

Works of the Flesh / Fruit of the Spirit

Part 4

Scripture: Galatians 5:16-26

Scripture Reading: Matthew 23:25-28

INTRO:

Well, we are now up to the third works of the flesh in the list of Galatians chapter 5 verse 19, works of the flesh which are evident according to Paul. Evident, meaning something that is plainly recognized or identified by the rest of the people.

C. Uncleaness

And we have come to the work which Paul calls uncleaness. Now on the surface it may sound like someone unkempt or of someone who is filthy. And what may come to your mind may be thoughts of people who have left off on personal hygiene for a bit too long, or maybe the thought of the living conditions of homeless people. Or maybe you think of the TV show called 'Hoarders', where they show the homes of people who have lived in their houses for years and have never thrown out one bit of trash.

They may have lost the use of running water, and flush toilets and are now living in and under 3 or 4 feet of filth, with mold, mice, maggots, rats and trash.

And when we think of uncleanness, our minds want to think of situations like these and say ‘yes’ this is unclean, this kind of living is the uncleanness that Paul must be talking about. Well it is not.

This uncleanness, listen now, this uncleanness is not filthiness as we would normally understand filth as in the previous example, that is not what this uncleanness is referring to.

Nor is this uncleanness referred to as dirty, as when you let your children outside to play in the summer and they find a nice fresh mud puddle, and they decide to indulge themselves in the elements of mother nature, and when they have fully immersed themselves in the rich exfoliating properties of the mud they decide to come into the house to show mom the treasure they have found... remember parents, camera first, bath second, because one day you too will look back and laugh at those moments. But this mud, this dirtiness is also not the uncleanness that Paul is talking about.

Nor is it a reference to the Old Testament, in the many times it talks about the ceremonial or religious uncleanness imposed on the Israelites when it refers to the laws of temple worship, or leprosy, or the uncleanness of the people in other various situations. It is not this uncleanness that is spoken of here either.

No matter what you see as filth in other people's homes, or dirty in what we see in their attire, or uncleanness as spoken of in the Old Testament, this is not what Paul is talking about. Remember Paul is talking about the works of the flesh, the things done in or that come from our body, from within ourselves. Not from our surroundings or environment. In fact, this sin of uncleanness can be found in some of the cleanest, up-to-date, modern décor homes out there. Some of the nicest homes out there, with some of the cleanest people living there are filled with this uncleanness. Now that may sound a little backwards but once we understand what this uncleanness is it will begin to make sense.

If you look at where this word is listed in the list, we see it comes after the second one called fornication which comes after the first one called adultery.

And to give you a hint, these first 4 all have a common connection, and the progression that Paul makes here in this verse should be an indication of what he is trying to cover with this word.

When I quoted pastor Phil on his view of fornication as being a narrow term, that it is a sin of the unmarried, I gave the comment to that quote by saying;

...we have come to a time in our day where this work of the flesh is unchecked almost everywhere. And this is perhaps why the translators of the New King James Version chose to change the translation as pastor Phil noted in his message, that 'the NKJV has followed the modern view in that pornia is a broad term that covers all kinds of physical immorality.' So that when the translators and interpreters of that New King James Version, saw what was coming out in the 60's and 70's in regards to fornication, they wanted to cover all the bases as we sometimes say. Because what happened in that era of time has only been magnified and multiplied from that time onward.

EOQ

Pastor Phil has shown us the grammatical error when fornication is used as a broad term, and illustrated this in his message by saying;

Slide 1 black

Slide 2 -

Last year we planted vegetables, carrots, peas, potatoes and cucumbers in our garden. The word vegetables does not fit because it is a broad term.

Now we know that this sentence is grammatically incorrect as pastor Phil has explained, and I also believe that the translators were wrong in classing porneia as a broad term as well.

However, when looking at this word uncleanness, the word we are focusing on today, it is never used in that narrow sense. When it is used in scripture it is always seen and used as a broad term and we will see this when it is used in other places in scripture.

To show us this difference it would be if we would take the previous quote and say it like this;

Slide 3 - Last year we planted carrots, peas, potatoes, cucumbers, AND other vegetables in our garden.

Do you see the difference? Here the word vegetables can now encompass any and all kinds of vegetables we planted excluding the previously mentioned plants. Now it can now cover a broad term of vegetables and still be grammatically correct.

