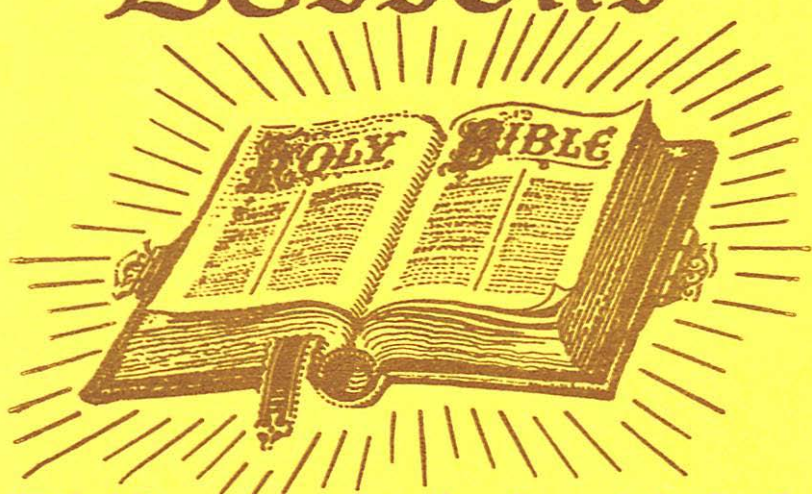


Bible Lessons



**"Beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord,
we are CHANGED" II Cor. 3:18**

ADULTS -- YOUNG PEOPLE

**Vol. 14, No.3
July, August, Sept.
1982**

**Faith Pub. House
Guthrie, Okla.
73044**

(USPS054-680)

Volume 14	July, August, September, 1982	No. 3
------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------

Page

**Publishing the Bible truths in the interest of
Jesus Christ and His Church**
Edited by Leslie C. Busbee, and other co-workers

Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Published Quarterly By
FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE
 820 W. Mansur Ave.
GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA 73044

Theme for Third Quarter, 1982

We have been inspired and moved of the Holy Spirit to present a series of studies for this third quarter on the works of the flesh, as listed by the apostle Paul in Galatians 5:19-21. We feel very concerned in this life to be on the guard against these things in our own lives and warn and instruct others, also, concerning them. Adultery, fornication, and all the other gross sins are rampant in our land. They are knocking at the very door of each one's life. It will mean much for us to keep ourselves clear of these things and be filled with the fruits of the Spirit that are listed in the same chapter. This is a serious study and worthy of each one's careful and prayerful consideration and thought. We had better be informed as to what the works of the flesh really are and what implications each one has. We have found the book *The Corrupt Tree*, written by our dear departed Sister Marie Miles, very helpful to us in these studies, and we would recommend it to every one to read. I have included some of her writings in the Comments. May the Holy Spirit drive home to every heart the truths found in this series of lessons.

—Brother Leslie C. Busbee

July 4, 1982

ADULTERY VERSUS GOD'S DIVINE PLAN FOR MARRIAGE

Matt. 19:3 The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?

4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,

5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

7 They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?

8 He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.

9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another,

committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

1 Cor. 7:10 And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband:

11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

39 The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.

Rom. 7:2 For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband.

3 So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.

Matt. 5:27 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Memory Verse: Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge. Heb. 13:4.

Central Thought: Marriage is a divine and holy institution of God. He wills that man and woman be united in pure and holy love with sacred and faithful duration until death. It is not God's will for a marriage to be dissolved and the man or woman be married to anyone else, other than after one or the other has died.

Word Definition: *Adultery:* The Greek word is "moicheia" which means a paramour, or a by-lover. A by-lover is a person who has affinity or unlawful relations with someone other than his or her companion. It can simply be labeled: unfaithfulness in marriage.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Man's fall into sin has beguiled the holy institution of wedded love between man and woman. In the beginning God made them male and female and brought Adam and Eve together for a permanent bond of life and love together. He saw that it was not good for the man to be alone, so He made

an help meet for him. Jesus said that God said, "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh." Then Jesus added: "Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." His answer to their question concerning the writing of divorcement provided for under the Mosaic law was: This was done because of the hardness of the hearts of men, but from the beginning it was not so. Weigh the seriousness of these words. Are they not filled with serious responsibility? God not only provided man with the joy and privilege of marriage, but He made it a solemn responsibility as well. His law concerning the sacredness of marriage has not changed. God still wills that the marriage tie be unbroken except in death.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did Moses grant divorce?
2. What was God's law from the beginning?
3. How long is a marriage to last?
4. Is God pleased with people's getting divorces?
5. What does the heart of man have to do with the sacredness of marriage?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Surveying the multiplied adultery and unfaithfulness in marriage that is in our world today causes our hearts to ache with grief. And we know that the great heart of the divine Creator is also grieved and angry to see how man has defiled and spoiled His gracious plan for the human race. Sin has ruined man's functions in every thing, but perhaps no other phase of earthly life is affected as greatly as that of marriage. More unhappiness and disappointment is brought upon lives through broken homes, dissolved marriages, and love grown cold than about anything else. God wanted man to be happy and to enjoy life to the fullest. For this cause He made it possible for a man to have a wife to bless, cheer, and assist him in his life-work. Satan saw to it that this holy and sacred tie would be destroyed and something evil put in its place. How necessary and vital for young people today to seek the Lord earnestly for guidance and wisdom in the solemn step of marriage! One need not be in a hurry to get married. Pray and wait on God. He knows the one who will be best for you. But if you get in a hurry and allow your affections to reach out for

someone of your own choosing, you stand a chance to inherit a life of disappointment and sorrow. But even if one is blessed to have the right one as a husband and wife, Satan will seek to foil the happiness of that marriage, also. A happy marriage that lasts through the years is the fruit of diligent effort and watchfulness on the part of both husband and wife. A really successful marriage is one that grows sweeter and richer and more precious as time goes by. God is not pleased with the conditions prevailing in our land and in our world today. The impurity and unfaithfulness of this adulterous age will meet the awful wrath of a righteous God. Surely it behooves every one to take heed to the Word of God and strive to follow His leadings in this most important matter. —Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Adultery is one of the worst entanglements that the devil involves people in. Divorce and remarriage is a very traumatic emotional experience. It is wrong to frivolously play with human affections by casting off one and acquiring another. There is no way that all parties can come out of such a situation unscathed. It is very important to take God into a marriage. The Bible plainly teaches, "Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers." A young person may indicate his plans are to wait and make certain of marrying the one he truly loves. However, there is a higher risk factor that the marriage may fail if God is not involved in the planning. The divorce courts are full of couples who at one time thought they were sincerely in love.

The very spirit of adultery has swept our country. People have acquired the belief that if a marriage fails the first time, they can try again. This spirit can creep right in among the Church. There are some in the world who go through husbands and wives like cars. After a car acquires a few years of mileage, it is time to get another. When God made Adam a helper, He only gave him one. He didn't create another for Adam to fall back on in case the first failed to suit him.

As a general rule, the institution of marriage is held very lightly. There was a time when it was scandalous for an individual to remarry. A politician who had been divorced would lose some votes due to his marital status alone. Now it makes very little difference. Present society will even accept live-in situations without the benefit of legal marriage. To the child of God, a divinely instituted marriage is viewed as the most important thing in life, second only to one's salvation.

Many times a marriage can be a great determining factor in the ultimate outcome of a soul's destiny. —Wayne Murphey

IS ADULTERY ALLOWED?

In the commandments given on Mt. Sinai, written on the literal tables of stone for the children of Israel, God commanded, "Thou shalt not commit adultery." But Jesus says, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so." Matt. 19:8.

Hear what Jesus says, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil." Matt. 5:17. When Jesus came as our Saviour and Redeemer, He restored the Eden purity to man. Those who committed adultery under the law of Moses were stoned to death, but they had to be guilty of the act. The law of Christ says, "But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her, hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." Matt. 5:28. In this it is easy to see how that Christ fulfilled the law by making the heart pure so the lust will not even be there. Thus He restores His believing children back to the purity of Eden. In the beginning God made the man only one woman and she became bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh and in this He set an example for His created race of mortals.

When a man and a woman go before the Judge or a minister and are united in holy matrimony, they vow and covenant before God to be true to one another until death parts them. In this way it is like God joining them together and Jesus says plainly, "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Matt. 19:6.

There are some today who marry a second companion and justify themselves in so doing by the verse of Scripture found in Matt. 19:9 which reads as follows, "And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery." They seem to think that this Scripture gives them a right to marry again if their companion has committed fornication. It gives them a right to put her away for that cause but the question is, do they have a right to marry again? In the light of all other sacred Scriptures we deem this a very flimsy excuse, for in all the writings of the Apostle Paul, who was called especially to preach the gospel to the Gentiles, he gives no hint of one's having a right to marry again. In fact, he

says if a woman is married to another man she shall be called an adulteress. Read the first few verses of the 7th chapter of Romans. Then in 1 Cor. 7:11 he says, "But, and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband, and let not the husband put away his wife."

The law of Christ, which is the teaching of the New Testament or Covenant, is far superior to the Old Testament law and teachings. When Christ, the power of God, comes into the heart of man, he is circumcised in heart by the Spirit and is made tender in heart to obey the Lord in all things. This gives the children of God not only the power to refrain from committing adultery, but also power not to allow even the lust of adultery in the heart. Christ truly fulfills the law and the prophets to a Christ-filled soul. Under the law they had to kill a man literally to commit murder, but under grace he is counted a murderer in the eyes of God if he retains hatred in his heart even toward his enemies. Under the law they were commanded to give a tenth, but under the law of Christ we give all and just become stewards over what He allows us to possess and we take of His and give as He leads by His Spirit. Under the law they were commanded to keep the Sabbath day holy as a rest for the body. Now we keep every day holy and the Jewish Sabbath is fulfilled in us who are under the law of Christ; we have a soul rest all the time and do not pollute the sabbath of rest in the soul by sin. Under the law and teaching of Moses, because of the hardness of the heart, He allowed them to put away their wives for almost any cause or reason; but under the law of Christ He purifies the heart and makes it tender and places His converts back in the state of Eden where they have just one companion living and do not even lust after another.

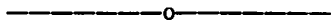
In observing the magnitude of the great army of those who profess Christ and are separating for most any cause and committing adultery by marrying another, we come to the conclusion that nearly all people's hearts are hard even as in Moses' time and do not possess the heart that is circumcised by the Spirit. Rom. 2:29. It is a dangerous thing to presume upon the mercies of God and do contrary to His Word for we will all have to stand before God in judgment. Jesus said that the word He has spoken shall judge us in the last day. John 12:48. The New Testament teachings are the law of Christ and we had better keep our hearts tender toward its instructions or they will be hardened and we will be weighed in the balance and found wanting in that great day of God Almighty.

Today the world is steeped in lustful adultery as women are baring their bodies and by so doing are creating untold lust in the opposite sex. Not only that, but the mothers are putting very little clothing on their little girls and thus killing the God-given modesty and starting them out on the broad road to destruction, making them a prey to vulgar and lustful men. Under the law of Christ, if a man looks after a woman to lust after her, he is committing adultery in his heart with her already. Stop for a moment on the street corners where carnal and lustful men congregate, and when a woman passes along with her suggestive and abbreviated clothing on, one can see the eyes of those lustful men follow her and begin to know just a little of the awful lust of adultery which fills the hearts of both men and women. The partly dressed women are as guilty as the men; and the streets of our cities are thronged with such.

Recently, while riding on a train, I noticed a soldier, and all supposed the girl with him to be his wife, judging by their actions. After he was gone she was asked if he were her husband, and her reply was, "Oh, no, just a soldier boy." She seemed to be so unconcerned about her actions with him and thought that no one should think it strange. When the mothers rear their little girls and dress them in such a way to kill the modesty and shame that God has created them with, one cannot expect them to be modest when grown. In some cases God is able to get a hold upon the heart and tender and restore the modesty, purity, and sacredness that was given to woman in Eden.

Let the saints of God keep far from the sins of immodesty and set a pattern of Eden purity before professors and worldly minded people, so they can see Christ and be convicted of sins and be saved. When we show the purity of heaven to people we are lifting up Christ. Jesus says, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." John 12:32. Those vulgar styles are of the earth and are earthly, and create the lust of adultery in men's hearts.

—Fred Pruitt



July 11, 1982

FORNICATION: MAN'S DEPARTURE FROM PURITY

1 Cor. 6:15 Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid.

16 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.

