

The Carnal Christian - Part 1

by Bob Phillips

The sermon warns about the dangers of false teachings, doctrines of demons, and the importance of following God's Word and living a life of godliness.

Duration: 1:26:35

Scripture: Matthew 6:33, 1 Corinthians 3:1, 1 Corinthians 3:15, 1 Timothy 4:7-8, 2 Timothy 4:3-4, Titus 1:14, Hebrews 5:12-14

Topics: "Carnal Christian"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker focuses on the dangers of false teachings and the importance of sound doctrine. He warns that in the last days, people will be exploited by those driven by greed. The speaker emphasizes the need to follow the teachings of the Bible rather than relying on traditions or wrong teachings. He also highlights the significance of godliness, stating that it is profitable for all things. The sermon encourages listeners to be discerning and to nourish themselves with the words of faith and sound doctrine.

Transcript

This causes you to have to deal with old traditions or wrong teaching. These tapes may contain some new light from God's Word, and it may be opposed to some traditions you have previously learned. Therefore, follow through these messages in your Bible, in sequence, in order that you may be able to make a choice for the Word of God, rather than the traditions of men.

This is tape number 13 in the series. We urge you to listen to all the tapes in the series in numerical order, so that the whole teaching can be received and understood. Listening to a part of the series, or to the tapes out of sequence, can lead to a misunderstanding of the nature, the intent, and the importance of the series.

I want you to turn with me to 1 Timothy, chapter 4. I want you to turn with me to 1 Timothy, chapter 4. 1 Timothy 4. I want us to see something tonight. About this doctrine that has encouraged us, and the body of Christ, to have a false security. Folks, let me tell you something.

It's one of the most dangerous heresies anywhere in the Bible. There's a doctrine of carnal Christianity. I've shared this before.

Some of you may have heard me share this, but I'm going to share it differently tonight than I believe I've ever shared it. Because the Lord's let me see more on it. And as I've shared this message, when we go around the country, I find that there is more attack against people when this message is shared than anything else that I've shared.

And sometimes more than anything we've shared in the seminar. The reason is because there's so many forms of it. It is so widespread and so prevalent.

And it has so many people's hearts. And it's dangerous. I want you to let the Spirit of God just begin to reveal to you the Word and share it with you.

We're going to see it in your Bible clearly. Now, there is a doctrine. The heart of that doctrine is 1 Corinthians 3. We're going to get to 1 Corinthians 3 in a moment, but I want you to see through the Word some things that God has to say first about the last days.

Because the Bible says that in the last days there are going to be false teachers. There's going to be teaching of falsehood. There's going to be lies.

There's going to be false doctrines, destructive heresies. And it says very clearly that these destructive heresies are going to carry people away to the point that they fall away from the faith. All right, now, while everybody's looking at the Moonies and looking for another Jim Jones, they're being swept away and carried away unsuspectingly, they don't even know it, into a hell of judgment.

Does that sound serious? 1 Timothy 4. Let's see what it really says. Let's see what it really says. But the Spirit explicitly... Now, what does the word explicitly mean? Precisely, definitely.

Here's what he's saying. The Spirit is clearly, this is the Spirit of God, is clearly, definitely, definitely saying this. And here's what he says.

That in the latter times, or the last days, some will what? They will fall away from the faith. Now, that ought to concern us a little bit more than it has. I believe it's been concerning you more these last two weeks than maybe any time before, hasn't it? See, because suddenly the enemy begins to speak to you and say, well, that couldn't be me because, see, I go to church every Sunday.

It couldn't be me because I teach Sunday school. That couldn't be me because I'm a preacher. That couldn't be me because, I mean, I'm saved.

Now, folks, I want you to understand that we don't have a problem with a lot of the things that are being taught today about what happens when you're in Christ. Like, for example, you know, people say there's no curses on you if you're in Christ. I agree with that 100%.

People say there's no demons in the church. Or there shouldn't be demons in the church. I agree with that 100%.

There shouldn't be any in the church. But the problem is that we have been pulled away from the Word of God, the true gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the point where we're calling church something that the Bible does not call church. We're calling Christians something the Bible doesn't call Christians.

And we're being fed doctrines, perverted doctrines, that encourage us to live in carnal lifestyles. And it's probably affected every one of you in here, even those who are trying to live godly. Let me tell you why.

I talked with a young man last night who's really got a heart for the Lord. He's seen some things. He's coming to the light.

He's turning. And here's what he said. He said, I didn't know.

He said, I've talked with preachers and so on, and I've read the Word, but here's what would happen. He would start to stand against the sin in his life. He knew it was wrong because he read in his Bible it was wrong.

But he'd start to stand against it. But then this thought would come to his mind, yeah, but every Christian does it. You're going to heaven.

You just need to repent. And so the next thing you know, he's not wanting to, but he's drawn over here because he's got a false security in his heart. There's no fear of God at all in his heart.

He's drawn over here thinking, I can do this. I mean, it's bad, but it's really not all that bad, and I do love the Lord Jesus Christ, and I am going to go to heaven. And so he's drawn over here into defeat.

And I want to tell you something. See, when that happens, the devil's got your will, and you absolutely cannot stand against the onslaught of temptation. Now, the Spirit explicitly says that in the last days some will fall away from the faith.

Paying attention, that means giving heed. Paying attention to what? Deceitful spirits and doctrines of what? Demons. Now, I know there's a lot of people that wish that didn't say demons, but it does say demons.

They're going to pay attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of what? Demons. All right, now, how are these doctrines of demons going to come? What are they going to do? Is this the Jim Joneses that we're taught? Well, certainly there's a doctrine of a demon there, but is that all that's doctrines of demons? And how are they going to come to us? Well, look what it says. By means of the hypocrisy of what? Of liars.

Well, again, there's a real deception there because, see, everybody automatically assumes that every one of these people that are being used... Here's what that's saying. It's saying that demonic spirits are going to use the lips of teachers to speak forth lies. Are you hearing what I'm saying? Is that what that's saying? Talk with me.

Is that what that's saying? All right. Demonic spirits are going to use teachers to speak forth lies. Can I just tell you that I've been used to speak forth some lies in the past and I've repented of it? But now I want you to see something.

Verse 6 says, In pointing out these things to the brethren, you'll be a what? A good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith, and of the what? Sound doctrine, which you have been following, but have nothing to do with what kind of fables? Worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of what? Godliness. Now, I want you to turn with me to verse 8. For bodily discipline is only of little profit.

Now, look at this carefully. I don't want you to just read over it, but look at it carefully. But godliness is profitable for what many things? What's profitable for all things? Godliness.

