

Ye Are Yet Carnal

by Leonard Ravenhill

The sermon emphasizes the importance of overcoming carnality and living a life surrendered to Christ, through a radical transformation of the heart and mind.

Duration: 1:03:21

Scripture: Matthew 6:33, Acts 18:5-6, Acts 18:9-10, Romans 7:18, Romans 8:1, Romans 8:9, Romans 8:17

Topics: "Carnality"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher discusses the importance of humility and surrendering to God. He emphasizes the need to let go of pride and worldly possessions in order to fully submit to God's will. The preacher shares the story of a man who experienced a dramatic transformation after confessing his sins and surrendering his life to God. He also mentions the importance of studying the Bible and being cautious of false teachings. Overall, the sermon encourages listeners to humble themselves before God and fully commit their lives to Him.

Transcript

I have said you would know if you're not with me, for hitherto you were not able to bear it. Neither yet now are ye able, for we are yet carnal. For perhaps there is an unchanging of strife and division.

Are ye not carnal and warlike men? For one one saith I am of Paul, and another I am of Apollos. Are ye not carnal? Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos? That ministers by whom we believe, even as the Lord gave to every man. I have sanctioned Apollos' quarters, but God gave me increase.

So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth. But God has given me increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth the land, and every man shall receive his own reward, according to his own labour.

It must be true of all of us that we have our favourite characters in the world of God. And after Jesus Christ, and presently, Paul has a place of preeminence in my interest and in my thinking. So again to measure Paul by our modern standards of spirituality is about as difficult as trying to measure the sun.

I have walked with this man considerably during this very day, and pictured him like a colossus, like a giant. And seeing that he towers into the sky, I have had to recognise that at the side of him spiritually I am only a dwarf. He embarrasses me with his spiritual wealth so that he makes me conscious of my spiritual

poverty.

He has left abundant evidence of his great spiritual strength, and so I am forced to recognise my weakness. He has such an abundance of sacrifice that my sacrifice looks like sacrilege at the side of it. He knows so much about the power of God that I haven't even got the soles of my feet wet yet, never mind got into the place of water for the ankles, or knees, or waters for swimming.

Maybe one of the most embarrassing things when we get to the judgment seat of Christ, we can say that right at our fingertips there was wealth, that not only would make us wealthy in Christ, but would make a certain Jesus Christ wealthy. It is of course fundamental to our truth that, as the word of God says, that if a man saves his life he loses it. But that isn't all the story.

If you save your life you're not going to lose it, you'll lose somebody else's. No man lives for himself and no man dies for himself. And here is a classical example of a man who confessed that his life was hid with Christ in God.

Now, the background of this story of the Church of Corinth is given in the 17th and 18th chapters of the book of Acts. There is no spiritual evidence that Paul ever had a period of backsliding. I'm fully persuaded in my own mind that this man sat down and counted the cost.

He had already had evidence that in following Jesus Christ, he might lead to the premature and untimely death of Stephen then, whose death he had already witnessed. And so when he goes over into the realm of Christ and leaves behind Judaism, he forgets his colossal pedigree and he resigns his wonderful intellect. And there, though one few have seen the greatest intellect of his day, they were fooled with Christ's faith.

He didn't bear it with reproach, he didn't fight back, he very gladly embraced it and said, well, if that's foolishness, then wipe me off as a fool. Now, this man lived, as maybe no other man, or at least very few men, have ever lived. The criminal response to this is that we have divided loyalties.

Andrew Bonner once wrote a wonderful hymn, we know the first part of it, we sing it over and over again, O happy day that fixed my choice, on thee my Saviour and my God, that's only half the story. When he got to the last verse, he said triumphantly, now rest my long-divided heart. And I've come to the conclusion that lots of people, now this may not be true, but I'm quite sure of this, that lots of people have been sitting in the confessional listening to the confessions of Andrew Bonner.

I've heard murder, I've heard rape, I've met pedophiles, I've met fornicators, I've met men and women who have robbed in every law. We don't call it pedidism, we may wrap it up and call it ambition, we may call it business, we may call it this. And Paul says, pedidism is idolatry.

