

The Bible Guys

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Hidden Wisdom



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The People of Truth
A Holy Nation

His wonderful gift

By David M. McNabb

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

While man has moments of seeming goodness, every man is born with the sinful nature. Selfishness, pride, strife, and envy are but a few of the things that permeate humanity. While everyone can easily find fault in the habits of others, no one is without sin. The same person who busies himself condemning others might be surprised to find himself the topic of interest in someone else's conversation.

The Scripture says that the wages of sin is death. Since we are all guilty of sin, we are therefore all worthy of death, and the day is coming when our righteous Lord shall come and execute judgment on the wicked.

But while righteousness is one of the chief characteristics of our God, another is mercy. It is by this that we have found grace in His sight. Because God does not delight in the destruction of the wicked, He provided a way for us to be reconciled unto Him, having our sins forgiven and our guilt removed. Still, that provision had to come according to another of God's eternal laws: there is no remission without the shedding of blood. To this end the Son of God came, to meet that requirement, and shed His own blood, that we might have eternal life through Him.

As the chief priests and Pharisees plotted to kill Jesus of Nazareth, Caiaphas, the high priest, said that it was expedient that one man should die for the people. Little did they know the gravity of his words, for had they known the hidden wisdom of God, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. Nevertheless, God kept them from the knowledge of His Son, that our salvation might be secured.

So Jesus was lifted from the earth on a cross, and bore the sins of the whole world. He shed His blood so that we could walk in newness of life. He bore our shame so that we might receive a name better than of sons and daughters. He endured the pain that we might be made free from the law of sin and death.

Since the Passover season is upon us, let us remember Christ's great sacrifice. He knew that the sufferings He was to endure could not compare to the glory He shares with the Father. As we, through the Lord's Supper, remember the blood that was shed and the body that was broken for us, we are reminded of the pit of our sin, the peace we now enjoy, and the glory that lies ahead. What love! The cross He bore should have been mine. The nails should have pinned me to the tree. It was I who had earned the pain and suffering that He endured. I owe Him a life debt. I must therefore cry out with Paul, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Gal. 2:20).

He has delivered us from sin and death, if only we believe in our hearts and confess with our mouths the Lord Jesus. This is the gift of God to us. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift. 

Hidden wisdom

By C. Eldon McNabb

“We speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: but *we speak the wisdom of GOD in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which GOD ordained before the world unto our glory: which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which GOD hath prepared for them that love him. But GOD hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of GOD*” (1 Corinthians 2:6-10).

I am occasionally contacted by some Christian minister who feels compelled to tell me how wrong it is for me to preach and teach to people the deeper things of the Word of GOD. It is somehow offensive to them that I do not limit my ministry to that relatively small portion of the huge volume of the Holy Scriptures which deals solely with the redemption of the souls of men. According to that way of thinking, I would have to wonder why the book of Esther is in the Bible at all. It makes no specific mention of GOD at all. It needs to be included, however, because it contains some very important prophecies of the work of GOD in the Grace Age.

That idea is strange to me, for several reasons. Not the least of which is the admonition which Jesus gave us in Matthew 11:29. He said, “Take my yoke upon you, and *learn of me*; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.” The Apostle Paul indicated to us that, even being baptized with the Holy Ghost, we have only part of the spiritual

“equipment” which we need in order to fully grasp some of the wonderful things of GOD.

It was Paul who laid hands on the saints in Ephesus, by which they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Yet he wrote to them of another spirit, one of “The Four Spirits of the Heavens” [The Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding]; which are mentioned in Isaiah 11:1-2 and Zechariah 6:1-5, saying, “After I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, [I] cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; that the GOD of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, *may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.*” What we all need, in our spiritual lives, is the function of *all of the “Four Spirits of the Heavens;”* particularly the baptism with the Spirit of the Lord and The Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding (Ephesians 1:15-23).

Paul added to that, in 2 Timothy 2:15, by saying to Timothy, “Study to shew thyself approved unto GOD, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, *rightly dividing the word of truth.*” These statements say to me that the opposite of the admonition of my detractors is true. Understanding the revelation of GOD, which we are given in the Bible, requires a lot of work, but it must be preached to GOD’s hungry family, as Paul told us in 1 Corinthians above.

