

REMNANT PROPHECY SEMINAR

Self-Sacrificing Love

O6: Power of Self Sacrificing Love

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The Songs of Solomon show how Self-sacrificing Love is the Golden Oil that the Wise Virgins have in their vessels and lamps. Also, Self-sacrificing Love is the Glory of the Law which shines from the face of Jesus, and is also a Seal that is put on our heart and arm.

Love is as strong as death; it is likened unto vehement coals of fire. Many waters cannot quench Love neither can the floods drown it. The waters and floods point us to the king of Assyria, the Papal power, the King of the North in Daniel 11:40-45. Self-sacrificing Love, which is the oil in our lamps and also represents that Seal, is what will give us the strength, courage and faithfulness to be victorious over the Beast and his Image, his Mark, his Number and his Name.

This is what Peter needed to carry him through the closing scenes of the life of Christ. We are counselled at least a thoughtful hour a day should be spent on meditating on the Life of Christ, especially the closing scenes. The closing scenes of the life of Christ are being paralleled from 1989, 2001, all the way to Michael standing up, as in Daniel 11:40-45 and 12:1.

Why is Love likened unto a Seal in the Bible? It is also likened to the Golden Oil, which represents character, righteousness, the Holy Spirit, the messages of the Holy Spirit, but also the Golden Oil of Self-sacrificing Love—the Fruit of the Spirit.

Psalm 97:10 “Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.”

Our Love is measured by the Ten Commandments; love to God and love to man and how we treat our brother. This is one of the characteristics whereby true disciples are distinguished from the false. If we truly love the Lord, we are going to hate evil. The more love we have for God, the greater should be our hatred for evil, sin and iniquity. If we say we love God but do not hate evil; if we love evil, then we really do not love God. This is a test; how many professing to know Jesus and to follow Him, truly hate evil?

This is the Gospel promise of Genesis 3:15; “I will put enmity between the two seeds; the seed of the serpent and the seed of the woman.” Those that do love the Lord hate evil; of those it says He preserves them, He guards them, protects them, He keeps the souls of His saints. The saints are described as those who have patience, those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Patience is one of the attributes of the Fruit of the Spirit and also of the divine nature in Peter’s ladder.

He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked; this brings us back to the Sunday Law, back to Daniel 3:15. When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego’s consciences were forced to worship the Golden Image, to worship Babylon’s gods or be cast into the burning fiery furnace.

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Nebuchadnezzar boasted; “Who is that God that will deliver you out of my hand?” They replied that the God which they served would deliver them out of his hand. That is pointing us again to Daniel 11:41-43 where the King of the North will come into the Glorious Land and many will be overthrown by his hand; there will be some that escape, Edom, Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.

We are looking at Self-sacrificing Love, the Seal of God, this is the Golden Oil, the fruit of the Spirit, but it is also tied to Daniel 11:40-45; and the closing scenes of earth’s history, also the last prophetic week of Christ, AD 27-34; 1989 to Michael standing up.

Many waters cannot quench Love because Love is an abiding principle. It’s a power that works in us so we hate evil as God hates it. In Hebrews 1 we can see why Jesus was Himself anointed with oil so that He could begin His High-priestly ministry for us. Before the priest could serve in the Levitical dispensation in the earthly sanctuary, they would be anointed with oil. Jesus also was anointed with oil, the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost and that same anointing fell on the disciples as well. This was Christ’s inauguration ceremony where He was accepted as our High Priest.

Hebrews 1:9 “Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.”

The reason why many of the Foolish Virgins will fail of receiving the oil of His grace, the oil of His Love, the fruit of the Spirit, the Divine oil of His character, is because they don’t love righteousness and hate iniquity. They love iniquity and hate righteousness. We are to love righteousness and hate iniquity. The Bible is clear we are to Love the Lord and hate evil; if we don’t hate evil then we can’t say that we truly love the Lord. We might love Him in word but not in deed or in truth.

