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THE DEPRAVITY OF MAN

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Pastor Lankford feels led to re-publish this August 2019 newsletter. Notice the accuracy of prophecies written over 16 months ago.

For us to better understand sin relative to man's depravity, we must refer to the source of truth on that topic, the Word of God. The word *depravity* means "moral corruption; wickedness". The Word of God declares man is not only a fallen creature but he is totally depraved. That may sound harsh and cruel to some, but that's the truth. There are two inseparable effects of sin: guilt and pollution, and neither can be avoided. Therefore, where there is sin there is a stain. The prophet of God declares in *Isaiah 1:18, Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*

When Jehovah says, come and let us reason together; He means let us come together and address the matter of sin correctly. When man finds himself in the presence of God his reasoning will change. Human reasoning always justifies sin: however, when reasoning from God's perspective, God's righteousness demands man confess his sin and repent. The Word of God best describes sin and its defiling effects as ugly, revolting, unclean, and disgusting! Notice the gross and repulsive description of sin found earlier in *Isaiah 1:6-7, From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither*

mollified with ointment. Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers. The prophet of God declares "from the sole of the foot even unto the head" of men "there is no soundness". From this Scripture verse we see man possesses no soundness; which means he has no wholesomeness. Because of sin, man is found with spiritual "wounds, and bruises, and putrifying [sic] sores". A putrefying sore is grossly moist and continually dripping with pus. That is a very grotesque definition of sin in the lives of men. Because of sin in the hearts of men, our country will become "desolate". Regretfully, in the very near future, devastation and chaos will be witnessed at every turn in America. The prophet declares "your cities are burned with fire". In the not too distant future, right here in America, we will witness houses, buildings, cities, whole towns, and even churches burned and razed to the ground by cremation from God. This will not be just an ordinary fire but a destructive burning from Jehovah as a consequence of sin. The prophet goes on to declare "strangers devour it" [your land] while you idly sit by and watch. Because of sin, our national leaders defy the laws of our Constitution and legislation: thus the New World Order desires America to be a nation with open borders. Simply put, our national leaders are bringing about our own demise and destruction. Not only do strangers devour our land but they are overthrowing our land. Much of the leadership in America

has turned to socialism: taking away from those who labor while giving our treasure to those who are strangers in our land. Some weeks ago, presidential candidate Joe Biden declared every immigrant should have free health care. What about the everyday hard-working American who has no healthcare; but pays grievously through the burden of taxation to support illegals? Inequities pervade America as never before. Sin has deranged the whole structure of the soul and has morally ulcerated man from the sole of his feet to the crown of his head. The prophet of God declares in *Isaiah 64:6, But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.* Man is defiled and infamously polluted. The meaning here is that man is morally unclean and abominable before God and all of our purported righteous acts are as filthy rags. This word *filthy* in the Hebrew text refers to the menstrual flux (as periodical) and the resultant rags used to control that flow. The pollution of sin is unmistakable: likened to crimson dye which cannot be washed away in any natural way. The only way to remove sin, and the stain it leaves, is by washing it in the blood of the Lamb. Only the blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse the soul from sin: *For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh up an atonement for the soul (Leviticus 17:11).* The word *atonement* means to cleanse, disannul, to be merciful,

to forgive, and to pardon one from their sins. The New Testament teaches about the same sacrificial blood of the Lamb in *Ephesians 1:7*, *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.* The only way a person can even come “nigh” to Christ is by the shed blood: *But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ (Ephesians 2:13).* All the apostles in the New Testament understood the need for the blood of the Lamb. We find these words of the apostle Peter in *1st Peter 1:18-19*, *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation (or lifestyle) received by tradition (speaks of Jewish traditions) from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.* Jesus Christ was the spotless sacrificial Lamb for all mankind. Look with me please at *1st John 1:7*, *If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.* If your faith is placed in anything other than the shed blood of Jesus Christ, your faith is completely misplaced. John declared in *Revelation 1:5*, *Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.* During the great tribulation, there will be a great Holy Ghost revival and those who wash their robes in the blood of the Lamb will inherit eternal life. Again, this is only made possible by the blood of the Lamb. *And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed (or laundered) their robes, and made them white in the*

blood of the Lamb (Revelation 7:13-14). We witness the redeemed of Jehovah victoriously overcoming Satan in *Revelation 12:11*, *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.* Let it be understood, the Noahic flood was unable to wash away sin and, likewise, the fire and brimstone of Sodom and Gomorrah in the days of Lot did not take away sin either because sin is ineradicable. Even the eternal fires of Hell cannot take away the stain of sin from the souls of men who go there. The entire, holistic being of man is tainted with sin. The body, soul, and spirit are all contaminated by sin. The apostle Paul describes the filthiness of both flesh and spirit in *2nd Corinthians 7:1*, *Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.* Needless to say, sin is loathsome and criminal. When Adam sinned, his Creator could no longer endure him: therefore man was driven from the Garden of Eden in guilt and shame. However unpleasant and forbidding the subject of sin is, it’s an integral part of the counsel of God. Therefore His ministers are not at liberty to withhold the truth. Ministers are not free to pick and choose their themes much less the tone of them. Asylums, prisons, and cemeteries are depressing sites, yet they are all a painful reminder of human history. Refusal to consider man's fallen condition helps no one until we are brought to realize this truth. For the most part men never like to admit their guilt. Whether men willingly admit their sin or not it will be dealt with by a holy God. Jesus reminded us of the days of Noah in his Olivet discourse in *Matthew 24:37-39*, *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. Man must understand, God has a limit on His grace and mercy concerning sin. You may ask the question: “**How can we be certain there is a limit with God?**” Notice the words of Elohim in *Genesis. 6:3*, *And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man.* Though the Lord is long-suffering He will not always contend for the souls of men. In the book of Genesis, when we recall the sinfulness of man we witness his vile nature. Reading from *Genesis 6:5*, *And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.* Regretfully, we have come full circle: as it was in the days of Noah and as it was in the days of Lot. Even one of the Democrat presidential candidates was an openly avowed homosexual, all the while calling his male partner; “*his husband.*” Truly, the abominations and defilement of mankind are upon us. We humbly thank you for your love and support. As Jehovah gives us grace and strength, we will bring you the uncompromising Word of Almighty God. We covet your prayers regarding the direction of this ministry in these last days. We feel the need to have three or four Holy Ghost revival gatherings per year. I hope these gatherings will bless you and yours in this late hour.

Serving With You All,

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