

Prayer List

Sierra
Gene
Veda
Judy
The Williams' Family
Ophelia

Services:

Sunday

Bible Class 9:00 a.m.
Assembly 9:50 a.m.
Assembly 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Pinole Tidings

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This Week's Question:

Who defied her royal husband and was replaced by a foreign woman?

Answer To Last Week's Question:

David

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Lasciviousness: The Hellhole of Sin

by Ronny E. Hinds

IT IS NOT TALKED about much. It is passed over in our reading of the text. Perhaps we find it difficult to pronounce. It must be truly awful, perverse, corrupt. Even in saying it we feel like we need grandma's proverbial soap to wash out our mouths. Indeed, it is the hellhole of sin.

If you feel that way about that word, then I'm glad. It is at least one indication your life is not being corrupted by lasciviousness. That is because lasciviousness is directly opposite to being embarrassed by sin. It is the sin that has forgotten how to blush. It is shameless conduct—unbridled, unrestrained, rushing onward without limits. If you have ever been on the back of a runaway horse, then maybe you have a feeling for this sin. Once he is in full gallop, he is exceedingly difficult to reign in. Onward he rushes to the destination he chooses.

Paul gives us this sense of the word when he writes, "who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness" (Ephesians 4:19). It is those who have lost the ability to "feel" the sinfulness of their sin. Their sin does not bother them and they do not care who knows. The New

American Standard translation uses the word “callous.” In searching this text’s context, we can observe phrases like: vanity of mind, darkened understandings, ignorance, blindness of heart. Clearly, one is not thinking correctly. The perception of right and wrong has become clouded and deceptive thinking has taken control. The ultimate fate of such is that wrong is not seen. It will appear to be all right, acceptable—“everybody is doing it.”

The New King James translation uses the word “licentiousness” to translate our Galatians 5 text. It is an excellent choice. Look at the word and see it in the idea of “license.” It conveys the idea that the person who is lascivious is one who believes he/she has the right to do what they are doing. In Galatians 5, Paul has raised the issue of liberty. “Stand fast therefore in the liberty with which Christ has made us free” (5:1). Yet he warns “only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh” (5:13). Liberty is not license. Liberty involves policing ourselves—self-restraint, self-control. No runaway horses here.

I have purposely avoided making any applications. I have done so because I wanted to paint as broad a picture of the meaning of this word as I possibly could. It is obvious its application must be found primarily within the area of sensual, sexual sins. It is known by its company: carousing, drunkenness, sexual promiscuity (Romans 13:13); uncleanness, fornication (2 Corinthians 12:21); lusts, drinking parties (1 Peter 4:3). Yet I cannot help but point out that those texts, as well as Galatians 5, show sins like strife, jealousy, angry tempers, factions, slanders, gossip, arrogance, idolatries.

I guess what I am trying to say is, this is at the root of many sins. Lasciviousness, while being a specific sin, must be seen as an attitude we have toward our sins—whether

sexual or whatever. It might be described as a “don’t-care/don’t-want-to-know” attitude. Doesn’t the jealous heart and the gossiping tongue have roots in unrestrained blindness to its real guilt? “It’s not gossip if I do it.” Doesn’t the sower of strife and faction possess the vanity of mind that they are justified in what they are doing? They are not embarrassed by such shameless conduct. They are arrogant and self-willed because of their darkened understandings. “My cause is just.” The purveyor of false religion doesn’t think anything about rearranging the furniture in the House of God. The horse is loose and galloping!

It is a remarkable thing that in seeking to set themselves free from guilt and embarrassment, they become slaves of the worst kind. Deceived and beguiled by their desires, they are like galley slaves lashed to the oars of their desires—rowing to their lusts. Peter speaks of false teachers who “allure through ... great swelling words ... lusts of the flesh ... licentiousness” promising “them liberty” but “they themselves are slaves of corruption” (2 Peter 2:18–19).

What are we to do? It would do us all good to make a careful, thoughtful study of 2 Peter 2. More than any one chapter in the Bible, it deals with this sin. Also, we need to listen to Peter in 1 Peter 4:1–4 as he tells us the world will “think it strange that you do not run with them.” Our lives must be different. Paul says, “Awake out of sleep ... cast off the works of darkness, and ... put on the armor of light” and the “Lord Jesus Christ ... let us walk properly ... and make no provision for the flesh” (Romans 13:11–14). Avoidance of this sin will not just happen. It demands a conscious, concerted effort on our part. And if we find ourselves caught up in it, realize we can be forgiven. Repent! (2 Corinthians 12:21).