How do we hate evil? Jesus said, “If ye **being evil** know how to give good gifts unto your children”, so naturally, through the carnal nature, we are evil. How can we hate something that we naturally are? We want to see what God has done for us that we might truly hate evil and truly love Him and get that oil in our vessels and lamps to keep us, so when the mighty floods and waters of modern Babylon break through at the Sunday Law we will not be swept away; we will be able to stand.

Proverbs 8:13 “The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.” [that word ‘froward’ means “Perverse, that is, turning from, with aversion or reluctance; not willing to yield or comply with what is required; unyielding; ungovernable; refractory; disobedient; peevish; as a froward child.]

The fear of the Lord when we receive it as an abiding principle, as well as a teaching and doctrine will lead us to the experience where we hate evil. Without the fear of the Lord we can’t hate evil. So where do we find the fear of the Lord? ‘Fear God’ is found in the First Angel’s Message, the Everlasting Gospel, so when that is preached and received into the heart, it should produce in us the fear of the Lord, which is to hate evil, pride, arrogancy, the evil way and the froward mouth. Through the Everlasting Gospel, the First Angel, God is trying to give us genuine, supernatural, divine hatred for sin; that is the purpose of it, to separate us from evil.

If you truly hate something, you are not practicing it; you are not living in it. If we hate something enough, we separate from it. We hate evil when we realize it is sin that separates us from God and

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we don't want anything to come between our soul and the Saviour; something that would make a great gulf, a breach, we want to remove that so we have continual access to our Saviour.

Proverbs 16:6 "By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil."

Why do they depart from evil? It is because they have learned to truly hate it; the Fear of the Lord is the beginning of true education; it is the beginning of Wisdom. All true education; all true learning in the School of Christ is to hate evil and to love righteousness. When we depart from evil it means we abandon it, never to return. This is what true hatred for sin is. The fear of the Lord teaches us to truly love God as He has loved us. God's hatred for sin is as strong as death; but His Love for you and me is stronger than death.

2 Timothy 2:19 "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, . .

God has a sure foundation and platform and it is attached to His seal.

. . having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. . .

There are those that profess to be His and they are not. Those that are His are on the true foundation and have His seal. The Lord knows those that are His.

. . And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

The Lord knows those that are His, even though many name the name of Christ and are not His. Jesus said about the last days that not everyone that says to Him "Lord, Lord" will enter into heaven, only those that do the will of His Father.

Matthew 7:22 "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?"

Then Jesus will respond:

23 "And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

Christ knows who are His; even though there are those that prophesy in His name; they do wonderful works in His name; they cast out devils in His name, but He knows those who are His, because everyone who truly names His name departs from iniquity and hates sin. So it is possible to work miracles in His name, to say you are His disciple, but at the same time to still love and cherish sin and not depart from it. If you are truly naming Jesus' name, you will depart from iniquity, because the Bible tells us He loves righteousness and hates iniquity. We must have the same character as our Master or we are not truly His.

Galatians 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."

Those that are Christ's have the fruit of the Spirit; this is the Golden Oil that we learned about. How did the Wise Virgins get that fruit of the Spirit, that oil? There was something they had to do; they had to crucify the affections and lusts. They are motivated to do this as they behold the Self-

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sacrificing Love of Jesus, they are led in turn to take up their cross, gladly, and follow Him. What are the works of the flesh that need to be crucified?

Galatians 5:19 "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

These are the works of the flesh; so they crucify all these things because it is all contrary to the Word of God. If you do these things you are not going into the kingdom of heaven, because it shows you do not love Him truly—these things are not going to be there in heaven. The Law of Self-sacrificing Love prohibits all these things. If we Love Him, we abandon all these things; "If ye love Me, keep My commandments." This is Self-sacrificing Love.

Intellectually we can know that all these things are evil and will keep us out of heaven but that does not insure that we will not participate in them. Truly the only Power that will keep us so we will not choose to do this is Self-sacrificing Love. Realizing that these are the sins that put Jesus on the cross; that is what killed Him; that is what broke His heart. So I do not want to break His heart any more, I do not want to crucify Him afresh and put Him to open shame. The Love of Christ constrains us; we are not living unto ourselves any more but unto Him who died and rose again.

