan will!

We will be doing some page flipping today so please be prepared. We will be jumping around in Genesis chapter 13 -14 into Gen chapters 18-19.

Please feel free to go into the first book of the Bible now.

Our study has sprung forth from the letter to the Bels at Thessalonica.

/1Thes 4:3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification; *that is,* that **you abstain from sexual immorality**; 4 that **each of you know how to possess his own vessel** in sanctification and honor,\

We noted many important principles related to sexual immorality. Now I would like zero-in on the warning the Apostle Paul gives concerning possessing your own vessel.

We will open a study up on a Bel who unfortunately never grew into maturity and therefore never really fulfilled his spiritual potential.

Open in Genesis chapter 13;

Gen 13:12 Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled in the cities of the vicinity of the *Jordan,* and moved his tents as far as Sodom.

/[Gen 13:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/13/13/s_13013) Now **the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked**sinners against the LORD.

From the early establishment of Sodom and Gomorrah, which was really two larger cities and several surrounding smaller towns. There was an element of evil within the culture.\

What was evident across the land was that Nimrod who was believed to be a Nephilim, had influenced and ruled over many smaller kingdoms.

Which meant the vast majority of towns, villages and early cultures were worshipping or paying tithes to this false god who was the first king of Babylon, among a few others false gods.

Abram’s own father, Terah, was believed to be a high-ranking leader under King Nimrod.

Abram’s nephew LOT would have been well aware of the evil that many of the cultures were involved in.

Lot could have kept being blessed by association by staying closer to his uncle Abram. Yet he chose to move away from Abram and closer to the cosmic system. Lot put himself and his family closer to the evil of the cosmic system.

[Gen 13:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/13/14/s_13014) The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Now raise your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward, and eastward and westward;

[Gen 13:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/13/15/s_13015) for all the land which you see I will give to you and to your descendants forever.

Abram was blessed and protected by God and he was considered God’s leader and teacher during that early time of human history.

In Genesis 14 the kings of many of these regions went to war and it is believed some of these kings and kingdoms were under demonic influence and perhaps even fully possessed as a whole culture.

One or two of the kingdoms were believed to be run by Nephilim warriors.

/Lot had made choices to put himself and his family almost in the center of cosmic evil. When God has placed you in a safe geographical location and a place where BD will be taught, it is never a good idea to allow emotions to drag you away from that. Ultimately you are the power source as to where your body and mind resides.\

There was great volatility around the region and Abram and Lot with combined forces would have been much more secure and prepared for these battles had Lot stayed closer to his uncle.

They needed to separate but the distance and place Lot chose was wrong.

Gen 14:13 Then a survivor came and told Abram the Hebrew. Now he was residing by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner, and they were allies with Abram.

God made sure Abram had people in his periphery to assist him during this volatile time of kingdom warfare.

/[Gen 14:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/14/14/s_14014) When **Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive**, he led out his trained men, born in his house, *numbering* 318, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.

Abram did not hesitate to gather his men and go after his nephew Lot. Abram knew the great danger yet he trusted that GOD would protect him.\

Abram could have turned a blind eye to his nephew’s problems.

They both had separated and Lot had made his own choices away from Abram.

Even though Abram rescued Lot it did not change Lot’s mind. Lot continued to live in and among the city of Sodom.

Now the years are rolling by and Lot actually became very involved in leadership within the city of Sodom.

Jump ahead to Genesis chapter 18 RF.

Lot had made decisions based upon what the cosmic system was enticing him with.

Lot had made decisions based on emotions not on BD.

/Gen 18:20 And the LORD said, “**The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah** is indeed great, and their sin is **exceedingly grave** (*mᵊ'ōḏ kāḇaḏ)*.

Extremely heavy burden, great or catastrophic overload. Affliction on a grand scale.\

MET-ODE, KAV-AIDE, this points to an excessive weight or burden that is beyond compare.

God’s justice system could not turn from the cries of injustice.

/Because the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah had been so far removed from God, they had entered into a culture of criminal insanity. Rape, incest, same sex relations and pedophilia were now rampant within the culture. When people begin to live within emotions and opposed to the authority of God and HIS divine establishments, eventually they will fill that void with evil. \

[Gen 18:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/18/21/s_18021) “I will go down now and see whether they have done entirely as the outcry, which has come to Me *indicates;* and if not, I will know.”

Anytime we see a statement like this in scripture it is never to be interpreted that GOD is not aware of the evil –

it is that God knows about it from eternity past and HE wants HIS children to learn a lesson from it!

It is written for our benefit.

We now see Abraham make an appeal for Sodom – only because his nephew and their family were there.

[Gen 18:22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/18/22/s_18022) Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham was still standing before the LORD.

/[Gen 18:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/18/23/s_18023) Abraham approached and said, “**Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked**?

Abraham knew BD and knew the essence of God, this was a rhetorical type of question. God would never sweep away a righteous (Bel) alongside a demonic force of evil.\

At this point we know that Abraham goes into his plead for the righteous even if it was just ten. Abraham starts out with 50 and ends his appeal with ten, because he is well aware what type of evil culture surrounded Sodom and Gomorrah.

Abraham was banking on all the members of Lot’s family to have not been influenced by this evil culture.

Sadly …he was wrong.

/Gen 18:32 Then he said, “Oh may the Lord not be angry, and I shall speak only this once: suppose ten are found there?” And He said, “**I will not destroy *it* on account of the ten**.”

