

20 January 2019

Beware – Pt 1 Beware lest thou forget the Lord

Today we begin a new topic that will cover warnings from the Lord on what **not** to do, each begin with – “beware”. In this first study we encourage you to (1) beware lest thou forget the Lord, (2) beware that there be no wicked thought in thine heart, and (3) beware of wine and strong drink.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. Beware lest thou forget the Lord

“Then beware lest thou forget the Lord, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage” (Deut.6: 12). See also – Deut.8: 11

Out of 214 times that the word “remember” is used, 171 of those in the OT, where they were commanded to “Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping his commandments...” (Deut 8:11).” They were to lay up His words in their heart and soul, bind them upon their hand, “that they may be as frontlets between our eyes” (Deut.11: 18), and speak of them when they lie down (verse 19). Today we are encouraged to remember “that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel” (2 Tim.2: 8).

2. Beware that there be not a wicked thought in thine heart

“Beware that there be not a thought in thy wicked heart, saying, The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand; and thine eye be evil against thy poor brother, and thou givest him nought; and he cry unto the Lord against thee, and it be sin unto thee” (Deut.15: 9).

3. Beware of wine and strong drink,

“Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing” (Jud.13: 4). C.f– Eph.5:18–“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess” Also 1 Pet.4: 3.

Excess of wine is something of the “old man” that we put off” (Col.3: 9), and If we do not we will not be sober nor vigilant of our enemy (1 Pet.5: 8) and his devices for he seeks “whom he may devour” us we do not “live soberly” (Tit.2: 12), If we choose to drink wine and that causes our brother to stumble, or be offended, or made weak then we refrain (Rom.14: 21), “but use a little wine for thy stomach’s sake and thine often infirmities” (1 Tim.5: 23).

An illustration to help apply the teaching to our life today.

“Australia is in the grip of an addiction to poker machines with more of the devices located in the community than in any other country, according to a new report from progressive thinktank the Australia Institute. The discussion paper points to figures that show about 80% of the world’s poker machines are in dedicated gambling venues, such as casinos. Only 241,000 poker machines worldwide are in non-gaming venues, with the vast majority of those – 183,000 – in Australia’s pubs and clubs.”

Question to think about.

What is the similarity between the addiction of poker machines for a non-believer and a Christian that is captured all day by computer games?

Our answer from the scriptures.

The enemy has snared them both.

The non-believer ceases to remember their families, and loved ones and the Christian forgets their God, they cease to remember “that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead according to my gospel”. But whether it be riches that tempt us and “drown men in destruction” (1 Tim.6: 9), or a soldier “entangles himself in the affairs of this world” (2 Tim.2: 4) – they fail to “Keep himself unspotted from the world” (Jam.1: 27), therefore the “lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful” (Mk.4: 19) and they will forget the Lord.

Please be vigilant, whether it be wicked thoughts, strong drink, or anything, or anyone that distracts you from the things of God. Let us beware lest thou forget the Lord!