

S.O.H.L.

(10/6/08)

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

"Sin", Don't Under Estimate It

The more we know the doctrine of Christ, as taught by the apostles, the more closely we shall cleave to it. When we know the suffering of believers only in part, they tempt us to decline the cause for which they suffer. A form of godliness (**carnality**), a profession of Christian faith without a godly life, often is allowed to pass, while open profession of the truth as it is in Jesus, and determined attention to the duties of godliness, stir up the scorn and hate of the world. As good men, by the grace of God, grow better, so bad men, through the craft of Satan, and the power of their own corruptions, grow worse. The way of sin is down-hill; such go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. Those who deceive others, deceive themselves, as they will find at last, to their cost. (2 Timothy 3:13)

My brothers and sisters in the faith, we cannot and should not under estimate the power of "sin"! Do not attempt to put yourself or allow anyone else to put you on a pedestal thinking that we as a people have control of our sinful issues. We would truly be deceiving ourselves! The prophet Isaiah says in **Isaiah 64:6** - (NLT). We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind.

The Apostle Paul writes that "Evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived". People today are no different from when Moses wrote the books of the law or Paul the epistles, but the occasion to sin, the incentive to do so and thus sin's regularity and intensity are at their highest levels since just before the flood. The environment to commit sin more easily and to excuse it based on our own choices, grows ever more willing, and human nature is taking advantage of it!

God tells us Himself that in **Genesis 6:5** - (NLT). That He "Observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and He saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil." To those who walk around with a mask, to those who use the sin crutch or to those who really believe they have it all figured out, here is a NEWSFLASH, these men and women are not improving: they are growing increasingly worse! In this paragraph God acknowledges that human nature is prone to progressive collapse. Sin has a drug like an addictive quality in that the sense of relief, satisfaction or pleasure derived from it does not last. Therefore, to receive the same amount of pleasure as before one has to sink deeper and deeper into the perversion. Likewise, a person must commit the sin more frequently, because the duration of satisfaction decreases the longer one continues in a sin.

Suppose 20 years ago we were 50 percent more righteous than society and today we are still 50 percent more righteous, but because the standards in society have declined so steeply, we have slipped far ourselves! People who do not understand sin call evil good and good evil until our society reaches the point illustrated in **Genesis 6:5**. In cultures all over the world, mankind is rapidly approaching conditions that are just like the days of Noah.

So you ask what is the solution? We cannot talk it. Instead, we must truly show that we fear the Lord by reading, studying and applying what we read in the bible, stay prayed up and if we truly do this, we won't under estimate the power of "sin".

SCRIPTURE READING

PSALMS 39:1-4

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Do what is right today and there will be no regrets tomorrow.