Through Self-sacrificing Love we depart from these things and crucify them, that is how we find victory. We can leave off many bad habits for a while, but in time we find ourselves going right back to these habits. It is not enough just to leave off bad habits, we have to crucify those habits so they have no power over us.

"It is true that there may be an outward correctness of deportment without the renewing power of Christ. The love of influence and the desire for the esteem of others may produce a well-ordered life. Self-respect may lead us to avoid the appearance of evil. A selfish heart may perform generous actions. By what means, then, shall we determine whose side we are on?" SC 58

It is possible to do all this without the Power of Christ. The heart is deceitful and desperately wicked above all things. You might think that you as a person have a well ordered life and do not do certain things so you have no need of Christ. "I live a good life. I am rich and increased with goods; I don't have need of anything." This is Laodicea. How do we determine what side we are on?

"Who has the heart? With whom are our thoughts? Of whom do we love to converse? Who has our warmest affections and our best energies? If we are Christ's, our thoughts are with Him, and our sweetest thoughts are of Him. All we have and are is consecrated to Him. We long to bear His image, breathe His spirit, do His will, and please Him in all things."

"Those who become new creatures in Christ Jesus will bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, "love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." SC 58.

There is no doubt or questioning, if we are new creatures in Christ we will bring forth the Fruit of the Spirit. If we don't have the Fruit then we are not new creatures, we are still the old creatures—the old man.

“They will no longer fashion themselves according to the former lusts, but by the faith of the Son of God they will follow in His steps, reflect His character, and purify themselves even as He is pure. The things they once hated they now love, and the things they once loved they hate. The proud and self-assertive become meek and lowly in heart. The vain and supercilious become serious and unobtrusive. The drunken become sober, and the profligate pure. The vain customs and fashions of the world are laid aside. Christians will seek not the "outward adorning," but "the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit." 1 Peter 3:3, 4. SC 58.

Jesus knows who are His; those that Love God will hate evil. They see what sin cost and the amazing Self-sacrificing Love of God and this is what constrains them and gives them the power to crucify self and sin rather than Jesus. That is real power; having freedom from sin; no longer being servants of sin, but of righteousness. Being in control of your own destiny and life, allowing the Holy Spirit to control and possess and the Grace of God to regulate your actions.

Love Becomes Cold

Matthew 24:12 “And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.”

We can't afford for our love for God to become cold, because when love grows cold we leave it behind. When we leave our first love apostasy comes in, not right away but progressively. The first church still hated the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, they still had the reforms, the doctrines and truths but later on, by and by without the Golden Oil of love, without that abiding principle in their heart, there was nothing that could keep them, then all the paganism, all the worldliness and heathenism came into the church like a flood. They didn't have the Love to stand the test.

So the Love of many waxes cold because of iniquity. We are going to look at someone whose love had apparently waxed cold. This was Laodicea's problem; same as Ephesus' problem. That is why Jesus first offers us the Gold tried in the Fire—Faith that works by Love. We need that. Iniquity begins to destroy our love for Christ; we begin to love iniquity and hate Christ. That takes away our power to resist and overcome evil.

2 Timothy 4:9 “Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me: 10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.”

Demas is mentioned 3 times in the Bible. He was a Bible worker, a gospel laborer for Paul. We are not talking about what is going on in the world; the world doesn't have genuine Self-sacrificing Love for God. We do profess to have it; we keep His commandments—love for God and love to man. Love is the fulfilling of the Law. Satan understands that if he can just attack their love for Jesus. He is not going to take away love for the truth right now; they will still hang onto the forms and the doctrine and reforms. In order for him to get us to give all that up he starts here at their love. If they can be led to love something else other than Jesus, then they will give up all these things.

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Demas, a gospel worker, one of Paul's gospel sons, forsook Paul, having loved this present world. What is it that is in the world? What was it that Demas chose rather than the love of God and the Gospel ministry?