17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

7:1 Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.

2 Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

1 Thess. 4:3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;

5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:

Gal. 5:19a Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication . . .

Ephesians 5:3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Memory Verse: Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: Col. 3:5.

Central Thought: Physical indulgence undisciplined and uncontrolled by the holiness of God is sinful and evil in His sight. God has a pure and holy plan for men and women to follow in their relating to one another in and out of marriage.

Word Definition: *Fornication:* The Greek word is "porneia" and it means harlotry, (including adultery and incest) unlawful indulgence of lust. "*Lust of concupiscence*": the passion of evil desire. The word here for concupiscence is the translation of the Greek word "epithumea," which means super or strong desire (especially for that which is forbidden).

LESSON BACKGROUND

The history of the sin of fornication finds itself way back in ancient times. The Bible tells the facts. And wherever an account of adultery or fornication is recorded, it is always accompanied by other forms of evil and wickedness along with sorrow, remorse, and heartache. For a man to fail to govern or restrain his physical desires and allow the fear of God to direct his paths, the sin of fornication will usually catch up with him. The inclination of the carnal, depraved nature will lean toward some kind of fleshly indulgence forbidden and staining to the character. God's pure plan for men and women calls for restraint and self control for both sexes. It is very explicitly stated in the Mosaic law that the nakedness of a human being was to be kept covered. Only in the holy matrimony of marriage is the man and woman free from that law to one another. The exposition of the female body in print and public display is open sin against God. It is the ungoverned lusts of men that spur this sort of doing. Adulterers and whoremongers God will judge. The holy Church of God, the Bride of Christ, stands against this thing, even as the Scriptures of our lesson declare. —L. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. Of what are our bodies members?
2. Why is fornication inconsistent with holiness?
3. What should be done, according to Paul, to avoid fornication?
4. What does sanctification accomplish with regard to purity concerning marriage?
5. What are the chances of a fornicator making heaven his home?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

The desire of a man for a woman is natural and God-given. God created them male and female. He put within man the emotions and desires of enjoyment and pleasure to be found in the company and fellowship of the woman. But this

desire must be controlled by the laws of holiness and right. God must be crowned in the union of man with woman for it to be the benefit and the fulfillment that He intended it to be. After the fall of man, sin began to multiply in the earth. The relationship of man to woman was affected. All kinds of evil practices and life styles have been introduced to the creatures that God once created for His glory. Man has added sin to sin. Woe, sorrow, disappointment, sickness, disease, and death have been the result. Jesus came to restore man to God's favor. Included in the plan of salvation is a return to the sanctity of life and practice. Fornication and impure relationship between men and women are condemned by the holiness of the plan that Jesus brought to the human race. He wills to take control of man's passions and desires, and govern and lead him into the path of holy and sacred wedded love and bliss. To avoid and flee fornication, man must exercise much self control. He must wait on God to work the blessing of a wife into his life. Marriage is a divine institution of God. To deny it is sin and rebellion against God. Many people refuse to enter marriage. They just start living together without any sacred vows or holy blessing. Such is fornication and is condemned in God's sight. The ways of the Lord are right. Those who are willing to deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Christ will find their life filled with blessings while those who take their own way will end in sorrow, despair, and remorse.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

God did not intend that the human body be corrupted by fornication. He ordained that His creation fulfill fleshly desires within the lawful bounds of marriage. One who commits the sin of fornication will carry the effect of such an act throughout a lifetime. How much happier is the person in whom the seed of fornication is never sown.

It seems that fornication and adultery are fast becoming as much a tradition of the American way as hot dogs and apple pie. In the movies, fornication is a common occurrence and those who observe the sins depicted on television cannot help but be affected by them. Satan will suggest that one's life is dull and uneventful unless they, too, become a partaker of sensual excitement.

In our lesson, we read the verse, "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body." It is of

utmost importance that we preserve sinless this body that God has entrusted to us. The advice of one mother to her departing son was: "Never do anything to place your body where your soul would not be the master."

To surrender to feeling and commit fornication is to be untrue to yourself. It is to cheapen and weaken the character. When one views only the immediate emotional satisfaction and physical pleasure, and disregards the thought of future consequences, his soul and mind have shamefully humbled themselves to impulses that are less than noble.

—Wayne Murphey

HIGH PRICED WORLDLINESS

Miss Wilson hesitated before closing the girls' meeting. As she waited, a visitor arose. "May I speak?" she asked.

"Surely," permitted Miss Wilson, wondering.

"I was expecting your leader to mention modesty in dress as an outward evidence of the inner purity that she stressed in her evening lesson," Miss Browne began. "Well, maybe this point is more real to me than to most girls, because I learned it in the expensive school of experience. You girls here this evening need not learn it that way if you'll take it from me. Pardon my frank, blunt expression, but I am more interested in saving girls than in making flowery speeches. Here is my life story:

"When I was a small girl my father died. Mother struggled to keep her family of four girls together, but it was a losing fight. One by one we children were parceled out to neighbors and relatives. Some were good homes and some were not. The influence soon began to tell on us, and I for one responded to the full. By the time I reached my middle teens, I was—well—low. You've heard the expression, 'wine and women,' in accounting for the downfall of many men. Well, in my case it was 'wine and men,' and far too much of both. Then strange to say, I became aware of my miserable condition. But I didn't know what to do about it. I didn't know God, and none of my friends did. I went to drinking harder than ever and grew more miserable. Then one day I was picked up out of the gutter and nursed back to consciousness by a kind Christian woman who also led me to God. How I love that saint!

"When I got converted inside, I did outside, too. My past life of sin—and I'm not commending it when I say this—did one thing for me that innocent girls like you usually don't like to believe. It convinced me of the danger of looking like the world while trying to live for Christ.

"I knew you would resent this, but I know it from experience. You don't—yet. May God spare you the awful—" She swallowed, and wiped her eyes.

"You'll want an illustration to prove the danger I just spoke about," she said, regaining her composure. "Again I'll give it from my own life. As I said, I was converted inside and out, and in a few days I made a raid on my wardrobe. Dancing gowns, sleeveless dresses, cosmetics, and similar things had to go, and as fast as I could, I replenished with clothes that suggested only the inner adornment, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit.

"Well, this worked fine, and I was happy for months. Then one evening, by invitation, I visited one of my old friends on the other side of the city. She had not known of my conversion.

" 'Why, Edith,' she exclaimed, looking me over critically, 'how—how—antiquated you look! Has Paris gone back to Noah's ark for ideas?' she giggled, patting my long sleeves. 'And don't you trip over the length of the skirt? Edith, Edith!' She shook her head, backed up, and took in the full effect once more.

"She kept this up all evening, and by the time I started for home she had persuaded me to slip into one of her modern outfits and to arrange my hair in the billowy, fluffy coiffure that I had used before my conversion. The effect in the mirror both pleased and frightened me.

" 'There, now!' she flattered. 'That takes ten years away from you.'

" 'And also my peace,' I thought, afraid to tell her, coward that I was. I soon left for home. It was a lonely three-block walk to the street car and my thoughts troubled me. I found I couldn't pray. I felt helpless as a lost child. As I hurried across the first intersection, a perfect stranger stepped up to me and said, 'Hello.' Without even answering him I went on, faster and faster. I was afraid and prayed for God to help me.

"I'm sure God heard that prayer. I don't know why He should have, after my evening of folly, but I know He did; otherwise I couldn't be here to tell you so. For as I stood on the corner looking through the magazine assortment of the corner drug store, I suddenly felt a hand on my shoulder.

" 'Fast traveler, aren't you?' asked the same voice I had just run away from. 'But I caught up.'

"My heart began to pound again. I looked in the window to see if there was anyone to help near. What do I do? 'God,' I

begged again, 'You must help me!' But why should He help me? How could I expect Him to? It was cheap of me even to ask Him, I thought. I wanted to run inside, but my trolley was due any second. If I missed it I'd have to wait for another.

"I tried to conceal my fright by ignoring him and leaving faster through a magazine.

" 'Do you like that one? I'll buy it for you,' was his next attempt.

" 'No, thanks,' I refused.

" 'You're waiting for the next Lake Court car, I presume?'

" 'Yes,' I said, hoping to dismiss him. Poor me! I was only giving him information.

" 'Well, why wait?' he suggested. 'My car's just around the corner. Let's go.'

" 'Say!' I suddenly turned on him, my fear gone. 'You think I'm a greenhorn, and good bait for you, don't you? Listen! I know your tactics. I've been a victim to such as you too often, sometimes because I wanted to be and sometimes because I had to be. Tonight, thank God, it shall be neither. My life isn't a prey to your kind since—' I looked myself over, and knew I had no visible proof for what I was saying, but I finished it anyway. 'Since I became a Christian.'

" 'A what? A Christian? Are you a Christian?' And he looked me over from head to foot. 'Well, who'd have guessed it from your looks?'

" 'What do you know about Christians?' I asked, hurt by his rebuke.

" 'Not much. Mother was one. I just know that she didn't believe in looking like—like—worldly women.'

" 'I wanted to say, 'Neither do I,' but I knew it would do no good.

" 'Well,' he said, backing off a step or two—he had been familiarly close—'my hat's off to you, anyway. Sorry to have troubled you. And now may I give you a bit of advice? Men like me find the kind of women we're after at just such places as this, at such an hour as this, and in such attire as yours. You are one of the few in whom my judgment has been misplaced. Is the mistake mine or yours?'

" 'I've learned my lesson,' I admitted to him. 'You had a right to judge me as you did. In the future I shall try harder to show what kind of woman I am.'

" 'Better had,' he agreed seriously, 'if you want the respect of us men.' He started to go. 'And whatever you do, hold fast to your religion. It's the real stuff—the only stuff that can

keep a person on the right track. I had it once—a short time—and lost it, so I know what I'm talking about. And you are on the losing side, too, unless you quit—'

" 'I know what you're thinking, and I'm quitting it this very night. If you ever meet me again I'll look—well, different from this.'

" 'I hope so. We'd be better men if all women felt that way. Here's your trolley. Safe trip home. Good night.'

" 'Good night, and thanks for the advice,' I called. 'And thank you, God,' I panted from the seat I settled into, 'for the advice You've given me through this experience tonight. I promise to profit by it.'

"And, girls, I've kept my promise, much to my safety and spiritual growth. I pass on this experience to you to help you live more wisely than I did. Take it from one who knows and save yourselves many of the regrets that will always be mine."

After dismissal Miss Wilson hurried to Miss Browne and clasped her hand. "Thank you, Miss Browne. you got across to my girls just what I had the burden to say. Again, I thank you."

"I need no thanks. I'm just glad if I've helped, Miss Wilson. If I can spare one of these dear girls the misery I've gone through I'll be happy. Some believe in letting girls learn by experience, but I can say from experience **that the price is too high.**"

—Ida Bontrager

July 18, 1982

UNCLEANNESS: IMPURITY OF LIFE AND CHARACTER

Gal. 5:19a Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, . . .

1 Tim. 4:12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

5:1 Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren;

2 The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.

1 Thess. 4:7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

Rom. 2:21 Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal?

22 Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege?

23 Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God?

24 For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written.

25 For circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision.

Rom. 6:19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

2 Pet. 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

10 But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

Memory Verse: Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. Titus 1:15.

Central Thought: God is holy, pure, and undefiled by sin or wrong. Satan has succeeded in defiling the human race, separating them from God. This impurity has stained the character and affections of men bringing sorrow and death. Through the New Testament and the blood of Jesus we can be free from uncleanness.