This is how I believe this word uncleanness is used in the bible, it is not a narrow term, not just one thing as we will see in a moment, but it is a collection of many things but excludes the two previously listed, adultery, and fornication.

And so before we go any farther with gardening, I will show us what this word is and from where it originates. The base root word is the word kathairo kath-ah'-ee-ro Strong's number 2508 and it actually means to cleanse or to remove the unwanted. It is only used twice in scripture, once in John 15 verse 2 where Jesus says;

*"Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away;
and every branch that bears fruit He prunes that it may
bear more fruit.*

It is the word prunes which is the word here, and it is the removal of the unwanted branches in this verse. The second is in Hebrews chapter 10 verse 2 speaking of the law and of the offerings in cleansing, starting in verse 1 it says;

For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.

2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified would have had no more consciousness of sins.

In verse 2 he talks about ‘once purified’, this is the cleansing that this word is referring to.

Now from this word kathairo kath-ah’-ee-ro, the Greek adds the negative particle A to the word to mean the opposite. And just a side note here, the English does the same with some words as well. In the English we have the word ‘muse’ which means to think or ponder as compared to ‘amuse’ which means not to think or be entertained by not thinking.

The same is done with this word kathairo kath-ah’-ee-ro, meaning to cleanse and it adds the negative particle A to the word and it becomes akathartos ak-ath’-ar-tos Strong's number 169 and it is defined in the Online Bible Greek Lexicon as, you may have guessed it;

Not cleansed, or unclean,

In the gospels and twice in Acts and twice in Revelation it is used when describing fallen angels or demons calling them ‘unclean spirits’.

The word is also used by Peter in his encounter with the sheet that was let down from heaven, which contained all kinds of unclean animals, and Peter says; Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or ‘unclean.’ Peter referring to the Jewish law of the Old Testament in the eating of clean and ‘unclean’ animals. This of course was the Lord’s way of showing Peter that ‘no man’ should be called unclean because of ethnicity, saying;

...But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean. Acts 10:28

And the remaining places where this word is used are in 1 Corinthians 7:14 where it speaks of marriage between a believer and a nonbeliever and their children, and in 2 Corinthians 6:17 where Paul quoted the Old Testament and speaks of not touching unclean things. These are all the references used of something not cleansed or of something unclean and the one place where this word is used where it implies the ‘uncleanness’ that we are looking at today, is found in Ephesians chapter 5 verse 5 saying;

For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

This ‘unclean’ person is the same word that Peter was told not to call any man, but here in this context we can tell it is not ethnicity that is in view and it is not referring to unclean spirits either. But rather as the context says, has something to do with some kind of sin of the flesh as it is in the same context of a ‘fornicator’ ‘covetous’ and ‘idolatry’ which then brings us to the word we are looking at today.

And that word is akatharsia ak-ath-ar-see’-ah, We went from...

Slide 4 - Kathario: kath-ah’-ee-ro, To cleanse or as in trees to prune

Slide 5 - to Akathartos: ak-ath’-ar-tos which means not cleansed or something unclean

Slide 6 - to the word we are looking at today which is comes from Akathartos, and is akatharsia ak-ath-ar-see’-ah Strong's number 167, and means uncleanness in the physical and moral sense and again, not physical dirtiness or filth, but in the physical immoral sense.

This is the word translated ‘uncleanness’ of our text, in Galatians chapter 5. And it is this word that I think translators could or should have translated as sexual immorality and not the word porneia, for as we will see this uncleanness does cover many things in a broad sense.

Slide 7 - As I said earlier when we looked at the sentence, Last year we planted carrots, peas, potatoes, cucumbers and other vegetables...

This uncleanness is those other vegetables, and we will see this uncleanness is not adultery, and this uncleanness is not fornication, nor is it lewdness, the former two are both narrow terms, and uncleanness and lewdness (which we will cover next time) are both broad terms.

This uncleanness is used when the writer wants to lump a lot of other immoral sins together into one word.

The first time it is used in the New Testament it is used by Jesus in describing the scribes and Pharisees in Matthew 23 verse 27 which was read for us earlier saying;

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.