1 John 2:15 "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.

If we love the world and the things of the world we know the love of the Father is not in us. The love of the Father is Self-sacrificing Love. When you think about it the Great Controversy actually is all about Love—Self-sacrificing Love, not love-sick sentimentalism. Not a love that excuses sin but a love that expels sin. If you look at Patriarchs and Prophets the first chapter, "Why was Sin permitted?" the first three words are, God is Love. Then look through all the conflict of the ages series to the last chapter of Great Controversy, "The Controversy Ended" the last three words are, "God is Love." What is the message then of the Conflict of the Ages? It is "God is Love".

We have to reveal that God is Love in our lives; Satan has accused and attacked God's character. He attacked the Law of Love. He said, "We don't need the Law of Love; let's put the Law of selfishness in its place." So really when we are looking at the Great Controversy, if we have the Love of the Father in us, we won't love the world or the things that are in the world. If we have the love of the world and the things of the world, we won't have the love of the Father in us.

If we have the love of the Father in us, we will obey the Law of Self-sacrificing Love, and truly have victory over sin. But if we have the love of the world then that is the Law of Selfishness, sin and death. If we are obeying the Law of selfishness and sin, then we cannot have victory over that which we love.

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 is of the world."

Three things sum up everything that is in the world: the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. These are the things that the first Adam and Eve were tested on. In Genesis 3, this was the threefold attack that Satan used on Eve—the threefold union as it were. The lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, really is the foundational principles of the Dragon, Beast, and False Prophet.

Genesis 3:6 "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, [lust of the flesh] and that it was pleasant to the eyes, [lust of the eyes] and a tree to be desired to make one wise, [pride of life] she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat."

The lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life; this is how Satan overcame Adam and Eve. Then when the second Adam came on the scene, He is tested in the wilderness and He was given the same three tests, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. "If you are the Son of God, turn these stones into bread." This was lust of the flesh. Then Satan showed Him all the kingdoms and offered them to Him—this is the lust of the eyes. He also tempted him, "If you are the Son of God, why don't you prove it and cast yourself down from here?" He was trying to get Pride to rise up in Jesus. These things, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, were where the first Adam failed, and the second Adam had to get the victory over them. We today are tested on the same things. If we are truly Christ's we have crucified the affections and lusts.

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1 John 2:16 “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 is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

In order to do the will of God it takes Self-sacrificing Love; you have to surrender self. The will of God goes against our flesh; against our thoughts and our feelings. God says, “My thoughts are not your thoughts; My ways are not your ways.” Our way, the will of the flesh and God’s way, His will, are diametrically opposed to one another; it is the principle of Selflessness vs. Selfishness; the Law of Love, vs. the Law of sin and death.

Demas’ love for God, for souls, for the work, had waxed cold to the point where he just forsook Paul and went into the world. Iniquity abounded and the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, were never crucified by Demas. He joined Christ; he joined the ministry but did not crucify these things, or maybe they were once crucified but he did not crucify them daily. They can’t just be crucified once; they have to be crucified every day. Paul said; “I die daily.”

Iniquity Abounds

2 Timothy 3:1 “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, [No Self-sacrificing Love here.] covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

In verses 2 and 4, at the beginning and the end we see something. Think of a sandwich with two pieces of bread, top and bottom and the filling in between. First we will identify the filling; covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded.” That is everything that is in the middle of this sandwich; all sin; all works of the flesh.

What are the two pieces of bread? Lovers of pleasure; it mentions it in the beginning, ‘lovers of their own selves’; then at the end it repeats it, ‘Lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God’. What is the problem? Is it covetousness? Is it that they are unthankful, unholy, heady, highminded? Is that the root of the problem? What brings on all these things? You love something else more than God; self-love; self-worship; self-exaltation; that is what leads to all these sins.

