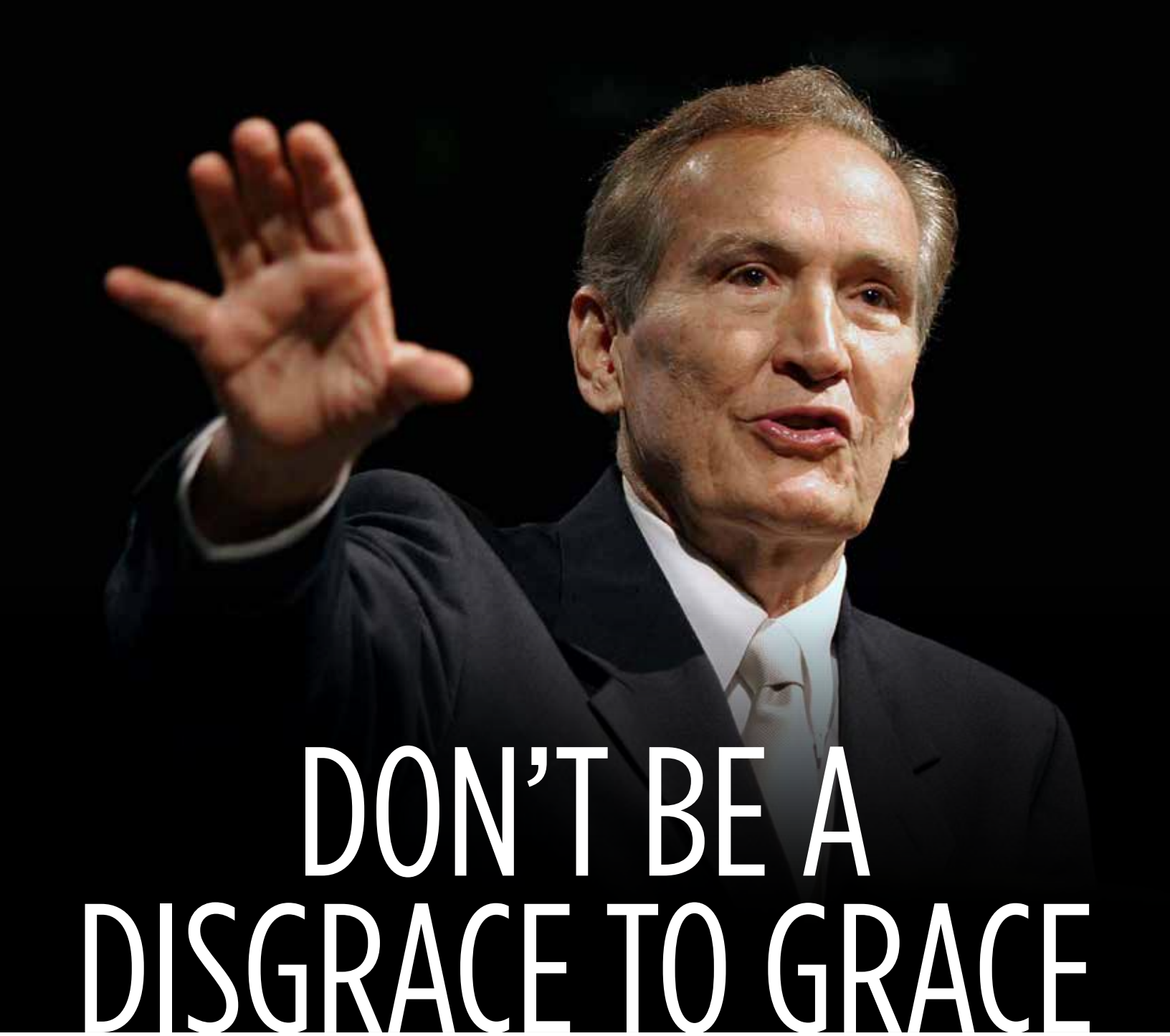




DON'T BE A DISGRACE TO GRACE

Preaching and Teaching Resources

ADRIAN ROGERS





Don't Be a Disgrace to Grace

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Don't Be a Disgrace to Grace

SERMON REFERENCE: Titus 2:11-15

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1764

Grace is God's love, which He gives at a great cost to Himself. Salvation is something we could never obtain ourselves; it is only by His grace that we can be saved.

There is not one spiritual thing to earn, but there is so much to learn; it is so important that we are not a disgrace to God's grace.

Titus 2:11-12 says, "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age..."

We live in this physical world, but as Christians, we are meant to live differently from this world's systems and orders. We are called to love people, but we cannot love this world's system. (See 1 John 2:15.)

Adrian Rogers said, "A Christian ought to stand out in this world's system like a diamond in a coal mine; like a gardenia in a garbage can."

This world has a prince, the devil, who is the mastermind behind this world system. This world has an evil philosophy made up of skillfully woven ideals and values that seem beautiful but are dangerous.

This world is hostile to the things of God because Jesus exposes sin and evil. The world's purpose is to draw us away from Him.

Genesis 13 tells the story of Lot, a classic example of a "worldly Christian," or a man who was a disgrace to grace.

Lot was Abraham's nephew who, rather than seeking God, followed the world's enticing attractions to an unspeakably wicked land called Sodom.

Recognizing Lot's mistakes, we learn that we must:

1. **Resist the pull of the world**
2. **Refuse the persuasion of the world**
3. **Realize the pollution of the world**
4. **Remember the price of the world**

Lot's story shows us what it costs to serve the world—it costs our potential, influence, family and reputation. The same forces that worked on Lot are working on us today. We must remember the amazing grace of God, and decide every day to honor that grace by living godly lives.

Life Application

There is a world system working on us today; be aware of the world's prince, its philosophy, its power and purpose. Don't be a disgrace to grace: live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present time, because the Lord is coming soon.



