

28 Parables of Jesus
Beware of The Leaven and Covetousness
 Bible Sermon Study Notes: Pastor Cary Rodgers, Jr

COL Chapter 20: "Gain That Is Loss"

With an innumerable crowd listeners around Jesus what major warning did Jesus give His disciples in Luke 12:1?

Luk 12:1 In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, **Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.**

Leaven = a rising agent of fermentation

Hypocrisy (Greek) = hupokrisis [*hoop-ok'-ree-sis*] - *acting under* a feigned part; that is, (figuratively) *deceit* ("hypocrisy"): - condemnation, dissimulation, hypocrisy.

Leaven = the deceitful ways and false doctrines of the Pharisees, the leaders of the Jewish nation.

Does Jesus tell his disciples to be quiet about the Pharisee's deceitful ways and false doctrines?

Luke 12:2 For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known.

Mat 10:26 Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known.

As disciples of Christ we have a responsibility to expose, reprove, and rebuke sin so God's people will not be caught unaware!

2Ti 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort (encourage) with all longsuffering and doctrine.

Eph 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*.

Jesus says, Rev 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Golden Calf

Remember the story about the Israelites who danced around the golden calf after God miraculously delivered them from Egyptian slavery and after they heard the voice of God give them the ten commandments from Mt. Sinai.

After Moses reproved Aaron, what did he passionately ask the entire multitude?

Exodus 32:25-26

25 And when Moses saw that the people *were* naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto *their* shame among their enemies:)

26 Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who *is* on the LORD'S side? *let him come* unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.

Who is on the Lord side!

What did Elijah ask the Israelites who had the law and testimonies in Mt. Carmel?

1Ki 18:21 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD *be* God, follow him: but if Baal, *then* follow him. And the people answered him not a word.
Who is on the Lord side!

Matthew 24:4-5, 24

- 4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, **Take heed that no man deceive you.**
5 **For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.**
24 **For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect.**

Bible Truth exposes hypocrisy and deception! If you are on the Lord's side you must study and apply ALL of God's Word in your life.

Isa 8:20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, *it is* because *there is* no light in them.

What warning does God give us about falling away from the truth?

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

- 1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and *by* our gathering together unto him,
2 That ye be **not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.**
3 **Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first*, and that **man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;**
4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.**

Man of sin = Papal Rome

Key lesson: All deceived will fall away from the truth! They will reject the straight testimonies of God's Word. They have not love for the truth but love for the world!

“I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God's people.” Spiritual Gift Vol. 1 pg. 270

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2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

- 9 *Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,
10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; **because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.**
11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:
12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

Great falling away from truth....

Remember:

- 1) Many in the New Testament church fell away from the truth of the law and the testimonies and substituted with the exaltation and the doctrines of men – later became Papal Rome
- 2) The truth of the law and testimonies (Sabbath and the second coming of Christ) was restored as a gift to

the world in the Seventh-day Adventist movement which official organized as a church in 1863. At the end of time, like Israel of old and the New Testament church, many in the SDA church will fall away from the TRUTH!

A large class of SDA church leaders and members

“As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel's message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. When Sabbathkeepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them.” Great Controversy p. 608

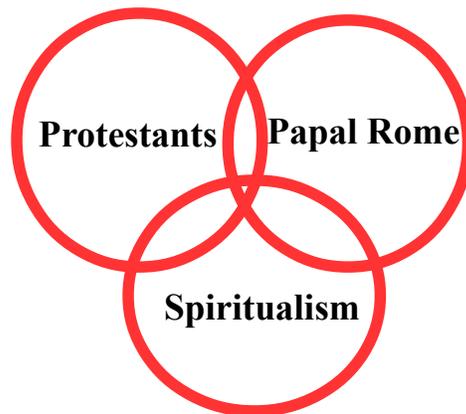
They “Abandoned” the Three Angels Message and “joined” the Beast and it's image (Babylon!)

Remember Jesus says **Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.** (Luke 12:1)

What proves that many who have the SDA truth have fallen or abandon it's position and joined the ranks of the opposition?

“Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience.” GC 588.1

Three Fold Union (illustrate with three hands picture instead)



Has the SDA corp church, a protestant denomination, made themselves apart of this three fold union?

Seven key apostasies

1. Joining hands with Papal Rome... Visit to papal Rome.... modern prophecy doctrines have shied away from papal Rome as the beast, 666 and that the mark of the beast is the enforcement of Sunday false sabbath....
Ganoune Diop, Director, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty meeting with papacy...Conference of Secretaries of Christian World Communions held in Rome, Italy ecumenism.
2. Spiritualism – spiritual formation, contemplative prayer, puppetry, and humanism in currently taught in churches and universities.