Remember I said earlier that some of the cleanest people live in this uncleanness, because remember, this is not the uncleanness that Peter talked about in the ethnic sense and it is not uncleanness in the religious or ritual sense, but the uncleanness in the physical immoral sense. Now keep this verse in mind because by the time we cover the other verses, this verse, these words of Jesus will be brought into a whole new light as to what he was accusing the Pharisees of.

If we look at where this word is used in scripture in comparison to some of the other words we have looked at, we will see how it is separate from some but may also include others, and you will see this as we go through them.

Now one of the first things you will see is that this word uncleanness is almost always used next to the word fornication and therefore, grammatically, it cannot and does not include fornication. The first is 2 Corinthians chapter 12 verse 21; and I will put them up on the overhead so that you can see them. This is Paul speaking to the Corinthians saying;

Slide 8 -

lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and I shall mourn for many who have sinned before

and have not repented of the uncleanness, fornication, and lewdness which they have practiced.

Notice the three distinct categories Paul gives us in the verse, uncleanness, fornication and lewdness.

Slide 9 - Galatians chapter 5 verse 19 the verse we are looking at;

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,

Again according to this verse, this uncleanness cannot and does not cover or include the other three, it would be grammatically incorrect if it did.

Slide 10 - Colossians chapter 3 verse 5;

Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Slide 11 - and then Ephesians chapter 5 verse 3:

But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;

Here In Ephesians in this verse he calls it ‘all uncleanness’, this word ‘all’ is described in the Online Bible Greek Lexicon as:

Each, every, any, all, the whole, everyone, all things,
and everything.

Or as the second definition says;

The collective

This ‘all’ could either mean ‘all uncleanness’ meaning all of it, as a single whole as being just one thing, “or” ‘all uncleanness’ as all things covered by uncleanness as a collective of individual things.

I think it is the second because this is where we can begin to see that this uncleanness encompasses much more than just one narrow term. And I think the reason Paul calls it ‘all uncleanness’ is because there are categories within this category.

So, by now you may be thinking ‘ok, so what is this uncleanness?’, ‘what is it that Paul is trying to convey?’, for none of these verses spell out clearly what it actually is, and you are right. When it is used as a drop box for all kinds of things, it is hard to define it as one thing, and that is because, it is not just one thing.

Turn your bibles to Romans chapter 1, and it is here where we will begin to see what this collection of uncleanness really is, and show us what it all in-tails.

Romans chapter 1 and I will start reading from verse 18;

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

Slide 12 -

24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, (there is our word) in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,

God gave them up to uncleanness. In the beginning of verse 26 a parallel passage it says; *For this reason God gave them up to vile passions.*

And for most of us we know what the rest of the passage talks about as Paul goes on to describe what this uncleanness is, in verse 24 he calls it the ‘lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies’, in verse 26 he calls it ‘vial passions’, and ‘what is against nature’, in verse 27 he calls it ‘committing what is shameful’ and ‘error’, to do those things which are ‘not fitting’ and ‘exchanged the natural use for what is against nature’.

This is what I believe is some of that uncleanness that Paul often refers to. If you look at 1 Corinthians chapter 6 verse 9 and I’ll put it up on the screen here,

Slide 13 - it says:

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

And as you look at this verse... tell me what's missing? What sin is missing from this list as opposed to the one we are looking at in Galatians 5 verse 19?

Uncleanness... uncleanness is not mentioned, and I believe that, it's not missing, but rather Paul has shown us as he did for us in Romans chapter 1 and shows us what uncleanness is,

Slide 14 - and they are right there.

These and those listed in Romans chapter 1 are just a couple of items in that box he calls uncleanness when we look at scripture. It is all the other sins of the body committed with other people that do not fit into the narrow category of adultery, or of fornication.

But rather includes all the rest of sins and acts committed in the body if not otherwise mentioned as he does in 1 Corinthians chapter 6 verse 9. And Paul just puts them all in one box and calls it uncleanness as he does in Galatians and other parts of scripture. This makes sense grammatically when we see this word used in scripture. And this makes sense if it is viewed as it not being adultery nor as fornication or lewdness, but as the collection of other sins too numerous to mention every time that Paul wants to address the issues.

It is this broad term that translators should expounded on in their translation instead of messing with the word porneia, in making fornication cover a multitude of other sins, when in fact they were already covered with this word uncleanness.