Don't Be a Disgrace to Grace

SERMON REFERENCE: Titus 2:11-15

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Titus 2:11-15
- b) What is grace?
 - i) Grace is God's love to us.
 - ii) Grace is God's love that causes God to give to us when there is no merit and much demerit.
 - (1) When we do not even want it, He must find us and persuade us that we need it.
 - iii) Grace is God's love that gives at great cost to God Himself.
 - (1) Anyone (any place, any time, no matter how wicked) can come to Him in repentance and faith and will be eternally saved by the grace of God.
 - (2) There is not one thing to earn, but there is much to learn.
 - (a) Titus 2:11-12
- c) The lifestyle that is a disgrace to grace is worldliness.
 - i) Titus 2:12
 - ii) This is a great problem in the church today.
 - (1) Many love the message of grace but do not want to hear teaching about worldliness.
 - (a) Titus 2:15
 - iii) The devil does not want us to hear about the grace of God.
 - (1) So, he denies grace.
 - (2) If he cannot deny grace, then he tries to distort grace.
 - (a) He would have us to believe that since we are saved by grace and grace only and that works do not save us nor keep us saved, then it does not make any difference how we live.
 - (i) There is no more devilish lie than that.
 - iv) We need to pray that God will keep our lives from being a disgrace to grace.
- d) A worldly Christian is a contradiction in terms.
 - i) Someone once said that we might as well speak of a heavenly devil as to speak of a worldly Christian.
- e) The world has become so churchy, and the church has become so worldly.
 - i) People do not understand the principle of Biblical separation.
- f) What is meant by worldliness? What is the world?
 - i) Titus 2:12
 - (1) In this passage, the word "world" is not speaking of the planet Earth.
 - (a) There is nothing wrong with this terrestrial globe.
 - (i) God created it.
 - 1. Genesis 1:1
 - (ii) Jesus loved nature.
 - 1. Matthew 6:28
 - 2. Psalm 24:1
 - 3. If we love nature, then we love what Jesus loved.
 - ii) When the Bible speaks of the world, it is not speaking of the planet Earth or the people who live on it.



- (1) There is nothing wrong with loving people.
 - (a) If we do not love people, then there is something wrong with us.
- (2) John 3:16
 - (a) If God loves people, then we can love them.
- iii) The word that is translated "world" is the Greek word "cosmos".
 - (1) It means a system, an order of things, and a philosophy.
 - (a) For example, we speak of the world of sports or the world of business.
- iv) 1 John 2:15
 - (1) We cannot love this world's system and love God Almighty at the same time.
- g) In today's message, we will look at this world system and how we are to be separated from it.

2) THE WORLD SYSTEM

- a) The world has a prince.
 - i) John 12:31
 - ii) The prince of this world is Satan himself.
 - iii) John 14:30
 - (1) There was nothing that Satan could accuse Jesus of.
 - (2) There was no temptation with which Satan could allure Jesus.
 - (3) Jesus had no wrong the devil could accuse.
 - iv) Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit who would come and bring judgment.
 - (1) John 16:11
 - v) 1 John 5:19
 - (1) Scholars tell us that the phrase "lieth in wickedness" literally means "cradled in the lap of wickedness".
 - (2) In this passage, "wickedness" means "the wicked one".
 - (a) It is Satan who has this world system in his arms rocking it to sleep.
 - vi) The world system is antithetical against grace.
 - vii) Behind this system there is a mastermind.
 - (1) Its mastermind is Satan.
 - (a) He has many underlings who call him master.
 - (b) He has an intricate organization.
 - (i) There is a network of wickedness.
 - (ii) Ephesians 6:12
 - 1. A principality is an organization under the leadership of a prince.
 - (c) There is a great conspiracy.
 - (i) The Bible calls it the mystery of iniquity.
- b) The world has a philosophy.
 - i) There is an enticing network of ideas and values that are skillfully woven to enslave the guilty and to entrap the innocent.
 - ii) 1 Corinthians 2:12
 - (1) This passage speaks of the spirit of the world.
 - (a) There is a worldly spirit.
 - iii) 1 Corinthians 3:19
 - (1) This verse speaks of the wisdom of this world.
 - (a) The devil is cunning.
 - (i) He is brilliantly stupid and hideously beautiful.
 - iv) 1 Corinthians 7:31



- (1) This speaks of the fashion of this world which is passing away.
- v) 2 Peter 2:20
 - (1) This speaks of the pollution of the world.
- vi) There is a philosophy, and it is in the movies, television, news, and in the world of religion.
- vii) It may seem innocent, beautiful, and harmless.
 - (1) But it is a system, a philosophy.
- c) The world has a purpose.
 - i) When we are saved by grace, we are to deny worldly lusts.
 - (1) Titus 2:12
 - ii) There is a calculated plan and an unwavering purpose of this world system.
 - iii) The world is hostile to the things of God.
 - iv) John 7:7
 - (1) The world hates Jesus.
 - (2) All the people of the world don't hate Jesus, nature doesn't hate Jesus, but there is a system that hates Jesus.
 - (a) They do not hate the baby Jesus.
 - (b) They do not hate the Jesus who heals.
 - (c) They do not hate the Jesus who has ritual.
 - (d) They do not hate the religious Jesus.
 - (3) They hate the righteous Jesus.
 - (a) They hate the Jesus who says right is right and wrong is wrong.
 - (b) Jesus rips the veil of darkness away and shows this system for what it is.
 - v) John 14:17
 - (1) When we tell people of this world what we believe, they cannot understand us.
 - (a) They are not lying when they say that they do not see it.
 - (i) They don't see it.
 - (ii) The Bible speaks of the Spirit of truth whom the world cannot receive.
 - 1. This is the Holy Spirit.
 - vi) Jesus gives a warning to Christians wanting to flirt with the world.
 - (1) John 15:18
 - (a) Are you better than Jesus?
 - (b) Do you want the world to love you that hates Jesus?
 - (2) James 4:4
 - (a) Anyone who is a friend to this world's system is shaking their fist in the face of God.
 - (i) That person has declared war on God Himself.
 - vii) Satan's purpose is to draw away our hearts and minds from Jesus and from the things of God until he can enthrone his own king, the antichrist, on the Earth.
- d) The world has a people.
 - i) There are people who are in this world system.
 - ii) Luke 16:8
 - (1) We are not to hate people as such, but we are to hate the system that has enslaved these people.
 - iii) Do not be surprised when we have difficulty as a child of God.
 - (1) This world is not our home.
 - (2) We are twice-born people in a world of once-born people.
 - (a) What we have, where we are headed, and what we believe are completely opposite.



