

24th September 2016

## The nature of Man – Pt 4 serving divers lusts.

We previously established that the nature of man is inherently sinful. None are righteous, none understandeth, and none seeketh after God, he does that which is right in his own eyes, and rejects instruction, his heart, his mouth and his way are naturally froward.

And in this teaching we establish that the feet of the natural man is swift in running to mischief, he worships the works of his hands and serves divers lusts.

### Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

#### 1. Man's feet naturally run swiftly to mischief.

"Six things doth the Lord hate...An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief" (Prov.6: 16 & 18).

Judas Iscariot betrayed the Lord Jesus Christ to the authorities that condemned Him to death (Matt. 27: 3 & 4). Judas is an example of man's propensity (his inclination) to run swiftly to mischief.

#### 2. Man naturally worships the work of his hands.

"Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made" (Is.2: 8).

The nation of Israel witnessed God Almighty perform mighty miracles with the ten plagues that destroyed the land of Egypt and the first born of the Egyptians, parting of the Red Sea, and killing their enemies that pursued them. Yet after these miracles Moses their leader went up mount Sinai to speak with God and the people made a golden calf and worshipped the work of their hands.

#### 3. The nature of man is to serve divers lusts and pleasures.

"For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, [and] hating one another" (Tit.3: 3).

Man's heart is naturally inclined to serve many pleasures that he desires.

Additional comments on our three points.

Man naturally desires those things which bring him pleasure, which his hands have made, which his feet run to swiftly, which his heart lusts after.

Applying the teaching to our life today.

Approximately 1800 people have died in the extreme sport of base jumping where a person kits themselves up with a wing-suit and jumps off a cliff.

Why? to fulfil his natural desire for divers lusts and pleasures, even if the resultant pleasure-trip is short lived. But I guess you could say it is no different to a man that smokes because it brings him pleasure whilst knowing that one day, his desire for pleasure will kill him.

A question to think about.

Why do many young people in our country run swiftly to mischief, worship the cars they have painstakingly built, and seek to spend every waking hour in serving their many lusts and pleasures even if it could result in death?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

They reject the God of the Bible and so place no value on life. And their desire to live life to the fullest by satisfying their lusts for pleasure is stronger than their desire to live a life that serves God and glorifies His name (Rom.1: 21).

Following Adam's sin the nature of man is to serve his own divers lusts and pleasures such that the "motions of sins...did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death" (Rom.7: 5). And so the natural man is "free from righteousness" (Rom.6: 20), forever a servant of sin (verse 17).