

DRUNKS, DRUGS AND DEVIATES

Don't Just Say "No" to Drugs

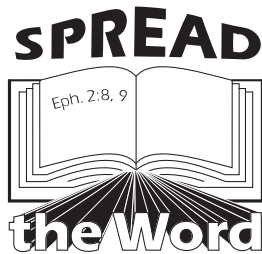
SAY "YES" TO CHRIST

AN ANALYSIS OF HOMOSEXUALITY AND DRUGS

BASED ON THE WORD OF GOD

taken from

Galatians 5



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DRUNKS, DRUGS, DEVIATES

Drunkness and drug addiction and deviates (homosexuality) are SINS and NOT SICKNESSES. Since they are sins, they can only be cured by the One who died for our sins, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is NOT a sickness that can be cured by your family doctor. It MUST be cured by the Great Physician Himself, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now the program on saying “NO TO DRUGS” is well meaning, but it will NOT solve the problem of drugs, or drunks, or deviates, BECAUSE THERE IS NO CURE HUMANLY SPEAKING. Since it comes from the old sin nature, the “Old Man” of the soul, then the cure becomes a spiritual cure. A PERSON WHO IS TOLD TO SAY “NO” TO DRUGS CANNOT SAY “NO” TO DRUGS, BECAUSE HE IS CONTROLLED BY HIS OLD SIN NATURE. And his old sin nature will NOT say “no to drugs” BECAUSE THE OLD SIN NATURE IS THE SOURCE OF DRUG ADDICTION. That is found in Galatians 5:20, “Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies...”

The word there translated “witchcraft” is drug addiction, which is a by-product of the old sin nature. The only way to control the old sin nature is, first of all, becoming a believer in Christ, and secondly, living the Christian way of life, which is you being controlled by God the Holy Spirit, and thereby cutting off the source of the old sin nature.

So in labeling drugs and drunkenness and deviates as sicknesses or as diseases, then this becomes a misnomer of the actual existence of sin. Whenever you start with a false premise, you end up with a false conclusion. There are many misnomers in our way of life: the principle of Grape-Nuts the cereal—it is neither grapes nor nuts; the re-

ligion called “Jehovah’s Witnesses”—they are neither of Jehovah nor are they His witnesses.

This is the principle of not calling a spade a spade, and not being truthful in your communication. When you understand that drunkenness and drugs and homosexuality are sins, then you can go about finding a cure in Christ. When we study the history of drunkenness and homosexuality and drug addiction in the Bible and God’s viewpoint and verdict upon these three specific sins, then we can begin to make some progress in a remedy for them. But the remedy must first begin with recognizing that they are sins.

It is not the principle of saying “No to drugs,” or “No to drunkenness,” or “No to homosexuality.” It is the concept of a POSITIVE and not of a negative. So we sin and we are sinners, and SIN IS NO LONGER THE ISSUE. Drugs are not the issue. Drunkenness is not the issue. Homosexuality is not the issue. The sin question has been solved on the cross. WE NEED A POSITIVE DECISION AND THAT IS TO ACCEPT CHRIST JESUS AS THE ONE WHO DIED FOR ALL OF OUR SINS. He was the Sin-bearer. “He became sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

So, it is not “No,” but “Yes” to Christ. It’s a positive and not a negative. Then as a believer in Christ, when tempted by your old sin nature to sin as a Christian, then you say “Yes” to God the Holy Spirit and He controls your old sin nature. How do we obtain the control of God the Holy Spirit in our lives? Simply by “Naming that sin, and He is faithful and just to forgive you of that sin, and to cleanse you from all unrighteousness,” 1 John 1:9

LOT'S LIFE STYLE

In 2 Peter 2 we see in verse 3 the judgment of false teachers. "Whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not." The word "whose" is a relative pronoun referring to false teachers. The word "judgment" is KRIMA, which means a judicial sentence by God. Literally this is, "Whose judicial sentence, now of a long time." This judicial sentence by God on the false teachers started in eternity past.

