

Preparing Our Hearts for the Return of Jesus

9-Lovesick Outcome- Eternal Rewards (2 Peter 2:4-8)

I. Wickedness Pull On The Human Heart

⁴For God did not spare even the angels who sinned. He threw them into hell, in gloomy pits of darkness, where they are being held until the day of judgment. ⁵And God did not spare the ancient world—except for Noah and the seven others in his family. Noah warned the world of God’s righteous judgment. So God protected Noah when he destroyed the world of ungodly people with a vast flood. ⁶Later, God condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and turned them into heaps of ashes. He made them an example of what will happen to ungodly people. ⁷But God also rescued Lot out of Sodom because he was a righteous man who was sick of the shameful immorality of the wicked people around him. ⁸Yes, Lot was a righteous man who was tormented in his soul by the wickedness he saw and heard day after day. (2Pet 2:4-8)

*Spared vs. Rescued

*Lot was sick and tormented

What is the difference between the two?

Noah:

The bible tells us that Noah was a preacher of righteousness. It tells us that Noah walked with God.

Enoch also walked with God, and God loved him so much that he never experienced death.

Hebrews 11 tells us that Noah condemned the world by his righteous living. Noah showed us that you can walk in a manner pleasing to God even in a fallen world.

Lot:

Lot is Abrahams nephew, and the blessing and wealth of Abraham was passed down to Lot as a beneficiary. There is Strife between Abraham and Lot’s herdsman so Abraham lets Lot choose to go anywhere he wants.

¹⁰Lot took a long look at the fertile plains of the Jordan Valley in the direction of Zoar. The whole area was well watered everywhere, like the garden of the Lord or the beautiful land of Egypt. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) ¹¹Lot chose for himself the whole Jordan Valley to the east of them. He went there with his flocks and servants and parted company with his uncle Abram. ¹²So Abram settled in the land of Canaan, and Lot moved his tents to a place near Sodom and settled among the cities of the plain. (Gen 13:10-13)

If you know the story, when God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, and Abraham went t and pleaded with God to save the righteous and his nephew, Lot was living in the city, not in the plains outside of the city.

What this tells us is that sin and wickedness (the world) has a drawing affect.

If we flirt with the world it will draw us in, that is why John says

¹⁵Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. ¹⁶For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. (1Jn 2:15,16)

So here you have Lot, starts off in the Plains and ends up inside the City.

Lot choose to be near wickedness because he did not protect his heart. The draw, the cravings of the world captivates the human heart.

And when we choose wickedness, even though we have no sensible recollection of what we are doing, we wear down righteousness.

II. What is the Outcome of our Choice – Righteousness vs. Wickedness

One of the clearer pictures of our choices is undoubtedly reflected in our lineage, in our descendants.

Abraham has Isaac, the Jacob, which led to Jesse, then David, then Joseph who was Jesus' father.

- Let's look at Lot.

The Angel delivers Him and his family out of Sodom, his wife is so attracted to the world because of his decision to live close that she looks back and becomes a pillar of salt.

Jesus even says in **Lk 17:32** remember Lot's wife.

Despite the promise of God, despite Angels coming and leading them out, the pull and desire for that world makes her miss what she had. And the Bible called Lot a righteous man. She must have had some righteousness in her, she lived in the same house.

It did not matter, her love for the world and it's pleasures were stronger than the "in your face" manifestation of God in the Angels before her and the fire and brimstone falling and destroying her city.

So she looked back because she loved it.

It does not end there.

After Lot and his daughters go up into the mountain. Then his youngest daughter realizes there are no men around, so she convinces her sister to have sex with their dad, because they have to continue his seed. So they get him drunk, the oldest daughter has sex with Lot and her child is **Moab**.

Moab became the father of the Moabites and they worshiped **Chemosh**. **Chemosh** demanded that they sacrifice their children to satisfy him.

The next night the youngest daughter get pregnant by her dad, and her child is the father of the **Amonites**. They worshipped a god called **Milcom**, **Milcom** also required their children. **Milcom** is not a name we recognize because the bible calls him by a different name. **Molech**.

While wickedness will argue this next point, The Fathers point in allowing this to happen is to show that wickedness leads us to make irrational choices, and in this case the essence portrayed by the lineage of Lot was/is sacrificing their children for pleasure.

¹⁶***For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure*** The pleasure of the world created an addiction, which killed the mom but also shaped those girls world view.

So much so they came up with the rationale to sleep with their father in order to preserve his lineage.

I am pretty sure they thought it was a great and noble idea. Remember they lived in the only righteous house in Sodom.

Their “Christian School Girl” life influenced greatly by the world led to rise of two of Israel’s greatest enemies in both a people group and Demon Generals that still rule today.

What are we doing today in America and in the entire earth.

We are sacrificing children for pleasure. The craving for sexual pleasure is prioritized higher than human life.

Molech was the demon general that demanded child sacrifice through the decree of Jezebel.

Our country and every other country on this earth has gradually been overtaken by the world. As humanity we have forsaken God, His Word, His commandments and have killed millions upon millions of children..... for the Sake of Pleasure that had it’s origins 4,000 years ago.

III. Our Choice Matters And Its Implications Are Eternal

¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.

¹²Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. ¹³But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person’s work has any value. ¹⁴If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. ¹⁵But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames. (1Cor 3:11-15)

Paul is expressing to us by this scripture that we have a choice how to build. Building means the choices we make in the manner of how we express our love, devotion and obedience to Jesus.

And your decisions are building materials.

The implication that Paul is making here is that you can be “called” or even “consider” yourself a Christian but still build on Him in the wrong manner.

Your lack of Obedience, faith, trust or surrender to Jesus Leadership in essence helps you build something, but it’s cheap and it cannot withstand fire.

Here is the issue with allowing ourselves, I am speaking in terms allowing yourself, and/or allowing your friends and family live like this.

With Lot we have two stark examples:

1- His wife, despite living in a “righteous house” she ended up loving and/or believing her love for sin more than God which caused her to look back and perish. Forsaking God

2- Lot and his daughter- while they feared God enough not to look back, their lives led to emptiness and generations/outcomes that is less desired.

Paul gives us the same options, here in **1 Cor** and in **2 Thes**

1- We can live a righteous live and experience rewards after judgement

2- Be like Lot and his daughters and experience loss

3- Forsake God and Separation

Paul's message here is that there are people that will enter into eternity, despite the potential of choosing Him in the darkest hour, even martyrdom, because of the way they lived.

That is the exact same message of the 7 churches in revelation.

Imagine you get to 65, and your entire savings, social security, everything you had gets burned up and you have nothing expect your life.

IV. How- Easy and Complicated

⁶But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (Heb 11:6)

This doesn't mean that I am in a church praying every second. What it means is that He is in my very thoughts.

Diligent means in a way that shows care and [conscientiousness](#) in one's work or duties.

conscientiousness the quality of wishing to do one's work or duty well and thoroughly.

⁸For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come. (1Tim 4:8)

The beauty is the while the consummation of all His inheritance for us is in the world to come, Paul tells us that we can also be profitable (not meaning money but in all things) in this life too.

Personally, while I know the answer, in times of weakness I ask myself why do I Pastor, why when money is so tight do I spend so much money going to Cuba, why do I sometime exhaust myself.

If we do this to gain something for the Age to Come, if we do this to feel better about ourselves those selfish motives. We fall into what John warns us ¹⁶***For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions.***

I can honestly say I do it because Jesus has showed me to Love people. I would have quit this and saved my family close to \$20,000 if it wasn't for Love.

People have hurt us, intentionally and unintentionally, we have sacrificed a lot, and only Jesus' love makes it worth it.