

12 February 2012

Believers are to flee from evil (Pt 2 Flee)

This is the second part of our study on the word *flee*, in the Holy Scriptures. In our introduction we mentioned that there are 105 occurrences of the word *flee*, 3 of *fleeing* and 8 of *fleeth*, and according to the on-line Oxford dictionary the word means:- “run away from a place or situation of danger.”

In our previous study we covered four points, which included;

1. The word *flee* is used to describe:-
 - i) the action of people running away *from* a place or someone
 - ii) the action of people running *to* someone or a place.
2. To flee can include turning
3. An unsaved man if he got near to God would flee from Him
4. Unbelievers flee to hell

In this our second study we will focus on the believer and will cover 3 points which include;

1. True believers in the RC Church are to *flee* from her.
2. Believers are to *flee* from evil, including fornication, idolatry, youthful lusts and the love of money.

Let us add a little more detail to our points above;

1. *Believers in the RC Church are to flee from her*

Isa 48:20 *Go ye forth of Babylon, flee ye from the Chaldeans, with a voice of singing declare ye, tell this, utter it [even] to the end of the earth; say ye, The Lord hath redeemed his servant Jacob.*

See also Jer.51: 6 & Rev.18: 4

The Scriptures above do not name the RC church as that which true believers are to *flee* from but there is evidence to support that the RC church of today is spiritual Babylon of the Old Testament and she is the whore, she is Babylon the Great of Revelation of 17 & 18. If you are not convinced of this assertion then be ye encouraged to read the two articles in Vol.3 Iss 1 of the NZ Protestant.

The verses in Isaiah, Jeremiah and Revelation suggest that there are true believers in Babylon and for today that there are true believers in the counterfeit RC church. Yet, our first response to those who attend Mass on Sundays is often uncharitable as claim they are no different to the heathen. But if we stop for a moment and remember that the Scriptures says there are true believers caught up in that system that beguiles the world and its followers with Christian terms, causing the majority of them to reject the free gift of the grace of God in Christ, and believe a counterfeit Christ. With that being true, perhaps we should look upon the RC church adherents with a little more compassion, with a little more charity, hoping and praying that those who are the Lord's would *come out* (flee) from her that they be not partakers of her sins, and that they receive not of her plagues (see Rev.18: 4).

These true believers that are snared by the abominations (see Deut.7: 25) of that hellish system are caught and often cannot get out of the net by their own strength. Imagine for a moment a fish being caught in a net, they often cannot get out with help from the outside and so it is for the spiritual snares that the devil throws at us. Perhaps those snared in the RC church have never heard a teaching from Rev.17 & 18 or they have only listened to the official RC interpretation of those passages. Perhaps if they knew the evil that lay at the heart of their church and the commandment to believers to *flee*, they would run, they would wait no time in getting as far away from their church, her Pope and her traditions as they could.

Let us not harden our hearts to the RC adherents that are saved, who are trapped, lest the devil trap us in something that is not of God. A believer can be snared by anything that is not of God, but one of the most seductive devices the devil uses is the counterfeit Christ of Rome. Let us ask the Lord to keep our hearts tender and compassionate to those who are His, that are snared by the RC system, that He would give us an opportunity to encourage them to *flee* that devilish man made counterfeit religion and that they which are His, would have ears to hear the counsel, as if it were from God Himself, and that they would, without delay, *flee*.

2. Believers are to flee from evil

Jer 6:1 *O ye children of Benjamin, gather yourselves to flee out of the midst of Jerusalem, and blow the trumpet in Tekoa, and set up a sign of fire in Beth-baccerem: for evil appeareth out of the north, and great destruction.*

See also Jer.5: 26

So in our previous point we alluded to the fact that as believers none of us are immuned from being snared by the devil, we are all prone to being trapped by evil. We don't have to be in an obvious trap like the RC institution for us not have feet that are prepared to flee from the evil. In Jeremiah the people were charged to flee from a physical evil that was in the north and called a great destruction. The spiritual evil that we are fighting in this battle (for our enemy is not physical but spiritual - see Eph.6: 12 & 2Cor.10: 4) is enshrined in physical things like money and the lusts of the flesh. The Scriptures command believers to flee various evils that the early church found herself being snared by. They include fornication, idolatry, youthful lust and the love of money. Let us look at each briefly as an evil that we should run away (*flee*) from;

a) Flee fornication

1Cor 6:18 *Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.*

For a definition of word fornication in the Holy Scriptures, see the article in the NZ Protestant "Study on the word Fornication in the Authorized Bible, Vol.2, Iss.1.

This commandment to *flee* fornication is one that both believers and the RC need to hear. Now you may be thinking that Nuns and Priests do not fornicate because the priest is celibate, but that is not the case. In one family I know, it came out recently that a family member was a Nun and got pregnant to a Priest, so you can be assured that such news is not Protestant propaganda but does happen in the confines of a church that claim to be Christ like. Combine this activity with Priests molesting little boys and you see how truthful the doctrine "by their works ye shall know them" (see 2Cor.11: 15 & Tit.1: 16). But as we have just said, the sin of fornication is not just prevalent amongst RC Priests but was a problem for the Corinthian church and is a problem for Christians who confess the name of Christ today. It is a device of the devil to snare Godly men away from the things of God.

