2Thess #154

Carnality is often the battlefield we fight upon.

We will open where we left off in 1Corinthian chapter 3 RF.

Within the church of Corinth are wonderful lessons on dealing with Bels who test your faith. The Apostle Paul never gave up on those Bels who were negative toward him and often times blatantly negative toward the WORD.

The church at Corinth is also a good example that even with good, solid, Bible Doctrine being taught it still comes down to positive volition.

Plenty of good, Christian parents have had children who rebel and become apostate toward the truth of TLJC.

We must never simply give up and separate as our first option, when dealing with those closest to us. Those who become stumbling blocks in our life there is a test of our long-suffering abilities – fruit of the Spirit.

Looking at the relationship between the Apostle Paul and the church at Corinth, this is a great example;

/1Cor 3:1 And I, brothers *and sisters,* **could not speak to you as spiritual people** (*pneumatikos*), but *only* as fleshly, as to **infants** (*nēpios*) in Christ.

They are not Spirit filled, meaning they lack spiritual guidance. They operate in the flesh and not in the new nature, they are carnal.\

NEW-MONTE-CUS, means filled by God the HS – it is a reference to a soul which is spirit filled, spirt controlled, meaning the nature of Christ is active.

NEPH-EE-US, meaning not only an infant but one who is simple minded. Someone lacking intellect.

The Apostle Paul is really using a kind word here, infant - but he is pointing directly to carnality.

[1Co 3:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/3/2/s_1065002) I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able *to consume it.* But even now you are not yet able,

There comes a point in a Christian’s Walk that GOD is calling you to greater maturity, you can never reach that pinnacle unless you are in the word with regular consistency.

The Apostle Paul knows they had received the teaching, they simply were not operating within the two power options habitually.

The Bel can never achieve maturity apart from the two power options.

The Apostle Paul also knew the majority were fluctuating in and out of carnality, yet most of them were at least attempting to remain positive.

Never lose sight, that everyone grows at a different pace, just as everyone has good days and bad days – you don’t throw the baby out with the bath water!

REPEAT

/[1Co 3:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/3/3/s_1065003) for you are still fleshly. For since there **is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly**, and are you not walking like *ordinary* people?

The outside presence of sins, is truly the inside problem of a soul structure in need of continual washing of the word and the power of the SPIRIT.\

[1Co 3:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/3/4/s_1065004) For when one person says, “I am with Paul,” and another, “I *am* with Apollos,” are you not *ordinary* people?

The Bels at Corinth often got involved in petty arguments and inordinate competition.

They also indulged in immoral degeneracy from time to time.

Which are all signs that the flesh is in control.

Apollos was a very eloquent speaker and had a greater presence in person then the Apostle Paul.

So, a handful of arrogant Bels at Corinth, were arguing of how great their spiritual growth was because Apollos had taught them. Inordinate competition or inordinate ambition is nothing but the OSN taking control.

The journey into fleshy frustration is often found in comparing and competing with others.

/Always become alert that your sins may well be touching the lives of others in your periphery. Carnality is the illness of the OSN which should be swiftly dealt with, by adjusting to the justice of GOD, which is mentally touching back to the Cross of Christ. Carnality unchecked, begins negative steps backward into backsliding. This leads to reversionism which ends in apostasy.\

The fact is, carnality is all around us everyday and the Bel who remains a babe in the plan of GOD always ends up surprised, then frustrated or angry.

Immature Bels become frustrated by carnality from those around them, those in leadership and even themselves.

Go to the OT - Psalms 58 RF.

The difficult truth is after salvation the Christian still has an OSN.

It has been sentenced to death and nailed to the Cross of Christ, within its position of eternity - yet in the daily condition of the temporal walk it still has an active life.

After salvation the Believer continues to have an old sin nature, it is a nature that is vehemently opposed to the things of GOD. REPEAT

Jesus spoke about this exact issue during HIS walk with the apostles.

/Mark 7:21 “**For from within, out of the hearts of people**, come the evil thoughts, *acts of* sexual immorality, thefts, murders, *acts of* adultery, 22 deeds of greed, wickedness, deceit, indecent behavior, envy, slander, pride, *and* foolishness. 23 “**All these evil things come from within** and defile the person.”\

There is a reason we were given the gift of the filling power of GOD the HS.

The Bel who thinks they have some great power in their flesh, that they are not as bad as everyone else - is woefully misinformed about the OSN.

Most Christians quickly recognize the OSN of others, especially the Unbel. Yet they struggle looking within themselves, which is the true calling for spiritual growth.

/Jer 17:9 “The **heart is more deceitful** than all else And is **desperately sick**; Who can understand it?

Rom 7:16 However, **if I do the very thing I do not want *to do****,* I agree with the Law, that *the Law is* good. 17 But now, no longer am I *the one* doing it, but **sin that dwells in me**.\

Notice the Apostle Paul uses the singular term SIN – meaning the Old Sin Nature.

This is the reason I read from 1John chapter one at the beginning of each message.

The Apostle John was writing to Believers!

/1Jhn 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, **we are deceiving ourselves** and the truth is not in us.

The Bel who refuses to acknowledge they sin after salvation is not accurately handling the WORD. It is incredible self-deception, with deep roots within the arrogant complex of sins in the soul.\

The two stumbling blocks we are currently looking into from our anchor study in 2Thess 3, are the Bel in reversionism and the Unbel.

Within this study, I am currently reminding all Bels - of how we need to have our own spiritual house in order, so we do not become a stumbling block for others.

Sometimes our OSN is interfering with the lives of those closest to us.

