

ABSTAIN FROM THE ACCURSED THINGS, No. 2

INTRODUCTION

- I. In a previous lesson, we looked at the Israelites coming into the land of Canaan, and surrounding the walled city of Jericho.
 - A. God gave the city into their hands, but they had to **take the city** by marching around once a day for 6 days, and then 7 times on the 13th day, making 13 times in all.
 1. This may have seemed like a laughable thing to the residents of Jericho, but when they heard the great SHOUT of the Israelites, and saw the walls begin to tumble, their life was about to change dramatically.
 2. At any rate, the victory belonged to God and His people.
 - B. When the Israelites came into the city, they had a strong warning from God. Josh. 6:18 (NKJ)
- II. Now let's look at this text further.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, WHAT WERE THE ACCURSED THINGS?

- A. In that case, they were the "things" that pertained to idolatry, a false religion, which was condemned by God.
 1. The material qualities of silver and gold and other items, **became** cursed when formed into idols that dishonored God.
 2. This reminds us that things that are good normally, can become a curse and a sin.
 - a. Silver, gold or paper money can become sinful if stolen or taken improperly.
 - b. They become sinful when we become greedy for them, or use them for sinful purpose, such as gambling, or buying liquor or weapons to kill.
- B. ANYTHING God hates or forbids is accursed in His sight.
 1. We must not love the things that God hates, or hate the things He loves. Rev. 2:6, 14-15
 2. God hates the things that man often loves. Luke 16:15; Heb. 1:9; 1 John 2:15-17
 - a. God hates homosexuality. Rom. 1:24-32
 - b. God hates divorce, but allows it when obtained of the awful sin of fornication. Mal. 2:16; cf Matt. 19:9

II. 2nd, note that God said "ABSTAIN" from the accursed thing—NOT practice in "MODERATION".

- A. The religious philosophy of the world is, "***practice in moderation.***"
 1. Some practice social drinking of alcoholic beverages **supposedly in moderation**, as long as one doesn't get drunk or drink too much.
 - a. It's users usually end up with serious problems, or become alcoholics.
 - b. Any use of alcohol brings something "toxic" into the body, meaning that one is in that sense "intoxicated."
 - c. It is doubtful that anyone lives who has been admittedly drunken or somewhat intoxicated by only drinking in moderation.
 - d. ANY amount of alcohol or drugs is "too much."
 2. To be "slightly buzzed" is to BE **intoxicated**, or drunk.

- a. The state of Texas has an announcement on TV that says “BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING.”
- b. ANY amount of alcohol that immediately gets into the blood stream also goes directly to the brain and immediately causes the brain to react to some degree.
- c. Does the world use alcohol in MODERATION, or for INTOXICATION? Rom. 12:1-2

B. God’s message to ANY sin is to “abstain” (or, leave it alone, don’t touch it). Eph. 5:11; 1 Pet. 2:11; 1 Thess. 5:21-22

1. Was Achan’s sin that of taking ALL of the accursed things, or just taking a FEW of them (taking them in moderation)?
2. Can one take any illegal drug in moderation without it causing intoxication?

CONCLUSION

I. There are 3 words that precede the statement, “abstain from the accursed things” that we have not yet considered.

A. God said **“by all means”** abstain from the accursed things.” (Joshua 6:18)

1. The KJV reads “keep yourselves from the accursed things.”
2. The ASV reads “only keep yourselves from the devoted things.”
3. The Modern Literal Translation reads “;only keep yourselves from that which is set apart.”
4. The New King James reads, “by all means, abstain from the accursed things”
 - a. FROM this reading in the NKJ we get the title of these 2 lessons, entitled “Abstain From The Accursed Things.”
 - b. The last 3 words **before** the words “abstain from the accursed things” are **“by all means”** which means that God was emphatic in what He was about to say.

B. Unless we “abstain” or “keep ourselves” from the THINGS under consideration, they will become part OF us, and we will become part OF the things we are to avoid, for we cannot “abstain” from something and partake of it at the same time.

II. If you have sin in your life, you need to turn from it in genuine penitence, and be immersed in water for the forgiveness of sins; or if you have departed from the way of salvation, and gone back into sin and need to seek forgiveness in penitence and prayer, the opportunity for you to do that is granted to you at this time.

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