

Given to Pleasures !

“Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly...” Isaiah 47:8a

If there ever has been a generation that lives to fulfill the lusts of the flesh, it's this one. There actually were protests in this Country because Americans wanted the bars and restaurants to open prematurely just so they could resume partaking of their pleasures. It didn't matter to them that they could be sitting or standing right next to someone who was infected with the corona virus. No, to them fun was the only thing that mattered. That, and enjoying the evil pleasures that this world has to offer. In fact, when they completely opened up Houston sooner than they should have, over 2,100 people contracted the corona virus in one day and had to be admitted to hospitals. If there is another major corona virus outbreak, which they do expect to happen after the people have come back together again, Americans will be sorry they didn't keep their flesh under control and wait for this crisis to truly be over.

The Bible says in II Timothy 3:1, *“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.”* In the following four verses, the Bible lists 19 characteristics of what people would be like in the last days. In verse four, one of the characteristics is *“lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God.”* That definitely fits this generation to a “T”! In 1st Corinthians 15:32b the people of Ephesus had the attitude, *“let us eat and drink; for tomorrow we die.”* And what did the apostle Paul call them? He called them beasts! Israel had the exact same attitude. In Isaiah 22:12, the Lord God was calling them to weeping and to mourning and to baldness and to girding with sack cloth because of all their sins. But in verse 13, they had joy and gladness, slaying oxen and killing sheep, eating flesh and drinking wine: and they said, *“Let us eat and drink; for tomorrow we shall die.”* In James 5:1-3, the Bible talks about rich men who have heaped treasures together for the last days. And what does the Bible say about them in verse 5? *“Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton (without restraint and lustful); ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.”*

Very recently, an incident happened that showed us what this Country is all about. Since we still can't go into a coffee shop and sit down to have fellowship because of the corona virus, myself and two other brothers found a nice outdoor shaded area to sit and have fellowship together. It's right next door to a Home Depot store. A young woman who was very friendly came out of the store, saw us, and called out to us and asked “if we were enjoying our beers.” One of the brothers, Carmen, who is also a pastor, answered back “No, we're reading our Bibles.” Well, that was the end of her friendliness. She got into her car and sat there for at least half an hour more before she left, but made no more attempt to talk to us at all. That is the mindset of the majority of the people in this Country today. Food, fellowship, and fun! It's no coincidence that the Lord allowed this incident to happen while we were in the process of writing this particular Bible Study. We almost felt like it was the Lord's stamp of approval. When I thought about this woman, I remembered what it says in I Timothy 5:6, *“But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.”* We can only hope and pray that this woman will someday stop thinking about pleasures, get saved, and start living for the Lord.

We are all alike before any of us get saved. Titus 3:3 states, *“For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures...”* And, even after a person gets saved, one of the greatest hindrances to a Christian's growth is the seeking of pleasures while on this planet. I John 2:15-17 states, *“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. 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. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”* We should all have the same attitude as one of the greatest men of God who ever lived – Moses. The Bible says in Hebrews 11:25, *“Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;”* In this world with its diversities of pleasures, it is very easy for the devil, the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4a), to distract a Christian's focus from the work that he is supposed to do for the Lord. And that is to preach to, and pray for, the lost souls who have not yet made Jesus the Lord and Saviour of their lives.

Jesus warned us about this when He taught a parable in Luke 8:5-15 about a sower who went out to sow his seed. Some fell by the way side and was trodden down, some fell upon a rock, some fell among thorns, and others fell on good ground. In verse 14, the Lord explained about the third seed that fell among the thorns. He said, *“And that which fell among thorns are they, which when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and*

pleasures of this life and bring no fruit to perfection.”

While we are living for pleasures to heap upon ourselves, the New World Order, or the One World Government, or the deep state, whatever you want to call it, is creeping up on us. Make no mistake about it! The riots and the protests that are still happening all over the U.S. are mostly staged so that America will break apart and crumble from within. Once America has been weakened to the point of no return, they will move in and take over our Country using the United Nations to do it. Then, your freedoms will be gone! Then, they will tell you when you can go out, and where you can go. All this because the majority of Americans are more interested in living it up and enjoying themselves rather than watching and being sober minded (1 Thessalonians 5:6).

Yes, perilous times are coming, which will make this corona virus outbreak seem childish in comparison. It's called the great tribulation (Matthew 24:21). A time never seen before or will ever be seen again. One of the judgments that will occur during this time will be pestilences, Jesus said (Luke 21:11). In Revelation 6:8, when the pale horse, who is called Death, begins to ride, Hell follows with him. *“And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, (plagues and pestilences) and with the beasts of the earth.”* If you are saved, you will escape (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, Titus 2:13) all of these horrors that are soon to come. But, if you are not saved, then you won't escape and you will wish to God you had gotten saved.

The time for true repentance and acknowledgment of Jesus as your Lord and Saviour is NOW (2 Corinthians 6:2)! Almost 2,000 years ago, Jesus went to the cross and died a horrible death (Mark 10:34) for all of us (John 3:16) so that we might be saved who believe on His name (John 1:12). To acknowledge Him, to live for Him, and to work for Him, is the greatest thing a person could ever do while on the earth. Jesus didn't suffer horribly and die so that we could continue to fulfill the lusts of our flesh (Romans 8:5, 6). So how about you? Are you living for the Lord, or are you living for the pleasures of this life? Just remember what the Bible says in Galatians 6:7-8, *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”* So get saved, and choose life everlasting!

Amen

(All scripture references taken from the King James Bible)

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