- (i) Our faith starts at a different source.
 - 1. It follows a different course.
 - 2. It ends at a different conclusion.
 - (3) Do not be surprised when we find ourselves going against the tide.
 - e) We are members of the human world.
 - i) We live in the physical world, but we are not to be a part of the Satanic, world system.
 - (1) We are to be separated.

3) WE ARE TO BE SEPARATE (TITUS 2:11-12)

- a) Titus 2:11-12
 - i) We should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.
- b) We are in the world, but we're not of the world.
 - i) John 17:14
- c) Paul said that our first duty, having been saved by grace, is to separate from the world.
 - i) Romans 12:1-2
 - (1) Titus 2:11-12 is just a shortened version of the book of Romans.
- d) The very word for "church" means "a group of people called out".
 - i) The church is called out.
 - ii) We are to be different.
 - iii) We are to be separate.
 - iv) A Christian ought to stand out in this world's system.
 - (1) John 15:19
 - (2) Quit trying to win popularity contests.
 - (3) We don't want to unnecessarily make enemies, but we don't want to betray Jesus or the Word of God.
 - v) We hear a lot about the separation of church and state.
 - (1) The message the church needs to hear is the message on the separation of church and world.
 - (a) This is why the Apostle John gave us a warning.
 - (i) 1 John 2:15-17
- e) Lot was a saved man, and while he was saved by grace, he failed to learn the lesson of Titus 2:11-12.
 - i) 2 Peter 1:1-2
 - (1) Peace follows grace, and it all comes through faith.
 - ii) Peter gave examples of some who would be a disgrace to grace.
 - (1) 2 Peter 2:6-9
 - (a) Sodom and Gomorrah and their destruction are examples.
 - (b) Lot was a righteous man.
 - (i) In order for him to be just and righteous, he had to be saved by the grace of God.
 - (c) Lot was saved by grace, and he was kept by grace.
 - (i) Yet, he was what we would call a worldly Christian.
 - 1. He received the grace of God, but he did not deny worldly lusts.
 - 2. Lot is a classic example of a man who was a disgrace to grace.
- f) The biography of Lot:
 - i) Lot was the nephew of Abraham.
 - ii) God called Abraham out of Mesopotamia and made him the father of the Jewish nation.
 - (1) When Abraham went to the land of Canaan, Lot went with him.
 - iii) Lot loved God and was saved.



- (1) The Bible tells us that he was just and righteous.
- iv) Abraham and Lot had a lot of flocks and herds.
 - (1) There was not enough grazing land for both families.
 - (a) There was a dispute.
- v) Genesis 13:5-6
 - (1) This passage tells us that we can be rich and righteous at the same time.
- vi) Genesis 13:7-9
 - (1) Abraham said to Lot for them not to argue.
 - (2) He let Lot choose what area he wanted.
- vii) Genesis 13:11-12
 - (1) Lot chose, without prayer and without looking to God.
 - (a) His salvation had become a self-service cafeteria line.
 - (2) Lot wanted all that Sodom had to offer.
 - (a) "Sodom" in the Bible stands for "the world".
 - (b) It stands for all that God hates.
 - (c) It was unspeakably wicked, yet there was an attraction for Lot.

4) FOUR PRINCIPLES CONCERNING THE WORLD

- a) Resist the pull of the world.
 - i) It pulls on us.
 - ii) Jesus was tempted in all points like as we.
 - (1) Hebrews 4:15
 - iii) 1 Corinthians 10:12
 - iv) What was pulling on Lot?
 - (1) The world with its money.
 - (2) The world with its business.
 - (3) The world with its pleasure.
 - (4) The world with its social life.
 - v) Lot had no prayer.
 - (1) He was not seeking God.
 - (2) There was no thought for the welfare of his children.
 - vi) Lot's decision was economical.
 - (1) No person has the right to make all the money he can.
 - (a) We might make money the wrong way and at the wrong time.
 - (2) 1 Timothy 6:10
 - (3) Matthew 6:33
 - (4) People say that a person has to live.
 - (a) No, he has to die.
 - (b) After he dies, he has to face God.
 - vii) Sodom was Satan's masterpiece.
 - (1) 1 John 2:16
 - (2) There was the lust of the flesh.
 - (a) Sodom with its pleasures.
 - (3) There was the lust of the eyes.
 - (a) Sodom with its possessions.
 - (4) There was the pride of life.
 - (a) Sodom with its philosophy.