Remember, because iniquity abounds, the love of many waxes cold. You don’t get cold over night; because iniquity abounds you gradually get cold. You were on fire, hot for God, very zealous, but because iniquity and worldliness is abounding, you begin to taper down, you begin to cool down, the zeal slowly but surely dissipates.

Those that do these things have a form of godliness; but deny the power thereof. They have a form of godliness because of self-exaltation; they love self, more than God; love sinful pleasure more than they love God. If they loved God more with Self-sacrificing Love, all these symptoms and diseases would not be there. What is the power they deny? They deny the power of Self-sacrificing Love. The problem with the form of godliness, and all these sins are just the symptoms, but the root cause is that you love self; you love sinful pleasure more than you love God; that is why you do whatever it is that you do.

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I hope you are seeing what God wants from us more than anything. God does want us to believe truth; God wants us to reform our lives; God wants us to serve Him; God wants our money, our talents, He requires these things of us; but more than anything, God wants Self-sacrificing Love. "Peter, lovest thou Me?" "Yes Lord, You know I love Thee." "Feed my sheep." Many of us want to feed the sheep, feed the Lambs, but if we don't have love for Christ, we will stop feeding the sheep and start devouring the sheep; we will start attacking the sheep; we will neglect the sheep. What God really wants from us is our love. The very first attribute of the fruit of the Spirit is Love; it starts there.

"Because iniquity abounds the love of many waxes cold"; that is what happened with Ephesus and prepares the way for pagan abominations that lead up to Jezebel reigning; then we have a name to live and we are dead. What iniquity is it that is abounding?

Ezekiel 9:8 "And it came to pass, while they were slaying them, and I was left, that I fell upon my face, and cried, and said, Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou destroy all the residue of Israel in thy pouring out of thy fury upon Jerusalem? 9 Then said he unto me, The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceeding great, and the land is full of blood, and the city full of perverseness: for they say, The LORD hath forsaken the earth, and the LORD seeth not."

Where is the iniquity? The 'House of God' is a symbol of the church; the iniquity is in the church. Love to God and Love to man; there should be no iniquity there—how did it get in there? It is a mystery, the mystery of iniquity. It started in the heart of Lucifer and was transferred down to earth and was found in Adam and Eve, then Cain and Abel; then the antediluvians and on and on the mystery of iniquity has been working and finds its way into places it should not be; even in the church.

It says, "The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceeding great." The land is full of blood. The city is full of perverseness. When something is full, when the cup of iniquity is full, what happens? When the cup of iniquity is full then wrath happens and this is what you see in Ezekiel 9. It did not say the iniquity was great, very great; it says exceeding great.

There is a power in prophecy that waxes great, very great, and exceeding great even to the host of heaven. That is 'Gadal', that is selfishness; it is great, then very great, then exceeding great. That is why it has to be crucified; if you don't crucify self, it's going to get greater and greater; it is going to grow and grow—even to the host of heaven; and by the time it waxes to the host of heaven, it is a little horn. That is the antichrist. Gadal, gadal, gadal, it just gets stronger and stronger to the point that it is what produces the Little Horn. By the time self is exceeding great, waxing to the host of heaven, that is the antichrist.

In these verses they have the full character of antichrist; full of blood; full of perversity; full of sin; full of iniquity and idolatry and that is why it is time to pour out and commence the wrath; but the iniquity is in the church. What are these iniquities?

Abominations

Ezekiel 9:4 "And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof."

So what is the iniquity that is exceeding great; where did it come from and how did it get in there? Sigh and cry for all the abominations; in other words the abominations bring in the iniquity—the

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iniquity and the abominations are the same. Where did these abominations come from that have filled the land with blood; with perverseness in the house of God, exceeding great? The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, where did they come from? It is a mystery how it got into the church. The mystery of iniquity doth already work; there is a power called 'Mystery, Babylon'.

In Ezekiel 8 we see the various abominations; the image of jealousy; all the idols; images of the beasts; their weeping for Tammuz; and finally they turn their back on the temple and worship the sun towards the East. All these abominations are filling the land with blood and perverseness and the iniquity is exceeding great.

