



Mighty in the Word

of the
Lord
Jesus Christ

For *the preaching of the cross* is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved *it is the power of God*" (I Cor. 1.18).

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

The Wise Still Seek Him

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Abstain

Satan will never ask or lead us to cross the chasm. Satan comes to us in disguise and deceit, inviting us to take one miniscule step at a time down the broad road that leads to destruction. The steps he invites us to take look and feel no different from how, where, and what we are already doing. Each step, however, is so minisculely different that we will not realize what we are doing and where we are going – until we have almost crossed the chasm in life, which, at that time, one will not care any longer because the heart is hardened against the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am reminded of Dante's *Inferno*. In which, in my mind's eye, I see those people standing in the fires of hell without feeling in their souls and slowly swaying with arms lifted as though they are numb, without feelings, and lives wasted in hell.

How many times have you said or heard someone say, "But this little step is not going to hurt anything. I am okay. I know when to stop."

Some might say, but it is for a good cause; what we are doing is to help others. IF what you are doing or contemplating has any appearance of evil, of sin – no matter how *good* the cause, abstain from every occasion of evil, and what leads unto it, and has the appearance of it. Abstain or you may be suspected of others to be sin, and so give offence, and become a matter of scandal. **ABSTAIN** from the appearance of evil, says the Word of God.

Be aware and listen to your heart. When the mind is involved, and in doubt, wisdom is to pull back and seek the Lord; take no further step lest you take a step that will lead you down that chasm of no return. Be alert to your heart and listen lest you have doubts and make a decision that will trouble you, your conscience, your heart. Seek courage from the Lord, His strength, His wisdom, to stop and turn away from not only sin, evil, but the appearance of evil.

Isaiah makes it clear we are not to look to the left or to the right, but hear the Word of the Lord as He says to you and me, "This is the way, walk ye in it." The Lord will put this in your heart when you meet those crossroads; **HEED HIS VOICE**, the voice of the Lord Jesus Christ, though the world tugs at you, though your friends and family shun you and mock you.

And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This *[is]* the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left (Isa 30.21).

The Word of the Lord, in I Thessalonians 5.22, says to "Abstain from all appearance of evil." **HEED THE WORD.**

I charge *[thee]* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;
Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;
And they shall turn away *[their]* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions,
do the work of an evangelist,
make full proof of thy ministry.

(II Ti 4.1-5).

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Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

First, heed the word for your own salvation. Reread the first paragraph of this *Message* and let it sink deep within your heart. Satan endeavors to lead us one miniscule step at a time so as to blind us from his deceitfulness that he might over take us.

Second, heed the word for your own salvation and for your witness to lead others to Jesus Christ that they might know the way of salvation and walk with you on the straight and narrow way that leads to eternity with Jesus Christ in heaven. Oh, the joy of walking with the Lord though not easy.

You cannot lead someone to Jesus Christ walking on the broad road that leads to destruction, to hell. How many times do I hear people say, "We have to read what they read and walk with them so we can get to know them and understand them." Trust me! When you do that, they have already won you over to their way of life. This may be an exaggerated example, but it makes a point. You cannot walk with a thief or a murderer as they commit their crimes so you can understand them, so you can then lead them to Jesus Christ. Once you walk with them and learn their ways, you are one with them. Ask the law enforcement when you go to trial for being an accessory.

Third, heed the word for your own walk with the Lord as we are called to take up our cross and follow the Lord Jesus Christ, to walk with Him, to walk a life of holiness. This is not a life of pride, but one of true humility, lifting up the Lord Jesus Christ. It is walking in the Spirit, the Holy Spirit, looking unto the Lord Who is the author and finisher of our lives (Heb 12.1, 2).

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *[us]*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *[our]* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

When we walk in the Spirit as is in Romans Eight, we will seek the will of the Lord. Many are walking in the flesh, are listening to those standing on the pulpitum who would choose to give forth a motivational speech telling you how good you are; just keep on walking the way you are - as God understand.

This is a lie straight from hell. The Lord God Almighty did not send Jesus Christ, His only Begotten Son, to die on a cruel cross that you might have another option in your life. There are not options in our lives if we desire to live for the Lord and to spend all eternity with Him. There is but one way; it is *The Way* of the Cross of Calvary, the *Via Dolorosa*. It is laying down our lives for Him Who died for us, and rose victoriously over sin, hell, and the grave.

Abstaining from the appearance of evil is abstaining from the false teachings and "preaching." It is to read the Word of God, and to know the Word as Paul told young Timothy (II Ti 2.15).

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

But shun profane *[and]* vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;

Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.

If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, *[and]* prepared unto every good work.

Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.

And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all *[men]*, apt to teach, patient,

In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

And *[that]* they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will (II Ti 2.17-26).

There is another aspect of abstaining from evil. There may be that which the world would throw back to you as having the appearance of evil, but they base it on their *thinking* in a way to endeavor to weaken your love for Jesus, endeavoring to defeat you. I am reminded when the Pharisees and Sadducees looked for ways to defeat the Lord Jesus Christ.

Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him (Mk 12.14).

Is it lawful for us to give tribute unto Caesar, or no?

But he perceived their craftiness, and said unto them, Why tempt ye me?

Shew me a penny. Whose image and superscription hath it? They answered and said, Caesar's.

And he said unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's (Lk 20.22-25).

Abstaining from the appearance of evil as well as that which is evil may include people who find it their amusement in taking down people, putting them in a hard place, then mock them. Beware of those who are friendly, but not your friend. Beware of those who endeavor to deceive you into thinking they are with you in your walk with the Lord, but are there to find a way not only to discourage you, but to take you down – endeavoring that you might walk with them on the broad way that leads to destruction.

Hear what they did to Jesus and how they mocked him and brought the crowd with them, those who were weak and of the same mind of the evil, deceitful ones. Oh, do not forget how people not only will set you up to fail, put you in difficult decision making situation, but will also lie and bring the crowds with them - as witness to that about which they knew nothing, were not present at the time of accusation.

And the whole multitude of them arose, and led him unto Pilate.

And they began to accuse him, saying, We found this *[fellow]* perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King (Lk 23.1, 2).

Paul's word, admonition to young Timothy, comes to us also endeavoring to make us aware of how the enemy works, how the enemy uses people we believe to be one with us, people who are our *friends*, people of our family, as well as his followers who are so cunning and work for the enemy against the people of the Lord Jesus Christ.