- viii) Lot's sin was not a sin only the rich have.
 - (1) A person can be poor and covetous.
 - ix) The world flirted with Lot, and he was enticed.
 - (1) He became a friend of the world and committed adultery with God.
 - x) The same forces that worked on Lot are working on us today.
 - b) Refuse the persuasion of the world.
 - i) Romans 12:1-2
 - ii) How did Lot end up in such a horrible state?
 - (1) The devil began to work very subtly on him.
 - (2) Lot moved in the wrong direction.
 - (a) Genesis 13:12
 - (i) It was a little compromise.
 - (3) He made a wrong decision.
 - (a) He becomes at home in Sodom.
 - (b) Genesis 14:12
 - (i) First, he pitched his tent toward Sodom, and now he dwells in Sodom.
 - (ii) He got into Sodom an inch at a time.
 - 1. We move toward Sodom a step at a time.
 - (4) There is a woeful deception.
 - (a) Genesis 19:1
 - (i) First, he moved toward Sodom.
 - (ii) Then, he was dwelling in Sodom.
 - (iii) Now, Lot is sitting in the gate as Sodom.
 - 1. That was the courthouse where decisions were made.
 - 2. He had become a city councilman there in Sodom.
 - (b) He was at home and working in Sodom.
 - (c) His conscience had become dull.
 - (i) He was no longer shocked at sin.
 - (ii) What used to amaze him now amuses him.
 - (d) Genesis 19:7
 - (i) Lot called the Sodomites his brothers.
 - 1. Lot moved into Sodom, and Sodom moved into him.
 - (e) The world conformed and corrupted him.
- c) Realize the pollution of Sodom.
 - i) Sodom was so wicked that God was going to destroy it with fire and brimstone.
 - (1) Genesis 19:24
 - ii) Genesis 19:1-11
 - (1) God sent two angels to warn Lot that Sodom was going to be destroyed.
 - (2) The Sodomites sought to sexually attack these holy angels.
 - (3) Lot, who had been called a just man and righteous man, had become so low and vile that he offered his two daughters to the wicked men of Sodom to avert himself from the judgment of the angels.
 - (4) When Lot finally spoke to his sons-in-law to try to get them to flee Sodom, they simply mocked him.
 - (a) Genesis 19:12-14
 - (b) Some people today say that their works don't matter since they are saved by grace.



- (i) They say that they can be in the world and of the world and still go to Heaven.
 - (ii) If we are saved by grace and sin, we will not lose our salvation.
 - 1. But we will lose much.
 - 2. We may lose our families.
 - a. Lot's sons-in-law died and went to Hell.
 - b. Some are going to Heaven, but their loved ones are going to Hell because of the ungodly lives they lived as a child of God.
 - 3. Titus 2:11-12
- d) Remember the price.
 - i) When judgment fell on Sodom, fire poured from Heaven.
 - (1) Luke 17:29
 - ii) It costs to serve Satan.
 - (1) It costs every day.
 - (2) It costs every step of the way.
 - iii) 1 Corinthians 3:15
 - (1) The angel had to take Lot by the hand and pull him out of Sodom.
 - (2) Lot's wife turned around and turned into a pillar of salt.
 - (3) Lot lost his family, his possessions, and the influence he could have had.
 - (a) There was a life wasted.
 - iv) There is no greater tragedy than a person who becomes a disgrace to grace.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) There is a system, and that system is working on you today.
 - i) The world has a prince.
 - ii) The world has a philosophy.
 - iii) The world has a power and a purpose.
 - (1) And it is working on you today.
- b) We should never use grace as an excuse to sin.
 - i) Grace should be used as an emphasis to love and serve the Lord.
- c) We are not saved by good works or by turning over a new leaf.
- d) We are saved by receiving a new life through Jesus Christ.
- e) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- f) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16



Don't Be a Disgrace to Grace

SERMON REFERENCE: Titus 2:11-15

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1764

Find Titus chapter 2 if you would please, and look again, if you will, beginning in verse 11 through verse 15. And this verse begins in a wonderful way because it begins with these words, "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; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee." The title of the message, "Don't Be a Disgrace to Grace".

Now what is grace? Grace is God's love to us. Grace is God's love that causes God to give to us. Grace is God's love that causes God to give to us where there is no merit. Grace is God's love that causes God to give to us when there is much demerit. Grace is God's love that causes God to give to us where there is no merit and much demerit, when we don't even want it He must find us and persuade us that we need it. And grace is God's love that gives at great, great cost to God Himself. "Amazing grace how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me." Anybody, any place, any time, no matter how wicked, how vile can come to Him in repentance and faith and will be saved glorious, instantaneously, radically, dramatically, eternally saved by the grace of God. Not one thing to earn, but there is much to learn.

Now listen, "The grace of God," verse 11, "that bringeth salvation hath appeared unto all men, teaching us," do you see it? Nothing to earn, but much to learn, "teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live righteously, soberly, and godly, in this present time." So, let's look at this passage of Scripture, "We should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world." What is the deed? What is the lifestyle that is a disgrace to grace? It is worldliness. Look again in verse 12, "Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts." Worldly lusts. The great problem in the twentieth century church is the problem of worldliness. Many of us love the message of grace, but we don't want to hear our Pastor teach much about worldliness. However, look in Titus 2 verse 15, "These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee." The devil does not want you to hear the message of the grace of God and so he would deny grace. But if he cannot deny grace then he would try to distort grace and have you to believe that since we are saved by grace and grace only, and since works don't help save us nor keep us saved, then it doesn't make any difference how we live. There's no more devilish lie out of the pit of Hell than that. And today, I want to say to you, you need to pray that God will keep your life from being a disgrace to grace.

Now often, we hear about a worldly Christian. A worldly Christian really is a contradiction in terms. Billy Sunday said, "You might as well speak of a heavenly devil as to speak of a worldly Christian." Now I'm aware of the fact that in this generation we don't hear a lot of preaching about worldliness. As a matter of fact, the world has become so churchy and the church has become so worldly that people don't really understand the principle of Biblical separation.

What do we mean by worldliness? What is the world? Well, when the Bible uses the passage "world" here in Titus 2:12, it's not speaking of the planet Earth. There's nothing wrong with this terrestrial globe as it is. God made it. God created it. Jesus loved nature. In Luke 12:27, He said, "Consider the lilies how they grow." Psalm 24 verse 1, "The Earth is the Lords and the fullness thereof." The rocks, the trees, the hills, the



rivers, all of this is the handiwork of God. Thank God for it. If you love nature, you love what Jesus loved. So when the Bible speaks of the world, it's not speaking of the planet Earth. And when the Bible speaks of the world it's not speaking of the people who live on planet Earth. There's nothing wrong with loving people. If you don't love people there's something wrong with you. The Bible says in John 3:16, concerning the world of people, that, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." Now if God loved those people, you can love them. Say, Amen. You ought to love everybody.