Since it, what? It, what's it? Since godliness, since godliness holds promise for the present life and also for the what? Life to come. Now, listen to me. Did it say that it holds promise for just the life to come or what? For the present life and the life to come.

And then over in chapter 6 of 1 Timothy, the opposite of sound doctrine, verse 3, if anyone advocates a what? A different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ and with the doctrine conforming to what? A doctrine conforming to what? Okay, I want you to speak with me now. To what? Godliness. If it doesn't conform you to godliness, it's not a sound doctrine.

Is that clear? Any doctrine that doesn't conform you to godliness, that doesn't drive you to godly living is not a sound doctrine. Let me say it this way. Any doctrine that leaves any excuse for you to sin and not repent and not walk in the fear of the Lord is not a sound doctrine.

Any doctrine. Any of them. I want you to turn with me.

Well, in fact, let's go on. Verse 4. If anyone advocates this kind of a doctrine, he is conceited and he understands nothing. But he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words out of which arise what? What does it say arises out of it? Envy and strife.

Is that telling us then that a doctrine that does not conform you to godliness, the end result out of that doctrine, one of the things that will come out of it is jealousy or envy and strife. Is that what your Bible is saying? Okay. Now, I want you to turn with me to 2 Peter 2. 2 Peter 2. 2 Peter 2. Verse 1. But false prophets also arose among the people just as there will also be false teachers among you.

Now, does your Bible say that? That they will also be among you? What are they going to do? Who will secretly? That means without anyone suspecting it. Listen, it's not going to come down the road like a Jim Jones. They will secretly, without anyone suspecting it, there's going to be secretly introduced into the church destructive heresies that even deny the master who did what? Who bought them.

In other words, we're not going to go through that whole chapter but you'll see what they do in verse 18. For speaking out arrogant words of vanity. Now, would vanity be like drawing everything to yourself? Is that what it is? These words, these are arrogant words of vanity.

And here's what they do. These words draw attention. They don't draw attention to Jesus but they draw attention to the pride of life, the boastful pride of life, whatever that is.

It might draw attention to a church. It might draw attention to a denomination. It might draw attention to a ministry.

It might draw attention to a teacher. But it doesn't draw attention to Jesus. Now folks, even if it gives Jesus a little bit of attention, it's still wrong.

He gets all the glory. And here's what happens. As these words are going out, these words of boastfulness, arrogance, as they're going out, things like, we're going to have the pattern church for the whole world.

We're going to... We've been appointed to set the whole city free. Our church. This ministry is the ministry.

More and more, see, it just gets drawn, drawn, drawn. Not pointing people to Jesus, but to the church, to the denomination, or to the ministry. Demonic spirits use this vanity and arrogance and pride that draws, to

make a name for itself, a reputation for itself, that draws it in, they use it, and then what happens when the hearers hear it, they are enticed by the same fleshly idols that were being spoken.

And idols are set up in the hearts of the congregation. Are you hearing what I'm saying? That's what that says. It says that they, speaking out arrogant words of vanity, they entice by what? By fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error.

Now look at verse 2. And how many are going to follow? Just a little bit? What does your Bible say? And many will follow their what? Their sensuality. Now listen, that sensuality doesn't mean this. Here's what it means.

James chapter 3 talks about a wisdom that doesn't come from above. And he says this wisdom produces selfish ambition, and it's based on selfish ambition and jealousy. And he says that it is not from above, but he says this wisdom is earthly or natural, it's sensual, and it's what? It's demonic.

Why? Because it's making a name for itself, it's drawing things to itself, it's producing a false security in the hearts of people. And many are going to follow this, and they're going to be swept away, and because of this teaching, the way of the truth will be maligned or perverted. And what it's saying is that people will think they're following the way of the truth because these words are going out, but they're really not following the way of the truth, they're following a lie.

Are you hearing me? All right? So what's going to be said? What does God say is going to be said in the last days? Well, it says, and in their greed, verse 3, they will exploit you. In other words, here's what will happen. These that are speaking it, see, they're lifting up the ministry, they're lifting up the church, they're lifting up the denomination, they're lifting up all of these things.

All these things get lifted up, everybody else gets swept away, you begin to follow. All of a sudden, you start building around a church, you start building around a ministry, that becomes the biggest thing. Having the biggest and the best choir, having the biggest and the nicest building, having the best reputation, having the most numbers, having the most people baptized, and all of that becomes, having the most signs and wonders and miracles operate, we got them right here in our church.

Just come and see our church. Come and see our church. Come and see our church.

Now, folks, I want to tell you something. If we can't build up a crowd by proclaiming Jesus, then something's wrong. Now, what happens is, the people get exploited.

And what takes place is, all these programs become manipulation to exploit and exploit to make profit. I don't mean necessarily even financially, but sometimes that's the case. But it even goes far, to make profit.

Who suppose that godliness is a means of gain for a name or reputation? Are you hearing what I'm saying? All right, now, what does the Bible say they're going to be saying? Now, they're going to exploit you with what? Everybody say it. Exploit you with what? False words. That's what's going to be exploited.

False words. And what are these false words going to do? Well, it said, it said that arrogant words were going to entice you into what? Fleshly desires. Now, are you following what I'm saying? So, these false words are going to be coming out.

They're really doctrines of demons. These false words are coming out. And here's what's happening.

All those that hear, they develop a false security. While they're living in their carnal lifestyles and rebellion to the Word of God, they proclaim they're going to heaven. Now, you might just make note of this because 2 Timothy 3.13 says that there's going to be some people, imposters, evil men, imposters.

You know what an imposter is? An imposter is like it says in Psalm 81.15 that pretends obedience to God. That's an imposter. And so what it's saying is that that these imposters, these pretending obedience to God, they're deceived and being deceived.

Or they're deceiving and being deceived. Now, you don't need to turn over there, but what I want to say to you is this, that not everybody that's doing this, not everybody knows that what they're proclaiming is a lie. Ask these pastors.

Could they tell you that? Could you say that, pastors? That not everything that you didn't know, that some things you proclaimed that was a lie? All right, what are they saying? Well, let's look at what's being said. Turn to 1 Thessalonians 5. 1 Thessalonians 5. And let's see what's being said in the last days. What is it we need to look out for? What kind of doctrines are going to be going forth? They're doctrines of demons.

Would the demons like for you to be deceived and in a false security? Well, let's see what it says. In 1 Thessalonians 5, verse 1, Now as to the times and the epics, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you, for you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. While they are saying, that is, while there's doctrines being preached, they're going to be preached.