Because when viewed as a broad term there is a lot that can be placed into the box of this word, and perhaps it is a broad term because the Lord knew what this box or this word would all come to cover in the future, because even now here in our day we are just simply starting to call it and its sins as referring to the alphabet people, and you'll see why in a moment.

Because if we now want to transition from the use and study of this word in scripture, to the application of your life here today. To giving you the little pieces of the big picture living in righteousness and holiness I have to start by taking you back to about the 1940's.

In the 1940s the term 'awake' was used to describe the person who was well informed on the issues of social injustice and racism, someone who was alert to the discrimination and harm suffered by African Americans, up to and prior to the 1940s.

To which I'm sure we could agree with, when we learn of how much persecutions African Americans suffered in American history up to the 40's, 50's and into the 60's and 70's and even later.

I'm sure we would all have agreed to being 'awake' to the things that were going on in the United States regarding some of the treatment these people faced and to be aware of the treatment and discrimination going on in the then 'modern world'. But as it often goes in the world, all good things and intentions turn bad sooner than later.

Because much of that 'awakeness' has drastically changed, with the great revolution of liberalism in immorality of the 60's and 70's, a movement that has fueled much of the 'awake' we are now seeing today.

Today it is no longer about being 'awake' to the discrimination of African Americans, but has transitioned to 'woke' which now includes the discrimination of almost any kind of movement, or liberal agenda out there and has given people license to almost everything.

Now days this 'woke', includes everything from ethnicity and immigration to climate change, political correctness and canceled culture.

And the most dangerous one out there threatening our world today is the... and let me read this right, is the LGBTQQIP2SAAIAPK movement of woke. And if you look at our world today this movement is the most vocal, most colorful, and the most non-tolerant movement out there and one that is the most powerful in its indoctrination and corruption of society.

And how does this apply to the topic of the works of the flesh we are looking at? It is because I think that 99.99% of this movement this woke alphabet is linked to uncleanness in some way shape or form and it encompasses all kinds of immorality.

And with an average of only being approximately 3.5% to 7% of the population of the nation, they make it look and sound as if they own and control the world.

In the last message I quoted Pastor Phil where he said;

...Today, pornia is taught to little children in many public schools by teaching things unfit to be discussed among adults. Today, our society and public schools are so depraved, it is hard to comprehend that any who call themselves Christians send their children there...

EOQ

And as I said last time, I believe that in the few years from him writing this it has become even worse. Well, I know it has become worse, within just a few days from finishing this message my wife Liesa showed me just a small part of a pamphlet that was being handed out to school children in teaching this immorality, let me tell you it is utterly inhumanely disgusting.

Because it is not only porneia that is being taught and promoted, it now has come to the point where ‘all kinds of uncleanness’ is being taught and not just taught it is endorsed, and not only endorsed it is being stuffed into the minds of children so that there is hardly any possibility that they will ever come out of public school normal.

Even just quoting Wikipedia on the topic of Drag Queen Story Hour it says;

The events, usually geared for children aged 3 – 11, are hosted by drag queens who read children’s books, and engage in other learning activities in public libraries.

EOQ

In the previous message I talked about how the sin of fornication was the issue of younger people and the unmarried, and how our defense to this begins with us parents over our children, how the unmarried need to guard their minds to the temptation of this sin.

However it is uncleanness that is taking president not only in every age group, but every aspect of our society.

The amount of power that this movement has somehow found is staggering, almost unfathomable, in the last few years this movement of woke has gained the power to destroy businesses in eliminating and shutting down those who do not conform.

It has gained the ability to subvert government in moving forward with legal and political agendas.

It is empowering the medical system to unleash all kinds of experimental practices on perfectly healthy young boys and girls, totally overruling any parental decision or opposition with criminal punishment, practices I would put on par with what World War Two Nazi doctors were doing to their prisoners.

It has been given the power to almost completely rewrite school curriculum to fit their agenda.

And I fear, for the irreversible damage that will have been done to this nation by the time this nation wakes up from this woke, if it ever will.

For there is nothing ‘woke’ about this movement, rather it is all about people slumbering and sleeping and sidelining with this horrible sin that Paul calls uncleanness.

Paul says the works of the flesh are evident, and boy is this one evident today. There is hardly a place where its colors are not displayed, there is hardly an advertisement that does not endorse their agenda, there is hardly a town now days that doesn't have a rainbow color sidewalk, window stickers, or some rainbow advertisement somewhere in their town.

