

PHILEMON

Lesson 6: Being in Bondage; part 2

5 February, 2016

Sin enslaves people. Jesus Christ sets men free from the bondage of sin. People will try to convince you that serving your flesh is freedom and serving Jesus robs you of your freedom. Sin will always lead to negative consequences. Serving Jesus Christ because you love Him will always turn out good (Rom. 8:28).

LUKE 13:11-16

This woman couldn't straighten herself out (vs. 11). Jesus made her completely straight. This is a picture of every sinner. No man is able to straighten their self out. Only Jesus can make you straight and upright. When He sees your need, He calls you to Himself (not to religion or reform). When you get straight, you'll glorify God (vs. 13).

Satan wants to bind you up in sin (vs. 16). Jesus wants to loose you from that bondage. Satan will offer you liberty, freedom, and the right to "do your own thing," but in the end, you'll find yourself in cruel bondage.

2 TIMOTHY 2:21-26

Whenever you are presented with the opportunity to engage in the lust of your flesh, you are commanded to FLEE from it (vs.22). Don't observe it from afar, don't toy with it, and don't think about it; get AWAY from it as quick as you can! It's dangerous!

Then you are commanded to follow righteousness, faith, charity, and peace WITH other Christians. There are good Christian examples for you to follow.

When you don't follow righteousness, you oppose yourself (vs. 25); you become your own enemy.

The Devil lays snares to try and capture you (vs. 26). He uses deception, inviting you to enjoy sinful pleasures, but not telling you about the dangers involved. The Devil isn't trying to get you to sin just once. He wants to capture you, to trap you, to lock you into addictive situations that you can't get out of.

You've got to instruct those that oppose themselves about the dangers of sin. You'll have to repeat yourself often, never changing your stand against sin. You instruct in meekness. Meekness means you take injury and insult, but you don't let it change you (don't harden your heart and don't lower your standard).

ACTS 8:5-23 THE BONDAGE OF BITTERNESS

Simon wanted the gift of the Holy Ghost that was demonstrated by the apostles (vs. 19). Peter perceived that the reason Simon's heart was not right was due to bitterness, which was a sin that kept him in bondage (vs 22). If you don't let go of the bitterness that you have toward someone, it will eat you up and hold you in bondage until you give it to Jesus. Your bitterness doesn't hurt the one who harmed you, it hurts you!

Verses 5-14 describe the events that led to Simon's bitterness. Previously he was the religious authority of his town and people looked to him as "some great one" (vs. 9). After the apostles came and preached the gospel, the people learned that Jesus was the only great one. Simon began to resent the fact that the people didn't look up to him anymore. Envy can lead to bitterness. Bitterness can hold you captive for years.

2 Corinthians 3:17

The Devil offers temporary pleasures, but they will capture you and bring you into bondage. **"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."** It doesn't matter what physical limitations you face, you are free in Jesus Christ (free from sin, vice, habit, bitterness, etc).