And what are those doctrines saying? Peace and safety, peace and safety, peace and safety. Then destruction will come upon them suddenly like birth pangs upon a woman with child and they shall not escape. In other words, these people are going to be enticed into these doctrines that are crying peace and safety when there's really not anything to be peaceful about and there's not any safety there.

All right, let's see what the Old Testament has to say about it. This same thing. Turn with me to Jeremiah 6. Jeremiah 6. In Jeremiah 6, verse 13, For from the least of them even to the greatest of them, everyone is greedy for gain, and from the prophet even to the priest, everyone deals falsely.

How have they dealt falsely? Well, here he says in verse 14, They have healed the brokenness of my people. How? How? How? Superficially. What does the King James say? Falsely? Lightly? Slightly? All right.

But anyway, what they're saying is that the people have been broken. They've been hurting. They've been in bondage.

They've been captive. Instead of hearing the truth, what's coming forth is you're okay. Peace and safety.

After all, Christians aren't perfect. They're just forgiven. After all, everybody sins.

You can't help it. After all, you are in Christ. You're going to go to heaven.

Now look what it says. They've healed the brokenness of my people superficially. How have they done that? Saying peace, peace, but there is no peace.

Folks, let me ask you a question. Have you known something's been wrong? Now, there's a lot we could see there, but I just want you to see this problem. Turn to Ezekiel 13.

Ezekiel 13. Ezekiel 13. Verse 3. Thus says the Lord God.

Ezekiel 13, verse 3. Thus says the Lord God, Woe to the foolish prophets who are following their what? They're following their own spirit, and they've seen nothing. Oh, Israel, your prophets' church, your prophets have been like foxes among ruins. You've not gone up into the breeches, nor did you build a wall around the house of the church of Israel to stand in the battle on the day of the Lord.

See, let me tell you something. These doctrines, you're not taught to stand in the battle on the day. You're not taught to stand fast when temptation comes because, first of all, you're not even told to resist the devil.

You're not even told about doctrines of demons. Isn't it interesting that God told us in His Word that in the last days there will be doctrines of demons? He gave us a warning, and those doctrines are going to cause people to fall away from the faith, and yet today we don't even hear about demons. I believe we've been deceived.

Now, what he's saying is that that the people, not only do they not know how to resist, they're not even told to resist the devil. Are they not even told about that attack? They're not told how to resist the devil. They don't know how to fight.

They don't know how to stand. We're given cute little phrases like, resist the devil and he'll flee from you. Folks, I don't have to tell you this.

You've tried that before and he didn't run. Then somebody says, well, you just didn't have enough faith and you weren't believing. I want to tell you it's more serious than that.

Because it doesn't say, resist the devil and he'll flee from you. It says, submit yourself, therefore, to God. Resist the devil and he'll flee from you.

And just above that he says, don't you know that the Spirit of God that He put in you or God jealously desires the Spirit He put in you? And just above that he says, don't you know that when you make friendship with the world, you set yourself as an enemy of God? And after he said all of that, he says, submit to God. Resist the devil and he'll flee from you. And then he says, draw near to God.

Cleanse your hands, you sinners. You double-minded. Purify your heart.

For God resists the proud and exalts the humble. Now, folks, let's read the whole Bible. Those cute little phrases, I'm telling you, they may have a message of truth in them, but, folks, they're not getting you free.

But when your heart starts getting free, when your heart starts getting turned to the Lord and these false lines start falling off, your heart turns to Jesus, the freedom comes. It's not something you especially had to do. I want to tell you something.

We'll go through some time of ministry, and we'll do that, but that's not what's really going to set you free. That's just the end product of having prepared your heart for the Spirit of God to make claim to the possession that belongs to Him. Now, look what he says.

Verse 6, they see falsehood and lying divination who are saying... Did we say that there would be this lying that goes forth, these false words? All right. They see lying divination who are saying, the Lord declares when the Lord has not sent them, yet they hope for the fulfillment of whose word? Of their word. Do you not see a false vision and speak a lying divination when you said the Lord declares, but it's not I who have spoken? Therefore, thus says the Lord God, because you have spoken falsehood and seen a lie, therefore, behold, I am against you, declares the Lord.

Now, so my hand will be against the prophets who see false visions and utter lying divinations, they'll have no place in the council of my people, nor will they be written down in the register of the house of Israel, nor will they enter the land of Israel that you may know that I am the Lord God. It is definitely because they have misled my people. Why? How did they mislead the people? By saying peace when there is no peace.

And then when someone comes along and says, Listen! This doctrine is not leading you to godliness. When anyone builds a wall, behold, they plaster it over with whitewash. See, God's got a lot to say about peace when there is no peace.

Turn with me to Deuteronomy 29. Deuteronomy 29. Deuteronomy 29.

We're living in some of the most exciting times. I'm telling you, God is showing His Word, bringing forth His Word like it's maybe never been brought forth before. There's an explosion of knowledge in the body of Christ today.

And it's not just among a handful of people. I mean, it's just all over. People are being drawn to the hungry for the Word, just wanting to eat the Word, because God is starting to lift the veil of the lies off of people's faces.

See, people have known there's something wrong. I mean, we've danced and pranced and sung about victory and shouted about victory and preached about victory. Folks, God is beginning to let His people walk in victory.

Glory to God. Now, look what He says. This is serious, folks.

Listen. Deuteronomy 29. He's telling them to beware.

Verse 18. Lest there shall be among you a man or a woman or a family or a tribe or a church whose what? Whose heart turns away today from the Lord our God. Folks, isn't that all over the Bible? The heart's the problem.

It's not a demon message. The heart's the problem. Demons only take up residence in the heart when they've been given ground to do that.

The heart's the problem. Now, here's what happens. To go and serve the gods of those nations, that is, of the world, lest there shall be among you a root bearing poisonous fruit and wormwood, and it shall be that when he hears the words of this curse, in other words, when he's warned about this, this peace and safety is going to have his heart so much.

Now, look at this. When he's warned about it, here's what he'll say. When he hears the words of this curse, that he'll boast, saying, I have peace, though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart.

Now, is that strong? See? Now, how's he going to do that? Because, see, he's got this doctrine that he's hanging on to that declares to him that he can walk in the stubbornness of his heart and still go to heaven. Saying, I've got peace. Are you seeing it? All right? Now, look at how serious this is.

Look at verse 20. The Lord shall never be willing to forgive him. That is, as long as he remains in the stubbornness of his heart.

If he just turns his heart to the Lord, God will forgive him then. But if he keeps walking, saying, I've got peace, I've got peace, I've got peace, while he's in the stubbornness of his heart, the Lord's not going to forgive him until he turns. Is that clear? And here's what happens.