Just the other day, I went online to check something about our car insurance, and when their home page came up, there was the ICBC government logo in the corner of the screen with the background of this alphabet people rainbow and their other colors. I'm like what has this to do with car insurance, really, I'm beginning to wonder is there any part of society that they are not trying to woke up?

But as we already realize, there is no tactic too low, no teaching is to obscene, no indoctrination of uncleanness held back because of the age of the child. And it is becoming sickening already.

And if there is one thing we need to do as parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, friends and Christians, is that we need to wake up to this woke, there is urgency in our churches today to protect ourselves and our children from this worlds movement of woke and protect us all from this ever-toxic environment, because not only is this woke of uncleanness starting in pre-kindergarten with 3 year olds. Subjecting them to what I would call woke indoctrination of all uncleanness movement. It is starting to affecting everyone, and you know what the scary part is, it looks like they are winning.

As I said they are gaining the upper hand in government, in the medical field, and in schools. Here in British Columbia, the law has already put a father in prison for standing against surgical procedures his underage daughter was working at getting. Irreversible procedures in the name of being woke to the ways of uncleanness.

In the previous message I noted that

...we are talking about children because that is where the battle line of fornication has come to.

But not only is the battle of fornication come to our children, this thing Paul calls uncleanness is coming with even more force and influence to ALL of us in society, married, single, young or old we are all targets of this movement, if we don't conform.

So what can you do, what can I do, what can we do in protecting ourselves and our children from this monster of woke and its indoctrination of uncleanness?

Well this is where we really need a lot of pieces to the big picture.

And I would say that one of the first things that the church needs to do is recognize such sins and call them out, the verse we just briefly quoted earlier, Ephesians chapter 5 verse 3 which says:

But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;

In this verse Paul says that let all uncleanness not even be named among you, the Christians. The church will never stand against this foe if the people themselves support or dabble or allow this sin within themselves or having it 'ok' within the congregation.

Listen, if you want to protect yourself and your children and you are in a church that promotes this kind of sin, or makes excuses for such sins, then get out of the church. Because there are always excuses, there is always a progression downward, just look at where churches have come to in regards to adultery. The practices of divorce and remarriage, we covered this in the second message, and where are most churches on that issue?

Yes there are some conservative ones who stand against it but I think the vast majority have no problem with it. How about their stand on fornication? How about their stand on same gender marriages or relationships? How about gender itself?

You see how this begins to enter all kinds of uncleanness? Uncleanness that is entering churches! And the people go along with it!

Paul says let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints!

These things are not fitting for saints; these things of uncleanness are not fitting for the church. I will probably get labeled as an intolerant hater for this message, but I am only repeating what the bible is telling us. I said these messages were to give you the information in applying these verses to your heart and your life and one of them would be as Paul says in 2 Corinthians 6:17 saying;

"Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean,...

The context talks about being unequally yoked with the things of the world, and one of those is uncleanness. And it is the Lord who tells us to come out from among them... and be separate. Do not touch what is unclean, don't support it, don't wink at it, don't allow it to affect your minds as it being some kind of normal. Because it is not normal, it is unclean.

As I said this woke of uncleanness is infiltrating everything, including churches and if your church is toying with the things of uncleanness we are seeing in our day, get out, get out before it's too late!

Be like the angels who went to Lot when he was in Sodom, urging him to get his family out of that wicked unclean place, get out before you get caught up and drawn into that subtle teachings and supporting's of uncleanness and die in it in the end, and you be like Lot's sons-in-law, who only perceived him to be joking...

Oh they won't call it uncleanness in the church, you will need to listen for the catch words like, it's just their lifestyle, or their preferences, their choices, or things like; they only want to be happy, words like; identify, understanding, acceptance and love. All these will be used to cover all kinds of sins.

Scripture clearly tells us that the church, that is us, is to be without spot or wrinkle, holy and without blemish. This is the call for the church and its people.

And if you want an even sharper piece of the big picture regarding this application then take a good look at yourself as to where you stand on this issue. Do you view some of this uncleanness as just ‘their choice’ that it is just ‘their thing’ and as long as they keep it to themselves and their harming no one then I don’t care.