Revelation 17:4 "And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:"

Babylon has a golden cup in her hand that is full of abominations; every single abomination known to earth is in that cup.

5 "And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

She is the one who gives birth to these harlots and she is also the mother of abominations of the earth. Every abomination; everything that is disgusting to God; everything that He hates and detests; everything that is of pagan origin, idolatrous, heathenistic, it all finds its origin and foundation in Mystery Babylon.

So when you see the house of God full of these abominations, where did they get that from? They got it from Babylon. How does Babylon give it? It is in the golden cup in her hand, full of abominations. So somehow, in some way, the way these abominations from Babylon get into the church is someone has been drinking them. They have been imbibing them and passing around the cup to others; a bunch of social drinkers; taking the golden cup of Babylon, getting drunk and then passing it around to everybody and everyone is drinking.

We want to look at some of these abominations. When we talk about the love of many waxing cold because iniquity abounds, it is because the abominations are abounding in the church. The church is an extension of the home; before the abominations get into the church they first are in the homes and families.

What are some of these abominations of Babylon? We know that the wine cup of her abominations is false doctrine. Two main intoxicating doctrines are Sunday sacredness and the immortality of the soul. These are the two great errors that are going to lead people to get the Mark of the Beast; Spiritualism and Sunday sacredness.

I want to look at these abominations in a practical sense. They are practiced in the home and come into the church and because these things abound the love of many for Christ, the Self-sacrificing Love gets extinguished. We are looking at Satan's fire extinguishers. The flame of God's love, burning in our hearts will keep us from sin and doctrinal apostasy and compromise with the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life; he wants to put that fire out. He wants to extinguish that fire that is why we must constantly be fed with the Golden oil of love because abominations, heresy and apostasy are all around us, and if we are not careful, our love will wax cold. What are these things?

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This is the first abomination that abounds, not only in the world but in the homes of professing Seventh-day Adventist Christians. These things get from the home to the church and from there they get into the schools, institutions, and publishing houses; it is contagious and spreads like a disease.

Revelation 18:21 “And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all. 22 And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee;”

When Babylon falls, what will be heard no more? Harpers, pipers and musicians—music. Satan uses worldly music as a snare; he was the chief musician. That is one of the things that Satan uses to cause our love to wax cold; worldly music in the home. Then it gets into the church; the purpose of music is all about worship. In order to make all nations bow down on the plain of Dura and worship the golden image, they used music—when you hear the music, bow down and worship. Music and celebration; all that stuff has come in among us and it is a snare. These things are one of the snares of the last days; it starts in the home and then gets into the church; music that is worldly and fit for the dance hall should not be in the church.

People say, “We are tired of all these hymns and the piano, tired of sacred guitar and the instruments we play sacredly; we are tired of these things. We need to get more lively, more up-beat, more rhythm. How do you know that should not be played in the church?”

If something can be played in the nightclub, in a bar, it does not praise and worship and glorify God, but the devil. Then if you bring that same rhythm and beat into the church and all you do is slip the name Jesus into it; if that can be played in a club for partying, dancing and sinning; worshipping not God but Satan, and you just bring it in the church and put the name of Jesus in it—then that should not be played. Something that is sacred and belongs to God is something that is distinguishable; not taking something worldly and playing it in the church as well. If it is fit for a dance hall it is not fit for the sanctuary. It is not fit for the people of God.

Worldly music; because this abounds it begins to cause people’s love for Jesus to wax cold. It is a snare. Sister White says that music is the idol of many professed Sabbath keepers. She is also very clear that just before probation closes that there will be shouting, drums, music and dancing in the church. It is always solemn to me, if you go into a church and you see a drum set in the church; that very drum set is letting us know, it is a sermon being preached that probation is about to close! When that enters into the sanctuary, probation is about to close.

What else does the devil use? What is the snare here?