The Lord shall never be willing to forgive him, but rather the anger of the Lord and his jealousy will burn against that man and every curse which is written in this book will rest upon him and the Lord will blot out his name from under heaven. In other words, what I want you to see is this, that if he continues to walk in the stubbornness of fleshly rebellion to God, not dealing in repenting of the sins that are there in his life, and yet even though he may say with his mouth, I've got peace, I've got peace, I've got safety, even though he is saying those things, God sees the heart. He judges what's in the heart.

And God says he'll not make it to heaven. Is that what your Bible says? All right. I want you to turn with me to 1 Corinthians 3 because I want us to look seriously at one of these doctrines.

Now, somebody probably has already had the devil say something to them about, well, he's preaching against eternal security and he's tearing down one of my doctrines and I know that's true and I'm not going to listen and the devil is trying to tell you to listen, not to listen. Can I just tell you something? Why don't you just put aside that anger, tell the devil to shut up for a little bit and hear me when I say this. There's no place that you can find that's any more secure eternally than following Jesus with your whole heart.

Amen. I mean to tell you, when Jesus has your whole heart, you are absolutely secure, firm. When he's got your whole heart, then you can rest and say, peace and safety.

But the verses that I read to you, Jesus did not have their whole heart. They were walking in the stubbornness of the heart. There was sin rebellion there and they were excusing it and saying peace and safety when there was no peace.

Are you hearing what I'm saying? I want to show you something on a little chart. Can everybody see that? Have you ever seen that before? Folks, I want to tell you something. That chart, don't let something kick you.

But that chart is used in some of the most popular evangelistic tracks in this country. And here's what it says. It says that there are three classes of men.

There's the natural man who does not know Jesus. It's represented by three circles. And there's the natural man who does not know Jesus.

And it shows this little circle, this picture, and there's a chair sitting in the middle of that circle and it's got an S on it or sometimes an E for ego. And the S stands for self and the C stands for Christ. And what this track says is that the S represents self, the C represents Christ.

That's the natural man, Jesus, on the outside of his heart. And so he's not saved, he's just a natural man. He's just simply a lost man.

But then there's a second stage. It's called the stage of the carnal Christian. And here's where he is.

He's invited Jesus into his heart so Jesus lives in his heart. Now listen to me, folks. I want to just tell you this.

Yet Jesus doesn't have the throne of his heart. Self's still on the throne. He's not yet matured.

He's still just a babe in Christ and he may remain a babe in Christ but he'll still go to heaven with self on the throne of his heart. Now I want to tell you something. I want you to see how deceptive the devil is.

I have people come to me all the time and say, Bob, I don't understand. And it's a good question. I don't understand how a Christian can have a demon.

How in the world can the Holy Spirit and demons dwell in the same place? The answer is they don't. When you become a Christian you cannot be possessed by a devil. And when the Bible uses possession it always uses the word possession but if you really understand what the word is there what the word literally means is an area of control.

And by the way, over in Ephesians chapter 4 verse 26 or 27 it talks about don't let the sun go down on your anger. In other words, don't be angry. Don't be angry and just go on unrepentant.

Is that what that's saying? And then the next verse says and give place to the devil. Now that word place means an area of control or a place of occupation. Now when you become a Christian the Holy Spirit of God brings alive your human spirit and your spirit and the Holy Spirit dwell together in unity.

That's why the Bible says he who joins himself to the Lord becomes one spirit with the Lord. And so whenever there's a demonic problem and a demon's cast out of a Christian he's not in the spirit of the Christian because listen sitting on the throne of that heart is Jesus. But it can have an area of control.

Now let me just say if I have deafness in my ear and it's caused by spirit we read in Luke about a woman who was bent double she was bent over and she couldn't straighten up and she'd been that way for a long time and Jesus came along and says he rebuked the spirit of infirmity. Now let me ask you a question did that spirit control her completely? No. But when it came out of her back had he had control over her back? Yes.

If there's a spirit caused by deafness and we see this happen all the time you rebuke the spirit of deafness and the spirit comes out the healing comes to the ear well what happened? A spirit left and now they have healing in their ear. Did that spirit have control over that ear? But did they have control over the whole life? No. Are you following what I'm saying? Talk to me.

Do you see what I'm saying? Now isn't it interesting though? Isn't it interesting? You talk about demons that work in the world today isn't it interesting? Doesn't it even make you wonder a little bit that we could get so upset and so mad and argue so much about a demon being inside a Christian and yet that tract can be all over the body of Christ and not one person even ask the question how in the world can sin be on the heart of a Christian and Jesus be there too? You know why it happens? Because the demons don't attack that doctrine. Are you hearing me? They don't fight it. They don't fight it.

But the demons get real upset and they fight real hard when you start talking about them because they don't want to be exposed. Are you with me? How can somebody be a Christian and have self on the throne of his heart when Jesus said that the only way you can come to me is with a whole heart? You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart. He didn't say part of your heart loving me and the other part loving your own self and selfish ambition.

He didn't say that. And if that's the case, I'll tell you, the rich young ruler sure got shortchanged by Jesus. No, this doctrine says there's a carnal Christian.

He's a babe in Christ. He's not able to partake of strong meat. But he stays a babe.

Now, you've got to have a text to be able to support this. And so the doctrines of demons found one, 1 Corinthians 3. As a matter of fact, if you have a Ryrie study Bible, in your footnotes, it will clearly tell you that these people in 1 Corinthians 3, it has no reference whatsoever to salvation, but it's just carnal Christians. Now, folks, I want to tell you, you're going to see when we get through here tonight that if that's true, you're going to have to rip some other verses out of your Bible.

Either one is wrong, those footnotes are wrong, or the rest of Scripture is wrong. Three classes. The natural man, the carnal Christian.

He still lives in his carnality. Now, let me ask you a question. How many of you have heard of that doctrine before? Why, that's about everybody in here.

Now, do you think that the enemy could develop a stronghold on your heart if when you went to repent and sin, temptation comes to your mind? The enemy floods you with temptation, floods you with temptation, and yet there's a little bit of peace and safety, no fear of God, a little bit of peace and safety on the inside, that I can kind of fool around with this a little bit. Maybe you're not even saying it with your lips or thinking it with your mind, but in your heart there's this idea, after all, I am saved, but I just can't get free. And so, your will is broken down, and the enemy just keeps pounding you and pounding you and pounding you and pounding you with the temptation.

