

# S.O.H.L. (1/18/10)

## WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

*Pronounced "Soul"*

# Don't Even Look Back!

**GENESIS 19:17-28** NKJV – (17) So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed." (18) Then Lot said to them, "Please, no, my lords! (19) Indeed now, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have increased your mercy which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die. (20) See now, this city is near enough to flee to, and it *is* a little one; please let me escape there (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live." (21) And he said to him, "See, I have favored you concerning this thing also, in that I will not overthrow this city for which you have spoken. (22) Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there." Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar. (23) The sun had risen upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar. (24) Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. (25) So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. (26) But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt. (27) And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD. (28) Then he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain; and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land which went up like the smoke of a furnace.

Lot was good, but there was not one more of the same character in the city. All the people of Sodom were very wicked and vile. Care was therefore taken for saving Lot and his family. Lot lingered; he trifled. Thus many who are under convictions about their spiritual state, and the necessity of a change, defer that needful work. The salvation of the most righteous men is of God's mercy, not by their own merit. We are saved by grace. God's power also must be acknowledged in bringing souls out of a sinful state. If God had not been merciful to us, our lingering had been our ruin. Lot must flee for his life. He must not hanker after Sodom. Such commands as these are given to those who, through grace, are delivered out of a sinful state and condition. Return not to sin and Satan. Rest not in self and the world. Reach toward Christ and heaven, for that is escaping to the mountain, short of which we must not stop. Concerning this destruction, observe that it is a revelation of the wrath of God against sin and sinners of all ages. Let us learn from hence the evil of sin, and its hurtful nature; it leads to ruin.

Lot's wife turned back to look at the smoldering city of Sodom. Clinging to the past, she was unwillingly to turn completely away. Are you looking back longingly at sin while trying to move forward with God? We will never make progress with God as long as we are holding on to pieces of our old life. Jesus made it clear in **Matthew 6:24** when He said, "No one can serve two masters."

**Are you caught in between "I don't know what to do" and/or "this is all I know (survival)?"**

My brothers and sisters in the faith, don't look back. Let it go. It is time to repent and ask God to help you through the negative circumstance you're in. He will do His part and a matter of fact, He already has! Now it is time for us to confess and make that change by having faith in Him and Him alone. Jesus knows what He is doing.

**2 PETER 2:9-11** NKJV – (9) *then* the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, (10) and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. *They are* presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, (11) whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.

The only true survival is Christ our Savior.

**SCRIPTURE READING**  
DEUTERONOMY 6:5

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

Your past cannot be altered, but your future can.