"Lingereth not" means to be not inoperative. Literally this says, "Whose judicial sentence of eternity past is not inoperative and slumbereth not." The Greek word is ARGEO, which means to be inoperative. The fact that false teachers are not judged when we think they should be does not mean that they will not be judged. The Word of God, the Divine Viewpoint, says of those who are declared to be false teachers, they will be judged for their false teaching. They will be held accountable for it.

Therefore we have this next phrase. "Their damnation slumbereth not." "Damnation" actually refers to their destruction, their eternal destruction. This is talking about false teachers, who are unbelievers, ending up in the Lake of Fire prepared for Satan and his angels. And the Word for "damnation" is the Greek word APOLEIA, which is destruction as well as damnation and condemnation. "Slumbereth not" means that it is awake and ready, not sleeping. The word "slumbereth not" was used in the ancient world for a volcano, ready to erupt. **The point is that they will be judged.**

Now the judgment of the false teachers, which is declared in verse 3, will NOW BE COMPARED IN VERSES 4-6 TO PAST JUDGMENTS. ANGELS, NOAH AND LOT. Verse 4, "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;" Verse 5, "And He spared not the old world, but saved Noah the

eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;" Verse 6, "And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them WITH AN OVERTHROW, MAKING THEM AN ENSAMPLE UNTO THOSE THAT AFTER SHOULD LIVE UN-GODLY;"

Verse 7, "And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked." "Just Lot" is a joke. This means justified Lot, a believer. And then it says "vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked." Well, he wasn't vexed, whatever that means. It says he was tired. He was so tired, exhausted, he quit fighting. He just joined in with them.

"Filthy conversation" is not filthy conversation. It is homosexuality. "Conversation" is manner of life, way of life. See, Lot's life style. God delivered just Lot. "Delivered" is that He had to drag him out of the city. He didn't want to leave. Lot moved into Sodom and Sodom moved into Lot. And Lot's wife wanted to go back. She became a pillar of salt.

Verse 8, "(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds.)" The word "dwelling" means he settled down there, made his home there, was at home there, permanent in his mind, with their unlawful deeds.

Verse 9, "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished." This proves that GOD WILL JUDGE THE FALSE TEACHERS OF VERSE 3.

How are we sure that He will? Well, God sets up a law. God says "I will judge false teaching. I always judge false teaching." So, if God judged the fallen angels AND HE DID, if God judged Sodom and Gomorrah, AND HE DID, and if God judged the world with the

flood, AND HE DID, THEN HE WILL JUDGE THE FALSE TEACHERS. He has done it in the past. Genesis 6, Genesis 12, Genesis 19. He WILL do it again. He set up a standard of judgment. He set a precedent.

He is consistent and He never changes. He is immutable. All three Members of the Trinity are immutable. None of Them can change. There is really no reason why They should change. God is happy. He has always been happy. Why change? Can you think of any reason for Him to change? Only dumb people change happiness into unhappiness, but God is not dumb. That is the principle of omni-science. We find people who have a pretty good deal and they are so dumb, they change it, make waves. Why should God change? Now I know a thousand reasons why people change. But God couldn't change if He wanted to. Why change perfect happiness? So, if there is a change to be made, MAN HAS TO MAKE IT, BECAUSE GOD WON'T CHANGE.

God judged the angels that sinned and they are locked up in Tartarus. God judged the world by a flood, and God judged homosexuality, i.e., Lot's life style. He will NOT change. This is Romans 1, Galatians and other passages. Man needs to change and the change begins at salvation. You may look the same, and you may act the same and you may think the same, but when you accept Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, God gives you many things which are the much more of God's GRACE. You have these many things of GRACE forever and

ever. You have them on your worst day and you have them on your best day. You have them when you are in fellowship and you have them when you are out of fellowship.