See, because he knows your heart is tied to a false security. So, if he pounds at you long enough, you'll sway and you'll give and you'll come over here because there's no fear of God in you in order to make you stand fast and firm. And so, you come over and you do it, and then you repent with a false repentance.

Now, you really don't want it in your heart, but you repent by saying, Lord, I really, well, I hate that sin. And I'll tell you, you know what the enemy does? Oh, folks, listen to me. I've seen this.

He comes in. He causes you to hate yourself. He causes you to be filled with so much condemnation and guilt, unworthiness, rejection.

I mean, it all, it just flows in on this false peace and security. If Jesus really has your heart, see, because you want to walk with the Lord if he has your heart. Are you hearing what I'm saying? Then there's a third circle, and that circle's supposed to be the spiritual man.

And what it shows is Christ sitting on the throne of the heart and self outside. Folks, I want to tell you something. That's the only, there's only, the first one and the last one are correct.

The middle one's a lie. Are you hearing what I'm saying? The middle one's a lie. Now, let me just say this to you.

I believe there's only two classes of people that would be encouraged by this kind of doctrine. First of all, a person who wants to excuse his carnal lifestyle, he'll be real encouraged by this kind of a doctrine. Are you hearing me? And so he'll say things.

There's things like, you hear this all the time. If you sin, but you've really given your heart to Jesus and you continue in that sin, you're going to miss out on the blessings of God on this earth. God won't be able to bless you with covenant blessings.

You will go to heaven though, but you'll just not be blessed here. Now, is that conforming you to walk a godly life, do you think? Did we read that any doctrine that doesn't conform you to godliness is a lie? Well, what about this one? Well, you can sin as a Christian because you're eternally secure. But if you continue to sin and it gets bad enough to where it starts drawing other people away and you start affecting other people's lives, if it gets bad enough, then God will just kill you and take you on to heaven.

You ever heard that one? That's what they usually describe as the sin under death. God couldn't do anything else with you. And so, finally, He just killed you and took you to heaven in your sin rebellion.

Folks, I want to tell you something. This is drawing people to hell. It's sending people to hell.

And then we've got our respectable sins. I mean, most anybody would tell you if you continue to commit adultery or you continue to do this or do that. We've got certain sins that are not respectable.

But then we've got some others that are respectable. See, you can have strife and jealousy and division in your heart because you just didn't repent. I mean, you'll be miserable all your life, but you'll go to heaven.

And after all, everybody lusts. You can't help it. Everybody lusts.

And then we build that cute little thing in Matthew 5 around it, saying, well, you know, Jesus said that, you know, if you just look on a woman to lust, you've committed adultery in your heart. And so everybody says, I've committed adultery in my heart because I lust, but everybody lusts. But Christians are not perfect.

They're just forgiven. So I just ask God to forgive me. In essence, I ask God to forgive me, and I go on living in lust.

Your Bible doesn't talk like that. Are you hearing me? Your Bible does not talk like that. Let's see what 1 Corinthians 3 says.

Verse 1, And I, brethren... I'm going to read a couple of the Scriptures that really throw people off because these are the ones that are usually quoted. And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to babes in Christ. Now, see, that right away, that's the heart.

There's two Scriptures that's the heart of this false doctrine. One of them says that they were babes in Christ. It's telling them that they were babes in Christ.

It looks that way until you begin to examine the whole chapter. But see, what we've developed in the body of Christ today is we just pick and choose Scriptures. We think we know what it's saying.

We don't let the Spirit of God show us what the whole chapter is saying. Now, then it goes down, and it says in verse 15, If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss. But he himself shall be what? Saved, yet so as through fire.

And so, automatically, these doctrines say the fire is the fire of the judgment seat of Christ. And so, whenever you get to heaven, you're going to go before the judgment seat of Christ. You've heard this thing.

You know, all your sins are going to flash before you. How many have heard that? You're going to stand before the judgment seat of Christ, and all your sins are going to flash before you. And yet, you're going to suffer loss.

Some of you will be receiving rewards. And so, we preach these sermons on all the rewards that we get. And we say, Now, here's the reward.

There's a reward for a preacher. There's a reward for a soul winner. There's a reward for this.

There's a reward for this, and for being righteous, and so on and so forth. And we put the rewards in a neat little package and preach a sermon on it and say, Now, if you don't live a godly life on this earth, but you neglect these things, then you're going to go to heaven if you've given your heart to Jesus, and you're going to be saved. But when you get to heaven, the fire of God is going to strip you of some rewards.

Now, I ask you, how many have heard that? Folks, I want to tell you something. It's a lie. That's not what that says.

Now, I'm going to show you what it says, but that's not what it says. Let's read verse 1 and 2 again. And our brethren could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh.

Now, let me ask you a question. Does God ever anywhere in the Bible refer to men of flesh as babes? No, He doesn't. I can tell you He doesn't.

Now, this is going to be clear to you after a while. I'm not going to just leave you with that statement. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food, but you were not yet able to receive it.

Indeed, even now you're not yet able, for you're still what? Fleshly, or as the King James says, carnal. You're still carnal. That's where the idea of carnal Christians come from, from that word.

Let's find out what it's saying. You're still fleshly, you're still carnal. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not what? Fleshly.

And are you not walking like what? Mere men. Now, does the Bible ever refer to a born-again Christian as a mere man? What does He say you've become? A new creation in Christ Jesus. Old things have passed away.

New things have come. He's saying to these people, I see strife and jealousy existing among you. At best, you're acting like babes who don't know better.

Now, we're going to see what happens to babes. At best, you're acting like babes who don't know better. So, I'm going to tell you that strife and jealousy are wrong.

Now, let me ask you a question. When babes in Christ, and Christ has your whole heart, when babes in Christ hear that strife and jealousy are wrong, what will babes do? Okay? Let's just turn to John 3. Now, mark 1 Corinthians 3, because we're going to keep coming back there. We're going to keep coming back there, but I want you to see Mark 1 Corinthians 3, so you see it.

John 3. Let's see what babes or anybody else in Christ does. John 3. By the way, I want you to look at verse 19. And folks, this is just shortly after verse 16, which we've all quoted and memorized from Sunday school, which says, God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

But now look at verse 19. And this is the judgment, that the light is coming to the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light. Why? For their deeds were evil.

In other words, when the light came, did they come to the light? No, they loved darkness more than they loved light. Now look, let's look at this. Verse 20.

For everyone who does evil, that means practices it, who's got it in his heart, everyone who does evil, what does he think about the light? He hates the light. And what does he do? He does not come to the light. Do you see that? He doesn't come to the light.

In other words, he hears the word and the light, but he doesn't come to the light. Well, let's see the opposite of that. But he who practices the truth... Now let me ask you a question.

