

The Gospel Herald

“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by
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*“Ye are not your own.
For ye have been bought with a price:
Therefore, glorify God in your body,
and in your spirit, which are God’s”*

I Corin. 6: 19-20

I recall reading years ago, the testimony of a gospel minister who was traveling in the early 1900s by train. There was a group of men playing cards adjacent to where the minister was seated. They were happily gambling and enjoying their alcoholic beverages when one of the gentlemen turned to the minister and said, “Why sir, come and join us in a game of cards.” The humble minister replied, “I don’t have any hands.” The gentleman looked at the minister’s hands and said, “It appears to me that you have hands.” The minister replied, “They are not my hands, they belong to my Lord.” That gambling gentleman turned away and went about his social involvement.

I never forgot that little analogy of the story. Yet, I have often forgotten its application to me personally from time to time. Oh! this FLESH which all men have been born into and the curse of which it brings with it in depravity.

I heard this very day through a (supposed) Christian network that 50% of professing Christian men are prone to be addicted to pornography and 1/3 of ministers are tempted to frequent pornography websites.

I must confess that when I was first exposed to computer activity at my workplace in the early 1990s that I was tempted to check out this new and tempting visual medium of pornography as fellow coworkers would send this lustful garbage to me. It didn’t take me long before God vexed my conscience with such conviction of wickedness that I repented of such fleshly lustful activity and sent messages to all “DO NOT SEND ME ANY SEXUAL PORNOGRAPHY E-MAIL!”

I remembered that analogy of the preacher and the card game, “My eyes are not my own,” therefore, I cannot look upon those things that are a stench in the nostrils of our Almighty God. Oh! that grace may be granted to cause me to mortify the deeds of the sinful flesh and by the power of Christ’s Spirit put my body into subjection to His will and pick up my cross daily and follow Him!

I ask why did Christ in His sample prayer express the words, “lead us not into TEMPTATION, but deliver us from evil” (Matt. 6:13)? I have recently had this prayer request brought to my mind’s attention, and questioned myself, how often have I prayed this prayer to be delivered from TEMPTATION and EVIL? I had to honestly answer this spiritually provoked question, NEVER! Oh, yes, I have prayed and pleaded with our Lord to forgive my sin and failures, which I have confidence that He has, per His divine promise, yet I have NOT asked HIM to “Lead me not into TEMPTATION but DELIVER me from EVIL!”

Beloved, I have found that in being enabled to utter such prayer request in the times I am led to beseech our beloved Saviour, that He has heard my earnest request. In the 40 years I have been reading the Holy book called the Bible, I have read over those verses numerous times and it never got my attention as it has of late. Oh! may that request continue to echo in my heart, mind and soul. “LEAD ME NOT INTO TEMPTATION BUT DELIVER ME FROM EVIL” for WE are not our own: Therefore, may we be blessed to glorify God in our body and with a sanctified heart, desiring to please our loving Saviour who loves us and gave Himself for us.

*Respectfully submitted,
DEM*