Word Definitions: *Uncleanness:* Absence of purity, state of being defiled and contaminated. There is a bodily uncleanness, but the uncleanness of the soul is the worst defilement one can have.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Uncleanness is the third one of the works of the flesh that Paul named out. It is closely associated with adultery and fornication, but will cover a larger area and take in more. Uncleanness is the general condition of mankind without the Spirit of God ruling and reigning in his heart and life. Under the domination of Satan, the life of man becomes infested with self-love, pride, greed, hatred, envy, and every other staining

evil. This renders man unclean, and unfit for association and fellowship with God. God is willing and eager to walk and talk with His creation, but sin and evil cause Him to be withdrawn. He has provided a way for souls to be cleansed and made pure again. But there must be a consciousness of man's need for cleansing. He must be aware of his defilement, and not only be aware, he must come to the place where he loathes his condition and longs for purification. The Spirit of God is a clean, pure, holy, and righteous Spirit that will not be contaminated. It is the warped, degraded, deceived soul who loves its evil and impure ways. It is truly one of the works of the flesh. The child of God cannot allow himself to be polluted and defiled with the evils around him. He must be on his guard. God will help us but we must watch and pray.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. Are purity and cleanness of heart and life important with God? Why?
2. How do you think uncleanness associates with adultery and fornication?
3. Can you think of other areas uncleanness can affect?
4. How can one be cleansed?
5. How can uncleanness affect a man in his soul?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

As we look around us today we can see how uncleanness is affecting our society. Where man should be upright, merciful, kind, pure, just, and obedient to God, we see just the opposite. Lust, covetousness, greed, and unholy principles dominate his life and actions. The God of all grace has plainly declared His hatred and abhorrence for this unclean state of man. But there is a disposition of the souls of men that defies God's efforts to clean him up. It takes effort and strong will to live a clean life according to God's plan. It takes discipline and self control along with sacrifice and self denial. God must be given full pre-eminence and jurisdiction to come in and purify, changing and ordering according to His own holiness and pleasure. A man may think himself clean, but when the spot light of God's Word and Spirit gets through with him, he sees himself in a different light. Many of our day are so defiled with vanity and pride that gets worse and worse as time goes on. Oh, they are totally unfit to come into the holy presence of a just and righteous God. How sad to think of the

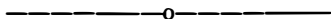
many who leave this world and go out into eternity in this defiled condition! But God has a provision for all who loathe their sin and long for heart and life purity. Through the precious blood of Jesus, through the burning of the Holy Spirit, and through obedience to the everlasting gospel, the Word of God, man can once more be as pure and clean as he was when God first created him. If we will but come to the fountain of cleansing in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, we can be made as clean as heaven. And by the grace of God we can walk this perfect way in spotless robes and enter that everlasting kingdom of priceless purity and righteousness forever.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

There are very few of us who would rather live in a filthy house than a clean one. There is something about cleanness that is appealing. Nasty things are repulsive. Yet we find many who feed their minds on the filth of this world and seem perfectly contented to live with it. They thrive on dirty jokes or anything tainted with impurity. We cannot have this kind of mind without its manifesting itself in our lives. The Apostle Paul described the result of such living in Romans 1:24. "God gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves." Verse 26 says, "God gave them up unto vile affections." Many people today have given themselves over to uncleanness. There is a multitude who love wickedness so much that they have begun to establish for themselves rights in our society. There have been many demonstrations for "gay rights." Laws have been formed to protect those with corrupt lifestyles. People have no fear of desecrating and despising the cleansing blood of Christ. Hence they are turned loose by God. "Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled." Titus 1:15. To have God's blessings on our lives we must accept His cleansing blood on our hearts and minds and seek His grace to keep us pure in the midst of a wicked and perverse generation.

—Wayne Murphey



IMPORTANT NOTE: Please do not forget that your order for the next quarter must be in this office by **August 1, 1982**. Thank you for your cooperation. —The Publishers

July 25, 1982

LASCIVIOUSNESS: LOOSENING OF MORALS

Mark 7:21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

Ephesians 4:17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

20 But ye have not so learned Christ;

21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

24 And that ye put on the new man which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

1 Peter 4:3 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:

Jude 3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Memory Verse: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway. 1 Cor. 9:27.

Central Thought: God has strict laws and guidelines in His Word which are to be carefully followed and to refuse to be governed by His divine will is error and gross iniquity.

Word Definition: *Lasciviousness*: The Greek word here is "aselgeia" which means licentiousness. It refers to unrestrained behavior and practice, not conforming to strict rules or correctness; being unruly, loose, immodest, and undisciplined.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Lasciviousness is the fourth of the works of the flesh that Paul itemized as causing one to be disqualified to enter the kingdom of God. We have four persons who speak of this evil in their discourse and writing. First, Jesus stated that lasciviousness was one of the things that proceed from the heart, defiling a man. A careless approach to law and authority, along with evil desires, characterize lasciviousness. This looseness of morals covers many aspects, but the most prominent one goes along with our previous lessons, having to do with the relationship between men and women. How many lives are stained with this thing! How many homes have been broken because of a looseness in association with people! Let us remember that the apostle Paul warned us in 1 Corinthians 15:33. "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." Evil associations will stain or corrupt righteous ways of life. A free love spirit is to be guarded against. Sometimes close friends can forget the careful way that they must act toward one another. Brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law can become loose and too familiar with each other. It is very easy for a wrong spirit to creep in. "Love one another with a pure heart fervently," admonished Peter. 1 Peter 1:22. It is very common to see in pictures of visiting dignitaries with the President where the visiting wife is sitting with the President while the First Lady is sitting with the visiting dignitary. Lasciviousness can seem innocent, but it is the beginning of drift and decline of morals. Look at the morals of our country. How did they get that way? Somewhere they were loosened a little. But there is no stopping place. Loosen a little, and then there will be more loosening. Abortion is a ghastly evil, but the things that have brought on the cry for abortion are worse. It is the looseness of this country's morals, the absence of self denial and discipline that have brought our country to the cliff of self annihilation.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. From our Scripture text can you name some of the damaging effects lasciviousness has on the spiritual part of man?
2. Along with other things mentioned, what did Jesus say that this evil does?
3. What did Paul say about people who have given themselves over to the evils of lasciviousness?
4. What do you think "turning the grace of God into lasciviousness" means?
5. What did Peter say others would think of us if we run not with them to the same excess of riot?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Before Adam and Eve sinned they were naked and were not ashamed. Their hearts knew no impure thoughts and motives. But after condemnation gripped their hearts after they had disobeyed the known will of God, they felt their nakedness and made an effort to cover themselves. But God was not satisfied with the fig leaf aprons. He made unto them coats of skins and clothed them. Genesis 3:21. The fact that God clothed Adam and Eve set a precedent and a standard of discipline for the human race. In the law were strict and open denunciations for unlawful and lewd exposure of the human body. One of the sons of Noah was cursed because of looking upon his father's uncovered body. God is still greatly concerned with the manners and ways of people's lives. He wills that men and women keep themselves in respective and proper order. He wills that a man and woman be guided into marriage in a holy and righteous way. All the looseness, petting, familiarity, and handling of each other prior to holy matrimony is displeasing in His sight. It is lasciviousness. It is damaging to the character and spiritual structure. All fleshly activity must be controlled by the Holiness of Christ or it becomes idolatry. Fleshly indulgence has a way of becoming the domineering power over a person. It becomes a pit, a snare. Many are helpless in being captivated by the lusts of this present age. Christ saves, sanctifies, and provides deliverance, but there must be a determination to keep one's self in behavior. There would be less adultery and fornication today if men and women would keep themselves in proper behavior. Beware of lasciviousness. There is a natural attraction between the male and the female, but this must be controlled by God's Holy Spirit, or it will envelop the soul and lead to ruin and unhappiness. Oh,

the Word of God has a high standard of holiness. Let us conform to this standard faithfully. —Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Often man is the aggressor in the sins that have been discussed in previous lessons. We cannot excuse a man for his part in any sin, but lasciviousness includes and pertains also to women. It is the cause for adultery, fornication, and uncleanness. The dictionary describes lasciviousness as, "characterized by or expressing lust or lewdness; tending to excite lustful desires." The undress of the body is often for the very purpose that is thus described, rather than one of comfort and coolness.

Many women display themselves in a half-dressed state and then become outraged when they are violated. There are outcries that the rapists get off too easy; that the laws protect the rapists rather than the victim. These things are often true, but in many cases there would be less exploitation if women would exercise care to prevent inciting lustful desire.

The Bible is very plain on modest dress. A woman can be attractive without creating lustful emotions. She should be adorned with the graces and propriety that suit her. There is a saying which artfully declares that female clothing should be "tight enough to show she's a woman and loose enough to show she's a lady."

The motivating power behind lasciviousness is summed up in Rom. 1:25, "Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever." The carnal mind manifests more interest in the human form than in the God who created it.

—Wayne Murphey

August 1, 1982

IDOLATRY—AN EVIL WITH MANY HEADS

Mark 12:29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:

30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

Matt. 4:8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Eph. 5:5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Col. 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

1 Cor. 10:6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

7 Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

14 Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.

Memory Verse: And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. Luke 12:15.

Central Thought: There is a danger of worshipping the material side of life and setting our affections on the things of this world which are to pass away. We should worship and serve God only and let all else be in subjection to Him.

Word Definition: *Idolatry:* worship of anything other than God. Whatever we set our affections upon becomes an idol. Whatever we attribute success, help, health, or happiness to is our idol.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Idolatry is the fifth in the series Paul labeled as the works of the flesh. We have brought in the different Scriptures that mention idolatry. It is interesting to note that in two of our Scriptures idolatry is given as an identification to covetousness, which is the love of money and material gain. This is the drawing card that Satan uses to allure souls to go his way. This was one of his devices to tempt Jesus, as we see in our

lesson. Idolatry is actually the devotion and affectionate pursuance of earthly things. It is to serve the flesh and its inclinations. It is to be dominated by self, a course contrary to that of faith. Every case of Israel's turning to idols can be traced to this. When Israel put Moses out of their plans and demanded Aaron to make gods to go before them, the worship of the golden calf was the result. But it was not the golden calf that they actually worshipped. It was their own lusts and desires overpowering the faith and patience that they should have had in waiting on God. Satan has not discarded this device. He is yet ensnaring people today through covetousness. Paul told Timothy that the love of money was the root of all evil. 1 Tim. 6:10. This is idolatry, the besetting sin of the masses. It is the love of self unsanctified by the seal of the holiness of the Lord.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What does our lesson term idolatry?
2. Is there any danger of being an idolater?
3. What is Satan's drawing card for men today?
4. Does Christ promise material gain to His children? What gain does He promise?
5. Why is the love of wealth such a treacherous thing? Why is it termed idolatry?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

I remember when, as a young boy in Sunday school, my teacher told how some people worship little images of wood and stone. She read the story of how the Israelites turned away from God to worship the golden calf. I can recall my thoughts as I heard about these things. I thought it seemed quite silly to do such, and wondered what made people worship thus. But since I have learned of the influence of Satan and how he prevails upon souls, I can see how people can be deceived like that. In reality those people back there did not worship those images. What they were worshipping was what they were expecting to receive from such a venture. The golden calf stood for their hope and decision to return to Egypt. They had held on to their hope and trust in God as long as it seemed evident that they were going to get what they were desiring. But once this was seemingly delayed or denied, they reached for something else. Their hearts were not right. They had built up ideas and expectations of what God was to do for them. But God does not want people to set their

hearts on His blessings as much as upon Himself. He wants man's desires and affections. The blessings He sends are designed to warm man's heart to Himself. Thus He puts man to a test by delaying or withholding favors and answers to prayer to see if we worship God or our own desires. It is so easy to worship something else besides God. God wants to be over all. Job had many earthly blessings, but He still worshipped God even when they were all taken away. His heart was not on any of those things. He, no doubt, appreciated and enjoyed them, but he proved that the real object of his affections was His Maker. Thus we are warned by the Apostle Paul in our lesson: Flee idolatry! We do not have to worship a graven image to be an idolater.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

There is a degradation that accompanies idolatry. To bow one's knees and pay homage to something indicates an acknowledgment that it is greater than him. Think of the masses who worshipped the idol Baal. Those people were willing to cut and mutilate themselves before an inanimate object. We term individuals of this nature, heathen, or uncivilized. Yet we find this very thing in our society today. People will slave and ruin their health for material gain. The accumulation of earthly goods is their only security in this life. They are acknowledging by their actions that they are no better than the faltering economy they are putting their trust in. How much more worthwhile to direct our efforts and our worship to those things that are eternal and of everlasting value.

Consider the punishment that was meted out in the Old Testament for being guilty of idolatry. The guilty party was condemned to utter destruction. His nearest relatives were not only bound to denounce him and deliver him up to punishment, but their hands were to strike the first blow, when, on the evidence of at least two witnesses, he was stoned. To attempt to seduce others to false worship was a crime of equal enormity. If individuals were subjected to such punishment back then, how can we hope to receive a lighter sentence when we are still answerable to the same God? Their punishment was a physical punishment. Ours will be an utter spiritual destruction.

There are things of this world that we must obtain and possess, but we should be certain that none of these hinder the affection that belongs to God.

