

# LASCIVIOUSNESS

## "The Product Of Perverted Grace"

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By: Phillip Hayes

*Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. [Jude 1:3-5]*

According to Strong's concordance, the Greek definition of the word lasciviousness is Licentiousness.

A more in depth definition of these two words are as follows:

*Lasciviousness: inclined to lustfulness; wanton; lewd; arousing sexual desire; indicating sexual interest or expressive lust or lewdness.*

*Licentiousness: sexually unstrained; lascivious; lewd, unrestrained by law or general morality; lawless; immoral; going beyond customary or proper bounds or limits; disregarding rules.*

In the fall of 2013 I had a dream which I felt came from the Lord. In the dream I was preparing myself for the ordination ceremony to take over a church as its new Pastor.

We were in our RV and as I was dressing, I heard quite a lot of traffic outside. I looked out the window and could not believe what I saw. It looked like hundreds of cars were parked in this huge parking lot. I called my wife and said, "Glenda, come, look at all the cars, do you think all these people attend this church?" She said, "Well, they must!"

Then she said, "Look, they want you to wear this for the ceremony." I looked at what she had in her hand and I really didn't like it. The best I could describe it is it was a colorful tight fitting looking garment. I put the garment on and it was very tight fitting; *restrictive* might be the best word. I said, "I don't like it, but if they want me to wear it, I guess I will." Then she said, "They also want you to wear this."

In her hand was the most gaudy looking robe I had ever seen! It was multi colored and absolutely the most tasteless garment imaginable!

I said, "There is no way I will wear that." She said, "If you won't wear it, they won't install you as their Pastor." "By the way," she continued, "They also want you to wear this." In her hand was what I would describe as a hood that was also gaudy and multi colored.

I said, "I am not going to wear any of this stuff! 'They will just have to get someone else to pastor their church!'" The dream ended.

As I was recalling the dream to Glenda I remembered a message she had preached at one of our Camp Meetings. The title of her message was, "Saul's Armor Won't Fit!"

I said, "Glenda, that's it! 'We just don't fit in this modern worldly church world! 'And we never will!'" They were offering me their religious covering! The gaudy and multi colored garments were symbols of worldliness. Worldliness is the by-product of lasciviousness!

No, I may never pastor a huge church or have a great following of supporters. But Glenda and I are at peace knowing we have never compromised God's Word or our integrity. We

intend to continue going forward preaching and teaching the whole council of God to as many as we can.

I love what an old time Holy Ghost Preacher once said, "I had rather preach from the back of a pick-up truck, drink branch water and eat soda crackers than compromise God's Word!"

There is no one that believes in the Grace of God any more than we do. But sadly, the teaching we hear today on the Grace of God has been so perverted that it no longer makes sense even to sinners! The practice of lasciviousness has become predominate in modern Christianity!

There were powerful Christian movements during the late 19th century and the early 20th century. Many pioneers of the Christian Faith preached and taught on the streets of the world, From brush arbor meetings, tent meetings and store fronts the Gospel was preached and the Name of Jesus was exalted. Millions were born again!

We have many of these pioneers preaching on cassette and video tapes. In addition we have literally millions of their sermons available to us in written form. We understand by what they preached and lived that their standards were quite different than today. Therefore, I also believe that if you are honest, you will have to admit that the church today is also far removed from the church of only fifty years ago.

I know the Lord gave me that dream! Was He warning me of some future event or was He warning me of the present? I knew my response in the dream was the right response, but what was the Lord wanting me to see?

There is no question in my mind concerning this dream. The Lord was showing me that the church as a whole had conformed to the world and they expected their ministers to do the same! Lasciviousness is the word that now floods my mind when I think about the dream!

Many years ago a couple came to one of my meetings in Pennsylvania. After the service they began to tell me about themselves. They were both employees of a large church in

Virginia. They said many of the large television ministers preached at their church. They told me the pastor of their church had two things he never wanted mentioned in his pulpit. One was "Repent" and the other was "Hell". The pastor felt messages on these two subjects were offensive. In other words you had to conform to his philosophy to preach there! Obviously, this kind of compromise had birthed this large church!

Over the years, I have known many good men and women that fell into strange teachings and got involved in what some call "strange fire". I sure didn't want to fall into any of those snares.

I know I would never compromise the Truth for any position of power or for money. I believe the Lord was showing me that He had given me the spiritual ability to reach the multitudes, but I would have to be careful because the multitudes would want to rule over me and control me.

The dream was clear, they want anointed ministers in their churches, but they are bound in tradition and worldliness. They wanted me to fit into their lifestyle. Perhaps they loved the loaves and fishes messages, (*Grace, healing, deliverance and prosperity*) but overlooked the word of self denial and separation from the world that also comes out of my mouth.

