

SECOND PETER CHAPTERS 1 and 2

Lesson 17

THE EXAMPLE OF LOT

28 November, 2014

“And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked” (2:6).

“...the latter end is worse with them than the beginning” (2:20).

Though Lot did not participate in or approve of the ungodly activities of Sodom and Gomorrah, the **“latter end”** of his life on earth was **“worse...than the beginning”** as a result of living in a depraved society and not standing for the things of God. He had **“knowledge of the Lord”** (2:20) and he knew **“the way of righteousness”** (2:2), but nobody else in town would have guessed that he was a man of God.

Anywhere you go in this world, you’ll be surrounded by sinful people engaged in ungodly activities, **“seeing and hearing...their unlawful deeds”**(2:8). You can’t escape it. Therefore it will be very important for us, as God’s people, to go beyond non-participation and disapproval—and let people know that we stand FOR the things of God and that we are very much AGAINST sin. If we don’t, our latter end (though we be children of God possessing eternal life) will be **“worse than the beginning”** in this life on earth.

God can increase His influence on your life—enabling you to add to your faith virtue, temperance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity. But it’s up to you; you’ve got to pursue it.

If you neglect the things of God, then the world is going to have a greater influence on your life so that you **“go with the flow,”** and **“try to fit in,”** as you **“adapt,”**—even though you don’t participate.

THE ACCOUNT OF LOT IN GENESIS CHAPTER 19

- Vss. 1-3** Two angels came to Lot at the gate of the city. Lot was very polite and humble towards them. They declined to fellowship with Lot and preferred to “abide in the street all night.” They tried to withdraw themselves from the disorderly brother (2 Thess. 3:6).
- Vss. 4-5** A vile group of homosexuals come to Lot’s house demanding that Job send out the two visitors for them to enjoy intimately.
- Vss. 6-7** Lot tries to reason with the wicked men of the city to protect his two visitors. He knows the Sodomites are there for “wicked” purposes. Obviously Lot would never participate in such things, but he’s also not participating in the things of God while in that city.
- Vs. 8** Lot tries to offer them an alternative; one that he knows they’ll refuse. He offers his daughters to show that he’s not judging them (homosexual men are not interested in women). Lot tries to intellectually outwit them instead of turning to God for help.
- Vs. 9** The wicked gang accused Lot of judging them. Then they threaten to do him harm. This is also an indication that Lot is not part of the activities of Sodom. They know he doesn’t approve of their ways.
- Vss. 10-11** As the Sodomites “pressed sore” on Lot and try to break down the door, the two angels pull Lot into safety and smite the Sodomites with blindness, but they don’t give up trying to get what they want.
- Lesson: People don’t repent and turn to God as a result of His wrath and judgment (Rev. 16:9, 11, 21). **“The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance”** (Rom. 2:4)

Vss. 12-14 The two angels reveal God's plan to destroy Sodom and tell Lot to gather all his kinfolk. When Lot went to warn his sons in law, they couldn't take him seriously. They thought he was mocking or being sarcastic. Why would God spare Lot and burn everybody else? They had never seen Lot's righteousness. Lot kept it hidden inside.

- Lesson: if a New Testament believer avoids sin, but never speaks of Jesus Christ, everybody will assume you're just like them; a child of the devil.

Vss. 15-20 When it was time to flee from the destruction, Lot lingered. He'd lost his opportunity to save some of his family members. Now he must go and they must stay and be destroyed.

- Lesson: are you ready for the rapture? Do all your family members know Jesus Christ? After you're gone, they'll face the Great Tribulation if they're left behind.

Lot's salvation from destruction in Sodom was according to God's mercy (vs. 16). He didn't deserve to be saved any more than we deserve eternal life (Titus 3:5).

Lot is told to flee to the mountains. He protests, revealing how deeply he's been influenced by the wicked city of Sodom. He asks if he can go to a smaller wicked city. This is like saying, "I understand why God would punish me for any BIG sins, but maybe He'll allow some little ones."

- Lesson: Don't get so comfortable with the world that you become uncomfortable with God.

Vss. 21-26 Lot was permitted to go to the little city called Zoar. It was a wrong move, but God didn't forbid him from his desire. God won't stop you from sinning. That's your responsibility.

As soon as Lot was safe in Zoar, the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah with brimstone and fire. Lot's two daughters survived, but his wife was turned to a pillar of salt because she looked back. She chose to pursue what her flesh had in the past—instead of diligently pursuing the future God had provided for her. Result: her latter end is worse than her beginning.

Vss. 27-32 Lot "feared to dwell in Zoar" so he dwelt in a cave in the mountain with his two daughters.

Lot's daughters reveal the influence that Sodom had on their lives. They also "saw" and "heard" the things that went on in that wicked city. Now they have their own sinful plan. They will get their father drunk with wine and lie with him to preserve his seed.

They considered their situation: no men. What should they do? They should thank God for saving their lives and ask him to provide husbands. But God was not in their thoughts. The ways of Sodom guided their thoughts.

Vss. 33-36 Both daughters get their father drunk and become pregnant by him. Lot is worse off AFTER he is delivered than he was when he was down in Sodom. He's saved, but that's not enough. He didn't diligently pursue the righteous path of God.

The world is watching us. We'd better make sure we don't engage in activities that they would consider to be more wicked than their own. Many people claim to have quit church because of the wicked activities of a church member or leader.

Diligently pursue the things of God so that your long range vision enables you to live your life today in a manner that will get you all the way to the end of your life without falling into depravity.

You're being influenced every day. —Make sure it's the right influence.