What does the Bible mean therefore when it speaks of the world and worldliness? The word that is translated "world" is the Greek word "cosmos", and it means "a system". It means an order of things. It means a philosophy. For example, we speak of the world of sports, or we speak of the world of business, or speak of the world of fashion. Now put this verse in your margin, First John 2 and verse 15, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." Now that's a very strong verse. You cannot love this world's system and love God Almighty at the same time.

Now let me give you four words that begin with the letter "P", just as a memory device to help you to understand what **the world system** is. The very first, and I'm going to give you a lot of Scriptures. You may want to get out a piece of paper and just jot these down for further reference because very frankly, I have so much to say today that if we search out and turn to every Scripture we'll not be able to get finished. So I'm going to give them to you rather quickly, but first of all put down this. **The world has a prince.** Who is the prince of this world? Put this Scripture down, John chapter 12 verse 31. Jesus is facing the cross and this is what Jesus said, "Now is the judgment of this world: and now shall the prince of this world be cast out." The prince of this world. Now who is the prince of this world? He is Satan himself.

And then put this Scripture down, John 14 and verse 30. Jesus said, "Hereafter I will not talk much with you, for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in Me." That is, there's nothing that Satan could accuse Jesus of. There's no temptation that Satan could allure Jesus with. Jesus had no itch the devil could scratch. Jesus had no wrong the devil could accuse. "The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in Me." And then Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit who would come and bring judgment. And put this Scripture down, in John chapter 16 verse 11 He says the Holy Spirit will convict, "Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged." And in these few chapters Jesus has spoken three times of the prince of this world. Who is the prince of this world? His name is Satan.

Now John, who wrote the Gospel of John, also wrote the Epistles of John, and in First John chapter 5 and verse 19 he said to the believers, "And we know that we are of God, and the whole world, the whole world lieth in wickedness." And exegetes and scholars tell us that the word "lieth in wickedness" literally means, "is cradled in the lap of wickedness". And the word wickedness means the wicked one. That is, it is Satan who has this world system in his arms rocking it to sleep. In the lap, in the bosom of the wicked one.

Now understand this about the world system that is antithetical against grace. There is a system and behind that system there is a master mind. Sometimes people ask me, "Pastor Rogers, do you believe in the conspiratorial theory of history? Do you believe that there are some people back there behind the scenes?" Trilateral commission, the Bilderbergs, the all of these things, the I.G. Farben, all of these things you know. I'm always getting this material about a conspiratorial theory of history. That somewhere back behind everything there are a few master minds that are just working everything out. Frankly friend, I do not know, but I know this much. There is a master mind and his name is Satan. Jesus calls him the prince of this world. And he has many underlings who call him master. He has an intricate organization. There is a network of wickedness.



Listen to this about Satan, Ephesians chapter 6 and verse 12. Paul said, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood," oh we need to learn that, "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities." Now you see, Satan is a prince. A principality is that organization that is under the leadership of a prince. "Against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this," are you listening? "This world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." There is a great conspiracy, the Bible calls it the mystery of iniquity. Have you got it? So the first thing about the world is this; the world has a prince.

Now secondly, **the world has a philosophy**, that's the second "P". The world has a philosophy. There is an enticing network of ideas and values that are skillfully woven together to enslave the guilty and to entrap the innocent. Let me just give you quickly these verses. First Corinthians chapter 2 verse 12 speaks of, "the spirit of the world"; there's a worldly spirit. First Corinthians 3 verse 19 speaks of, "the wisdom of this world"; the devil is very cunning. He is brilliantly stupid, hideously beautiful. The wisdom of this world. First Corinthians chapter 7 and verse 31 speaks of, "the fashion of this world, which is passing away." And Second Peter chapter 2 verse 20 speaks of, "the pollution of the world"; there is a philosophy, it's out there. It's in the movies. It's in television. It's in the news. It's in the world of religion. It goes from the schoolhouse to the statehouse to Madison Ave, from Wall Street. It may seem innocent. It may seem beautiful. It may seem harmless, but it is a system, a philosophy. The Bible speaks of the spirit of this world, the wisdom of this world, the pollution of this world. Do you have it?

Now, not only is there a prince, and not only is there a philosophy, but **the world has a purpose**. Now when we're saved by grace, we're to deny worldly lusts. What is the purpose of this world? There is a calculated plan, an unwavering purpose of this world system. The world is hostile to the things of God. Put these verse down under the heading "purpose". Number one, John 7 verse 7, Jesus said, "The world cannot hate you; but Me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil." Does the world hate Jesus? You'd better believe it. All the people of the world don't hate Jesus. Nature doesn't hate Jesus, but there is a system that hates Jesus. Now they don't hate the baby Jesus. Oh the world system can dance giddily around the manger. They don't hate the Jesus that heals. They don't hate the Jesus that has ritual. They don't hate that Jesus. They don't hate the religious Jesus.

Do you know what they hate? They hate the righteous Jesus. They hate the Jesus who says, "Right is right and wrong is wrong." If you want this world system to come down on you like a hammer, just say this, "There is a fixed standard of right and wrong because He says so!" Then you are in trouble. Listen to what Jesus said, why does the world hate Him? Listen, John 7 verse 7, "The world cannot hate you; but Me it hateth because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil." Jesus just rips the veil of darkness away and shows this system for what it is.

Put this Scripture down, John 14 verse 17. Jesus speaks of, "The Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him." When you argue with people of this world about what you believe, they can't understand you. They say, they're not lying when they say, "I don't see it"; they don't see it. The Bible speaks of, "The Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." That's the Holy Spirit that is antithetical to the spirit of this world.