—Wayne Murphey

August 8, 1982

WITCHCRAFT: DECEPTIVE EVIL SNARE

Gal. 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness.

20a Idolatry, witchcraft . . ."

Isa. 8:19 And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?

20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

Deut. 18:10 There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch,

11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.

12 For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee.

13 Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God.

Matt. 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

25 Behold, I have told you before.

26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.

Rev. 16:13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

Memory Verse: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; Eph. 4:14.

Central Thought: The power of Satan works in the world to deceive people. He uses supernatural powers, trickery, magical arts, and many other crafty methods to attract the marvel and wonder of men into following him and forsaking the strait and narrow way.

Word Definitions: *Witchcraft:* The word here used is translated from the Greek word "pharmakeus" from which we get our word "pharmacist." It indicates a spell-giving power, a druggist, a magician, or a wizard. A wizard is a conjurer or a "knowing one." A conjurer is one who pretends that he is aided by a supernatural power. Man has unique capabilities of sly and cunning actions that work faster than the eye. Satan uses people in supernatural ways. But it is a work of the flesh, condemned in God's holy sight, and those who practice these things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

LESSON BACKGROUND

There was witchcraft in the Old Testament times. The land of Canaan was infested with witchcraft. Enchanters, charmers, and necromancers abounded. A necromancer was a person who claimed to talk with the dead. God told His people to cut these people off. Saul, the first king of Israel decreed all witches to be killed. But when he found himself without help from God, he sought one out to give him directions as to what to do. In our world today witchcraft is abounding. Snake charmers, magicians, playing card handlers, fortune tellers, palm readers are on hand making their appeal to the public. Witchcraft is fascinating and alluring to the carnal, unbelieving mind of mankind. Even hypnotism, although it may seem innocent, is a work of the flesh and should be avoided by those who seek the Lord. We do not need these things if we have faith in the Lord Jesus and are persuaded of what He has done for our eternal welfare as well as for our mortal life. We should seek unto our God.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. Who is the author of witchcraft?
2. How does witchcraft appeal to the carnal mind?
3. Does the devil have power to do signs and wonders?
4. Name some of the fruits of witchcraft that we have in the world today.
5. What do the saints have that is far better than anything that witchcraft can offer?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

I can remember when I was in school, for a home room project some of the boys tried to show how they could make a card table rise. Four boys were seated at the table, each laying his outstretched hands palms down on the table top. They began to chant: "Rise, table, rise." I do not recall if the table ever rose or not, but little did I know at the time that the boys were trifling with witchcraft. Today we have in our world a real movement of people inclining themselves toward thoughts of the supernatural. Ouija boards are a common thing that people fool around with. They think it is an innocent pastime, but it is witchcraft, and God is not pleased with it. Satan's power finds an opportune advantage to get in his appeal to souls through the seemingly supernatural. Anything supernatural attracts a person's attention. But we should be aware that Satan can and will work in the supernatural. His working is all to the flesh, and not to the spiritual betterment of mankind. In this age of various drugs wherewith people get "high" and have wonderful experiences in the realm of ecstasy, witchcraft shows its deceitful form. It has its attraction and appeal to the carnal mind. I was at a country school community gathering one night as a young person. It was to be a wholesome and profitable evening, but part of the program was a playing card conjurer. He had played before the Queen of England, so he said. He did unbelievable stunts with those playing cards. No one could do such things were it not for a supernatural power. I heard him say as he went out the door, "It was sure rough tonight." Young people, stay away from witchcraft. It is deceptive and alluring to the flesh. God does not need the arts and tricks of man. The magicians in Egypt could do quite a few things, but God's power exceeded theirs. They could change their staves into snakes, turn water into blood, and other things, but they could not make lice come on things. God has the answer for us in Christ and the Holy Spirit. This will far surpass the powers of witchcraft.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

It is simple to become involved in forms of witchcraft. Just seemingly innocent things can start a person on the road to possession by Satan. The ouija board is very prevalent. More ouija boards have been sold than Monopoly games. People are feasting on this type of thing. I would advise saved and unsaved alike to refrain from any type of witchcraft. There is a difference in being a sinner and in being possessed of the devil.

Consider the contrast between the spirit of God and the spirit of Satan. One who is filled with superstition may start the day by consulting a horoscope to see what he should avoid. Some attend seances to communicate with the spirits of the dead. They exercise superstitious care in their daily routine to prevent the occurrence of anything that would invoke a tragedy upon their lives. When a famous psychic foretells of an impending disaster they are fearful of its befalling them. On the other hand, 2 Tim. 1:7 says "For God hath not given us a spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

It is much more satisfying to have the peace of God in our heart. Instead of anticipating our future we can calmly trust God for each new day and know that all things work together for good to them that love the Lord. —Wayne Murphey

THE LITTLE FOXES

"Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines." S. of Solomon 2:15.

The importance of little things is stressed many times in God's infallible Word. The act on which hung the most stupendous issues was seemingly least of all: that of eating a little fruit in the Garden of Eden. How small the deed; how tremendous the consequences! It was not the outward deed, however, but the underlying principle, **disobedience—sin**, that brought about the fall of man; throwing the whole world into chaos and death.

This same principle lies back of every small transgression today. So the little foxes under consideration here are not small at all in God's sight. May we never minimize what God forbids. Our entire future as fruit-bearing Christians is at stake here. Bearing fruit is depending on getting answers to our prayers and answers will be delayed until we deal with the sinful obstructions. (See Psalms 66:18 and John 15.)

The little foxes that spoil the vines are numerous.

Pride is a sly one—with many disguises. He is seen best at a distance, or in our neighbor's garden. Consequently is often overlooked in self. This is a thrifty little fox and if allowed to remain, becomes the mother of self-conceit and eats the very core of spirituality out of the heart and life. God hates pride; thus to shelter it is surely disastrous as far as our usefulness to Him is concerned. The way to the Celestial City leads through the Valley of Humiliation. May we ever walk in this good way.

Exaggeration is closely related to pride. This is so "small and innocent looking" that many ministers love him, and

allow him a place in their vineyard. While exaggeration may seem small, all that goes beyond the truth is closely related to a lie, and all lies are of the same color with God.

Selfishness is not little at all, but appears so, to many. This is a cousin to **covetousness**, which is so big and ugly we fence against him. This fox inhabits the universe. He is a faithful one, and if accepted in childhood stays with us through life, except the grace of God intervenes.

Discouragement. While this little fox seems least of all—a weakling and ready to die, he has already lived some six thousand years and is good for many more. Being small of stature, he creeps into almost every Christian's life at one time or another. Those who detect and guard against the other fall victim to this one themselves when things go wrong, or an answer to prayer is delayed. This fox paid a visit to Jonah under the gourd vine, and to Elijah under the juniper tree.

World conformity. This one is known in almost every circle. He, like the others, appears harmless at first, but surely robs the church of power and spirituality. This is an enemy to God, and to all who would walk in His ways. "Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed." Rom. 12:2.

Doubt and fear are so unlike their cousins, yet have kept multiplied thousands in bondage, and out of the kingdom of God. These cannot dwell where faith is, for they are contrary, one to the other.

Fleshly lusts. Immature Christians allow this little fox many privileges which are utterly ruinous to spiritual growth and contrary to the Word of God. Crucify the flesh with the affection and lusts. "Put off the old man," (see Gal. 5:24, Eph. 4:22.)

Love of pleasure seems so desirable; but God's Word is, "She that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth." 1 Timothy 5:6.

Extravagance and waste. These foxes seem unimportant and to pertain to our own affairs, yet as good stewards over His heritage we may not indulge in that which pertains to self-gratification. These are never to His glory.

Worry. To some, worry seems almost necessary when things go wrong. However, worry has ever made bad matters worse throughout the centuries. "Worrying is unbelief, and is sin."

Resentment and retaliation. How crafty are these little foxes! How natural and how human to harbor them! Still, for this "kindness" they eat the heart out and leave the soul

devoid of good! "He that liveth after the flesh shall die." Romans 8:13.

Gossiping, backbiting, and talebearing. What a team these are! They are closely related, and so deadly they belong in the same category as adultery, hatred, and murder, yet are allowed by many who profess to love God, and to see His cause prosper. There is surely "death in the pot" where these abound. God's judgments are pronounced upon them, and they must be dealt with in no uncertain way by those who would stand among the overcomers.

Impatience. This is so well known to us all. Still this cunning little fox has many excuses made in his behalf. He often shows up in the most unexpected places. If harbored and nurtured this may terminate in anger and wrath, which none would think of condoning who own Christ as Lord and Saviour. "Let patience have her perfect work."

Criticism and faultfinding are ugly affronts put on by many to their own hurt; or by those with a beam in their eye, who would remove the mote from his brother's eye.

Murmuring and complaining are closely related and appear small at first; still these seemingly small sins so provoked God's righteous judgments at one time, that multitudes in Israel were plagued and slain for this offense (Num. 11). "Do all things without murmuring," Phil. 2:14.

Contention, quarreling, arguing. Where meekness and humility are lacking, these may be found. In such cases both parties think themselves right, whereas both are wrong—since God forbids it. In every case a few drops of the oil of divine love will make things run smoothly again.

Judging, (or coming to conclusions without knowing all the facts), is never a small offense. "Judge not that ye be not judged."

Envy and Jealousy "are as cruel as the grave." They leave the soul empty and invite disaster.

Peevishness, touchiness, vainglory, self-pity, desire for honor or fame are other subtle traits of carnality that come for one purpose only: to rob, to destroy and to leave the Vineyard of God's planting a barren and desolate waste. All are violations of God's holy law—the same disobedience that wrought disaster in the Garden of Eden and brought about the fall of man.

Satan has surely gained more victories among God's people through seemingly small things than the great. How he must laugh in diabolical glee to see ministers and laymen

alike chasing "lions," while the little foxes, unobserved, spoil the vines.

All these sly little foxes (or carnal leanings) must surely die if we would attain God's best. One may escape us now and then, but may we stay on their trails until the last is slain, and the Garden of God's planting flourishes again under perfect obedience to His every word.

If we would stand among the overcomers we must **overcome**. There are battles to fight and victories to win, if, at the reckoning time, we would hear His glad "well done."

—Ethel Meadows

August 15, 1982

HATRED AND MURDERS

Gal. 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

21 Envyings, 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.

1 John 3:11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

4:20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

Gen. 9:4 But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.

5 And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man.

6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.

Memory Verse: Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. 1 John 3:15.

Central Thought: An absence of love within the heart of man gives rise to hatred toward others, and hatred can become murder.

Word Definitions: *Hatred:* strong dislike, resentment, and despising of others, malicious desire for revenge. *Murders:* the destructive taking of another's life with malice and forethought.

LESSON BACKGROUND

This quarter we are studying the various works of the flesh. Let us consider today two of these works of the flesh that go together. A murder is the fruit of a deep-rooted hatred. Hatred is the opposite of love, and where there is no love, there is a great emptiness that is bound to be filled with something. The absence of love is the absence of God, for God is love. The transgression of the wicked is that there is no fear, reverence, or respect for God before their eyes. Adam and Eve yielded to the flesh when they consented to partake of that which God had forbidden. Thus the flood gates were opened to evil, and one such evil was hatred that soon developed into murder. Cain became jealous of Abel because Abel's works were right and his were wrong. The fire of hatred began to burn until it became a passionate flame of murder. The Apostle John labels one who allows hatred into his heart as a murderer. Keep hatred out and there will be no murder. As human beings, we rub each other in the wrong direction. Instead of allowing hatred, Christ is calling us to mercy, longsuffering, and forbearance. Keeping God enthroned in our hearts is the only real safeguard for the soul against hatred. God spoke to Noah upon leaving the ark concerning the seriousness of shedding man's blood. Man can be forgiven of the sin of murder if he repents with godly sorrow and have in him the One who was murdered on Calvary.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What causes hatred in man?
2. How is murder associated with hatred?

3. What is the best safeguard against hatred?
4. Can a man love God and at the same time hate his brother?
5. How can hatred be changed to love?

