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31 ***This also shall please the LORD better than an ox or bullock that hath horns and hoofs.***

Eccl 7:26 *And I find more bitter than death the woman, whose heart is snares and nets, and her hands as bands: **whoso pleaseth God shall escape from her; but the sinner shall be taken by her.***

1 Thess 2:4 *But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; **not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.***

Heb 11:6 ***But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.***

## *Pastor's Commentary And Outline*

*Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour.* Eccl 10:1

Once the Church loses its reputation for the gospel, the wisdom and Honor of Christ, it is but a matter of time before the decay of worldly respect will have its effects.

**First, there is a marginalizing of the Church.** We don't need the Church! Her wisdom has not been nor is now profitable for our agenda. We can certainly accomplish our goal of world peace, economic stability, and social harmony apart from her creeds and deeds. "Who is the Lord that I should obey him?" Said Pharaoh. There are many Pharaohs today who hold this sentiment. Marginalization is a form of self exaltation. But the "nation, (people or persons) that forget God, will be turned into hell." Ps 9:17

**Secondly there is a Mocking of the Church.** "Fools make a mock of sin" Prov 14:9 And today, the Church is dragged through the swine trough of the world, scorned and mimicked as Bunyan describes in the Pilgrim's progress, at Vanity Fair. The choice by religion to court the world's favor, for possessions is with the embarrassing cost of exploitation and ridicule. It seems we can't find enough religious folks who cannot wait to stand in front of the camera and perform for the sons and daughters of belial.

Caesar made sport of the Christians, in the early Roman empire, our true brethren who loved Christ and were suffering for the cause of the truth as it is in Christ. But this is not the case today. Not yet. But it's coming.

**The third stage is persecution of the Church.** "They shall mock Him, and shall scourge him." Mark 10:34

This phase will be the consequence of hostile legislation. Advocacy groups. The majority aggressors, out of instinct to kill the witnesses, and do away with any vestige of God's right to rule. Rev 11:7

For the believer these are the precursors to a full redemption. The beginning of the end of sinful bodies, vile thoughts, and carnal inclinations which hinder our desire to worship Him more fully. In this fire some of the saints of God, will be loosed, with Christ, to bring glory to Him, through the gospel.

**As we wait for the resurrection:** *And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. 12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.*

## “I was married to a fool ”

- 1) The man in Maon Vs 1 Job, Abraham Gen 2.26,27,  
Ps 104: 5-24 / *But Nabal, was pagan/heathen. In the midst of God's world.*
- 2) *The goodness of God, in the service of David's men for Nabal:* Vs 4-6. Eph 2:17,18 / Rom 10:15 Deut 20;10-14 / The humility of the gospel: Vs 7,8 / John 13:2,27 - 21, 29 , 30,31. ( Christ washing the disciples feet )
- 3) *Wrath is all you get when you reject the gospel:* Vs 11/ 21,22. Luke 7:30!/ Heb 2:2,3 Quote.
- 4) *Abigail. A sensible sinners response.* 1 Sam 25:18-20 -22,23.  
**Who was she?** Vs 3a *The wife of a fool.* Eccl 10:3 / Prov 18:2
- 5) *It was a sensible response because She was spiritual not carnal.*  
1 Cor 2:14/ 1 Peter 5:6 / Luke 18:13
- 6) *A right response according to revelation:* concerning the destiny of Jesus Christ. Read: 14-16. “revelation” - leads to repentance, by Grace.
- 7) *The role of the believer between justice and the guilty sinner:* 24,25 / Rom 9:1 / 5:8,7 - Union- substitution - the marriage: they are one. Christ and the Church.
- 8) *Abigail understanding, consisted of , a knowledge of God, in David's life.*
- 9) *Her understanding, yielded a pacifying word to the prince.* Prov 15: 1, 25:15./ The contrast? Nabal Prov 18:23 / Eccl 10:4. Prov 27:7
- 10) *She understood the Sovereignty of God, in His restraining power.* Vs 26 / Gen 20:6,7 “
- 11) *She prophesies of His Successful ascent to the throne and His universal acceptance of all His people:* Vs 28-31- Mth 16:18,19 “Thou art the Christ”
- 12) *The testimony of His success, through her to him, was well pleasing.* Vs 32-34. Heb 11:6 /
- 13) *The wine is gone, and the party is over:* Prov 20:1
- 14) *Nabal abandons grace, again: why?* The doctrine of mercy, through a substitute, was rejected, he hardened His heart. God killed Him:
- 15) *The death of Nabal, is the Marriage of David. Rom 7:1-4.* The text is talking about redemption from sin, law, Adam 1, in order to be united to Jesus Christ, in a sanctification which produces fruit. Every believer married twice: “ I was married to a fool ” No more!

## Here is the practical side of advice and goals of the marriage:

**The issue is, really, about pleasing one another.** 1 Cor 7:33,34

This too is a consequence of deep internal transformation. If I am the center of my happiness, exhausting myself for another is going to be a burden. I am only edified ,if, I am the object of praise, adoration and service.

What should really take place among believing men and women, is this; A loving to please the other. That is, when I am happy pleasing my wife, pleasing her won't be an issue. I want that. If I am doing it, because I have to, it's about me. At that point, failure occurs, especially when she does not respond accordingly.

This reality cannot be hid, because it is at the core of our desires. We sense when we are satisfied doing something. Whether right or wrong. Sin included. We find a great deal of energy doing it. And it gives us a sense of accomplishment. That thing is what we really want to do. It proceeds from a fullness Mt 6:21/12;35

So, for the married, learning to love our spouses, means an attitude adjustment, which takes the focus off of me, and puts it on her/him. When this is done mutually, satisfaction is bound to occur, because we both want to please each other, because we want to , not because we have to. This is the law of love, a work of the Spirit, and the consequence of radical love for the Savior, for **this is what pleases Him!** It represents the gospel of his Son.

The below passages have one thing in common. Pleasing God. I am confident, that until we make that the supreme goal of our lives, and understand it, in the practical out workings in our life, we will neither see the connection, between our love for Him, and our love for each her, or the reality of it, in the life!

**It all starts with love for God. That's where it starts. With me first**

1 Thess 4:1 *Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us **how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.***

2 Tim 2:4 *No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; **that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.***

Ps 69:31 *I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with **thanksgiving.***

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