Jesus thought that His household needed a variety of food and told us in a parable, in Matthew 24:42-47, how He would provide it for them. He said, “Know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, *to give them meat in due season?* Blessed is that servant, whom his lord *when he cometh shall find so doing.*”

Peter also gave us a very strong admonition in 2 Peter 1:16-21; concerning prophecy, saying, “We have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from GOD the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. We have also *a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts* [apparently not Jesus]: knowing this first that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. *For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of GOD spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*” It is now up to a group of apostles and prophets to “rightly divide” it all so we will understand it, and know what to do. We need to do as those Jews did on that day of Pentecost, asking GOD, *What must we do?*

“*Know this.*” It is important that we be prepared for the occasion of a possible break-in by thieves, and it is equally, if not more important that we be ready for the coming of Jesus. *Know this also* that GOD intends to prepare a people for the coming of the Son of Man. The way He intends to accomplish that is to provide His “household” with a leader, who is wise in the Word of GOD, to lead them, and to keep

them informed as to where we are on GOD's prophetic time table: "Meat in due season." And when Jesus comes back, He will find His appointee doing exactly that.

Christians need the nourishment of spiritual *milk*, but they also need the spiritual protein of spiritual *meat*. The promise which GOD gave to the Fathers of Israel was "a land flowing with *milk* and *honey*." So we also must need the "enlightening of the eyes" which spiritual honey provides (Hebrews 5:11-14; 1 Samuel 14:25-29).

In the above passage in Matthew 24, Jesus expressed the need for "Meat in due season," and tied that to the events leading up to the second coming of our Lord. Getting people to accept the redemption which is afforded unto us by the death of Jesus on the cross *will not* save them, or us from the wrath of GOD *which he will pour out* upon his disobedient children at the end of the Grace Age, or from the wrath of the dragon (Zephaniah 2:13-3; Revelation 12:17). The only thing that will enable us to escape is having a revelation of the prophetic events which lead up to the coming of the Bridegroom, and to be seeking GOD with all of our hearts.

How else shall we know when to obey the prophetic command in Isaiah 26:20? GOD said, "Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: *hide thyself* as it were for a little moment, *until the indignation be overpast*." Scriptures such as this are totally nullified by the false prophecies which we hear almost everywhere, and almost every day, telling us that we can not know when Jesus is about to return. Conversely, Paul said, "let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, *as ye see the day approaching*" (Hebrews 10:25). Paul

spoke even more plainly to the Church, in 1 Thessalonians 5:4, saying, "Ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief." How can I possibly "see the day approaching," if these ministers are correct in their promotion?

In 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Paul used a portion of the prophecy of the second coming of Jesus which is recorded in Exodus 19. When the Lord came down unto Moses on the mountain, He gave Israel a three-day notice to become sanctified, and to wash their clothes before His "public"

appearance.

To get the full scope of that prophecy, you must read the entire 19th chapter of Exodus. From the instructions which GOD gave to Moses that day, we can be sure that GOD will appear to His "anointed one," in this last time, to give us two or three years advance notice to prepare ourselves for the coming of our Bridegroom (God prophesies of time in various ways, one of which we find in Ezekiel 4:6. He told Ezekiel to lay on his right side, and that thus he would bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: "I have appointed thee each day for a year.") I say Bridegroom, because when the Lord descended on the mount at the day appointed, He gave to Moses "the covenant [of marriage], the ten commandments" (Exodus 20 and 34:28; Jeremiah 3:14).

While my detractors go about bashing me for preaching the "hidden wisdom" of the Bible they do a very strange thing. Whereas I follow Paul's example, and "preach Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery" (Romans 16:25-26), they preach that all of the redeemed make up GOD's Church, and insist that a person is born spiritually into the "body of Christ." That is a whole lot more of a "mystery" than what I preach. The soul of a man is redeemed from

the hand of Satan as he is being born again, but become a part of GOD's Church, according to Isaiah 62:1-7, is like a marriage. It is similar to receiving the Holy Ghost; only a Christian can receive it (John 14:17).