ADULT'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

The world is scarred with the blight of hatred. Thousands of people are murdered annually because someone's hatred developed to the point of desire to destroy. Thousands of people commit suicide every year. This is hatred and murder also. One hates himself to want to take his own life. This is not normal. To kill one's self is to destroy both soul and body together at one time. There is no forgiveness for self-murder. We should love God, our neighbor, and our self. Love of self should be in subordination to our love for God and for our fellowman. The deliberate destruction of unborn babies is murder, also. God is not pleased with abortion, but He is mostly displeased with the fornication and adulterous circumstances that cause one to even consider destroying the life of the unborn. A normal man and woman, married according to God's holy ordinance, tenderly yearn for the little child which is coming forth. Oh, our world is sinking deeper and deeper into the pits of corruption! The hatred and murder that are carried on will meet the righteous judgments of God. Thank God for Jesus and the pattern of love He set before us. Although He was wrongly accused and mistreated, He allowed no hatred in His heart. "He threatened not." Seeking no revenge, He forgave His tormentors. He was willing to be murdered on our behalf. Fight hatred. When it comes knocking, plead the blood of Jesus and the love of God to help you overcome. —Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Hatred will completely alter a person's outlook on life. It drains the joy from life. Hatred will bring about prejudices. One who is hated can never please the hater. His motives are always counted as wrong and corrupt. The Apostle John said that he that hateth his brother is a murderer. The hated person may not be actually injured, but a death does take place in the heart of the one who hates. An individual's whole nature suffers a change in the process of hating.

There once was a man who possessed a problem with hatred. One day while assisting others in digging a grave, he made the comment, "I wish they were burying me today." This man had already died on the inside.

Hatred produces a futile feeling. You want so intensely something bad to happen to the hated, but yet your wishing won't bring it to pass. This is why hatred can so easily lead to actual murder.

Our world today promulgates murder. It is heavily advertised on TV and is depicted as the natural solution if someone does you wrong. In reality it is a common occurrence. We can little expect to have a sane and safe society as long as children are reared in such an environment.

—Wayne Murphey

TOM NEVER LEFT THE BARS DOWN AGAIN

There is a fine story that comes from a New England home of years ago. It is told by one of the boys concerned, grown to manhood. As he tells the story:

"Once I saved Tom from a promised whipping for leaving down the bars when he went after the cows at milking time, thus giving the young cattle left in the pasture a chance to get out, which they always approved of. If they were on the back side of the lot when Tom got the cows, he thought it unnecessary to put up the bars. It would be so short a time when the cows would be driven back. Father cautioned and reproved him several times, till finally he threatened to whip him if it happened again. Several weeks passed and he left the bars down again. The young cattle got into the corn, doing much damage. The next morning father said nothing, but went about his usual work. Tom was gloomy, there was an air of depression in the house and I was greatly troubled. I could not bear to have Tom whipped, nor could I blame Father. At last I resolved to go and speak to him.

"The sun was shining brightly and he was opening up some bales of hay in the meadow. I approached him slowly, for I did not feel sure of my ground, and stood still without saying a word. He looked at me and said, 'Well, Joe, what is it?' 'I have come to speak to you about Tom. I do not want him whipped.' 'I do not see how you can help it, my son. I cannot have my crops destroyed in this way, and I must keep my word.' 'Father, didn't you read this morning in the lesson, 'He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, and by His stripes we are healed?' ' 'Yes, what a boy you are to remember, Joe.' 'Well, I will take half the blows you intend to give Tom.' 'I can't do that, Joe. Tom is the transgressor, not you,' answered Father, his face softening and his voice trembling a little. Then looking at me

kindly, he asked: 'Did Tom send you to me?' 'No, he knows nothing of my coming.' Father stood leaning on his pitch-fork with both hands, looking down at the ground. At length he said, 'Go bring Tom.'

"I found him on the front porch with a sober face, trying to study. 'Come with me, Tom. Father wants you.' I know what he wants," turning a little pale. After a moment's hesitation, he arose, saying, 'I might as well go and have it done with.' As we walked along I thought it best to give him a little advice, for he generally did as the occasion served him. There was no knowing beforehand what he would do. 'Now, Tom, you must not flare up or show any spunk. You must be humble and answer Father's questions in a good kind of a way. You must not talk any, only answer his questions. I do not think he will be hard on you.' Father stood as I had left him. I can see him now after the lapse of so many years, with his back to the sun leaning forward a little on the handle of his fork, looking down at the ground, one hand above the other and his chin in his hands and some forkfuls of hay scattered about him.

"He did not seem to see us. He was lost in reverie.

" 'Father,' I ventured timidly. 'Tom is here.' He looked up at us both quickly, then said: 'Tom, do you remember these words in our Scripture lesson this morning, "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, and by His stripes we are healed"?"

" 'Yes,' answered Tom, greatly surprised.

" 'What do you think these words mean?"

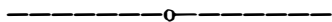
" 'That Christ suffered for us,' replied Tom, his voice unsteady and his face blushing.

" 'Well, Joe offers to suffer for you.' Tom turned to me with a look on his face I shall never forget and exclaimed, 'No, Joe, you shall not do that.' Then flinging his arms around my neck, he kissed me and as quick as a flash, he stepped up to father and held out his hand, saying: 'The stripes belong to me, Father, I am ready.' Tears were falling down Father's face, and for a moment he could not speak. Then he said, 'No, Tom, I cannot punish anyone now. I do not think you will ever forget this day. If you do, remember Joe's offer holds good. I love my children and I want to do to them all the good I can, but I must be obeyed. This is one way of doing them good; you may go now.' Tom did not stir. He was evidently waiting for me, and yet, for some reason I could not explain, I hesitated, then stepping closer I said, 'Father, I want to kiss you.' He

caught me in his arms, saying: 'Oh, my boy,' and kissed me. Then taking Tom, who was ready, he said: 'God bless you, dear Tom,' and kissed him with swimming eyes.

Then with great awe upon us we went to the house. Tom never left the bars down again."

—Selected



August 22, 1982

WRATH AND STRIFE

Gal. 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

21 Envyings, 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.

James 3:13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

Prov. 15:1 A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

James 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

Eph. 4:26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

27 Neither give place to the devil.

Memory Verse: A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife. Prov. 15:18.

Central Thought: We should not allow God's pleasure to be turned away from our wrath. There is a righteous anger, but when our wrath or sore displeasure gets out of control and runs into strife, we grieve God and are motivated by the flesh.

Word Definitions: *Wrath:* The execution of anger and sore displeasure. *Strife:* warring and endeavoring against one another.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Wrath and strife are closely associated. There is a holy strife and a righteous indignation which every saved person has. But there is a carnal strife and a wrath that issues from pride and selfishness. James, in speaking of the power of the tongue, shows how a wise man can show his works thereby. Then he points out that the tongue is often used as an instrument of strife. From the proverbs of Solomon come many wise and fruitful sayings, including those that deal with wrath and strife. The counsel in James 1:19, 20, we would do well to heed. Much sorrow is generated in this life because people have not learned to be slow of speech and wrath. "The wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God." Then we have Paul's injunction to "Let not the sun go down on your wrath." We miss the full impact of his saying if we reckon this to mean the literal going down of the sun. We would do well to apply this to the sunlight of God's countenance or pleasure. What we do with our sore displeasure is the critical thing. Anger controlled and governed by divine wisdom is a vital thing. "Be ye angry, and sin not." "Neither give place to the devil." Satan has a good place to work in uncontrolled anger and wrath. The pot of strife will soon be boiling over and the harm and damage cannot be measured. —Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the best way to stir up anger?
2. To keep down strife what must we be?
3. Why is God against carnal strife?
4. How can we keep the sun from going down on our wrath?
5. What does strife do to the spiritual life of man?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Wrath and strife find their outlet in the tongue. Hasty words unweighed by wisdom issue forth so freely with no thought or care of their consequence. The world is pulsing with strife. Few men ever learn the way of peace. It seems that the

way of peace is not satisfying to the restless soul of man. It appears that strife infested people are not aware of their folly. Arguing, feuds, and jangling issue back and forth, back and forth. They seem to thrive on it. Strife will destroy a marriage, an organization, a business, a church, or anything else that men make up. A nation can be destroyed more easily by inward strife than by outward invasion. Self has priority and is pushing for more pre-eminence. Another root of strife is uncertainty. The light of heaven shining in the soul bringing the knowledge of God brings an end to strife. The wars cease, the bow he breaks, the spear he cuts asunder, and the chariot he burns in the fire. "Be still, and know that I am God." Psa. 46:9, 10. Human wrath and strife hide God's face and drown out God's voice. People strive for they know not what. Jesus came to be the Prince of Peace. He will still the storms of strife and enable us to be quiet. "The work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever." Isaiah 32:17. More can be accomplished by hoping and quietly waiting on the Lord than by all the skill and pressure man could ever muster.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Much of the trouble in today's world is created by the childish actions of grown people. Many grow up physically but never actually mature. Wrath and strife are stimulated by just this type of individual. Those who fly off the handle and act or speak irresponsibly, simply manifest a sign of immaturity. To the unbiased onlooker, the actions of one motivated by anger and strife appear ridiculous. The individual who has behaved intolerably may himself feel sheepish and foolish, when made to face a situation in a more composed manner.

Wrath will cause one to throw across the room an object he is attempting to repair but cannot. Curse words flow swiftly from the person who has injured himself. I once saw a man who was angry at his wife, so he rammed his truck into her car. Another man became so angry at his wife that he pounded her washing machine with a hammer to such an extent that it could no longer be used. These are works of the flesh that the Christian must keep out of his life.

Even the Godly should take care to prevent strife. Strife can be generated by one ardently but unwisely upholding a truth that is clearly taught by the Word of God. We must be firm in standing for what is right, but it must be done in love and humility, not with a harsh, legalistic spirit. "And the

servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will." 2 Tim. 2:24-26. —Wayne Murphey

August 29, 1982

VARIANCE: DIVISION

Gen. 13:5 And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents.

6 And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together.

7 And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelt then in the land.

8 And Abram said unto Lot, let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren.

9 Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.

1 Cor. 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

4 For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?

5. Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?

6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

1 Cor. 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Memory Verse: For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. 1 Cor. 14:33.

Central Thought: God is grieved when the conflicts and disagreements that arise between people develop into breaks in fellowship, friendship, and harmony. When we allow a difference between us and someone else to bring hard feelings, strife, or discord, we are being dominated by the flesh.

Word Definitions: *Variance:* The Greek word is similar to that for strife. It means quarrelling or wrangling. The Webster's definition tells us that variance means to quarrel, dispute, or to have discord between two who should agree.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Variance is one of the works of the flesh. It brings great sorrow and sadness to many hearts. God had blessed Abraham in his sojourn from Ur of the Chaldees, but because of his many flocks and herds and Lot's possessions, there was not enough room in the area where they were. Their herdmen were striving against one another. Abraham, in the true spirit of humility with which God is so pleased, offered Lot his choice and was willing to take what was left. This kind of attitude stopped the trouble short. The apostle Paul was writing to the infant Church at Corinth. He recognized them to be saved, but also admonished them for still being under the domination of the flesh. They were in division and strife concerning what minister they liked best and other things. There is a variance and division that is justified. This is the division between those who serve God and those who serve Him not. But even this division could be eliminated if all parties would submit to God's will. Why does God hate division? It dishonors His name. It harbors conditions in people's hearts that do not blend with His merciful and kind nature. There are conflicts in life. We do not all look at things alike every time. Even among sanctified and Spirit-filled people there will arise conflicts. But we must pursue peace and endeavor to keep unity. We should seek the Lord to learn how to handle the conflicts of life and not allow them to work variance. This is one of the works of the flesh, just as adultery and fornication are.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. Can we expect everyone to agree with us every time?
2. Is a disagreement a sin?
3. Can we disagree without being disagreeable?

4. When is it best to try to get in the last word?
5. What will happen to us if we get caught up in this work of the flesh?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

How often we hear a person make a statement and another with anger disagree with him! This touches off anger in the first person, and then a violent quarrel begins. On the other hand, a person filled with the Spirit of God could make a statement and another who wasn't filled with the Spirit, could disagree with anger, and no quarrel would come from it. Why? because of the oil of the Holy Spirit working within him.

I read where two boys heard of Dr. Franklin's experiment of stilling waves with oil, and they tried it and found that it worked. They asked why oil would cause such wonderful results. The answer given was that the wind, blowing upon the water that is covered with a coat of oil, slides over the surface of it, and produces no friction. How important then, it is to have the Spirit of God, which is the oil, working within us, so anger, hasty words, unjust statements, slurring remarks, and strong disagreement will just slide right off and we can answer with a heart full of love and understanding.