Show a few examples plus humanism logo....

3. Worldliness in spiritual – lovers of pleasure – promotion of rate R movies, etc...
4. Idolatry.... making of graven images... at SDA Universities... goddess of reason....
5. Support of the LGBT movement
6. SDA Hospitals and Clinics poisonous drugging business and abortions!
7. Abandon positions on the beast, mark of the beast and Papal Rome – Remember the “Great Hope” book fraud.

The SDA Corp Church has joined themselves to the beast, Papal Rome & Babylon! Get out of Babylon and run to the mountain truth!

Is your head in the sand of denial?

Who is on the Lord's side? Are you still a PROTESTANT. The corp SDA church is NO LONGER PROTESTING!

After Jesus told his disciple to “Beware of leaven of Pharisees,” what words of encouragement does Jesus give His friends who expose the leaven of the Pharisee's and reveal truth in the last days?

Luke 12:4-12

- 4 And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.
- 5 But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.
- 6 Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?
- 7 But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.
- 8 Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:
- 9 But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God.
- 10 And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven.
- 11 And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and *unto* magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say:
- 12 For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.

“Christ was teaching, and, as usual, others besides His disciples had gathered about Him. He had been speaking to the disciples of the scenes in which they were soon to act a part. They were to publish abroad the truths He had committed to them, and they would be brought in conflict with the rulers of this world. For His sake they would be called into courts, and before magistrates and kings. He had assured them of wisdom which none could gainsay.” COL 252

After Jesus gives a very serious message to the multitude of people what did one in the multitude ask Jesus that reveals that he had rejected the truth and had no the love for the truth?

Luk 12:13 And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me.

“This man thinks that his brother has defrauded him of his inheritance. His own efforts have failed to secure what he regards as his due, but if Christ will interpose the end will surely be gained. He has heard Christ's stirring appeals, and His solemn denunciations of the scribes and Pharisees. If words of such command could

be spoken to this brother, he would not dare to refuse the aggrieved man his portion.” COL 253

It is obvious the brother wanted Jesus to secure his “retirement plan” and settle the dispute the he was having with his brother over the family inheritance.

What was Jesus' response?

Luk 12:14 And he said unto him, **Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?**

Jesus came to save people from sin, not their retirement plans, 401 Ks, or family inheritance on this earth! Jesus makes that very plain here. Why would someone be concerned about their retirement and inheritance after Jesus gave some solemn message to prepare them for the coming crisis of his crucifixion and the persecution that would come upon the New Testament Church?

Is the same true today? After hearing the solemn present Truth messages of our day about the apostates that are prevalent within our professed seventh-day sabbath churches, the fulfilling of last day prophesies, and mark of the beast crisis and the majority of professed Christian people are still concerned about their retirement plans!

“In the midst of the solemn instruction that Christ had given, this man had revealed his selfish disposition. He could appreciate that ability of the Lord which might work for the advancement of his own temporal affairs; but spiritual truths had taken no hold on his mind and heart. The gaining of the inheritance was his absorbing theme.” COL 253

Why do people who clearly hear the truth reject the truth and have not a love for the truth? Jesus gives a very straight response to the man and the multitude and us today.

Luk 12:15 And he said unto them, **Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.**

Covetousness is the root of sin - 10th commandment. Covetousness is ALL centered on pleasing the flesh, self. It is selfishness. Jesus says beware of covetousness because it is deadly!

Covetousness (Greek): 1) greedy desire to have more, covetousness, avarice [Thayer Greek Definition]

Today people are judged based on their accumulation and abundance of money and stuff! Many base “success” on how much a person has in their bank account, the house they live in and the cars they drive.

Jesus reveals here in Luke 12:15 that it is not about the abundance of stuff on this earth. He reveals that an accumulation of riches for self is covetousness! It is sin! You can also be covetousness and dead broke and poor. Hollywood, video game makes, drug companies, credit card companies, the lottery, and advertisers thrive off covetousness! You can have it ALL even if it in your imagination. Some believe that “One day” it may happened and they may hit it big. One of the biggest item in many of today's home rich or poor is a big flat screen TV!

“Jesus could have told this man just what was right. He knew the right in the case; but the brothers were in a quarrel because both were covetous. Christ virtually said, It is not My work to settle controversies of this kind. He came for another purpose, to preach the gospel, and thus to arouse men to a sense of eternal realities.” COL 254

Covetousness is one of the main reason why a large majority of professed Christians reject TRUTH. Not only do they NOT have a love for the truth, but they are selfishness and covetousness for things, entertainments, and pleasures of this world. They are taught by covetousness preachers and believe that profession and membership in an organized denomination is enough! They are lovers of pleasure more then the lovers of God (2 Timothy 3:4).