There have been times that I have emphasized the Grace of God so much that people might have thought I was soft on sin. I know the Apostle Paul was accused of the very same thing. We should never allow our human love and compassion to take precedence over the Truth. Although I have never condoned sin, I realized when you emphasize Grace your message could be interpreted as the humanistic gospel that is prevalent in our world today; "make heaven your home and still live in sin".

Old time preachers warned the people about sin and worldliness. "The world is getting so churchy, and the church is getting so worldly, you can't tell them apart!"

When repentance and holiness is not preached, and the consequences of sin is never emphasized, I believe the Spirit of the Lord will depart. You may not see it above your church door,

but God has written ICHABOD over it.

The truth is sin can never be tolerated! There can never be an excuse that allows people to continually live in their sins with the hope of eternal salvation. *"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" [Romans 6:1-2]*

The Apostle Paul commanded young Timothy, *"Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear."* [1Timothy 5:20] In First Corinthians the Apostle Paul commanded them to, *"Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame."* [1Corinthians 15:34] Also, the Apostle was very stern concerning the sin of fornication and adultery. When he heard there was a man in the Corinthian congregation that was guilty of fornication, he told them to deal with the sinner. Here is what the Apostle instructed them to do: *"It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you. For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed, In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened . . ."* [1Corinthians 5:1-7] Purge out the sin (old leaven) Get rid of sin!

In verse nine he told the church they should not even keep company with fornicators, covetous people, extortioners or idolaters!

Now be honest! Is this the teaching of today? Do we rebuke sin openly in our churches, or do we permit sin? Or, do we cover up sin? Have we become a generation that believes that people cannot cease from sin? *"Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children."* [2Peter 2:14]

Have ministers come to the place that their humanistic love of man has compromised the Word of the Living God? Have ministers become little gods telling folks they are saved no matter how they live?

Where are the real men of God that use to "Cry Aloud, And Spare Not?!" Where is the church that use to hate sin and worldliness? Where is the church that use to believe in holiness and godly living? Folks, this modern generation of Christians have become servants of sin.

There is no rebuke in churches! "Come as you are" is their cry! "Live like you want to!" "Dress the way you like!" Believe what you want." "Join the church, be a member, and pay your tithes." You never hear the word "Repent" because in many churches it is not permitted.

In the years gone by, I was accused of being too hard. Now, I realize the dream was showing me the horrible condition of the church today. Preachers, "we haven't been hard enough!"

If I had thought the condition of the church was bad thirty years ago, then what about today? Many good ministers have compromised because of human, carnal love. The Bible tells us, *"Open rebuke is better than secret love"* (Psalms 27:5). Sin is a fatal disease! It must be dealt with!

No more excuses! The people must be told the truth, "If you sin, you will die"! It is as simple as that. Look what the scripture says: *"But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished,*

*bringeth forth death.” [James 1:14-15] Why is that so hard to understand? Sin brings forth death, not life! The Bible clearly teaches us, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” [Romans 6:23]*

Why do folks think that they can continue living in sin and make it to Heaven? You simply cannot! That kind of teaching comes straight from the devil! It is humanistic in every way! The Word of God is plain: *"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.” [1Corinthians 6:9-11]* Such were some of you! Were, *not now* some of you are . . . ! You were unrighteous, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, extortioners, idolaters, adulterers, fornicators, effeminate, and abusers. . . You were . . . . But now, praise God, you are washed, you are sanctified, you are justified in the name of our Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. This is when you know you are really saved! When you can at last cease from sin!

Think about it! The Bible tells us *"if we walk in the Spirit, we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.”* Remember what James said, *"when lust is conceived, it brings forth sin, and sin brings forth death.”* It all starts with lust! How do we eliminate lust? Simply, by *walking in the spirit!* The truth of the matter is we can live a life without sin!

The shame of it all is most folks today don't have a clue what sin is. First of all sin is the transgression of the law. *Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. [1John 3:4] What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou*

*shalt not covet. [Romans 7:7] Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. [Romans 3:20]* Certainly, we have no excuse although many today will try to excuse themselves by perverting another passage of scripture which says, we are not under the law, but grace. Their reasoning is since they are saved by grace they are no longer subject to God's laws.

No honest student of the Bible could ever derive that kind of doctrine from its holy pages. If we could indeed continue to live sinful lives then what need would there have been for the Apostle Paul to write so powerful letters of rebuke concerning those that did sin? Of course there would have been no need. The truth is, the Apostle dealt with sin the only way it can be dealt with, by openly rebuking them that sinned.

