

PEOPLE ARE SLAVES TO WHATEVER MASTERS THEM.

This is more of continuation of yesterday's message.

Addiction is a topic I go back to again and again. Probably because I know so many of young men and women from respectable Christian families who are hopelessly addicted, yet do not realize they are addicted. Even if they realize they are addicted they are so ashamed to ask aloud for help or prayer, making them very vulnerable.

What is addiction?

2 Peter 2:19 (NRSV) ¹⁹They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption; for **people are slaves to whatever masters them.**

This is a very succinct definition, we are addicted or slaves to **whatever** masters us. The keyword here is whatever. You have to define what your 'whatever' is. It need not only be smoking, drugs or drinking as we normally think. It can even be obsessive shopping, serial watching, facebook surfing, continuous smsing, pornography, video games, play station and so the list goes.

Yesterday we saw that Jesus is able to save us to the uttermost. Yes it is the unchanging truth, that Jesus is able to save. But the question is whether I am able to go to Him on His terms and appropriate this uttermost deliverance.

Even for this the answer lies in the Word of God. When we see the life of Joseph, God was able to save him to the uttermost, and Joseph on his part ran away from the place of temptation, even leaving his own tunic at the hands of his seductress, though it could be held as a proof of molestation against him. Yet Joseph was more concerned about the health of his soul than his reputation.

Yes my friend there is something that you and I should do, if we have to be saved to the uttermost. We should be careful to leave the place of sin or whatever entices you. Whatever masters you. Do not be soft on yourself. Evaluate your self without any prejudice or justification. Today we live in the world where sin is replaced by preference. If I would prefer a way of life, then it is my choice and not a sin. But going by the Word of God, we know clearly what is sin and what is not. Anything that separates you from the presence of God, will eventually morph into sin.

Jesus was very harsh when He dealt with holiness. It is so sad that nowadays we only speak about grace and grace for sinning and sinning. But what Jesus said can grate in your ears. He was very uncompromising and unflinching when it came to holiness. Listen to this,

Matthew 18:8-9 (NRSV) ⁸“If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to enter life maimed or lame than to have two hands or two feet and to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into the hell[£] of fire.

In the whole Bible, it was only Jesus Christ who spoke about the reality of hell and described hell graphically.

It is for you to decide whether to retain your laptop which sucks you into personal viewing or to lose heaven. I may sound like spoil sport, but the above words are not mine. They are the words of Jesus Himself.

You have to choose whether you are willing to plug out the internet connection when you have to work alone or to deceive yourself saying , “no matter how many times I fall the grace of God will keep wiping me.” Beware of such pseudo justification.

If your spot of addiction is a place, change your location of stay and do not go that side. You are cutting off your leg not to walk there or in other words you should not walk in that direction. The same applies with your eyes also. If the object of your addiction is your tv, computer, cellphone, iphone etc

then throw them away. It is not worth losing heaven, if you really believe in heaven.

My dear friend my big desire for all of us is that though sinful as we are, let us by the grace of God, offer our lives, bodies as a living sacrifice so that the power of God may fall on our lives, deliver us, save us to the uttermost and make us channels and rivers of blessing to those struggling in sin and addictions.

Romans 6:12-14 (NRSV) ¹²Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. ¹³No longer present your members to sin as instruments[£] of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments[£] of righteousness. ¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.