God will sometimes withhold discipline or severe judgement just for a small positive remnant of Bels.\

Many families or even whole nations are saved or spared for longer periods of time, just because of a few positive Bels.

In this case there were not even ten Bels.

Jump over to Genesis chapter 19.

/Gen 19:1 Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening as **Lot was sitting at the gate of Sodom.** When Lot saw *them,* he stood up to meet them and bowed down *with his* face to the ground.

The opening gate or courtyard of a city was often a place for successful business men, military and/or governing people would gather.\

What we are seeing here is that Lot had incorporated himself into the inside working of the city of Sodom.

The fact that Lot was in control of the gateway and greeting people would mean he may have even by a judge or on a governing board of judges for the city.

These angels were wingless angels and had an appearance as regular men.

[Gen 19:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/19/2/s_19002) And he said, “Now behold, my lords, please turn aside into your servant’s house, and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way.” They said, “No, but we shall spend the night in the public square.”

/[Gen 19:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/19/3/s_19003) **Yet he strongly urged them**, so they turned aside to him and entered his house; and he prepared a feast for them and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

The reason Lot was so insistent was because he knew the depravity of the culture within the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. \

Lot had allowed himself to become engulfed by an evil culture.

There may be evidence he was one of the few politicians or city workers who attempted to do the right thing – but a Bel who makes a conscious decision to live in the midst of evil with no BD available has set themselves up for failure.

You can not turn from BD and fellowship with God and allow yourself to be surrounded by evil month after month – year after year. No job, house or relationship is worth being surrounded by nothing but evil.

[Gen 19:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/19/4/s_19004) Before they lay down, the men of the city—the men of Sodom—surrounded the house, both young and old, all the people from every quarter;

/[Gen 19:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/19/5/s_19005) and they called to Lot and said to him, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? **Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them.”**

Bring them onto us (close), so we may have intimate knowledge or closeness to them.\

The original Hebrew reads much more like that.

*That we may know* – is *yāḏaʿ* (YAH-DA), points to deeper knowledge, it often was used as a way to express – intimate relationships and closeness. What they are calling for is physical closeness this is a call to rape or assault these angels.

/[Gen 19:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/19/6/s_19006) But Lot went out to them at the doorway, and **shut the door behind him,** 7and said, “Please, my brothers, **do not act wickedly**.

Lot is well aware of this behavior and this type of criminal insanity and sexual immorality. Because he had lived in the midst of it for many years.\

[Gen 19:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/19/8/s_19008) “Now look, I have two daughters who have not had relations with *any* man; please let me bring them out to you, and do to them whatever you like; only do not do anything to these men, because they have come under the shelter of my roof.”

Lot knew these two men were of some type of high rank. Lot knew they were important.

In his emotional response, because he was so far out of fellowship and so far into reversionism, he willingly makes an offer of his virgin daughters.

/Lot is the example of a Bel who has turned from the truth and protection of God and embraced the cosmic system. All Bels are responsible for where they go and what they accept into their life. Our body is a vessel that we willingly give over to God or Satan at any given moment. Our vessel is our responsibility to control, nurture and respect each and every day. \

Longer periods of time removed from God’s presence (HIS word and our new nature) the easier it will become to fall into lust patterns and emotional waves.

There is no middle ground folks…you are either moving forward or backward in the plan of God.

[Gen 19:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/19/9/s_19009) But they said, “Get out of the way!” They also said, “This one came in as a foreigner, and already he is acting like a judge; now we will treat you worse than them!” So they pressed hard against Lot and moved forward to break the door.

This is the depth of criminal insanity.

Your social and sexual barriers have no longer held up under normal thoughts and actions – it is all self-indulgence and all emotional reaction and lust patterns in full control.

[Gen 19:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/19/10/s_19010) But the men reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them, and shut the door.

[Gen 19:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/19/11/s_19011) Then they struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, from the small to the great, so that they became weary of *trying* to find the doorway.

The angels had to intervene with supernatural powers to blind the rabid crowd of men outside the house.

[Gen 19:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/19/12/s_19012) Then the *two* men said to Lot, “Whom else do you have here? A son-in-law and your sons and daughters, and whomever you have in the city, bring *them* out of the place;

[Gen 19:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/19/13/s_19013) for we are about to destroy this place, because their outcry has become so great before the LORD that the LORD has sent us to destroy it.”

[Gen 19:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/19/14/s_19014) So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, and said, “Up, get out of this place, for the LORD is destroying the city.” But he appeared to his sons-in-law to be joking.

These were the future husbands of the virgin daughters of Lot who stayed in a separate room of the house.

We will be picking this back up next message but in closing let me make some points.

/Every person who reaches an age of accountability, becomes fully responsible for their own decisions and how they handle the vessel God graciously gave them. When a person continually rejects the Gospel of Christ, they are agreeing with Satan’s power and Satan’s system. Your lifestyle will be driven by your norms and standards and ideologies. The formation and changes of your ideologies and norms and standards formulate within the soul – that which is digested and accepted as truth dictates this process. \

/A Bel can never walk away from truth and God and expect to remain spiritual and spiritually mature. Your environment coupled with your access to BD will determine a great deal concerning spiritual growth. A negative environment can only be overcome with strength of thought and the two power options at maximum application. But an environment minus BD can never be overcome by sheer will power. \