It takes two to make a quarrel, my mother always told me, and I have found this to be true. If a person will keep still when he realizes another is angry and quarrelsome, there will not be a quarrel and they will soon stop. I have tried to think of something to say calmly or change the subject, or even tried to think of something nice I could do for them so they would know I was wanting peace. However, you will have to have the oil of the Holy Spirit on hand to carry this out.

—Sis. Marie Miles (from *The Corrupt Tree*)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

God does not view our disagreements with one another as seriously as He does our reaction to the disagreements. As long as we are in the flesh, there will always be differences. You may think the perfect color for a church building is brown, while someone else thinks that every chapel should be white. Those void of the spirit of God might be ready to separate company over something just this trivial.

There are several types of fellowship. One is an associational fellowship. Your job may require you to communicate and mingle with people of the world, yet there is a great separation between your spirit and theirs. There is an

associational fellowship of worship. This includes those with whom you meet to worship God. Even here there may be some with whom your freedom of expression is limited. Then there is a fellowship of the spirit. This is the type of true fellowship that God wants all Christians to have; where one is free to open his heart before God and man. It is the devil's business to hamper this fellowship.

The Apostle Paul not only exhorted the Church at Corinth to unity, but also the Ephesian Church. In writing to them he said, "And he gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith." God has placed individuals in offices of authority, not for the perpetuation of strife, discord, and variance among themselves, but that they might exhort the general body of the saints to unity. It is very possible for ministers to become so involved in the problems among themselves, that they neglect and injure the Church in general. They thoughtlessly ignore the effect it may have when they air their differences before the public congregation. Variance is something that God wants put far from us.

—Wayne Murphey

A THRILLING STORY FROM ALASKA

I was born in Jefferson County, New York, in 1834.

In 1886, I went to New Mexico to try my luck in the mining of silver. The second of this venture, I opened up the largest body of high-grade silver ore that was ever discovered in New Mexico. When the silver went down on account of the demonetizing of silver, I had a block of mines, which had been thoroughly tested on the London market, and had been accepted by London buyers, for which I was to receive five million dollars. But before my money was paid over, silver began to drop, and consequently the buyers held off. Silver continued to gradually decline in value until the mines were practically valueless. Thus ended my silver mining.

I then turned my attention to gold mining, and for ten long years I worked hard to get a gold mine. But everything went against me.

I then went to Alaska in 1897 to the Copper River country on a grub stake. As I was sledding my personal effects and grub and mining outfit, my eyesight began to fail. I had noticed that my eyes were not good about two weeks before. Finally I came across a deserted cabin. I stopped in this cabin

and let the crowd go by, as they expected to find plenty of gold. What hardships men will undergo to find the gold which perisheth!

With my bedimmed eyes, I thought it wise to rest a few days in hopes that my eyesight would improve. But to my surprise and dismay, my eyes kept getting worse, and after thirty days my sight was gone, and there was no apparent reason why I was blind.

My eyes were not inflamed, neither did they pain me. My sad affliction led me to think and wonder what would become of me. I was alone, but had little fuel and I did not expect anyone to come to the cabin. Deep snow had covered every trail, and there I was, shut out from the world, alone, and blind. There was nothing left for me to do but to remain, eat up my provisions, lie in my cot and keep from freezing. I just waited to see what would turn up.

A panorama of my past life went before me. I was compelled to think, and I also discovered that I was cornered; there seemed to me no way out. I did not believe I would ever see again. I felt that if I could only die and never be found, it would be a relief. Twice in my life before I had been given up to die but this was worse; I wanted to die and could not. I was yet well in body, except that I was poor, old, and blind.

I had a wife and one son in Denver who were depending on me. I had made one last effort to make another stake, and had failed. All hope had fled; the cabin was not in sight; I did not think it possible for any one to come my way; there was no smoke to lead one to my cabin door; I was completely lost to all the world. Oh, the horrors of being lost! To be lost in this world is frightful, but oh, to be lost in the world to come—FOREVER!

In this loneliness, this lostness, I began to feel the need of God and of a Savior. My mother's sweet face came up before me, and I remembered her prayers with vivid imagination, although she had been dead forty years. She was a woman of faith, and always believed that God answered prayer. I remembered how she used to pray in the barn, away back on the hay where we could not see her. She was the only one in the family to pray. How I wished that I could believe as she did! I then began to think about praying myself. That was about all that was left for me to do, except to starve and die. I asked God to help me, to send someone to deliver me. I prayed all day and all night, until I went to sleep. I felt better when I was praying. But no answer came. I continued to pray for

three days and three nights constantly, except when I would sleep a little. There was no answer, so I became discouraged.

Finally my eyes were turned upon myself. I knew that I was a sinner. I tried to think of something else, but my mind would revert to my own wretched condition, and involuntarily I would begin to pray again. I was cut off from all earthly assistance; there was no arm of flesh to lean upon; I only could call upon God. My past life stalked before me like a ghost; the years of unbelief, and doubts, and sins. Perhaps this was why God did not answer my prayer. I began to think that I was completely cut off from God. Memory was active; am I lost from God? Why pray more? I am a lost man, and God will not hear me. I felt that all hopes were gone.

Finally, I began to repent of my past life. I saw that I had made an awful mistake. My feelings overcame me for a time. What a sad hour that was to me! But hope, like the rays of the sun, came to my rescue again. I said to myself, "I will not give up: I will pray again." I determined to ask God to answer, so that I might know that He heard me. If He would do so, I would believe on Him the rest of my life. My sight came to me in the twinkling of an eye!

I could see as well as ever. It was sudden, so sudden that it fairly surprised me. I was not looking for such an answer. I was entirely overcome, and for a time I forgot everything. "Oh, I exclaimed, "God has heard and answered my prayer! This is the most wonderful thing I have ever heard of. God must be here." It seemed that I could feel His very presence. Yes, yes, God is surely here, for, He has given me my sight; there is no mistake about that. I am sure that I was blind, but now I can see! Oh, this is wonderful! If I had only known about this wonderful God I would have served Him all the days of my life.

I began to get happy. I shouted as loud as I could, "Glory to God!" I danced around that old cabin and praised God. I got the door open, got out and on top of the hard snow. The sun was shining. The whole woods seemed alive; the tree tops were clapping their hands, and everything seemed to be praising God. My spiritual eyes had been opened; I was looking upon a new world. While nature seemed to dance, glisten and sparkle, the blessing in my own soul was more wonderful. I was filled with the glory of God. Such peace, such ecstasy is simply beyond language to describe. The impression made upon my mind is indelible. My whole life was changed in a moment. "Old things had passed away; behold,

all things had become new." I knew the truth; I had experienced the new life in Christ. I am sure of the "New Birth." I know the supernatural power of God. I am not deceived; it is no delusion. I now know that it is a Divine reality, but words fail me to express it. "It passeth understanding," but it is real to those who enjoy it. I found the richest mine in Alaska—an inexhaustible mine. The more I take out, the more there is left. The deeper I dig, the richer the vein.

It might be of interest to the reader to know just how I got out of the old cabin. About June 1, the men came back from their gold hunt up the river. They knew me and where I stopped, and so looked me up. They were in a sorry plight, their toes, nose, and hands were frozen and they were half starved. One of them had a small camera and he took a picture of my cabin where God met me.

In a few days we came to Prince William Sound. No gold had been discovered, so we shipped for Seattle.

—S. M. Rugg

September 5, 1982

EMULATIONS AND ENVYINGS

Acts 7:9 And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him.

1 Cor. 13:4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth.

Matt. 27:17 Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?

18 For he knew that for envy they had delivered him.

Acts 13:45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.

Rom. 10:2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

Phil. 1:15 Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will.

Gal. 5:26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

Titus 3:2 To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.

3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

Memory Verse: For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. James 3:16.

Central Thought: God is displeased with anyone's feeling uncomfortable and unhappy at another's prosperity or success and desiring to out-do them. This is envy, and it will cause one to have emulations and vain, selfish desires to get ahead of that person.

Word Definitions: *Emulations:* Greek Word is "zeal" from which comes our word "zeal." It means ardor or strong affection in a good sense and malice or jealousy in a bad sense. *Envyings:* Ill will or jealousy. The two words are much related to each other.

LESSON BACKGROUND

We will study two closely related works of the flesh today. Both of these take the form of jealousy. Stephen declared that Joseph's brothers were moved with envy when they sold him into Egypt. This ugly disposition showed up in reaction to Jacob's special favor for his younger son, Joseph. The dreams of his one day supremacy, and the coat of many colors were fuel for the fire of envy and emulation that worked in their hearts. Pilate was aware that the Jews were envious of Jesus. Later when at Antioch in Pisidia, the gospel preached by Paul and Barnabas was drawing crowds and gaining favor with the people, the flesh-laden Jews were filled with envy. This showed what their real purpose in life was. True divine love, the apostle Paul states in the love chapter of 1 Corinthians 13, does not envy. The Jews had a zeal for God, but it was a zeal of ignorance, unenlightened and undisciplined by the true righteousness. There were some in Paul's time that preached Christ of envy. Now this is very sad, but true. Much envy and self promotion attends the Christian professed world. God wants us to be free from envy. The desire to succeed in Christian service and accomplishment is a good desire, but it must be carefully disciplined and controlled. Let us remember that envy and emulation are flesh oriented passions that will

disqualify us from entrance into the kingdom of God.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS

1. Will there be times when others seem to be more blessed than ourselves?
2. Why is jealousy such an unmanly, wrong thing?
3. How does love act when others excel?
4. What does zeal without knowledge produce?
5. Instead of envy and jealousy, what should we have in our hearts?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

The dictionary says that emulation means to "strive to equal or excel with a view to outdo; ambitious or envious rivalry." This fruit is being manifested in the world today at an alarming rate. One place where it is in great evidence is at the big ball games. This is not only being manifested by the players, but also by thousands who are on the side lines. I was told that a man was standing out in front of the others, rooting loudly and long for his side which was winning. Another man, who was for the other side, became very angry because he was being outdone. He picked up a baseball bat, walked over and hit the man in the head. The blow killed him. Thus emulation brought on murder.

It has been told that a firm in a certain town desired to secure a good player who was on the High School team of another town, for their home-town team. The firm offered the father of the good player a good job so they would move and the boy would be on their team. This is surely envious rivalry.

Some girls are not satisfied unless their clothes are better than others and of the latest styles. This is emulation—one trying to outdo the others with whom he associates. Some can never have a good word for others whom they see the Lord is blessing because they are being left out. This condition sometimes causes them to get ahead of the Lord and get into trouble because they want to outdo others. The Bible says, "Let each esteem others better than themselves." Phil. 2:3.

"Wrath is cruel and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?" Proverbs 27:4. Envy is "as rottenness of the bones." Proverbs 14:31. Envy will cause a righteous person to be picked to pieces, so to speak. The righteous person will be accused of doing things or intending to do things they never even thought about doing. A person affected by envy will turn

the words that have been spoken around to mean just what their imagination wishes. Little by little envy begins to work and if allowed to continue it will possess a person's soul and mind. An old proverb is: "Envy is the devil's eye, and hypocrisy is the devil's cloven foot."

—Sister Marie Miles

From *The Corrupt Tree*

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The works of the flesh are of profit to no one. Emulation and envy are a burden to those who possess them. We must strive to keep free from all that Satan would put on us. Our Christian life cannot be a fulfilled life if we allow these things to become a part of us. Emulation and envy can manifest themselves in various degrees. They are more obvious in some lives than in others. An extreme case of emulation or envy will cause hatred.

To find a person who is completely free of emulation or envy, look for the one who can allow someone else to take credit for something that he has done. Boastfulness accompanies what we are talking about. An individual who has lost humility from his heart and boasts of personal accomplishments, potentially is a candidate for emulation and envy.

Often one who is envious of another fails to realize the responsibilities of the one he envies. Those who long for another's position obviously are jealous of the prestige and glory that it is bringing to that individual. Many times, along with reputation come responsibility, heartache, and difficulty.

It means much to be contented with our lot in life and not always be desiring our fellow man's position. The Apostle Paul wrote that he had learned in whatsoever state he was, to be content. If we learn the secret of keeping our eyes on Jesus and our faith in God, we may also eliminate much of the friction of life bred by discontent and envy.