If you think that it is less complicated to believe that becoming a Christian automatically makes you a part of GOD's Church, then you find yourself in direct opposition to the Apostle Paul. You see, Paul thought that, far from being simple, the subject of Christ and the Church is "a *great* mystery" (Ephesians 5:32). Many, if not most of our ministers today have approached that great mystery, and have tried to make it appear to be simple, but have met with some serious complications in the process. We can pretend that the New Testament is all about redemption, and is quite simple, but from its beginning to its conclusion it is about the mystery of GOD's will. The process of redemption is quite simple, but GOD has given to us men with the gifts of Apostle and Prophet to the end that we might be able to comprehend it all (Ephesians 1:3-9 and 3:1-11).

Matthew called his Gospel "The Book of the Generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham," pointing out that the promised King, and Messiah had come. After he had named those forty-two generations, he then related the events which occurred with a visitation of GOD's angel to Joseph and Mary. By way of explanation, in Matthew 1:22, he wrote, "Now all this was done, *that it might be fulfilled* which was spoken of the LORD by the prophet."

The New Testament begins with Matthew's "Gospel," and with 21 verses which cover prophecies of the genealogies which had to come to pass, concluding with the birth of Jesus Christ (Jesus later testified that He was born to be "King of the Jews"). Nine times, throughout the

book of Matthew, he used the phrase, "That it might be fulfilled." Thus Matthew showed us that everything in the New Testament: every detail of every narrative, or ministry, or work was "prophecy fulfilled."

The New Testament ends with a similar prophetic note, saying, "I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. For I testify unto every man *that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book*, If any man shall add unto these things, GOD shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: and if any man *shall take away* from the words of the book of this prophecy, GOD shall take away his part out of the book of life, *and out of the holy city*, and from the things which are written in this book."

GOD showed us here that there is more than one book which is written concerning His people, and their gifts and rewards, or loss of gifts and rewards. To have your name written in the holy city is not the same thing as to have it written in the book of life. There are actually four books which are written concerning, and for the benefit of those who manage to get their names in them, and maintain their presence there. There is the all-famous "Book of Life;" referred to in Exodus 32:32, but mentioned by name only in Philippians 4:3 and five times in Revelation, and the "Book of Life of the Lamb," only in Revelation 13:8. And, there is the "Book of Remembrance;" in Malachi 3:16-17. There is also the "Book of the Holy City:" the Church, Jerusalem, Zion (Hebrews 12:18-23).

Before GOD chooses who shall be in the Church, they must first

qualify to be written in the Book of Remembrance. That is where people who are generally qualified are listed to be considered later, when the time comes for GOD to "make up His jewels."

In Revelation 22:19, it is easily seen that the Book of Life and the Book of the Holy City are not the same thing. The importance of having your name written in the Book of the Holy City is better understood when we realize the truth of Revelation 19:6-9 and 21:9-11. The Church is the Holy City: The Bride the Lamb's Wife. It is important to know that Israel was united when GOD brought them out of Egypt, yet He described them saying, Judah was His Sanctuary, and Israel His Dominion (Psalm 114:1-2). When they came out of Egypt, and Pharaoh went forth to destroy them, GOD defended them with a pillar of cloud and pillar of fire. It is in this context which we must comprehend how GOD will deliver us out of the enemy's hand when persecution is forced upon Christianity in the next few years.

In this last time, GOD will indeed defend His people. First we must fulfill the words of Paul, "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace," until His gifted ministry of Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers can manage to bring us together "in the unity of the faith." Christians are having difficulty, at this time, seeing any reason for them to unite together. That day is about over. The pressure of government imposition upon GOD's people is steadily increasing, and breaking point will come.

A number: a list of Christians, clean and unclean, must be brought together under one banner: the flag of The Kingdom of GOD which is prophesied of in Daniel 2:43-44. You cannot be born into it. You must decide to be part of it, and *have your name written there*, as is prescribed in Matthew 18:15-20;

John 20:23; and 1 Corinthians 5:1-13. Whatever, and whoever the officials of GOD's Elect "bind on Earth," writing their names in a book, GOD shall write their names in the Book of the Holy City in Heaven.

As the pressure builds, and persecution breaks out against us, GOD will defend us, as He did the united nation of Israel, with the pillar of cloud, and the pillar of fire that day, as they waited for the sea to open.