And then Jesus gives you a warning, brother or sister in Christ. Listen, those of you who've been trying to play footsie with the world, here's a warning, John 15 and verse 18, "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated Me before it hated you." Are you better than Jesus? Do you want the world to love you that hateth Jesus? Then James said, put this Scripture down, in James 4 verse 4, listen to it, James said, "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that friendship of the world is enmity with God? And whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." If you're a friend to this world's system with its prince



and its philosophy and its purpose you are shaking your fist in the face of God, you have declared war on God Himself. There is a purpose. Satan's system is what? What is his purpose? It is calculated to draw away your heart and your mind from Jesus and from the things of God until Satan can enthrone his own king, the antichrist, on the Earth.

Now what's the fourth "P"? First of all, there's a prince. Secondly, there's a philosophy. Thirdly, there is a purpose. The fourth "P", the world has a **people**. Now there are people who are in this world system. For example, Luke chapter 16 and verse 8, "And the Lord commendeth the unjust steward, because he had done wisely:" and then listen to this, "for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light." Now we're not to hate people as such, but we're to hate the system that has enslaved these people, and these people are in this system. The world has a people; the children of this world.

Now don't be surprised when you have difficulty as a child of God, because this world is not our home, we're passing through. You are a twice born person in a world of once born people. And what you have and where you're headed, and what you believe, is completely opposite. Our faith starts at a different source. It follows a different course. It ends at a different conclusion. And you should not be surprised when you find yourself going against the tide. Remember this, we're members of the human world. We live in the physical world, but we are not to be a part of the satanic system, the world system; **we are to be separated.**

So what is the first calling of grace? When you're saved by grace. Titus 2:11 and 12, "For the grace of God that bringeth forth 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." Then John 17:14, "We're in the world, but we're not of the world." Paul said in another place, that our first duty, our first obligation, our first responsibility, having been saved by grace is to separate from the world.

If you take the book of Romans and begin with the first 11 chapters of the book of Romans, it is a great, great treatise on salvation by grace. But when you get into chapter 12, listen to what he says, verses 1 and 2, "I beseech you therefore brethren," and the therefore refers to all that has already been said about the grace of God. "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." Now listen to this, "And be not conformed to this world." That's exactly what's he's saying in Titus 2 verse 11 and 12. Titus 2:11-12 is just a shortened version of the book of Romans. "Be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Now, the very word for the word "church" in the Bible is "ekklesia", which means "a group of people called out". The church is called out. We're to be different, we're to be separate. A Christian ought to stand out in this world's system like a diamond in a coal mine, like a gardenia in a garbage can. We are different. Again, put this verse down, John 15 verse 19. Jesus said, "If you were of the world, the world would love his own: but because you're not of the world, and I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." Quit trying to win popularity contests with the world.

A dear, sweet lady said to me, "Oh brother Rogers, you're so wonderful. Everybody loves you." I thought, "Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha." She ought to read my mail bag. "Everybody loves you"; no they don't. Now I don't want to unnecessarily make enemies. But friend, I don't want to betray Jesus. I don't want to betray the Word of God. Jesus said, "Don't be surprised if the world hates you. I've chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

And so, we hear a lot today about the separation of church and state. Do you know what the message the church needs to hear is? It is the message on the separation of church and world. I mean, we need to



be separate; we need to be different. This is why the Apostle John warned us, First John 2 verse 15 through verse 17, put this down, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world." Now here's what the world is, are you ready? "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life." That's all that's in the world. I mean, that's it. That's the sum total. "The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever."

Now, one illustration is worth thousands of words. I don't know a better illustration than the life of a man named Lot, who was a saved man. Who was saved by the grace of God, and yet while he was saved by grace, failed to learn that lesson that Titus taught in Titus chapter 2 verses 11 and 12. Now this time I want you to turn to the Scripture and I want you to turn to Second Peter chapter 1. Look in verses 1 and 2, "Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord." Peace follows grace and it all comes through faith. That's what Peter is saying.

But then Peter, like Paul, sees that there are some who would be a disgrace to grace and he gives some examples. Now turn to chapter 2 of Second Peter and look, if you will, in verses 6 through 9, and I'm going to break into the middle of a sentence because it is an extended passage. You shouldn't really start a sentence with and, but I'm breaking in. Verse 6, "And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an example." And that's the key. Sodom and Gomorrah and the destruction thereof is an example. God left Sodom with its smoking ruins as an example to the people of this generation. If you can't understand that, then you don't understand black print on white paper.

Now listen, He, "Condemned them with an overthrow, making them an example unto those that after should live ungodly; and delivered just Lot." That is Lot, a man who had been justified by faith and by the grace of God, who was, "vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: For that righteous man," underscore that, Lot, the man that we're talking about was a righteous man. In order for him to be just and righteous he had to be saved by the grace of God that Peter had already told us about. "For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds; The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished." Now what have we said here? Peter is talking about grace and then he talks about a man who lived in a worldly system. His name was Lot and he was saved by grace and he was kept by grace. And yet Lot was what we would call today a worldly Christian. He received the grace of God but he did not deny worldly lusts. Lot is a classic example of a man who was a disgrace to grace.

Now I want us to turn therefore to the book of Genesis and I want us to see in Genesis the biography of this man that we call Lot. And Lot is the prime example of what I'm talking about when I say that we should not be a disgrace to grace. Turn to Genesis chapter 13 with me, Genesis chapter 13. And you need to turn to the Genesis materials and keep your Bible open. Genesis chapter 13. Now, before I even begin to read, tell you who Lot was. Lot was the nephew of Abraham. He was Abraham's brother's son. And God called Abraham out of Mesopotamia, out of the Ur of the Chaldees, and God made Abraham to be the father, the progenitor of the Jewish nation. And he's the brightest star in the Hebrew heaven.