—Wayne Murphey

WHITHER BOUND

"Ships sailing the sea once observed the custom of saluting vessels that came in hailing distance. The captain raised a trumpet to his lips, shouted, 'Whither bound?' "

Oh, careless soul, you are on a voyage that must end somewhere; "Whither bound?"

Oh, man of the world, full of business from early morning until late at night, with "no time" to think of eternal realities,

and the destiny of your immortal soul; whither bound? The "ship of Zion" has come in hailing distance of your frail vessel, which is making its way swiftly, surely over the tempestuous Sea of Life, with the awful whirlpools of eternal despair ahead; and our Captain of the "nail-pierced hand" and the "thorn-crowned brow," puts the trumpet to his lips, and cries out to you in tones of infinite intreaty and yearning, "whither bound?" And His redeemed passengers echo, "whither bound?"

Oh, woman of fashion and pride, frittering away your precious, God-given hours in the gay whirl of society—the theater, the card party, the reception, and the ball—taken up with poodle dogs and trifles, your voyage is swiftly nearing its end, and a trumpet voice from the "old ship Zion" cries out to you, "Whither bound?" A lady of wealth and position who had spent her life in this way was suddenly brought face to face with the awful and startling fact that her voyage of life was within an hour of its end, and cried out in despair and remorse, "Only an hour to live! And what have I done? I led the fashion—oh, God! the *fashion!* when He wanted me to minister to the sick and the poor. And now *only an hour to live!*" But she did not have an hour; with these words on her lips she sank back and died.

Oh, careless, neglectful soul, young or old or middle-aged, white or black or brown or any other color, rich or poor, learned or unlearned, living in hovel or cottage or palace, or behind prison bars, deep down in sin, or covered with a cloak of morality and respectability, but without God and salvation; you are on a voyage that will never stop, by day or night, until it lands you on some eternal shore, but *where?* In the name of Him who "so loved the world that he gave His only begotten son;" in the name of Him who is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance;" in the name of Him who died that you might live, we cry out, "whither bound? who is your pilot?" The voyage is tempestuous; the storms of eternal wrath are gathering; there are rocks and shoals on either hand, and any moment, without Christ on board, you are liable to make eternal and irretrievable shipwreck. There is only one Captain who is able to guide you over the sea, bring you into the glad haven of eternal rest, of everlasting blessedness. In the providence of God, we are in hailing distance now, and the "old ship Zion" salutes you, and cries out with great solicitude, "Whither bound? Whither bound?"

There is room for you on our vessel, thank God! The "Pilot of Galilee" is both Captain and Pilot of this glorious Ship of Salvation. If tempest come, He has only to say, "Peace, be still," and lo, there is "a great calm." He knows the waters over which we sail. He knows every rock and every shoal; and with His pierced hand upon the wheel there is no danger of shipwreck. Hallelujah!

He loves His passengers with a tender love, and they have delightful fellowship with Him. There is a banqueting house on board, and His love is so great for His passengers that with His own hand He spreads the table with the richest of viands, and then sits down and "sups" with them; and "His banner over them is love." He has given us a wonderful Guide Book that tells how to meet every emergency of the voyage, and of the fair land to which we are going; for we *know* whither we are bound, thank God! We have only to go by the Book, and trust to our Captain, and obey His voice, and we shall make safe landing.

—Belle Staples

September 12, 1982

SEDITIONS AND HERESIES

Exodus 22:28 Thou shalt not revile the gods, nor curse the ruler of thy people.

Hebrews 13:7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

9 Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.

2 Thess. 3:6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

7 For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you.

14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.

15 Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

Galatians 1:8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Titus 3:9 But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain.

10 A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject;

11 Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.

Memory Verse: Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! Psa. 133:1.

Central Thought: Causing division and dissension among the people of God is a serious offense to the Holy Spirit. It is the work of the flesh, and all who participate in false doctrines contrary to the truth will be lost eternally.

Word Definitions: *Sedition:* Disunion, dissension, disagreement, contentious division. *Heresy:* religious opinion opposed to the authorized or accepted doctrine of the Church of God. The Greek word is "heresy" which means a party, sect, faction, or disunion.

LESSON BACKGROUND

It was one of the commandments of God to the Israelites that they were not to curse, revile, or speak evil against the rulers. Even if the ruler had faults and failings, and even if the ruler was vile and evil, God still held His people to show them certain respect. God Almighty and Jesus Christ are the ruling factors in the Church of God, but there are men and women who are raised up by God and qualified by His grace and truth to be leaders, elders, overseers, etc. If a man has manifested the Holy Spirit in his heart and life and is being used of the Lord in proclaiming the Word of God for the benefit of souls, he is to be respected and honored. One who loves the Lord and is willing to follow the truth will respect the ministers of God. The Holy Spirit will NEVER lead a person to publicly defy in a carnal manner a minister for the truth that He preaches. Such dissensions are of the flesh. God has a way things should be

done. If a minister is at fault, a person had really better be careful of the steps to be taken. It should not be done hastily. Paul put high esteem on the truth that he preached. It may seem that his statement is very radical or extreme about letting one be accursed if he preach any other doctrine other than what Paul had preached, but this is just how serious it is. A heretic must be set aside after at least two admonitions. If a man will not humble himself to plain counsel and admonition of the Lord, he is to be exposed and renounced. Such are operating under the flesh. Subversive workings against an anointed minister can only lead to ruin. —Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. How does God want us to treat His servants?
2. What do our leaders do for us?
3. Has heresy ever been a problem to the Church?
4. How can we avoid seditions and heresies?
5. How can we tell a heretic?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

We believe the Bible teaches justification, sanctification, baptism (by immersion), holy living, Hebrews 12:14 (without holiness no man shall see the Lord), separation from worldliness (1 John 2:15, 16; John 17:14-17), plain dressing (1 Tim. 2:9; 1 Cor. 11:15), Holy Spirit rule (1 Cor. 12; Eph. 5:18-20), divine healing (James 5:14, 15), feet washing (John 13:4-17), Lord's supper (Luke 22:15-20), unity of God's people (John 17:20-23), and many other precious truths which we will not take space to write.

False teachings that are opposed to these or other precious teachings of the Bible are heresies. Heresies are works of the flesh and those who bring them in and cause division will be cut down as the corrupt tree, and be cast into hell fire. Division is a sin. "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them." Romans 16:17. We are to obey the Word of God and not false teachers. The apostle Paul said, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." 1 Cor. 11:1. Only as ministers follow Christ are we to follow them.

Let us watch and pray that we read the Word of God for ourselves and seek God to reveal it to us through His Holy Spirit and then we will not be led astray. In the apostolic church men rose up among them and led off others and it is still going on today. (Gal. 2:4, 5) We want to stay with the Bible. May the Lord bless each one as we are living in perilous times.

Many are saying, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils, and in thy name done many wonderful works?" We hear what Jesus said, "I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

—Sister Marie Miles
From *The Corrupt Tree*

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

To be guilty of sedition is to be guilty of heresy. If one fails to honor the law of the land, likely he will dishonor the law of God. The individual who is rebellious and uncontrollable, according to judicial standards (considering that the laws are made to protect the innocent) will assuredly refuse to respect the divine commands.

Sometimes those who have difficulty with authorities, have lost respect for the law-making system and for those who are authorized to enforce legislation. Likewise, the people who cause schisms and divisions are those who have lost a fear and respect for God and His plan for the Church. Many times emotions run high concerning sedition and heresies. Those who are forcefully upset may stimulate the aggression of others and the final result may be the eruption of a riot. This is the manner in which heresy will work. Someone will become involved in a controversy and will speak to others (generally trouble is all that this kind of people can talk about) until emotions rule to such an extent that a division results.

The Church has been troubled by division promoters throughout all ages. Some have determined that the great division occurring around 1913 was due to a differing belief over the neck-tie. I am convinced it was a much more involved issue than that. Divisions are caused by striving and the spirit of discord. We should exercise caution lest we become too emotionally aggressive toward our brother and endeavor to "throw him out." We should have nothing to do with the spirit of heresy or the promotion of it in any way.

—Wayne Murphey

September 19, 1982

DRUNKENNESS—CURSE OF SOCIETY

1 Cor. 6:9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Luke 21:34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Rom. 13:11 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

12 The 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.

13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

Proverbs 23:29 Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?

30 They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.

31 Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.

32 At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.

Memory Verse: For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags. Proverbs 23:21.

Central Thought: Over indulgence in any fleshly function or practice can bring about a drunkenness in the lives of people. The damage and effect of being drunk can be far reaching and

destructive. Strong drink has surely been one of history's greatest follies.

LESSON BACKGROUND

The New Testament surely warns us plainly against this terrible evil of drunkenness. Drunkenness is defined as being intoxicated or poisoned by strong drink or drugs. But we want to emphasize that it is not only drugs and strong drink that people can get drunk on. One can be drunk on the pleasures of life. They have a way of charming and alluring the mind into ways of life that afterward bring much sorrow. The world in general today is drunk on the physical pleasures of the body. All the adultery and fornication that are going on show that restraint and self control have been forsaken. The opposite of drunkenness is sobriety, temperance, and abstinence. Foolishness and a lack of a serious approach to life and its responsibilities are the results of the drunkenness of the mind. Being drunk on the pleasures and cares of this life will render us unfit and unprepared for the appearing of the Lord Jesus when He comes the second time without sin unto salvation. Ever since Noah made the mistake of drinking too much of the wine that he got from his vineyard, man has been trifling with God and taking too much for granted. The liquor stores of our day do a great business. We see the empty bottles and jugs strewn up and down our streets and highways. The wise man warned of the destruction of strong drink. He had doubtless seen the drastic effects of this evil upon those of his own society. Although some may say that a little liquor or wine might be good for a person, it would be the wisest thing to leave it off altogether and enjoy the good things that God has given to us that carry no threat of a life ruined and lost.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What is going to happen to all drunkards who do not repent and turn from their drunkenness?
2. Is it possible to be drunk on things other than strong drink?
3. What is the opposite of drunkenness?
4. Is there any deliverance for a drunkard in Christ?
5. What would you tell a drunkard if he came to you looking for deliverance and help?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

It seems that words fail us to know how to write about a subject with such terrible consequences. My heart's desire is to

write something that will touch the hearts of each reader and cause a vehemence to be created to such an extent that you will never touch liquor of any kind and will also warn others with a force from God that they, too, will never touch it. It is a curse among mankind. It isn't the drunkard that staggers down the street or is lying in the gutter that causes young people, or others to start drinking. Such is repulsive to most people. It is the well-behaved business man or the prosperous neighbor who can drink or let it alone, or who drinks moderately, who influences the young to start drinking. How terrible are the results! Statistics show that one out of every seven who start drinking will become an addict or drunkard. Does not common judgment tell you to leave it alone? A few drinks cut down your normal reactions from ten to twenty percent. That is one contributing factor to the many deaths on the highways and accidents of other kinds.

Excessive drinking so cuts down the normal intake of protein, vitamins, and minerals that often drinkers suffer severe nutritional deficiencies. Most of them have disturbed liver and other diseases which need not be but for drink. Shun it, stay away from it, abhor it, touch it not! It means slow death.

We do want to also give a word of encouragement to those who are under its influence and cannot in their own strength quit. There is deliverance through the blood of Jesus Christ. God is able to deliver and set you free. Many have been delivered, and it is for you also. We should believe God and His power to deliver. Drunkenness is one of the works of the flesh and Jesus died on the cross to save you from this.

—Sister Marie Miles
From *The Corrupt Tree*

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

One with simple common sense will recognize the folly of drunkenness. Some who are not Christians respect themselves enough to refrain from drinking. Many young people are deluded into believing that they are "macho" if they become drunk. The fact remains that it is the weak-willed individual that tampers with drink. Billboards advertise liquor in a glamorous way. They depict a muscular man in the mountains enjoying his drink, or cowboys in the midst of a calf branding, sharing a foaming brew. The tragic scenes from reality are excluded. The ragged children and harried wife, or the drunk in a ditch covered with filth are omitted. It would be poor

advertisement!

It is difficult to hold one accountable for the deeds done while under the influence of liquor. The courts of the land have discovered this. If a crime is committed while the suspect is affected by drink, his sentence will often be much lighter. One should be held accountable, and will be by God, when that first glass is lifted to the lips. If the first drink is refused, there will be no opportunity for Satan to gain complete control of a life through the medium of intoxicating beverage. One who drinks not only allows the devil to destroy his life, but pays him to do so. Think of the money wasted on drink! May God preserve each one from the sin of drunkenness.