Even so, GOD promised us, in Isaiah 4, that He will defend us as He did Israel on that day. He said, "In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel. And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even *every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem*: when the LORD shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning. *And the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night*: for upon all the glory shall be a defense. And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain."

The glory of the LORD shall soon be manifested upon the Gentile Church, because they will have fulfilled the prophecies in Isaiah 52:8, and Isaiah 60:7. He said, "They shall see eye to eye when the Lord shall bring again Zion." "All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together unto thee, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister unto thee: they shall come up with acceptance on mine altar, and I will glorify the house of my glory."

As the prophetic scene unfolds, tens of thousands of people from many churches shall assemble together with them. Those who do so shall enter into a covenant with them *to have their name written* together with all of those who accept the fellowship of GOD's Kingdom and Sanctuary. Thus shall we fulfill the allegory of the Kingdom of God under Kings David and Solomon.

Then shall the Cloud of the LORD's Glory be seen upon all for a defense from all of the troubles which shall afflict men in that "Day of the Lord." 

Business as usual?

By David M. McNabb

The subject of the end times seems to be on nearly everyone's mind. From the political scene, as it is developing around the world (particularly in the Middle East and Asia), to the ever increasing outbreaks of diseases (food borne, sexually transmitted, etc.), to natural disasters like the threat of "global warming" or an impact by an asteroid, one thing most people agree on is that humanity's days are numbered.

When one turns to the pages of the book of Revelation, in what seems to describe the series of events of the last days, he or she can quickly get an "apocalyptic" view of what lies ahead for planet earth. [Note that the term "apocalyptic" has come to mean "catastrophic, cataclysmic, and disastrous." However, it is suitable for all the events of the Book of Revelation – bad and good – since the Greek word from which it comes to English is *apokalupsis*, which simply means "revelation," and happens to be the first word of the Greek translation of "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" (Rev. 1:1).]

In chapters 8 and 9 of Revelation, we read John's vision concerning seven angels which had seven trumpets. At the sounding of each trumpet, a new calamity befalls the earth. When the

first trumpet blew, a third part of the trees were burned up and all of the grass. At the second trumpet, a third part of the sea became blood, killing a third of all the creatures in the sea and destroying a third part of the ships. The third angel sounded, and a third of the rivers and springs were made undrinkable. The fourth trumpet blew, and the sun, moon and stars all became one-third dimmer. When the sixth angel sounded, a third of men were killed by fire, smoke and brimstone from the mouths of 200 million horses. After all of this, the remaining two-thirds of men did not repent: that is when things really began to get bad.

Just this small glimpse of the evil slated to befall the earth does not paint for us a very optimistic picture of the future. While it is certain that, in the end, all turns out well for the believers and the planet, the Word of God foretells quite a bumpy ride between now and then.

Jesus spoke of the last days and of the calamity which they would hold. He also spoke concerning the days leading up to those dark times, likening them to the days of Noah before the flood destroyed all but those who were safely in the ark which he built. Jesus said, "But as the days of Noe *were*, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matt. 24:37-39). Luke transcribed it almost identically, "And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all" (Luke 17:26-27).

When we consider both of these passages, we find the following two things seem to be considered by Jesus as the most noteworthy characteristics of mankind before the flood: 1) they were eating and drinking, and 2) they were marrying and giving in marriage.

I would like to note here that the terminology of the second item reflects a different usage in language from that of modern English. Whereas today we say "he was married," and "she was married," it used to be that men were married, and women were "given in marriage." This phrase, then, refers to the nuptials of both men and women.

That being said, looking at the content of Jesus' words here, many have boiled it down to mean, "everything was business as usual" until the flood came. But is that all that Jesus was saying, that the days leading up to the return of the Son of Man are going to be just "business as usual," or did He have something more particular in mind as He referenced these specific societal trends of the days before the flood?

If the Lord compared the last days to the days leading up to the flood, and we are supposing that He was saying that it would be "business as usual," the question should likely be asked, "Was it 'business as usual' in the days leading up to the flood?" For that, we will look at the narrative in the Book of Genesis.