Ezekiel 23:13 “Then I saw that she was defiled, that they took both one way, 14 And that she **increased her whoredoms: for when she saw** men portrayed upon the wall, the images of the Chaldeans portrayed with vermilion, 15 Girded with girdles upon their loins, exceeding in dyed attire upon their heads, all of them princes to look to, after the manner of the Babylonians of Chaldea, the land of their nativity:”

There is something the people of God look at that causes their whoredom to increase; when they saw men portrayed upon the wall, the images of the Chaldeans portrayed with vermilion. In the

days of Ezekiel they probably did not have this, but it is around us today. This is talking about worldly entertainment; about movies; television; mainstream entertainment. We also have YouTube; Facebook; smart phones; now it is right here at our fingertips.

This is so dangerous because as Christians, many of us because we love Jesus, when we first gave our hearts to God, gave up worldly music; and there are certain things you haven't listened to in years. All of a sudden through the bitten apple; through Apple—think it is an accident that it is an apple from the tree of knowledge of good and evil? Now when I just go on YouTube, if the devil puts it in my mind, I can type up an old song or a record or CD that I threw away years ago; I can punch it in and watch the video. I can do the same thing with movies; with pornography or anything—I can just punch it in and there it is.

This is a snare; because these things abound—worldly entertainment; worldly music, with the media; video games, pornography; worldly movies promoting the kingdom of antichrist and not Christ; because these things abound, these things cause the love of many to wax cold; your love for Jesus—Self-sacrificing Love. If you love these things more, it drowns out, extinguishes your love for Jesus Christ.

We could preach a whole series for adults and young people on Babylonian Portrayals. We need to come out of her My people, these portrayals, these movies, cartoons, video games; promoting the kingdom and the gospel of antichrist and Gnosticism and not Jesus Christ. They are all preparing the world to receive the Mark of the Beast through spiritualism.

What else is Satan using? Babylon is connected with music; worldly entertainment; all of our movies; all of our sports; cartoons; video games; whatever you like. All the 'reality' shows, sitcoms and all those things; the love of those things causes our love for devotion and spiritual exercises to be put out. Satan knows that by what we behold we become changed to that image. If we are beholding things of the Beast; if we are beholding fornication, murder, violence and selfishness, covetousness, wickedness, disobedience to parents, from the "innocent cartoons" of Disney all the way to the movies from Hollywood. Satan has something for every age group.

If we are beholding these things of Babylon, what image are we being changed into? And yet we think we are ready for the Seal of God. Just having these tables, the charts, on the walls of our homes does not keep us from looking at these things! Now they have advertisements that pop up at you even when viewing worth-while documentaries—the enemy knows what he is doing. He is trying to inundate and flood our minds with worldliness, so that he is kept out of sight.

Appetite

Daniel 1:8 "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself."

What is being brought to view here? Is diet, appetite and passion a snare? The lusts of the flesh and eating an animal based diet, alcohol, tobacco, all these different drugs, even eating intemperately of the things that are good for us. Not eating for strength, but eating for drunkenness; all of these things where we self-poison ourselves and bring disease and sickness on our bodies by breaking the laws of health. Is that a snare for us? Are you safe at the plate? Sometimes you get to the table and there is a snare, a trap waiting for you. That is why the Spirit

of Prophecy says that even at the table, by what we place on it, we can do medical missionary work. The Babylonian diet starts in the home and it goes into the church.

How does flesh food get in the pot-lucks? Some churches say they are not going to allow any meat in the church, but the people are only half converted on meat eating and still eat it in their homes. People say, "Well we eat it at home. Why can't we bring it into the church, there's no problem." The creeping compromise; we are doing this in the home and then we vote on it and it gets into the church just like the abomination. Many of us have experienced this in our home churches and this is exactly how it happens.

Often it is the leaders or the leaders' wives that want it, and not the people who want something brought in. Women do not understand the power they have over men and over the household and the children. There are many things we could get into that if we studied these things you would not have women wanting to be pastors, wanting to be elders; if you knew that as a godly woman, wife, mother, sister, your position is greater than a pastor; greater than the king that sits on the throne—why would you want to settle for something that is beneath you? Maybe if they thought that way perhaps we wouldn't have the current controversy over ordination.