This man had a complete set-up. Weep in my witness, Jane, I count the loss. And for the contents of all my... Where the whole realm of nature lies... We modernise... Demands my... Love like that of course, Paul said.

Love so... That he loved me and... I hurled men to prison. I've got to be thought within myself that I'd be doing a good... If I went and captivated a man who had lighted the fire of Jesus Christ... Herodotus, who is sometimes called the father of history, tells us that previously, even to the days of the apostles, it was possible for a man who had been a slave, if he could escape from his old master, he could run to the temple of Heracles. And there, based on the soles of his feet, or putting his shoulder down on his back,

they would brand him with the brand of his God.

That man might come away from the temple, be going down the street to his old master to see him. And he'd say, Hi, get that man for me there. And they'd run and arrest the man, and he'd say, Bring him here.

I'll make you bow. I'll crack the whip over you. I'll make you realise who's your master.

You come here and bow and apologise. And then I'll scourge you a thousand times. The man would come alright.

They'd be able to see a Deborah he'd get down and poke fun at his master. And before they could crack the whip, he'd lift his foot up and say, See that side? I don't belong to you anymore. I belong to my God.

I've been to the temple of Heracles. I'm branded as the prophet. He becomes almost a saint.

He's with all his others. And the tribe of Benjamin, and the sheep. He comes right out of the very core of everything that's good.

And he'll be struck with all of those denominations. Brother, some of us nearly get dead God denominations. Amen.

That's right. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we get some people just like this, like Paul. Amen.

And he gets to say, Three generations. Oh, I just want a bit of help. Well, I wouldn't help anybody with it.

What do you want? Just to close the walk with God. Well, get up and walk with him. There's only one reason.

And if you don't want to die, well, don't count. We need to answer the altar. Amen.

Take a look back there. And then he not only died, he died for everything. So as I said last night, he's one ambition.

He said, I'm a decadent. There's not a man or a woman here that's born of God. Listen.

World ties of these not only said it here, it is like it, isn't it? and you find him in the sentence chapter that, there he is, he's on the hill the oleophagus, arguing with men, with the scientists, with the Epicurans, and with a lot of men all gather round him and when they start reasoning, he reasons he gives history against history and poetry against poetry and philosophy against philosophy, while there's a letter of Paul to the Corinthians and the Ecclesiastics and the Romans and the Thessalonians and there's no epistle of Paul well, because as far as we know, there's only one or two people who were converted, and then he leads those brilliant intellectuals intellectualism not only his geographical high, he came up with an ethnic dare into Corinth and faced the greatest challenge of

his next ritual, Corinth! the old German commentator Meyer said, Corinth that he founded the Church of God at Corinth, the Church of God in Corinth it sounds as ridiculous as talking about a square circle a church in Corinth not long ago a lady came to our home, just before I was coming and I don't even remember the pastime of some of these ladies well, I didn't want to be in that and, uh, I don't remember but I remember one day, my father took me out to the coast and there there was a stretch of the sea run right inland and a little hair ran through it when Paul was living and he wanted to attack and Paul had left

immorality prostitutes were studying the Church do you know how he did it? oh, he preached and thundered away at men and women he must be born again, bloody preach about being

born again, unless you do something about men being born again to be a success here, and then a part of God and he was ashamed of it and he gives you the reason that he writes in his secret Corinth so you see, it doesn't matter very much whether the city goes to hell or fire but if somebody had a revival then we'd say, now look, you need to beat those converts to long swaths and if they got to the street, that's it, they won't have all we'll put a label on them, we'll beat them we won't do poor things in any of them people were coming by hundreds to the altar, and people were there with the Bibles, and they found the fact that the Adventist were walking at the altar they found some of the Jehovah's Witnesses were at the altar and taking the converts to the sky and I almost feel like

patting them on the back they didn't even have the courage to do it so I always was like, but all nothing matters people are perishing in your city in your town, in your village that was a meeting not very long ago we'll cancel all our meetings and then finally I said, oh yes, yes there's another question, all right brother he said, are you going to give them to us because they live in our area or are you going to hand out the deceitful cards and say 10,000 because after all the days he may have 10,000 if you wanted to get paid you might get your poor bankruptcy and then they get a lot of perjury Paul says he has 10,000 instructed in Christ so what that's why he got revival he knew how to produce people he knew how to father them in the faith he knew how to conceive in the Holy Ghost he

