

## A Form of Godliness

**2 Timothy 3:1-5 ( NKJV )** <sup>1</sup>But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:  
<sup>2</sup>For men will **be lovers of themselves**, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, <sup>3</sup>unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, <sup>4</sup>traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup>**having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!**

I am still on yesterday's verse. I could go through the list one by one, but that may be quite tedious. So am skipping to the last and the crucial peril. That is to have a form of godliness, yet to deny the power of God, power of the Cross.

Let me be quite frank with you.

These are perilous days, where every evil is justified even inside the church. Look at the number of extra marital affairs, divorces in the church. To add to this most of those who use internet are addicted to porn sites. Yet some are worship leaders, some preach the word, some are prayer warriors.

What does it mean to be godly yet to deny its power?

They have a godliness, yet in their personal lives they are not able to overcome a personal problem. They believe it for others, but do not consider it for themselves.

This is one of the greatest disasters of the church when believers have a form of godliness but deny its power. Their lives are in no way different from the non believer. They swear with equal ease, they hate with whole heart, they envy, they back bite, they are unforgiving, unholy, .. you can include the whole list above here.

In other words there is no Christ likeness in their lives. The gospel, the faith in the Blood of Jesus has not transformed their inner lives.

Why is there no victory from hidden sins? Where is the problem? In the Blood of Christ or in my life?

The answer obviously is my life.

So where do I go wrong?

We are assured of our salvation by putting our faith in the finished work of Jesus on the Cross and cleansed by His blood.

But we expect everything to change magically. Yes God will give us the grace to overcome temptations, but we should also be very serious about overcoming temptations.

The classic example is Joseph. He ran away from the clutches of his seducer.

One of my friends wrote to me that he was not sure whether the perfect day of deliverance would be there in his life. I vehemently disagree with this.

You cannot live 20 days of victory and be lost in porn viewing for 10 days, and again the cycle continues.

The reason for this backsliding is lack of self control. This is also part of the list above.

I tell you, you will not die without surfing the net, but if you persist in your cycle of sinning you will jeopardize your soul for eternity.

Porn viewing mostly translates into action and the vicious cycle will ruin your life.

I was very surprised to read a commentary which said, Paul's "thorn in the flesh," could be a sexual problem.

I think it literally means thorn in the flesh, that is a physical pain. Imagine a thorn in your feet. You will have constant pain. Many scholars say that Paul should have suffered from an eye pain, because when Paul is angry with Galatians, he says, "why once you even were willing to pluck out your eye and give it to me?"

And also in another place Paul says, "I wish you could all be like me." If Paul had a sexual problem, he would have never said this.

This is another grievous problem, that we love to interpret the word where we want to be justified.

Sexual sin starts first in the mind, through the eyes. That is why Jesus said, anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery. So this problem starts when you decide to view that clipping in you tube, when you want to read the page with graphic details and then you are slowly drawn into the net.

God has delivered us from the clutches of sin by the power of the Blood of Jesus, and He has also given us the common sense to plug out the net connection if we are lured into porn when we are alone.

This is applicable for any sin. Joseph ran from the woman's room. Stop driving in the direction of the bar. Plug out the internet connection.

The problem in most cases is we do not have self control. God requires even this from us. I was very much encouraged by a mail today from a young couple who have decided to do away with facebook account some days back. See it is possible. Your soul is much more important than your fb contacts.

Let us examine ourselves with God's word and weed out all the toxicity from our mind. May the power of the Blood of Christ, the power of the Word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit wash us clean and deliver us to the uttermost.