There is nothing wrong with a woman being ordained to gospel ministry and missionary work, but as far as titles, talk about Pastor, talk about Elder, what that means and implies, if you understood, you would not want to covet a position that God never gave you in the first place! It does not mean a woman can't preach; it doesn't mean that women can't teach; faithful women have been missionaries and have taught for years. But what is Satan trying to attack here? The order that is being reversed here is an attack on the home; the family structure; the Law of God.

It is because these things abound, the abominations and iniquities of Babylon abound, the love of many, Self-sacrificing Love gets put out.

How we Dress

Joshua 7:20 "And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done: 21 When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it."

What do we find here? Babylonian clothes; worldly fashion; Babylonish garments; this is whole other topic all by itself. This is a real snare here! You are what you wear, for men and for women. Women can dress and wear things that cause them to be an abomination and men can also do things and wear things that cause them to be an abomination as well. Oh yes!

When it comes to worldly fashion this is a snare among us. Even this topic of dress reform is something that is a stumbling block to many people where they don't want to hear, they don't want to receive. But notice, this Babylonish garment, he coveted this, and he hid it, he put it in his tent, it was in his home, in his house.

What happened to him because of this garment? Why would an Israelite want to wear a Babylonian garment? But for some reason as Seventh-day Adventists we love the Babylonish garments. We claim to come out and yet we are still in her and what we wear is an index to character; it is a test of character. What happened to him and his whole family just because of a Babylonish garment? They were stoned to death and they were burned up. Do we want to wear

things that in the last days will cause us to be stoned in the seven last plagues and burned in the lake of fire? This is a snare.

We have worldly fashion; we have diet; entertainment, Hollywood, video games, music, all secular pagan things coming through the TV and the internet, all of these things are calculated by Satan to cause our love to wax cold. People are more in love with these things and that is why they have no love for Jesus in their hearts.

This is why God is telling us it is very important that you love the Lord truly and hate evil; because brethren, if we don't love God, we can't hate evil. Naturally we can't love God the way God loves us. It is a divine principle that needs to be implanted in us; we need the Holy Spirit to bring the Love of God into our hearts. That is the only way we are going to get it.

If you had Jesus Christ set before you, dying on the cross; you saw His suffering, His agony and shame; you see the blood, you see Him breathing and the look in His face; this Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, and you see that He is doing this for YOU—if that was set before you, I don't believe you could possibly want to eat what would defile your body; you would not want to wear something Babylonish; you would not want to watch worldly entertainment; you would not want to see things on TV that crucify Jesus afresh; the Power of God's love would constrain you. You could not behold Christ and say, "I will go and rob someone; kill someone; commit fornication or adultery;" you wouldn't want to do it! This is the power that is going to cause us to say that we are going to crucify these things, put them away, depart from these things, I am going to hate these things; I am not going to do it!

Not because you are afraid of hell fire, or that you won't go to heaven; but because of seeing what Jesus did for us and not wanting to crucify Him afresh; that is the motivation. When we have Self-sacrificing Love and we are hating evil, what experience are we are going to have?

Psalm 119:97 "**O how love I thy law!** it is my meditation all the day. 98 Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. 99 I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. 100 I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts. 101 I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word. 102 I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me. 103 How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth! 104 Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way."

You hate every false way, how did you end up hating every false way? All the abominations of Babylon; you hate it? Everything? How, why, how did it start? "I love Thy Law!" what is the Law? It is Self-sacrificing Love. When we truly love the Law and it is your meditation all the day, you are constantly thinking, pondering, studying, and beholding the principles of Self-sacrificing Love, it is going to cause you to refrain your feet from every evil way; hate every false way. You are going to love righteousness and hate iniquity and then God is going to give you the Oil to prepare us for the fires of persecution, the waters of the flood won't quench love, they won't be able to drown it. We will be ready for the Time of Trouble.