Well let me ask you this, what if all of a sudden it becomes your brother’s choice, what if it becomes your sister’s choice, your niece or your nephew’s choice, or what if it becomes your child’s choice, how will that affect you then. Or what if you catch yourself entertaining the thought of it being your choice? Allowing it to enter that hidden chamber of your own soul and mixing it with desire and temptation? Where you stand right here right now will decide where you will stand over there and later.

Don’t wait until it affects your family, your friends, your relatives because if you wait to decide your position on those decisions until then, you will already be compromised in your thinking and be led down the path of this wokeness of uncleanness.

If you do not view this as a sin now you will probably not see it as a sin later. We have seen the effects adultery has had on the church with divorce and remarriage, and uncleanness will be no different, uncleanness will walk right in and sit in the front pew, if it hasn't already in some places. You need to really look at where you stand on this issue today, not tomorrow, for tomorrow your judgment may already be clouded and unable to see scripture for what it says, because of who it may affect or offend, for why else would Paul tell us of people who would not endure sound doctrine in 2 Timothy 4 verses 3 and 4 where he says;

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

Do not wait until you do not want to endure sound doctrine, look at the hard issues today before they come so close so that you cannot think straight.

I know it sounds contradictory, but you must be awake to this woke, you must be aware what the evil one is doing in the world and prepare yourselves to face these things when they come to your home, your family your life, yourself. Because they are coming. And parents, prepare your children with the utmost diligence in preparing them for the things they will face in the world.

Because, parents, if you will not prepare them to stand against the things of this world, this world will prepare them to stand against you, and this uncleanness is at the top of their list right now.

Last time we talked about raising children in this day and age, and looking at where we are now, it is scary. Looking at it as a grandparent, I'm fearful, this monster that is coming is no 'walk in the park', it has teeth that will devour any business or individual that stand in its way, it has muscels to bend the arms of the medical system to its whims in what it wants. It has power to put into prison those who oppose. And it has the mysterious authority to somehow sway government and political officials and not only government but the power to transform public schools into their own indoctrination stations.

And if you, the Christian, are not prepared with the word, are not grounded in truth, are not firm on that foundation, and anchored to the rock of Jesus Christ, it will eat you like candy, and enslave your children to uncleanness forever. This is why Peter says, and you have heard this many times;

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

The word devour means to drink down, to swallow up, to destroy. And it is the same adversary that is behind this woke moment of our day. Seeking whom he may devour. And sadly, he is devouring a lot of people these days including Christians.

And I don't want that to happen to me, not to me, not to my wife, not to my children, not to my grandchildren, not to the flock which the Lord has given me to oversee, but I want to be sober, I want to be vigilant, I want all of us to be sober and vigilant, the Online Bible Greek Lexicon says of this word vigilant;

to watch, to give strict attention to, to be cautious, to take heed lest through remission or laziness some destructive calamity suddenly overtake one.

Because the ho hum lazy Christian is no match for this monster of uncleanness that is taking over the world; such laid-back armchair Christianity will not survive the onslaught. A very applicable quote I heard a long time ago went something like this;

Part time Christians can never defeat full time devils.

It will take all the soberness you can muster, it will take all the vigilance you can achieve, and it will take all the armor that you can put on to defend yourselves from this foe, and last of all don't forget the sword of the spirit, which is the... the Word of God, never leave it, never forsake it, but train yourself with it in all that you do.

CONCL:

And so in conclusion, uncleanness, Jesus said to the Pharisees;

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.

There is a reason they got mad at Jesus and wanted to kill Him. It is the same reason today, because He exposed what was in their hearts. Because it all begins in the heart, the mind, in the soul.

We see this monster in the world and the works of it in all kinds of people, but in each and every one of them, it began as a little something somewhere they allowed into their heart. One spark that was allowed to ignite the sin that now consumes them. Again we must be ever watchful of our own heart. Slide 15 - read the word, be in prayer, walk in faith, and be at peace, and when you have all four, you'll be ready. Because even though this monster of uncleanness is destroying business, manipulating the medical system, guiding government, and subverting schools, listen, it cannot take the word from your heart, it cannot prevent you from prayer, it cannot make you forfeit your faith, it cannot penetrate the peace you have in Jesus, unless you allow it.

As John gives us great encouragement in 1 John 4:4 by saying;

You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.