knew how to travel until Christ would form the men of the midst we don't do that anymore you can hardly remember the last time there were tears in your prayer meeting you can hardly remember the last time somebody hit the devil as it were right on the chin in the prayer meeting that's right most of our prayer meetings we just give God advice we hand him a shopping list and ask him would he get these sent down our way as quickly as he can because that would save us having a lot of stress poor Paul didn't do that every man is diseased and he had something that could heal that man's disease every man, he was a debtor while we got 18 scabs of the Acts of the Apostles he went in the synagogue and in the synagogue he preached he reasoned with them in the marketplace in season, out of season and

we get a burden to solve that, that will get revival when we sweat in our purgatory we'll get revival when we conceive in the Holy Ghost we'll get revival when birth pain shows up oh, I'm getting lonely to see you come by we'll just, yeah, it'll be wonderful Nexus debtors Nexus wrestlers you talk about our spiritual pedigree any Moravians around here any Moravians, put up your hands oh, nobody, well Tolga once told me he said, Raviel, the only thing I know about you must be a Moravian well that's good, I'd be glad to all the Moravians, generally they put an iron collar around their necks and chain them up to the man, and they book five they die in slavery happy to do it happy that they might pray to the man to do it when he established the church anyhow that's the main thing that matters

here when he got the disciples, he writes them at least two years after he had seen them wonderfully born again in the Spirit of God he says he are yet Y-E-T, he are yet carnal, they were carnal when they were born and they're still in carnality and he is concerned that they get rid of this carnal thing called carnality something has erected their spiritual development, they're dwarfs they haven't grown up they can't put on the whole armour of God, they can't fight God's battles, they can't bear God's burdens there are things God wants to show them but there are some things he could never show to them and they'd be terrified we pray enough God to give us wisdom and do this and do the other but if God says I hold off you, you could leave he uses the word over and over and over he says you

are carnal, whereas there is among you ending and strife is external divisions are internal ending, strife division a palenting heart a pendious a cankerous, a smitten and strife in the body of Christ listen fellow, you know that you know that woman who can't bear you know that woman who can't bear, listen if Christ is in that man and Christ is in that man will the Christ in that man be the Christ in that man will the Christ in that man so Paul here, he claims he's a wise man he claims he's a good husband he's a soul surgeon he looks on these feet and says I know I am you're carnal you're carnal as the poet says the great Methodist church Leonard Evans, the Methodist preacher of England was preaching and he used this thoughtful illustration of when just about a week before he was born his

mother met her friend and said and they agreed to send information to the other when the child was born and one day in hospital this woman received a note to say, some days after Mrs.

Evans received, and and there was a little carol on one day she didn't say look at my little baby isn't he beautiful and that little carol went to his bed the other has been an athlete a cricketer a footballer, a swimmer he's developed his intellect he's the pride of his father and mother the other little carol went to his bed he's six feet two in length and he plays with a little rattle and he loves to have a balloon and he's a child and his mother even has to chew food and pre-digest it I know some people who've been in faith twenty years and that priest in an old barn a place with holes in the roof and he said the man that had read H.G.

Wells' outline of history and Schopenhauer's the fellow said to me, you see that man at the back, brother, it would take a year and then I said, God those miracles you know he sat me down to the altar and there he wept and sobbed with his tears he groaned he didn't say my lord I've been and he laid them out and he humbled himself he was living with four married women going to the homes at night living in immorality living in drunkenness, living in wickedness within six months of being born of the spirit that young man and I've seen there his mother couldn't afford to burn the electric lights cause he's a man that gets down the haystack and beats it, in five years some people brought around wickedness, they put off this but it put him on the ground this is the hour of militants underneath