Which one describes the Christian? The one who practices the truth. But he who practices the truth comes to the light. Is that clear? Jesus is telling us the difference between a Christian and a non-Christian.

Let me tell you something. I said there were two people who are encouraged by carnal Christian doctrine. One is the one who wants to excuse his carnal lifestyle.

The other one is someone who has tried to overcome, but hasn't known how to overcome. He's not been taught the way of righteousness. And they hate sin.

And they're struggling and trying with all their might to come to the light. But they're told that there are spiritual Christians and there are carnal Christians. And so the enemy tells you, You'll never overcome this sin.

You'll never overcome this sin. You're just one of those carnal Christians. You're not yet walking where they're walking.

You're not yet spiritual enough. And so they're encouraged to remain in defeat. If they could just find a way out, they would come to the light.

Are you hearing me? Let me say this. There is no such thing as a carnal Christian. But Christians can do some carnal things.

Let me say it again. There's no such thing as carnal Christians. But Christians can do some carnal things.

You say, what's the difference? Here's the difference. When the Christian, when Jesus has all of his heart, he will come to the light. When he sees the way out, he takes it.

Are you hearing me? The person who is excusing a carnal life style, and Jesus doesn't have all of his heart, he doesn't come to the light. Because he hates the light. Because he likes his lifestyle more than he loves Jesus.

Are you hearing what I'm saying? How many of you are hearing what I'm saying? Alright. Does that bear witness with you? Alright, now let's see what happens. But he who practices the truth comes to light that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.

Turn to John 6. John 6. Verse 44. John 6, verse 44. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I'll raise him up on the last day.

Now let me just tell you something. That's not a doctrine of predestination there that says some can come and he's chosen some to life and some to death. That's not what that's saying.

He's saying in John 6, verse 44 that the only way to come to Jesus is his way. Who's going to draw you? The Father's going to draw you by the Spirit of God. Is that not right? It's the Spirit of God that draws you.

Who's the Spirit of God going to glorify? Jesus. Does he glorify Jesus himself? No. He glorifies Jesus.

And so what it says is that the only way to come to the Father is to come by the drawing of the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit is going to lead you to give Jesus all your heart. Not part of it, all of it. Are you with me? All right, now look what happens.

It is written in the prophets, and they shall all be taught of God. Everyone, would you please mark everyone? Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, what does he do? Comes to me. Is that clear? If he really has heard and learned.

The word learned means disciple. If he really has heard and become a disciple, what's he going to do? When he hears the light, what's he going to do? He's going to repent of the darkness that was there in his life. He's going to say, that's it.

I can get rid of that sin. I don't want that sin. I've not wanted it in my heart.

He's going to repent of it, and he's going to come to the light. Does that make sense? All right. Now, what did we read was the problem of those people in 1 Corinthians 3? Well, it said that, are you not acting like mere men? And he says, is there not jealousy and strife among you? Now, the King James adds divisions.

Now, you know why it adds divisions? Of course, if you read on down in that chapter, and if you read over in the second chapter, in the first chapter, you'll find that there were divisions. In the first chapter, it describes them. Here's what they were saying.

They were all supposed to be a part of the body of Christ, and here's what they were saying. They're saying, one group is over here saying, I'm of Paul. I follow Paul.

Another group's over here saying, no. Paul's not got the truth. I'm of Cephas.

I follow Cephas. Another group over here said, no. I follow Apollos.

Apollos is the one I follow. Thank God we don't have that today. There's only one body of Christ, and Jesus is the shepherd.

He said, you've got jealousy and strife in your heart. Now, he said, at best, you're acting like fleshly people, babes. But now, we just saw what happens to a babe.

Let's further see what happens to babes. What do babes do? Turn with me, if you would, to Romans 16. Let's see what he means when he talks about babes.

What does the Bible say about babes? Romans 16. Romans 16. I want you to keep your finger on Romans 16 and look at 1 Corinthians 14 also.

Romans 16, and just turn over to 1 Corinthians. Keep your finger there, and then look at 1 Corinthians 14. 1 Corinthians 14, verse 20.

1 Corinthians 14, verse 20. Brethren. 1 Corinthians 14, verse 20.

Brethren, do not be children in your thinking, yet in evil be what? In evil be babes. What does he mean by that? Well, let's turn over to Romans 16 and see what he says. Romans 16, verse 17.

Now, I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ, but of their own appetites, and by their smooth and flattering speech they do what? They deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting. Does that sound sort of like what we read about over in Timothy and in Peter? About those heresies going forth in order that they secretly introduce destructive heresies? And so what it's saying, it's drawing the hearts away from godliness.

Now, here's what happens. For the report of your obedience, would you just say obedience? The report of your obedience has reached to all, therefore I'm rejoicing over you, but I want you to be wise in what's good, and innocent, or babes, in what is evil. So, in other words, what he's saying is, babes in Christ, even though, listen, the Bible doesn't describe babes in Christ as those people who just keep on sinning and keep on sinning and keep on sinning because they've not matured.

Babes in Christ are those who don't know maybe something's a sin, but when the babes in Christ are told to repent, what do they do? They repent and come to the light. Are you following me? Babes in Christ nowhere in the Bible are described as those who just keep on sinning helplessly. I like that next verse.

And the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. Why? Because you're being innocent in what's evil, and you're coming to the light. Are you hearing me? Alright, now look.

Turn with me to 1 Peter 2. We're still looking at babes. We're going to find out. The Bible's its own best commentary, isn't it? So, if we find out what the Bible says about babes, then we'll be able to read 1 Corinthians 3 as God would read it.

And as he wrote it. 1 Peter 2. 1 Peter 2, verse 2. Turn quickly. 1 Peter 2, verse 2. What does it say? Like what? Like newborn babes long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may what? Grow in respect to salvation.

Look at verse 1. What do they do while they're doing that? Therefore, putting aside, how much? How much of it? Babes. Are we talking about babes? Therefore, babes putting aside all malice and all guile and all hypocrisy and all what? Envy. That's the same word for jealousy.

What do babes do when they find out they've got jealousy and strife? They put it aside. They repent and put it aside. They turn from it.

Putting aside all jealousy and all slander. Like newborn babes. Long for the pure milk of the word.

Come to the light. Because they love the word. That you may grow in respect to salvation.

If, would you mark it? We're still talking about babes. If you have tasted the kindness of the Lord. Now why would he say something like that? If you've tasted the, if you really are a babe.

You're going to see this. If you really are a babe. Then you've tasted the kindness of the Lord.