First, as the Scripture declares, every imagination of the thoughts of the hearts of men was only evil continually. Jesus said that, in the days of Noah, men were "eating and drinking." This statement is not speaking of the inherent need of man to nourish himself, but to the riotous activities in which they were engaged. We have a similar description of the children of Israel while Moses was on the mount of God. The Israelites had made themselves a golden calf, and proclaimed a feast before their new god. "And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; *and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play*" (Ex. 32:6). They were not merely nourishing themselves, they were reveling in idolatry.

Second, "And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they *were* fair; and they took them wives of

all which they chose” (Gen. 6:1-2). After the sin of Cain, God divided him from the rest of the descendants of Adam. Cain went off to develop a society of his own, separated from the rest of humanity. The Lord’s intent was to keep that root of bitterness from defiling the whole of mankind, so He kept the two “families” apart.

When Seth was born, Eve said, “God hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew.” In Gen. 5:3, it says, “And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth.” A simple law of algebra states, “If A=B, and B=C, then A=C.” Seth was “in the likeness, and after the image” of Adam. Adam was made in God’s image, after His likeness. Therefore, Seth was in the likeness of God. Luke confirms the pedigree of Seth in Luke 23-38, “Jesus himself ... being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli, ...which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God.”

Thus, beginning with Cain and Seth, there were two distinct families of man: the sons of God and the sons (and daughters) of men. These two families were separated by God, and were not to mingle. Over time, however, Seth’s descendants (the sons of God), began to take to themselves wives of Cain’s descendants (the daughters of men).

Man’s wickedness filled the land, but the violation of God’s will through the intermarriage between the two families of man was the last straw. Seth’s descendants had ceased to be separate from the wicked seed of Cain, and God determined to destroy the earth by a flood.

So, it can be understood that it was not “business as usual” in the days leading up to the flood, but times had indeed changed. Man had wholly given himself over to wickedness, and those whom God had separated unto Himself had turned from His way, and disobeyed His law. Noah alone found grace in the eyes of the Lord, and he, his family and two of every living creature were spared in the ark, while all others died.

This is the intention of Jesus’ words concerning the time of the end: not that

it would be “business as usual,” but a drastic change. Once again, the children of God would turn away from His will. They would revel in idolatry and mingle themselves with the world. Paul agreed, saying, that the Lord would return only after “a falling away” occurred among God’s people (2 Thess. 2:1-3).

And so it is today. God’s children bow at the altar of the golden calf of prosperity, and other idolatrous doctrines, for the Word says, their “stock [idol] is a doctrine of vanities” (Jer. 10:8). At the same time, professed children of God, from pulpit to pew, have become so intermingled with the unbelievers that it is nearly impossible to tell them apart. As Ezekiel said, “Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them” (Ezek. 22:26).

It is not the wicked sinners that bring the wrath of God, but the disobedience of His children that are the real problem. Jesus said to His disciples, “Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men” (Matt. 5:13). When the children of God cease to be separate from the children of the devil, it will not matter how many victory songs they sing. Almighty God warned His people, “But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee ... Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee...” (Deut. 28:15-68).

Divorce, cohabitation, gluttony, covetousness – all of these are as abundant among professed Chris-

tians as they are among the unbeliever. This cannot continue. God, in His mercy, must consume the wickedness before it consumes the righteous.

Jesus said that, in the days of Noah, it was no longer business as usual, but a great violation of God’s will had prevailed in their society. Furthermore, He said that they were ignorant of their imminent destruction. So also have many professed believers strayed from the right way, and have blasphemed the Word of God, yet they ignorantly await deliverance that will not come. They indulge in “fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence [lust], and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things’ sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience” (Col. 3:5-6).

As the foolish virgins of Matthew chapter 25, many shall head off to meet the bridegroom, but find themselves in outer darkness. Where do you stand before your Lord? Do you feel that by professing a belief in Jesus, you have a pass to do whatever you want, while waiting for the Lord to whisk you away to glory? Are you a Christian in name only, or have you completely sold out to God, and submitted your will unto His?

We must heed the exhortation of the Lord at the mouth of Zephaniah, “Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired; Before the decree bring forth, *before* the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the Lord come upon you, before the day of the Lord’s anger come upon you. Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord’s anger” (Zeph. 2:1-3).

Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen. 

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