this is the hour when you don't have the atheists at the street corner with a red face, hurling fire and drinks from almighty God you don't need the atheists at the street they put the bible, you can't teach them by rolling into my friend's body these are the churches of your brain babies, babies like things they like to get dressed up, don't they if you wanted all one colour seeds they're down at it appears to release, how about if he weakens it you've got a cancer in your body and you feed your body, you don't feed your body they feed the cancer and you think your priest is an outspoker because he's not a rough, well-born individual and you think he's nice, and he's taking you to hell on a feather bed and then went into the doctor's one poor face, as yellow as fetter, and the doctor

said I'm dying, good Lord he's got it all right you've even got to get the colour out of the poor boy if he told you where you are and what you are you'd have fired him already but he says where you are ah we go along all right so far, all right when we talk about renouncing sin, all right when we talk about being born again that's all right and those of us who follow John Wax in each department, those that follow John Calvin they take the low road, while we take the high poor Calvin, he's in for a bad time at the judgment, I wouldn't like to be Calvin without him not being Leonard Raisman but it's not an amendment I'm John Calvin, I've been learning from Hedwig Amner it's amazing what we believe in because somebody said it you know I believe in Henry Post who'd written the Bible and a

lot of people who believe it in America don't believe it right now he says you can't understand it unless you scoop your soup up with your hand or something Henry Post said it Henry Post said it I don't care if the gate post says it it isn't what says when it's what gets on the scripture doesn't bypass carnality the scripture doesn't bypass demeanour ah yes, I heard one of the world's greatest preachers preach a wonderful sermon boy he counted it as nearly to heaven and then the poor fellow became conscious that maybe he was going to get us all back to wherever you're in the flesh you'll wrestle with that old demon inside while it truly goes to the grave hmm and then he said if you want to know the proof listen to this at the end of Romans 7 it's not I it's sin that dwelleth in me oh

wretched man would I am but didn't I Paul argue with the Corinthians about carnality because he had it hmm he said I am carnal, stalled under sin but don't tell me he stayed there don't tell me you can batter a man against the wall brother, somebody did cross, but you let your pet the preacher remembers that when they had those scrambled eggs and things in the church there the other week that you gave three eggs and Mrs.

So-and-so gave two and the ancient she gave two you didn't get your right amount of appreciation you can't offend a man that's filled with the spirit of God Jesus was never offended I'm carnal we all hide behind Paul he said he's carnal but my apostle was carnal he was stalled under sin oh wretched man that I am yes he does, read Romans 7 he says I am carnal he made me do that you go on and read it carefully, Romans 7 and mark how many times the Holy Spirit you'll be a good man if you can find it I've read it many a time and can't find the spirit mentioned in Romans 7 and then he goes to Romans chapter 8 and it's full of the spirit and the I expect in verse 17 when he says I reckon at verse 37 when he says I know that I am betrayed Romans 7 is a man that's sin-centered and self-centered

Romans 8 is an emancipated man who is Christ-centered and you can go on with everything you like when he says I am he says oh wretched man that I am who shall deliver you from what Paul? from the body of this death so the Romans could put you on a cross like that, the traditional cross we call it the cross of Christ the Romans could put you on a cross like an X stretching up your arms and legs the Romans could put you on a cross there was only a straight piece of wood with a great big spear through it and they'd take you and bang your body on that spear and turn you over and leave you hanging upside down a cross like that or a cross like that or a straight piece of wood with a spear through it those were not the worst deaths the worst death that the Romans gave to a man was to take the

body of the man that he had murdered and tie the dead body to the living body and the dead hand to the living hand and the trunk of the body the man had to carry it in him whenever he went the body of this death when he tried to squeeze it that wretched old corpse there and when he breathed in hair's extension rottenness and when he looked he looked into the glassy eyes of the dead man and little by little the death in that man was creeping to the body of the living man it was the body of death if I saw a man going down the street carrying a body of death staggering round and he said you know what the law says the law says if I cut the body of death from you then the law will take that body of death and pass it on to me and I don't love you enough so Paul says who should deliver me from

the body of this death and the law can't do it and my will power doesn't manage it oh wretched man am I in this dilemma angels look down and pick up who shall deliver me is it finished there it is said no no nobody can do it not even Jesus the law says if I cut the body from that man they'll take that body and pass it on to me that's just what Jesus did going there so that old man was crucified with him I take it there that that old man is in old life not in old nature it's the old habits of life the old habits of life knowing this that our old