So he's saying, put aside all of this jealousy. All of this malice. All of this slander.

All of this gossip. All of this hypocrisy. If you're really a babe in Christ, put it all away.

And desire the sincere milk of the word of God. And the word will cause you to grow in respect to salvation. If you've tasted of the kindness of the Lord.

What does that mean? Well, look with me at Romans chapter 2. And we'll see what the kindness of the Lord does. What does the kindness of the Lord do? Verse 1. Therefore you are without excuse. Every man of you who passes judgment.

For in that you judge one another. You judge another. You condemn yourself.

For you who judge practice the same things. Now wait a minute. And we know that the judgment of God.

Rightly falls on those who practice such things. Do you see that? Now what kind of things is he talking about? Judgment falling on. What's he talking about practicing? Hold your finger right there.

And just look at the first chapter of Romans. Go right back up. Just a few verses.

Verse 29. Chapter 1 of Romans. We're going to see what they're practicing.

Being filled with all unrighteousness. Wickedness. Greed.

Evil. Full of want. Envy or jealousy.

Murder and what? Strife. What was their problem with these people over in 1 Corinthians 3? Was it jealousy and strife? And now he's telling us. By the way let me ask you a question.

Who wrote 1 Corinthians 3? Paul. Who wrote Romans? If 1 Corinthians 3 means what we've been told it means. In one of them Paul was mixed up.

Because our footnotes tell us. And our doctrines tell us that it's alright to practice strife and jealousy. Because you're a carnal Christian.

And yet here in Romans chapter 2. He says when you practice those things. In verse 2. Chapter 2 of Romans. The judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things.

Is that clear? How many of you see that? Raise your hand. Do you see that? Alright. Now let's look what happens.

Verse 4. Or do you think lightly of the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience. Not knowing that the kindness of God. If you've tasted the kindness of God.

That the kindness of God leads you to what? Repentance. Is that clear? So these newborn babes that he told to put off all this sin. This jealousy.

This strife. This malice. He said put it off.

Desire the sincere milk of the word. That you may grow in respect to salvation. If you've tasted of the kindness of the Lord.

Now you know what he meant when he said if you've tasted of the kindness of the Lord. Because what will the kindness of the Lord cause you to do? When you see you're wrong and it's sin. The kindness of God leads you to repentance.

Because Jesus has got all your heart. Well. What's the opposite of that? Verse 5. The opposite of that.

We read in John 3. There are those. Do they come to the light? No. Here's what happens.

But because of your stubbornness. And what kind of a heart? Everybody say it. An unrepentant heart.

You're storing up wrath for yourself. In the day of wrath. And the revelation of the righteous judgment of God.

Now does that clearly say that. The judgment. Did he say clearly in Romans 1. That practicing jealousy and strife was a part of that? Did he say that? Please tell me if he said that.

Alright. He said that. And now he's telling us in this chapter.

That if you continue to practice jealousy and strife. Folks this is not just a sermon on jealousy and strife. But we're trying to show.

That this applies to all the other fleshly lusts. But 1 Corinthians 3 doesn't mean this. Okay.

Now he tells me in two places here. One. The judgment rightly falls on me when I practice these things.

And secondly he tells me. That if I practice them. That I'm storing up wrath for myself.

In the day of the revelation of Jesus. In other words. I might look religious.

I might look good. I might be in the church. I might look like I'm getting away with something.

But when Jesus comes. I have stored up wrath. Because I've not repented of my sin.

Now look. Who will render. Verse 6. Every man according to his deeds.

Those who by perseverance in doing good. Or righteousness. Seek glory and honor.

Immortality. What do they receive? Eternal life. But to those who are selfishly ambitious.

And do not obey. They do not obey. They do not obey the truth.

But they obey what? Unrighteousness. Let me ask you a question. Is jealousy and strife unrighteousness? And they obey unrighteousness.

What do they receive? Wrath and indignation. Is that clear? Okay. Let's go back to 1 Corinthians 3. Now.

I want to just ask you a question. Have you clearly seen. Have you clearly seen.

That what Paul was saying. Is that if you're a babe in Christ. You will come to the light.

Have you clearly seen that? How many of you have seen that? Did we see that in the Bible? Okay. Now see. This false doctrine.

Says that it's alright to keep that in your heart. You're just Christians who haven't matured. It's all.

They got jealousy and strife. They're going to miss some blessings. When they get to heaven.

They're going to lose some rewards. Alright. But now here's what Paul's saying.

I want to show you clearly what he's saying. Who wrote 1 Corinthians chapter 3? Who wrote 2 Corinthians? Paul. Here's what happened.

Paul wrote a letter to them. In 1 Corinthians. He had been there.

Here he is. He's been in Corinth. He saw the jealousy and the strife.

And all these things. He's preached to them. He's writing them a letter.

Because it's still there. Now. He's going to come back to them.

But before he comes. Now remember. When he was there before.

What existed among them? Strife and jealousy. It was there. But now he's going to come back to them again.

So before he comes. He writes them a second letter. Before he gets there.

Turn to 2 Corinthians. Chapter 13. Let's see what he tells them.

Let's see if Paul says it's alright. For them to be carnal Christians. 2 Corinthians 13.

Verse 5. Test yourselves. To see if you are in the faith. Examine yourselves.

How are we going to do that? Well he tells us. Or do you not recognize this about yourselves? That Jesus Christ is in you. Now let me ask you a question.

How does he dwell in you? How does Jesus dwell in your heart right now as a Christian? Through the Holy Spirit. Does he not? How many of you know that Christians have the Holy Spirit in them? Alright. Jesus dwells in your hearts by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Is that right? Do you agree with me there? Alright. So here's what he's saying. He's saying to them.

Examine yourself. Test yourself to see if you're in the faith. Well how am I going to do that? Well don't you recognize that Jesus Christ dwells in you through the presence of the Holy Spirit? Unless indeed you

what? Fail the test.

Now let me ask you a question. I want you to hold your finger right here. And let's see what the Holy Spirit of God does.

Hold your finger right there and turn to Romans chapter 8. We're going to come back to 2 Corinthians 12. So hold your finger right there. Look with me at Romans chapter 8. Romans chapter 8. Let's look at verse 9. However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.

This is Romans 8-9. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to him. In other words, he'd fail the test, wouldn't he? Well what does the Spirit in you do? Does he just sit there? Like we've been taught.

Does he just remain dormant? How do you know the Spirit of God's in you? Is it some ooey gooey feeling? Is it something that happens, you know, you just get all excited? How do you know the Spirit of God is in you? Let me ask you a question. How many of you feel, feel, feel the Holy Spirit in you every moment of your life? How many of you feel that? So how do you know he's there? Well let's see what the Bible says about how we know he's there. Verse 10.