When God sets up a Plan, it is permanent. Now, how do you find out about all these things that God has for you at the point of salvation? You can only find them in the Word of God, the Bible. That is why knowledge of the Word of God is one of the most important factors in your life.

So, this section says that God will judge false teachers, and the reason why is because He has something wonderful to give you. God has provisions for you. False teachers must be judged because they take the whole concept of God's gracious provisions away from you. They are like goats that muddy up the water for the sheep. When a goat muddies up the water, the sheep won't drink. Sometimes there are sheep and goats in the same flock. Sheep cannot smell water, but goats can. Goats have an "old goat nature" similar to our old sin nature. They smell the water, and they get into the water and they drink the water till they are full, and then they trample in the water and make it muddy. Why? Because the sheep are so dumb, they will die of thirst before they will drink the water.

Don't let the goats muddy up the water of the Word of God. **Homosexuality is NOT a life style.** Christ has a life style for you and if you reject His life style, then your life style is a DEATH STYLE. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

JIMMY CARTER AND HOMOSEXUALITY

Tuesday morning, June 24, 1980, in Kansas City, Missouri, this title appeared. "President Carter Favors Homosexuality". Now, you can think about this for quite some time and try to figure out why President Carter made that statement. Was it political expediency? Was he soliciting the votes of the homosexual society, which is no small contingency? Was it the result of the lobbying activities of the homosexual activists? Or was it a sense of human rights based on immoral sets of values? Or was it religiously motivated based on false doctrine?

Former President Carter claimed, when asked, that he read the Bible through many times. Well, evidently he may have read it, but HE NEVER STUDIED IT. Romans 1, Galatians 5, Genesis, and the account of Lot and Lot's wife, and Sodom and Gomorrah, etc.

Now, in the July 6, 1980 St. Louis paper, the St. Louis Post Dispatch said that "10,000-15,000 of the Cuban refugees estimated to be still in federal government camps, are believed to be homo-sexuals."

There is a new way of talking about an old subject. The old so-called life style called homosexuality now appears regularly under the title of "gay life." This gives you the idea that the homosexual way is a happy, fulfilling way of life, and that we are all missing out on something gay. The media often shows the "gay life" as being glamorous, exciting, and fulfilling and one that always attracts nationally known politicians, and preachers, and professors and others, who through American history have been examples for our youth to imitate. The gay crusade is marching across our country.

Now a war of "rights" wages around us. Homosexuals demand their "rights" in human sexual acts without any fear of public censure. The non-homosexuals demand their right to live in a society without fear of sexual pollution. Who is right? Is it whoever gets the

most votes? Is it whoever makes the most noise? You know the empty drum makes the most noise and gets the most attention. So, if you believe that principle, then you believe that might makes right. Does might, political or voting right, make right? Can 50 million Frenchmen be wrong? If 51% of the people voted to massacre all members of a certain race, would that vote make it right? Is it the principle of "VOX POPULI, VOX DEO," the voice of the people being the voice of God?

Well, if you disagree with this principle, then you must believe that something else besides might decides what is right. Before you can take sides in this present "gay war," you have to find who is it that decides what is right. If public votes, and congresses, and presidents, and dictators do not make rights, who does?

One of the popular opinions of today is that the "experts decide the rights." Politicians and normal voters are too dumb, but the experts in medicine and sociology are smart enough. Let them decide whether homosexuality is right or wrong. After these experts give us their decision, we can make suitable laws to protect the true rights.

Can the medical and sociological experts, however, really tell us what is right or wrong? Suppose the medical experts studied the details of homosexual and heterosexual acts. Suppose they measured very carefully the temperature, respiration, and blood pressure, for example, of couples involved in the different sexual acts. Could they ever tell from these data what acts were right and what acts were wrong? NO. They might be able to tell us what sexual acts were unhealthy, if any, but they could not tell us which ones were right and wrong. To tell us that, they would need prior standards of right and wrong, standards they would not get from temperature or respiration readings.