And when he left his homeland to go to the land of Canaan, the land that we now call Israel or Palestine, there was one who went along with him, his nephew went with him. And Abraham's nephew was a man



named Lot. And Lot loved God and Lot was saved because the Bible tells us that he was just, that he was a righteous man. So you have Abraham who was a godly man and Lot who was a godly man. An uncle and a nephew. And they're there in the land of Canaan and both of them are very wealthy. And both of them have a lot of flocks and herds. And after a while they realized there's not enough grazing land for both families, and so there comes a dispute.

And that's where we're going to pick up our reading here in Genesis chapter 13 and I begin in verse 5 and read through verse 9, look at it, "And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents. And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together." And that tells me that you can be rich and righteous at the same time. Abraham was a godly man, but he was a very wealthy man, and Lot was a very wealthy man. But now look in verse 7, "And there was a strife between the herdsmen of Abram's cattle and the herdsmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land. And Abram said unto Lot, 'Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdsmen and thy herdsmen; for we be brethren. Is not the whole land before thee? Separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: If thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.'" Do you see the magnanimous spirit of this man Abram? Abram said, "Lot listen, let's don't argue. Let's don't fight over material things. Just choose, just choose. There's the whole land. Lot just take whatever you want. But let's don't argue in front of these heathen, in front of these pagan."

And now notice Genesis 13 verse 11, here's where a good man began to go wrong and I want you to listen. Because if you don't listen, you will love when I preach the message of grace, but then you will be a disgrace to grace because you will not learn the lesson of grace that, "denying ungodliness and worldly lusts we should live righteously, soberly and godly in this present world." Now here is Lot, he has the choice. And look if you will in verse 11, "And Lot chose him," That's the key right there. No prayer, no looking to God. But for him, his salvation had become a self-service cafeteria line. "And Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other." And then look in verse 12, "Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom." Now why did he do this? Well, for one thing. He wanted all that Sodom had to offer. Sodom in the Bible stands for the world. It stand for all that God hates. It was unspeakably wicked and yet there was an attraction for Lot.

Now I want to give you **four principles concerning the world**. And they're going to be found in this passage. Principle number one: you need to learn to **resist the pull of the world**. It pulls on me. I'm telling you it pulls on me. You say, "Pastor, I thought you were so sanctified you didn't have any more temptation." Well I'm not more sanctified than Jesus was and, "Jesus was tempted in all points like as we." Hebrews 4:15. And the Bible says in First Corinthians 10 verse 12, "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed, lest he fall." And I'm going to tell you that this world so pervades us and is so around us and is so pervasive that there is constantly a pull on you. You are bombarded with it. I mean, every moment. And the principle number one is you need to resist the pull of the world.

What was pulling on Lot right now? The world with its money. The world with its business. The world with its pleasure. The world with its social life. Lot had no prayer. He wasn't seeking God. There wasn't a thought for the welfare of his children. Lot made a decision at this point, I believe, which was purely economic. By the way, no man has a right to make all the money he can. Often we hear people say to young people, "Make all the money you can, just so you make it honestly." That's bad advice because if you make all the money you can, you might find yourself making money the wrong way at the wrong time even though you may not be in an illegal business.



For example, I just want to pay my respects to gambling right now. Anybody who is in favor of legalized gambling will never have my support as a politician. Just won't have it. Gambling is not like any other business. In good business there is always a win-win situation. You give a customer what he needs, he gives you what you need. And you both are blessed. Gambling is ultimately selfish. Gambling is always win-lose. You cannot win without someone else losing. And when the government is in the business of gambling, the government is in the business of producing losers. They always talk about the man who won the sweepstakes. Why don't they talk about the millions who lost?

Now, here's a decision that Lot made. It was a decision that was based on economics. First Timothy chapter 6 verse 10, "For the love of money is the root of all evil." When are we going to learn? Matthew 6 verse 33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." You say, "Well Pastor, a man's got to live." No, he's got to die. And after he dies, he's got to face God. But there was Sodom, and Sodom was Satan's masterpiece. Remember the Scripture First John 2 verse 16, "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but of the world." There was the lust of the flesh; Sodom with its pleasures. There was the lust of the eyes; Sodom with its possessions. There was the pride of life; Sodom with its philosophy.

Now Lot's sin is not a sin that only the rich have. You can be poor and be covetous. You can be in a meager salary and be covetous. This old world flirted with Lot. He was enticed. He became a friend of the world and committed adultery with God. Those same forces that worked on Lot are working on you and me day by day. Resist the pull of the world.

Number two, second philosophy: **refuse the persuasion of the world**. Now remember Romans 12 verse 1 and 2? The Bible says we're not to be conformed to this world? How did Lot end up in such a horrible state? First of all, the devil began to work very subtly with this man. There was the persuasion of the world as well as the pull of the world. First of all, Lot just simply moved in the wrong direction. Look if you will in Genesis 13 verse 12, "He pitched his tent toward Sodom." That's just a little compromise. He's just moving in the **wrong direction**. And then secondly, He just makes a **wrong decision**. He now becomes at home in Sodom. Look if you will in chapter 14 and verse 12, look at it, "And they took Lot, Abraham's brother's son, who dwelt in Sodom." Now we just read that he pitched his tent toward Sodom. Well how did he get into Sodom? Well, just an inch at a time?

There's some of you, you just said, "Well you know, I believe we ought to have HBO in our home. You know, we want to watch the sports, the boxing and so forth." And so, whatever's on that. I don't know what's on it. But I know its Hell's Box Office. And you just kind of pitch your tent toward Sodom. You wouldn't watch that raunchy, oh no not you. But you're going to have that in your home. You're going to give the devil a pipe line right into your home. And so you're moving a step at time.