Now in Psalms 58 we see what is often called an imprecatory psalm or an imprecatory prayer from David.

It is a call for swift and violent justice against enemies.

This is believed to be the time David was on the run from King Saul.

There were elders and judges who had sided with King Saul and they condemned David and called for his death.

/Psa 58:1 Do you indeed speak righteousness, **you gods** (*ēlem)*? Do you judge fairly, **you sons of mankind**?

David is now realizing the power of government and corrupt leadership can become an evil force turned against an innocent citizen.\

The Hebrew word (EL-EEM) is a derivative from one of the Hebrew titles for GOD - Elohim.

It was used to mean a leader or silent majority – in this case a congregation or set of elders. It can also mean mute justice, or a silent decision.

The original Hebrew looks closer to this;

/Psa 58:1 To him that excels (choir director), destroy not. A psalm of David on Michtam. Is it true, o congregation (leaders of Israel), you speak from lust? You sons of men, you judge uprightly?

There is deep frustration and anger as David heard the judgment upon his life which King Saul was proclaiming and many were standing with the king.\

Many elders and judges quickly sided with King Saul and declared David an outlaw and called for his head.

David made certain the psalm is written and to be preserved – it will be a prayer against his enemies. Michtam was term used for a title or a poem to be recited.

/The same leaders and people who sang songs about David’s victory over Goliath. The same ones who applauded his battlefield victories over many enemies, saving Israel, were now calling for his death. The majority of the spiritual battlefield is seen within the OSN of ourselves and those around us. Testing, adversity and attacks are often rooted in the carnality of the OSN.\

[Psa 58:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/psa/58/2/s_536002) No, in heart you practice injustice;On earth you clear a way for the violence of your hands.

*On earth you clear a way* – speaks to the ways mankind manipulates laws and rules within the devil’s world.

The cosmic system is corrupt and should not be a surprise or a source of anger for the SM Bel.

The OSN is the culprit behind most murders, corruption and atrocities against mankind.

/[Psa 58:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/psa/58/3/s_536003) **The wicked have turned away from the womb**; These who speak lies go astray from birth.

Every human being is born with an old sin nature (Adamic). Jesus (humanity) was the only pure birth touched by GOD, minus the sin nature of man.\

[Psa 58:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/psa/58/4/s_536004) They have venom like the venom of a serpent;Like a deaf cobra that stops up its ear,

/Our fleshly nature is venomous, just as the serpent in garden was the great deceiver. That OSN is so deceptive that it can even fool the humanity it resides inside. It is a nature so defiant and arrogant that left to itself it will cheat and deceive even to its own destruction. It is attracted to darkness and repels the light of truth.\

The OSN refuses to hear godly instruction – it hates authority.

[Psa 58:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/psa/58/5/s_536005) So that it does not hear the voice of charmers,*Or* a skillful caster of spells.

There is nothing that can tame or clean up the OSN – it must be nailed to the Cross of Christ!

Do not fool yourself that your OSN is not as bad as everyone else’s.

We all have different lust patterns and trends within the OSN – all of them are anti-god.

Jump back into the NT – Acts 28.

[Psa 58:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/psa/58/6/s_536006) God, shatter their teeth in their mouth;Break out the fangs of the young lions, LORD.

David is calling out for destruction for all those who have now turned against him.

Just as any of us would do, if we were in his shoes. David would grow and learn greater compassion and understanding over time.

/Carnality is the normal state of the OSN. Therefore, whether we fall into its grasp or others around us do so, it should never lead us into emotional waves of frustration, shock and awe. This is the battle we are called to fight! This doesn’t mean the Bel should accept corruption, deceit or attacks while laying down as a doormat. It means the Bel must advance to maturity and apply problem solving skills appropriately.\

You cannot resolve problems with emotions and human viewpoint leading the way.

The word of GOD applied by a SPIRIT filled Christian warrior, can handle any adversity or corruption in front of them.

Now as we close in Acts 28 – this is a pertinent lesson on just how the cosmic system and the carnality of mankind operate.

This is the story when the Apostle Paul was ship wrecked on the island of Malta.

The island natives were very accommodating and friendly at first.

Act 28:3 But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened itself on his hand.

/[Act 28:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/28/4/s_1046004) When **the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand**, they *began* saying to one another, “**Undoubtedly this man is a murderer**, and though he has been saved from the sea, **justice has not allowed him to live**.”

Carnality is very comfortable as judge and jury over others. Carnality goes far beyond immoral behaviors – MA sins are often overlooked and yet at the root of most overt carnality.\

[Act 28:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/28/5/s_1046005) However, Paul shook the creature off into the fire and suffered no harm.

/[Act 28:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/28/6/s_1046006) Now **they were expecting** that he was going to **swell up or suddenly fall down dead**. But after they had waited a long time and had seen nothing unusual happen to him, **they changed their minds** and *began* to say that **he was a god.**

Human expectations are often nothing more then extensions of deep emotional desires, insecurities or fears.\

Be careful of your expectations – there are some good expectations you can have. But many expectations, are nothing more than extensions of what we think is right (human viewpoint), or what we want or what we may be insecure about.

Remember the Jews had expectations about the Messiah, yet those expectations were not tethered to the truth of scripture.

The majority of the crowd followed Jesus for several years, yet in the end, that same crowd gladly followed the corrupt Sanhedrin and shouted – Crucify HIM!

When Jesus was healing and performing signs and wonders – they were amused and attracted to HIM. Many of that crowd never became born again and saved, they simply enjoyed the show.