You say, "Oh, I'm saved by faith." "I believe, thus I am saved by God's Grace!" Well my friend, if you are indeed saved, sin will not have dominion over you! *"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked."* [1John 2:1-6] Are you walking like Jesus walked my friend! How did He walk? Without sin! *"And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin."* [1John 3:5] The Apostle John like all his apostolic contemporaries was very plain, *"I write unto you that you sin not!"* This great Apostle stated bluntly that you are a liar if you say you know the Lord and don't keep His commandments! The Lord Jesus said, *"If you love me, keep my commandments."* [St. John 14:15] He also said, *"Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do*



*not the things I say.” [Luke 6:46]*

We are suppose to be DEAD TO SIN (Romans 6:2)! Are you in Christ? Do you abide in Him? Well, if you abide in Him, you are free from sin! Look how the Apostle John says it, *"Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."* [1John 3:6-8] Are you of the devil, or of God? Which is it? You cannot have it both ways! Either you are saved or lost! Are you going the wrong way? Have you been convinced by humanistic preachers that you can live in sin and still be saved? Who are you going to believe, the Bible or modern theology?

I know there are many that teach people cannot live without committing sin. However, this teaching contradicts the Word of God! Jesus told people more than once to *"Go, and sin no more."* (See St. John 5:14 and St. John 8:11). I don't believe the Lord would tell someone to do something they couldn't! It is also very obvious His Apostles had the same frame of mind concerning sin and that is, don't sin!

Our opening scriptures from Jude are also clear, *"ungodly men turned the grace of our God into lasciviousness."* They were teaching that Grace permitted one to live a lawless and immoral life.

Christians today seem to lack a knowledge of God. If they had knowledge they would come out from among the world and be a separate people. They would deal with the cancer of sin instead of justifying their sins.

Old time preachers preached hell, fire, and brimstone. They didn't make excuses for sin as many do today. They preached that your old man (*the sinful nature*) was crucified. They took their texts from the Word of God and not from the internet. Look what the Apostle Paul said about continuing in

sin, *"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."* [Romans 6:1-6]

Dead to sin! Our old man is crucified! Not serving sin! Powerful statements indeed in which modern ears refuse to hear!

The Apostle Paul goes on to say, *"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof."* [Romans 6:12] Remember what the Apostle John said, *"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."* [1John 3:9] It is obvious that all the Apostles were in total agreement concerning the question of sin.

Now, I realize there are some that cannot stop sinning. But we must also realize those that cannot cease from sin are those that *do not* have a relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. They are not saved! The scriptures are crystal clear about this. *"Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children."* [2Peter 2:14] Peter is talking about a rebellious people that were cursed, not saved. They could not stop sinning! Remember child of God, God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and love, and a sound mind. God has given us power! Power to walk in the Spirit! Power to live holy! Power to live without sin!

I am saved by the Grace of God, not by my works! But the Grace that saved me, keeps me, and it teaches me

something. If you are saved by the same Grace, it will also keep and teach you. Here is what Grace teaches: *"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men." Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.* [Titus 2:11-12] James wrote in his epistle that faith without works is dead being alone (James 2:20;26). My friend the simple truth is if you have faith, works will follow, and if you are saved by God's Abundant Grace it will teach you to live godly (like Jesus) in this present world. We are to be holy in all manner of conversation, because it is written, *"Be ye holy, for I am holy".* [1Peter 1:15]

The scriptures warn that God has demanded a reasonable service for us all. *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."* [Romans 12:1] Jesus is coming back for a holy people! *"That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.* [Ephesians 5:27]

Clearly, we are without excuse! *"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world."* [Philippians 2:15] Sons of God without rebuke! How can we fulfill this scripture and live worldly sinful lives? It is impossible!

I believe we are at the end when we should be hastening to the coming of our Lord. We should realize that He is not coming for a back-slid church spotted with sin. Our only hope is to return to the old paths. Truly, there is a way that seems right to man, but is it the right way? (Proverbs 14:12) Your flesh will hate this message, but your spirit hungers for it. There is something that is holding back God's blessing from you. What is it? *"But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not*

hear." [Isaiah 59:2]

I want to know that when I pray, He hears! I want to be absolutely sure there is nothing between me and God. Don't you? And, I want to be ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus. Don't you? I don't want your blood on my hands! I fully intend to warn the wicked of our generation and this lukewarm, indifferent lascivious church of today.

He is coming back for a glorious church! *"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless."* [2Peter 3:14]

Are you looking for *these things*? Are you without spot and blameless? Let's get ready! Let's lay aside the sin and weight that easily beset us! Let's be the sons of God that God has called us to be. Without rebuke and a light to the world!

I love you dear ones, and if I truly love you, I will not hesitate to warn you. I must cry aloud and warn everyone that they must cease from sin if they desire to have eternal life.

My dream concerned a modern worldly church desiring to have me as their pastor. Compromise would have won me the position. Sadly, many good men and women of God have surrendered to them. Have you my friend?

*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. [Proverbs 14:12]*