First he pitches his tent, there's a wrong direction. Then a willful decision. He said, "Well, I'll move in. I don't have to partake of their sins." And then there is a **woeful deception**. Look if you will in Genesis chapter 19 now. I want you to see this evolution. I want you to see how the world persuaded him. Genesis 19 verse 1, "And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom." Now at first he's moving toward Sodom. Then he's dwelling in Sodom. Now he's sitting in the gate of Sodom. You know what the gate of Sodom was? That was the courthouse. That's where the decisions were made. He has become an alderman. He's become a city councilman. He's become a commissioner or something there in Sodom. He has moved in to Sodom. He's at home in Sodom. Now he's working with Sodom. His conscience has become dull. He's no longer shocked at sin. What used to amaze him now just amuses him! He's become a solid citizen of Sodom. He's on the city council. He's a VIP. His wife, I'm sure, was a



leader in Sodom society. His girls, cheerleaders at Sodom High. They're dating the boys of Sodom. I mean, this is a righteous man. He's moved into Sodom. And then I want you to see something. Genesis chapter 19 verse 7, "And he said, 'I pray you brethren, do not so wickedly.'" Now he's calling the Sodomites his brothers. Do you understand? Do you see how the world persuaded him? He has sunk so low! Now you could never have told this righteous man he would get so low. "Who is it knocks so loud? A lonely little sin slipped through, I answered and soon all Hell was in." Lot moved in to Sodom and Sodom moved in to him. The world conformed him and corrupted him.

Now the third thing, and very quickly, I want you to **realize the pollution of Sodom**. Sodom was so wicked that God said, "I'm going to destroy it with fire and brimstone." And in Genesis chapter 19 verses 1 through 11, we don't have time to read it, our time is gone. But God sent two angels to warn Lot that Sodom was going to be destroyed with fire and brimstone. The Sodomites, the wicked, sexually perverted and wicked people, actually wanted to commit sodomy with those angels. The sex perverts of Sodom sought to sexually attack these holy angels. Lot has become so low and so vile, now remember he was called a just man and a righteous man saved by grace, but he has become so low and so vile that he offered his two virgin daughters to the wicked men of Sodom in order to sate their lusts and to avert himself from the judgment of these angels. While the men of Sodom were around the house of Lot, Lot's out there trying to reason with them, the angels reach out and snatch Lot inside. The Sodomites are stricken with blindness.

And when Lot finally speaks to his sons-in-laws to try to get them to flee the city of Sodom they simply mock him. Look if you will in Genesis chapter 19 verses 12 through 14, "And the men said unto Lot, 'Hast thou here any besides? Son-in-law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou has in the city, bring them out of this place: For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the Lord; and the Lord hath sent us to destroy it.' And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons-in-law, which married his daughters," his girls married the men of Sodom you see, "and said, 'Up, get you out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city.'" But watch this, "But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons-in-law." They laughed at the old man.

You listen to what this preacher is telling you today. Some of you are going to hear the message saved by grace and you're going to say, "Well, hallelujah, believe on Jesus and be saved. Nothing I do, doesn't matter. My works don't matter, I'm just saved by grace. Therefore I'm going to be in this world and of this world and I'm going to Heaven." "Pastor, if I get saved by grace and sin will I lose my salvation?" No! But friend you will lose much. One of the things you may lose is your family and your children. These sons-in-laws looked at Lot and they said, "Would you listen to who's talking? That's the old man. Hey Lot, you've gone religious on us now? We've seen you drinking there in the tavern. We've seen you gambling. We've seen you playing around. We've seen you there call the Sodomites your brothers, and now you're telling us, you telling us? Ha, ha, ha." And they died and went to Hell. And some of you are going to Heaven and your loved ones are going to go to Hell because of the rotten, ungodly life that you've lived as a child of God. And you'll be singing Amazing Grace all the way and you're children are going to die and go to a devil's Hell. Titus 2 verses 11 and 12, "The grace of God which 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."

I don't have time to tell you the rest of it. I wish I did, but I'll just say this **remember the price**, that's the fifth principle, just remember the price. When judgment fell on Sodom, there was a shower of red rain; fire poured from Heaven. If you were to go down where Sodom used to be today as I have done, you would find nothing there but a desolate place, slime pits. Jesus said in Luke 17 verse 29, "But the same day that



Lot went out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from Heaven and destroyed them all." It costs to serve Satan; it cost every day, it cost every step of the way.

Now friend, there's some who don't like the message that I'm preaching today. But the Apostle Paul said in Titus 2:15, "These things speak and exhort." He said it very clearly and very plainly. "If any man's work shall be burned, he'll suffer loss: yet he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire." That's what the Bible says in First Corinthians 3 verse 15. Here was Lot, the angel had to take him by the hand and pull him out of Sodom, just pull him out of Sodom. Lot's wife turned around, turned into a pillar of salt. "If any man's work shall be burned he shall suffer loss." There goes his family. There goes his material possession. There goes the influence he could have had. There goes a life wasted. Was he saved? The Bible calls him a just man. I don't know of a greater tragedy than this, than a man who became a disgrace to grace. There's a system out there and that system is working on you today, believe this pastor. And you'd better learn that the world has a prince, the world has a philosophy, the world has a power and a purpose, and it's working on you today.

Father God, seal the message to our hearts. And I pray dear God today that You would help those of us who are saved by grace not to use grace as an excuse to sin. But, oh God, to use grace as an impetus to love and serve You, that Lord, "We might deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present time", because Lord, You're coming soon. Lord, I pray for those who are not saved that today they might be saved.

And if you're not certain that you're saved, would you like to be saved, would you? Would you like to know that you really do have life? Jesus said, "I've come that you might have life." Could I lead you in a prayer? We'll call this prayer the sinner's prayer. And you can pray and accept Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. You can do it right now. Would you pray this prayer? "Dear God, I know that You love me. Thank You for loving me. And I know that You want to save me. Jesus, You died to save me and You promised to save me if I would trust You. Jesus, I do trust You. I believe You're the Son of God. I believe you paid for my sin with Your blood on the cross. I believe that God raised You from the dead. And now I receive You as my Lord and Savior. Forgive my sin. Cleanse me. Come into my life. Take control of my life and begin today to make me the person You want me to be. And Jesus, give me the courage to make it public. Help me never to be ashamed of You. In Your name I pray, Amen."



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