Suppose the sociological experts conduct surveys of homosexual and heterosexual be-

haviour. Like Kinsey, they spend vast energy collecting statistics on all aspects of sexual behaviour. Could they ever tell from these data what acts were right and what acts were wrong? NO. They could only tell us what people are doing, not what is right or what is wrong. Experts in medicine and sociology can only describe what happens. They cannot morally judge what happens.

So we are back with the question, "Who determines rights?" The oldest answer is that GOD DETERMINES RIGHT AND WRONG. In ancient history the clearest definition of human rights existed in Israel. Human rights in Israel came out of the truth that all men, including homosexuals, were created. The Israelites knew this not because Moses was extremely clever, but because God spoke to them. As Creator, God knows and God spoke to humanity through Israel. As Creator, God has the qualifications to determine right and wrong. As Creator, God knows the final permanent results of what we do, whether it will hurt someone on down the line. He knows the effects of environment and heredity. Remember that God taught man about inherent sin long before the modern biologists analyzed inherited characteristics.

In spite of the teachings of some very suave clergymen, who are better at reading books ABOUT the Bible than reading the Bible ITSELF, God the Creator says that homosexuality and homosexual acts are WRONG and they are HARMFUL. He even says homosexual lusting in the mind is wrong. Because "As a man thinketh in his mind, so is he."

"God gave them up to dishonorable passions. Their women exchanged natural relations with men and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves their own persons, the due penalty for their error," Romans 1:26, 27. "God gave them up." God delivered them over to, literally. This expression is found three times between Romans 1:18-28. This literally means that God delivered them or turned them over

to their own free will of following their own lust pattern.

And then Romans 1:22 says, "Professing themselves wise, they became fools." Why? "Because that when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful, but became vain in their imaginations and their foolish heart was darkened," Romans 1:21. This is God's manifestation to the human race of a negative attitude towards God's Divine norms and standards.

Well, what are the ultimate consequences of such a decision? "Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenant breakers, WITHOUT NATURAL AFFECTION, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them," Romans 1:29-32.

In view of Romans 1, what do you think God's view would be on the following information? What do you think God's view would be of those who take this position as representatives? What do you think God's view would be about a "born again" Christian President who favored such a thesis?

On Sunday, July 6, 1980, in the St. Louis Dispatch, the following appeared: GAY CHURCH GROUP TO SPONSOR CUBANS. "A national homosexual church group says it plans to find sponsors for the 10,000 to 15,000 Cuban refugees estimated to be still in federal government camps, who are believed to be homosexuals." "The Rev. Robert Falls of the San Francisco Metropolitan Community Church said that a gay and lesbian Cuban refugee program committee has been formed to establish a working relationship with Church World Services, the refugee placement arm of the National Council of Churches." "Fall said he hoped the San Francisco area's large homosexual population could absorb 2,000 to 3,000 of the refugees."

God's viewpoint, which is the Divine Viewpoint, states the following: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, WITHOUT NATURAL AFFECTION, truce breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: FROM SUCH TURN AWAY." 2 Timothy 3:1-5. CHRISTIANS ARE NOT CHALLENGED BY GOD TO STAY AMONG THEM AND TRY TO STRAIGHTEN THEM OUT. WE ARE COMMANDED TO SEPARATE OURSELVES FROM THEM. "From such turn away."

Now, what does God mean by these words? **He is saying that homosexuality CAN BE AVOIDED BY EVERYONE.** God does not call something wrong and urge us to avoid it if we cannot help it. If homosexuality were really a deep, dark, mysterious compulsion arising out of a early childhood experience with an alcoholic father or a promiscuous mother, or an effeminate appearance, or something else in the environment, it could not be classified as a sin.