Just watch five TV shows and see how many of them show the young and old jumping into bed with each other outside of marriage...it is a common, slow, seductive method of making acceptable that which the Bible says is sin. Is it any wonder that our young teenagers struggle to remain pure before God until they marry. Their whole world has people jumping in and out of bed with each other and some times there is little other story line in a movie, than whose laying with who. Just because you can't get locked up in prison by a court judge does not mean the activity is acceptable to the Lord. The Bible says fornication is a sin (see 2Cor.12: 21) and believers are to *flee* from such evil. And for a believer, we are not just commanded to stop fornicating, we are commanded to *flee*, we are directed to run away. That means make haste and depart quickly from any and all signs of fornication,

Let each of us pray for our young and each other that we would not only remain free from the sin of fornication, but when one of us does get snared by the devil by this seductive device that those who are caught in the trap will receive our compassion of help to *flee* from the snare that entangles them.

b) Flee idolatry

1Cor 10:14 *Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.*

Once again a commandment to flee *evil* is one for both believers and the RC church to hear, acknowledge and take heed of, as none of us are immune from this wickedness. For the RC priest he breaks the first commandment (thou shalt have no other gods before me - see Ex.20: 2) when he worships the wafer and when he bows down to the image of Mary.

But what is idolatry according to the Bible? Well it is more than just worshipping a false god as the Israelites did when they made a golden calf in the wilderness. It includes;

According to Acts 17: 16 it is the worship of false gods as we just mentioned *and* covetousness (see Col.3: 5). And what does the Lord think of idolatry? According to 1Sam.15: 23, the Lord looks upon idol worship as he does stubbornness, where He says in 1Sam 15:23 *For rebellion [is as] the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness [is as] iniquity and idolatry.*

You may be feeling quite happy with yourself for not being like the RC Priest or for not have any images in your home that you do obeisance to, but given that it is also covetousness, you may now feel a little less comfortable. As human beings it is natural for us to want things, job, house, land, friends and money, but when you desire these things and anything else above God you commit idolatry. We see in the gospel of Luke an explanation of covetousness which encompasses the things a man possesses or desires to possess, where it says, "And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (see Lk 12:15).

What are we to do when we see ourselves getting entangled by covetousness or idolatry?

We are to *flee*, from it, we are to run away, not put up with it, or make excuses why we do it, but take it to the Lord in prayer and ask him to help you to *flee* from it, as if your life depended on it. Ask him for help you to unhook this snare of the devil and flee all and any form of idolatry.

c) Flee youthful lusts

2Tim 2:22 *Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*

After the first two you may find there is nothing left of this world to flee from...but we are only half way through the list of four. We are to *flee* youthful lusts.

What are youthful lusts you ask?

Try and remember back to the days of your youth or turn to Eccl.11: 8, 9 and find that entangled in that age of youthfulness is sins of the flesh, and they may include something of the first two points of fornication and idolatry and they may include other things. But suffice to say, they are lusts of the flesh. As our bodies go through the change from a child to adolescence for both girls and guys and as we have said in a) under fornication TV programs today accentuate the issues and make giving into those lusts an acceptable and normal option, whereas for God that is sin. And in this point we learn that Scripture says we, as believers young and old, are to *flee* youthful lusts.

Let us as members of the body of Christ, pray especially for our young who struggle daily with the youthful lusts of the flesh, and also for others who have gone beyond that period of their lives and encourage each to *flee* any sign of the lusts we experienced in our youth.

d) Flee from the love of money

1Tim 6:11 *But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.*

The verse that includes the word *flee* for this point does not tell us what we are to *flee* from, so we have to go back to the beginning of the chapter and I have used verses 9 & 10 to provide this point.

But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and [into] many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows (see 1Tim 6:9-10).

This point could be included under idolatry which is also covetousness, but these verses have made the love of money a separate point and therefore so shall we. Money is not sinful, but the love of money is sin, as our earlier verse says, it is the root of all evil, that when believers covet after, they err from the truth and pierce themselves through with many sorrows.

Is it any wonder that believers are to *flee* from such desire?

Is it any wonder that believers so often get torn away from the things of the Lord when money is involved? For the love of money is the root of, not just some, but of all evil and we know that it is harder for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God, than for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle (see Matt.19: 24, Mk.10: 25 & Lk.18: 25). Such is the power of the love of money.

Whilst there are lots of examples of believers who have been snared by this common device of the devil, there are also examples of believers who have both lived with money and without. For a Christian to live with nothing, then with millions of dollars and then go back to having nothing indicates that money has no hold on them, there is no love of money. Such a believer has put into practice the verse from Philippians, (4: 12 see also 1Tim.6: 8) where Paul writes, "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need." If there every was a love of money in their heart, then by their fruits they have shown that they have fled or run away from such a lust.

Let us pray for each other that money and more particular the love of money would have no hold over our brethren, for such is the root of all evil. Let us pray that those whom we know who have pierced themselves through with many sorrows will know the strength of the Lord to *flee* from such evil.

Having said what we have said, let us say it again:-

1. True believers in the RC Church are to flee from her.
2. Believers are to flee from evil, including fornication, idolatry, youthful lusts and the love of money.