habits our old way of living was crucified with him now that the body of sin the thing I inherited from Adam the thing I'm cutting about you can't run with a body attached to you you can't live in freedom with a body attached to you, you can't run

for God with carnality attached to you you can't fight the fight of God you've got a dead arm there and you've been asking God so long for a better prayer life you've been asking God that you might really have a passion for souls but I'm an old bitter devilish carnal and he doesn't want to get up and pray it exalts me, it sins for me it dresses me he knew the day when he was born again and the spirit of God sure he did on that road he couldn't do otherwise but Paul doesn't really know the day he was born again he says this in Galatians 2.20 I am crucified with Christ nevertheless I live but not I, there's the I crucified, cancelled it's not I but Christ that liveth in me and the life eternal you can never destroy this flesh you can never destroy a human personality but you can destroy a

self all the things that he's got and there's temptation there and there's satanic influence there and there's a mouldy church there full of zack biting and freedom in Christ Jesus you'll get all of that amen you're carnal carnal as you're not born again you're born again but I have to feed you with a bottle when you look nice in the office you go back to the Bible school and sit down your husband's driving the car and you have your head popped up in a nice big bottle I fed you with milk the priest has to go around I can't leave a few little speakers in and a bottle of milk here babies don't want battles, they want bottles Christians don't want battles they want bottles they want sympathy and they say that there's this holy spirit but he's not a nursing mother for spiritual receptics he's

not a nursing mother for those who are spiritually incompetent and weak, no sir all he wants is power he's dynamic he obeys the priest doesn't have to teach you about a baby he likes his own way doesn't he you wonder why that child's so stupid why do you wonder look where he's born from the carnal mind is endlessly against God it's not subject to the law of God God can't cure carnality it's impossible to cure it the only thing you can do is carnality you can't train carnal nature you can't improve carnal nature you can't educate carnal nature the only thing you can do is kill kill that's right exactly what God wants to do and your will is in rebellion against the will of God you'd rather do this you'd rather do something else you'd rather be seen you'd rather be known rebellious, stubborn

you bring a child into a group of people and you say now she knows a lovely piece of come on Mary let me go out to the room to get coffee carnality it was fear that kept you quiet when fear is in power is out self will self interest protecting self protecting self weakness you can't get a child it's not easy to live for God I don't believe it's easy to live for God but it's all in the spirit if you're dead, ah yes folks I'm dead but I don't only die, I die daily I say is that you John this is a lovely evening let's go on the river and fish we go on the river and play I can't really afford the time but it is a lovely night isn't it we'll just take an hour we're going pretty good we might as well take another half hour yeah that's right and you say well nice and early John nothing wrong

with fishing as far as I know but brother it's a sin God told you go pray that's right all the things you tell me so often but oh we get rid of it amen wonder why God doesn't move brother you start praying you go to a certain family and you hate the man in the next room how can you profess to him the Bible doesn't say you can ask God the Bible says humble yourself another night behind the door brother you'll be humble you go around and tell that deacon say deacon you know I want to tell you this but I've always thought you should have that I say well brother God is so unkind but for God's sake David God wants you to find somebody wants to put a vision in somebody's eyes my friend Duncan Campbell before he had it the holy ghost hit

him flat in a meeting so he got up like an honest man and

he went home and he had a vision of God he had a vision of the world and then he said to me that's the two of us talking together I don't know now whether I had a vision or whether I had a dream or whether God lifted me and I didn't know either or the other and he never said a word to her he said I don't know my God there's something wrong he said at the very moment she prayed I was looking into that burning abyss with millions of damned souls people in that could never get out don't you tell me that's the trouble with a modernistic church when we read sinners weep you've got to be a man to pray you've got to have strength to pray you've got to have the power to break a heart you can't pray and claim it's exerting so many of the fighting little battles in our hearts fighting little

enemies inside of us but we can't fight the enemies outside in the world self-seeking, self-interest so I finished, Paul sent me to Carmel I thought he knew about Carmel, he had been to Carmel in every system he had removed the Carmelites thank God for the cure yes, thank God Amen

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