And if Christ is in you... See, he just talked about the Spirit being in you, didn't he? If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the Spirit, your human spirit, is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give what? He'll give life to your mortal bodies. How? Through His Spirit who indwells you.

Now look what he says to us now. Look what he says to us. So then brethren, because the Holy Spirit's in you to give you life, so then brethren, you are not under obligation to the flesh to live according to the flesh.

See, what he's saying is you are not under obligation to the flesh to obey its lusts if the Spirit of God lives in you. In other words, I've done something for you. Now, I hope I don't have you holding too many fingers, but look at Romans 6 just a minute.

Let's see if he confirms this to us. What does God say about the Spirit of God and sin and believers? Let's look at Romans 6. Look at verse 12. Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should what? Obey its lusts.

Unless you're a carnal Christian. Unless you're just a babe in Christ and you can't help it because you're not mature. Folks, listen to me.

God does not say that maturity gives you victory over sin. The Bible says that maturity draws you into a deeper personal relationship with the Lord Jesus. The Spirit of God gives you victory over sin.

And I just read in Romans 8 that if he's a babe without the Spirit, he's not in Christ. And if the Spirit's living in him, I don't care if he's a babe. If the Spirit's living in him, then that Spirit is there to give life to his mortal bodies.

So that he will not have to live under the obligation of the lusts, sins of the flesh. Is that what that says? Where does that fit in the doctrine of carnal Christians? The only thing you can say is that, well, they're just

not obeying him. Well, let me tell you something.

My Bible says in the book of Acts that God gives his Holy Spirit to those who obey him. Now listen. What else does it say about you? Verse 14.

For sin shall not be master over you, for you're not under law but under grace. But of course, unless you're a carnal Christian, obey. And the grace means that you can sin.

Except Paul said in verse 1, What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may increase? May it never be. How shall he who died to sin live in it? Verse 17. But thanks be to God that though you were, you were, you were, you were slaves of sin.

You became what? Obedient. Where did you come obedient from? The heart. To that form of teaching which you were committed.

And having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. He knows your flesh is weak. But have you ever heard this thing? Well, the Spirit's willing, but the flesh is weak.

He tells you what to do about weak flesh. Look at this. I'm speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh.

For just as you presented your bodies as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness resulting in further lawlessness, so now that you're in Christ, present your members as slaves to righteousness resulting in sanctification. For you were slaves of sin, but you were free in regard to righteousness. What do you mean free in regard to righteousness? Well, look at Romans 8. Here's what it says.

Romans 8, verse 14. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are what? These are the sons of God. Verse 13.

For if you are living according to the flesh, what's going to happen to you? You're going to die. You must die. But if by the what? If by the Spirit you're putting to death the deeds of the flesh, you will live.

In other words, the Holy Spirit of God was put inside you for this very purpose and reason. That life may come to your mortal bodies. That you don't have to be slaves to sin, but that you can walk the way of righteousness.

And the Lord God put the Spirit of God on the inside of you so you could walk that way when He knew you couldn't without the Spirit. Now, we're going to see how the Spirit does that. We're going to see how it works.

But let's go back over to 2 Corinthians very quickly. Chapter 12. 2 Corinthians chapter 12.

We're trying to see if what Paul was saying was that you can continue in fleshly sin rebellion. Who wrote 1 Corinthians chapter 3? Everybody tell me. Paul.

Did he see strife and jealousy among them? Who wrote 2 Corinthians? Did he confront them in 1 Corinthians chapter 3 that there was strife and jealousy? Did he do that? Did he say that at best you're acting like babes, but you're walking like men of the world? What do babes do? When they hear the message of truth and the light and a babe hears that it's strife and jealousy is there and it's not godly, what does a babe do? He repents and comes to the truth, the light. Is that right? All right. Paul is going to come

and see them again and he's going to find out exactly what they've been doing.

So he writes them another letter and here's what he says to them in 2 Corinthians chapter 12. I'm just going to start with verse 19. 2 Corinthians 12.

All this time you've been thinking that we were defending ourselves to you. Actually, it's in the sight of God that we've been speaking in Christ. And all for your what? Upbuilding, beloved.

But now look what he says. For I'm afraid that perhaps when I come I may find you to be not what I wish and may be found by you to be not what you wish. In other words, I may not be able to come to you speaking what you would like for me to speak.

I may have to speak some repentance and judgment again because that perhaps there may be what? Everybody say it. And what? Is that what they had in 1 Corinthians 3? That perhaps when I'm coming back to you this time, I might find that strife and jealousy still there. That perhaps there might be strife and jealousy.

But look, it's gotten bigger. Now it's angry tempers, disputes, slanders, gossip, arrogance, disturbances. I am afraid that when I come again.

Do you see the word again? That when I come again, my God may humiliate me before you and I may mourn over many of those who have sinned in the past and not repented. Not repented. Not repented of the strife and the jealousy, the impurity, the immorality, the sensuality, which they have what? Would you underline that word practiced? Which they have what? Which they have what? Practiced.

Did he mention strife and jealousy in that? Did Paul say that this next time I come, I may actually mourn over you? Listen, when Paul said mourn over them, he wasn't just talking about a little tears. He was talking about mourning over them. Why is he so concerned about those people? Why is he so concerned? Why? Why is he in such a mourning state? Let me tell you why.

Does your Bible say that they might not have repented over the things that they were practicing? Does your Bible say that? Does your Bible say that part of what they were practicing was strife and jealousy? Let's find out why he was in such a state of mourning. Turn with me to Galatians chapter 5. Galatians 5, verse 16. But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not what? Fulfill the lusts of the flesh.

Verse 19. Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions. Does that sound like that list over in 2 Corinthians 12? Is that what they were doing in 1 Corinthians 3? Verse 21.

Envyings, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you that those who what? Practiced. Were they practicing them over in 2 Corinthians 12 without repenting? Those who have practiced such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Now let me ask you a question.

Where's the doctrine of carnal Christians? Where does it say that these babes in Christ can continue in strife and jealousy and go to heaven? Where does it say that the issue in 1 Corinthians 3 is not heaven or hell? Where does it say that? Where does it say that? Folks, do you see how serious this is? Do you know why he was mourning? Because if they didn't repent, they were going to hell. So the saved, yet as by fire,

must mean something else. Wouldn't you say? This concludes tape number 13.

Please fast forward this tape to return it to the beginning. Please proceed to tape number 14 where this message continues.

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