God's ministers are NOT to use the gospel for their own personal accumulation of wealth. This is sin!

Why do many professed Christian minister use the gospel for the accumulation of their own personal wealth?

2 Peter 2:1-3

- 1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.
- 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.
- 3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

Be Content, Not Covetousness

Hebrews 13:5-6

- 5 *Let your conversation be* without covetousness; *and be* content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.
- 6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

What parable does Jesus give next to make Luke 12:15 “to beware of covetousness” very clear?

Luke 12:16-21

- 16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, **The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:**
- 17 **And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?**
- 18 **And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.**
- 19 **And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.**
- 20 **But God said unto him, *Thou* fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?**
- 21 **So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.**

“By the parable of the foolish rich man, Christ showed the folly of those who make the world their all. This man had received everything from God. The sun had been permitted to shine upon his land; for its rays fall on the just and on the unjust. The showers of heaven descend on the evil and on the good. The Lord had caused vegetation to flourish, and the fields to bring forth abundantly. The rich man was in perplexity as to what he should do with his produce. His barns were full to overflowing, and he had no place to put the surplus of his harvest. He did not think of God, from whom all his mercies had come. He did not realize that God had made him a steward of His goods that he might help the needy. He had a blessed opportunity of being God's almoner, but he thought only of ministering to his own comfort.” COL 256

Are you covetousness, where is your heart, where is your treasurer?

Luk 12:34 **For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**

What do you do with God's money? It reveals where your heart is.

Remember: Real living is giving! The more you give to the kingdom of God the more that will come back to you.

What does Jesus teach about the giving principle?

Luk 6:38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Why does God bless His people with wealth? To be a blessing to others for the purpose of adding to the kingdom of God.

“To live for self is to perish. Covetousness, the desire of benefit for self's sake, cuts the soul off from life. It is the spirit of Satan to get, to draw to self. It is the spirit of Christ to give, to sacrifice self for the good of others. "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." 1 John 5:11, 12.” COL 259

Instead on accumulating for self, what does Jesus instruct His people to do?

Luke 12:29-32

- 29 And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind.
- 30 For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.
- 31 But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.
- 32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Matthew 6:31-34

- 31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?
- 32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.
- 33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.
- 34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day *is* the evil thereof.

Eternal Retirement in Heaven

1Pe 1:4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

God reveals what Satan does to overcome professed seventh-day Sabbath keeper Adventist in the last days.

Satan Plan of Against Sabbath Keepers

The Snares of Satan, Spiritual Gifts Volume 4, Chapter 27 (Ellen White)

“As the people of God approach the perils of the last days, Satan holds earnest consultation with his angels as to the most successful plan of overthrowing their faith. He sees that the popular churches are already lulled to sleep by his deceptive power. By pleasing sophistry and lying wonders he can continue to hold them under his control. Therefore he directs his angels to lay their snares especially for those who are looking for the second advent of Christ, and endeavoring to keep all the commandments of God.

Says the great deceiver: "We must watch those who are calling the attention of the people to the Sabbath of Jehovah; they will lead many to see the claims of the law of God; and the same light which reveals the true Sabbath, reveals also the ministration of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary, and shows that the last work for man's salvation is now going forward. Hold the minds of the people in darkness till that work is ended, and we shall secure the world and the church also.

"But before proceeding to these extreme measures, we must exert all our wisdom and subtlety to deceive and ensnare those who honor the true Sabbath. We can separate many from Christ by worldliness, lust, and pride. They may think themselves safe because they believe the truth, but indulgence of appetite or the lower passions, which will confuse judgment and destroy discrimination, will cause their fall. {4SP 339.1}

"Go, make the possessors of lands and money drunk with the cares of this life. Present the world before them in its most attractive light, that they may lay up their treasure here, and fix their affections upon earthly things. We must do our utmost to prevent those who labor in God's cause from obtaining means to use against

us. Keep the money in our own ranks. The more means they obtain, the more they will injure our kingdom by taking from us our subjects. Make them care more for money than for the upbuilding of Christ's kingdom and the spread of the truths we hate, and we need not fear their influence; for we know that every selfish, covetous person will fall under our power, and will finally be separated from God's people.

"Through those that have a form of godliness but know not the power, we can gain many who would otherwise do us great harm. Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God will be our most effective helpers. Those of this class who are apt and intelligent will serve as decoys to draw others into our snares. Many will not fear their influence, because they profess the same faith. We will thus lead them to conclude that the requirements of Christ are less strict than they once believed, and that by conformity to the world they would exert a greater influence with worldlings. Thus they will separate from Christ; then they will have no strength to resist our power, and ere long they will be ready to ridicule their former zeal and devotion. {4SP 339.3}