—Wayne Murphey

TOMMY BROWN

"What is your name?" asked the teacher.

"Tommy Brown, ma'am," answered the boy.

He was a pathetic little fellow, with a thin face, hollow eyes and pale cheeks, that plainly told of insufficient food. He wore a suit of clothes evidently made for someone else. They were patched in places with cloth of different colors. His shoes were old, his hair cut square on the neck in an unpracticed manner in which women sometimes cut boy's hair. It was a bitter day, yet he wore no coat, and his bare hands were red with cold.

"How old are you, Tommy?"

"Nine years old come next April. I learned to read at home and can cypher a little."

"Well, it is time for you to begin school. Why have you never come before?"

The boy fumbled with his cap in his hands and did not reply at once. It was a ragged cap with frayed edges, and the original color of the fabric no man could tell.

Presently he said, "I never went to school cause—well, Mother takes in washin' and she couldn't spare me. But Sissy is big enough now to help, and she minds the baby besides."

It was not quite time for school to begin. All around the teacher and the new scholar stood boys that belonged to the room.

While he was making his confused explanation, some of the boys laughed, and one of them called out, "Say, Tommy, where are your cuffs and collar?" And another sang out, "You must sleep in the rag-bag at night by the looks of your clothes!" Before the teacher could quieten them, another boy

had volunteered the information that the father of the boy was "old S. Brown, who is always drunk as a fiddler."

The poor child looked around on his tormentors like a hunted thing. Before the teacher could detain him, with a suppressed cry of misery he ran out of the room, out of the building, down the street, and was seen no more.

The teacher went to her duties with a troubled heart. All day long the child's pitiful face haunted her. She could not rid herself of the memory of it. After a little trouble she found the place where he lived, and then two kind ladies went to visit him.

It was a dilapidated house. When they first entered they could scarcely discern objects, the room was so filled with steam of the soapsuds. There were two windows, but a tall brick building adjacent shut out the light. It was a gloomy day, too, with gray, lowering clouds that forbade even the memory of sunshine.

A woman stood before a wash tub. When they entered, she wiped her hands on her apron and came forward to meet them.

Once she had been pretty, but the color had gone out of her face, leaving only sharpened outlines and haggardness of expression. She asked them to sit down; then taking a chair herself, she said, "Sissy, give me the baby."

A little girl came forward from a dark corner of the room carrying a baby that she laid in its mother's lap, a lean sickly looking baby with the same hollow eyes that Tommy had.

"Your baby doesn't look strong," said one of the ladies.

"No, ma'am. I ain't very well, and I expect it affects her."

"Where is your little Tommy?"

"He is in there in the trundle-bed."

"Is he sick?"

"Yes'm, and the doctor thinks he isn't going to get well."

At this the tears ran down her thin and faded cheeks.

"What is the matter with him?"

"He was never very strong, and he's had to work too hard, carrying water and helping me lift the wash-tubs, and things like that. Of late he has been crazy to go to school. I never could spare him till this winter. He thought if he could get a little education, he'd be able to take care of Sissy, baby and me. So I fixed up his clothes as well as I could, and last week he started. I was afraid the boys would laugh at him, but he thought he could stand it.

"I can never forget how the little fellow looked," she continued, the tears streaming down her face. "His patched-up clothes, his poor little anxious look. He turned around to me as he left the yard, and said, 'Don't worry, Mother, I won't mind what the boys say.' But he did mind. It wasn't an hour before he was back again. I believe the child's heart was just broken. I thought mine was broken years ago. If it was, it was broken over again that day. I can stand most anything myself, but oh! I can't bear to see my children suffer." Here she broke down in a fit of convulsive weeping. The little girl came up to her quietly and stole a thin little arm around her mother's neck. "Don't cry, Mother," she whispered; "don't cry."

The woman made an effort to dry her tears, and she wiped her eyes. As soon as she could speak with any degree of calmness, she continued, "Poor little Tommy cried all day; I couldn't comfort him. He said it was no use to do anything, folks would only laugh at him for being a drunkard's boy. I tried to comfort him before husband came home, knowing he would be mad if he saw him crying, but it wasn't any use. Seemed like he could not stop. His father came and saw him. He wouldn't have done it if he hadn't been drinking. He ain't a bad man when he is sober. I hate to tell it, but he whipped Tommy and the child fell and struck his head. I suppose he'd a been sick anyway. But oh! my poor boy. My sick, suffering child! How can they let men sell a thing that makes the innocent suffer so?"

There on the bed lay the poor little defenseless victim. He lived in a Christian land, in a country that takes great care to pass laws to protect wild sheep and game. Would that the children were as precious as brutes and birds!

His face was flushed and the hollow eyes were bright. There was a long purple mark on his temple. he put up one little wasted hand to cover it while he said, "Father wouldn't have done it if he hadn't been drinking. I'm glad I'm going to die. I'm too weak to help Mother anyhow. Up in heaven the angels ain't going to call me the drunkard's child, and make fun of my clothes. And maybe if I'm right up there where God is, I can keep reminding him of Mother; and He will help her."

He turned his head feebly on his pillow, then said in a lower tone, "Some day—they ain't goin'—to—let—saloon keepers open. But I'm afraid—poor father—will be dead—'fore then." Then he shut his eyes from weariness.

The next morning the sun shone on the dead face of little Tommy, killed by the votes of the church members. —Sel.

September 26, 1982

REVELLINGS AND SUCH LIKE

1 Peter 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

4:1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

3 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:

5 Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.

1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Memory Verse: For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. Gal. 5:17.

Central Thought: We must turn from the wild, careless, lustful, greedy way of life if we would please the Lord Jesus Christ and have a part in His glorious Kingdom. This will

cause us persecution and suffering from the hand of those who follow these things, but we are not being led by the flesh, but by the Spirit, thereby we have hope of eternal life.

Word Definitions: *Revellings*: The Greek word "komos" means a carousel which refers to letting loose. Webster says it means to be festive in a riotous or noisy manner. The word revel is a variation of the word "rebel" which is Old French and means rebellion or disorder. Banqueting has a similar meaning to revelling. It is a drinking bout and a carousel.

LESSON BACKGROUND

It is very difficult for the meek and lowly saints of God to be aware of the terrible condition our society lies in today. It is a time when restraint is cast aside and the lusts of men and women are indulged in as far as their imaginations can allow. Such things went on in the days of Christ and the apostles. Parties, feasts, celebrations, and all kinds of entertainment were employed to satisfy a society that was crumbling in their morals and ideals. Prosperity brings on revellings. This was the sin of Sodom: pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness. Ezek. 16:49. With the current of the world around us in full swing with the lusts of the flesh that we have been studying in this series of lessons, it will mean a lot for us to be separate from the world, and be led by the Spirit. Peter mentions banqueting. Perhaps the banquets that some attend today (and feel justified) are not the riotous gluttony feasts that Peter was referring to, but still let us issue a word of caution. Big lavish dinners for celebration have a danger element. They can easily become flesh-governed and controlled. Jesus went in and ate with people. That is true. But I could hardly imagine Jesus having part with the wanton feasts of our day. John warns us about the lusts of the flesh and the eyes, and the pride of this life. These things are not of the Father but of the world. "Such like" can take in lots of things. Many things we have today Paul knew nothing of in his day. The grace of God has taught us to deny the works of the flesh and be led by the Spirit, looking forward to the great day of reward.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What do fleshly lusts do, and why should we abstain from them?
2. What do worldly people think of saints who do not live to the flesh?

3. Why cannot a man love the world and love God, also?
4. What does the grace of God teach us?
5. Why are revellings a work of the flesh?
6. How does the flesh lust against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

If we are adorned with a meek and quiet spirit which is given of God when we receive the Holy Spirit, we would not fit in with a group who is feasting in a boisterous, noisy and clamorous manner, would we? The Spirit of God and the spirit of the world will not mix. Jesus said in praying for His disciples, "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." John 17:16. Those of the world do not understand why we do not care to attend their banquets. They cannot understand that we have something that satisfies our souls and we do not need anything the world has to offer. We do not need strong drinks of any kind to make us feel light and free, as is often served at banquets, because the Holy Spirit dwelling within us has filled us with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

God's Word plainly names out banquetings, yet we know that professed Christianity continues to have their banquets. How sad it will be for those who disregard God's Word in that Judgment Day! The fruit in the life of those who attend and partake of a noisy and riotous feast, makes us know they are of a corrupt tree. We do pray they will see this before too late and repent, letting the Spirit of God come into their hearts which will take all the desire for revellings out of their lives. There is a satisfying portion to every soul. Seek God until He rains righteousness down into your soul. Take courage, there is help for you. "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever. And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places." Isa. 32:17, 18. Praise the Lord for that secret hiding place with the Lord where the soul of God's child rests in quietness with all the world shut out. "There's no thirsting for life's pleasures, nor adorning rich and gay; for I've found a richer treasure, one that fadeth not away!"

—Sister Marie Miles From *The Corrupt Tree*

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Perhaps you recall the expression "too much of a good thing." This is what revelry consists of. When God made man, He created in him appetites that are necessary for the

continuance of the human race and the preservation of life. However, God expects man to exercise control over his natural desires. The devil tempted Eve through the lust of the flesh and caused the fall of man.

One appetite is that of natural hunger. This is necessary to alert one to the need of food for replenishing strength. Satan, however, will endeavor to convert this into something that God never intended it to be, gluttony.

I believe that God endowed man with a desire to enjoy himself. One who consistently fails to find pleasure in life is physically or emotionally unhealthy. However, if we allow it, the devil will turn an enjoyable time into mere foolishness. There are two ingredients that are combined to create revelry. They are gluttony and foolishness. Just as there is a spirit that accompanies other works of the flesh, so there is with revelry. To be near foolishness makes it easier to become so yourself. Samuel Butler once said, "The great pleasure of a dog is that you make a fool of yourself with him, and not only will he not scold you, but he will make a fool of himself, too."

To retain the favor of God, we must withdraw from those things that would grieve the Holy Spirit. When Lot pitched his tent toward Sodom, he probably had no intention of partaking of their wickedness. How much better had he been far from such a sin-filled place. It would have ultimately saved his wife, and spared him much vexation of spirit.

—Wayne Murphey

THE SIN OF WORLDLINESS

A great sin among professing Christians is following the ungodly styles and fashions of the carnal, worldly-minded, unbelieving, hell-bound throng of Christ rejecters who are so numerous in this modern Sodom age.

Many women who profess to follow Christ, dress very immodestly, having the dress above the knees, no sleeves, and low necks, exposing the body. Have women become so deceived and blinded by the false teachers that they think men desire to see a lot of bony and rheumatic knees every time they turn their heads? Many wear shorts, bob their hair, paint their faces and lips, finger and toe nails, dye their hair, wear bracelets, finger rings, ear rings, and often use the poison cigarette. And they indulge their lustful eyes with soul-poisoning TV scenes. What a shame for God's creation to drift so far from godliness into heathenism, and manifest such a proud and haughty spirit toward God's sacred Word which will judge them in that great

Day that is coming very soon. All such dressing, undressing, and wearing of adornments is disgraceful in the sight of God, and it is breaking the plain teachings of Christ and the apostles, for it is conforming to the world which is forbidden. (Rom. 12:2). The putting on of "gold, pearls, and costly array" is forbidden. (1 Tim. 2:9).

Some of these same men and women at one time lived free from these things and taught against their use, but now their consciences are seared and they can indulge in them without blush or shame. They become disgraceful in the sight of God and He looks upon the scene with sorrow and grief. They feed the animal lust of the body and create adultery in the opposite sex. In the sight of the Lord they become as hateful birds. Preachers and teachers who uphold and endorse such things have become instruments in the hands of Satan, no matter how pious they may seem to be. They are blind leaders of the blind. What a weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth will take place in that great Day when the secrets of men's hearts are made known. The current of the world is strong and is carrying along a great host of "sacred Scripture" violators. They are selling the truth in order to satisfy the fleshly lusts, please the worldly-minded atheists and the god of this world—fashion—as onward they travel to the lake of fire and brimstone where the fire is never quenched and the worm (soul) never dies. May God awaken poor souls before it is too late, that they may repent and be spared the torments of a never-ending hell.

—Fred Pruitt