If homosexuality is a sin, as stated in Scripture, then IT CANNOT BE CAUSED BY ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS BEYOND OUR CONTROL. The Lord, our Creator, says that homosexuality is a sin and that no one need be a slave to the old sin nature, your "Old Man." IF HOMOSEXUALITY IS WRONG, THEN IT IS THE HOMOSEXUAL'S OWN FAULT, and it is basically NOT different from other kinds of sins. WE SIN AGAINST WHAT WE KNOW IS RIGHT. The more we think and do it, the more habitual it becomes. The more habitual it becomes, the more it seems like some mysterious compulsion and the more into bondage we fall. The more bondage, the more guilt, the more frustration.

And so finally we come to the point where we have only one option left and that

is to destroy the conscience, the norms and standards of the soul, sear the conscience, and rid ourselves of the guilt. But destruction of the conscience can be done most effectively by rewriting the traditional law that reflects the Biblical standard. Once society's laws are changed to give assent to the "right" of homosexual behaviour, the pressure of the conscience will be relieved to a large degree.

Rewriting law in favor of homosexuality is not a real solution. Solving the homosexual problem by rewriting the law is like smashing the warning of the conscience that homosexuality is wrong. Later on, down the road of life, the homosexual will find himself burned out and in WORSE CONDITION. Many partners later, it will dawn upon him that his search for a meaningful homosexual relationship is a search for an ILLUSION. He will find himself in the darkness of self-pity, and self-gratification.

There is another life style, a true life style, not one that is "worthy of death," but a true life style, the same Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ, who says that homosexuality is a sin, and therefore avoidable and non-determined, also says that He can redeem. Christ died for the sins of the whole world, and SIN IS NO LONGER THE ISSUE. CHRIST IS THE ISSUE. Several deviates in the ancient city of Corinth, Greece, unlike those in certain modern therapies today, found complete cure in Christ.

"Do not be deceived, neither the immoral nor idolators, nor adulterers, NOR HOMOSEXUALS, nor thieves, nor greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor robbers will inherit the kingdom of God. AND SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God." 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. Notice that in this passage that homosexuality is classified as just one of the many different kinds of sins and that the Corinthian Christians overcame promiscuity as successfully as they overcame these other sins.

The Lord therefore denies that homosexuality is a special problem, different from

other behaviour patterns. These all stem from the source of the old sin nature, which produces all kinds of sin, and human good, and various lust patterns. Christ died for the old sin nature and all the sins of the WHOLE WORLD. And He "is the way, the Truth and the life." That is the life style that is offered to the human race, a true life style.

Apparently the Corinthian Christians, who were sex deviates involved in incest and other unnatural sexual pursuits, probably held the record along with Sodom and Gomorrah, for being the most carnal of all Christians, but they reconstructed their life style into the Lord's life style in submission to the Word of God. They realized that the LORD HAD THE ANSWER and that they didn't have to retreat to sexual deviations in order to solve their interpersonal problems. God's Word is clear so that we know how to deal confidently with those of the opposite sex. 1 Corinthians 7:1-5. 1 Peter 3:1-7.

So they separated themselves and learned the Word, and avoided their own sinful behaviour. And God the Holy Spirit enabled them to live the Christian way of life. They based their whole relationship on their relationship with Christ, who had died for them and gave them power over the dominance of the old sin nature.

Those in our society may not listen to the Word of God for the solution. Some people, maybe the experts or the voters, might decide that they ought to define what is right and what is wrong all by themselves, without any reference to any higher standard. They decide to impose their idea of right and wrong on everyone else.

Already we have this in evidence in California, where we have the "Homosexual Bill of Rights," which legalizes virtually all sexual acts between consenting adults. In San Francisco the School Board has approved inclusion of homosexual lifestyle studies in high school sex education classes. Already one value system, man's, has replaced another, God's. All citizens in this area are now expected to support the new man-created homosexual ethic.

Since the days of Lot and the devastation of Sodom, and Lot's wife, God has always set the wheels of judgment in motion against homosexual societies in Genesis 19. God knows that many homosexuals refuse to acknowledge that homosexuality is a sin and it is wrong, that it is avoidable, and correctable, and also very destructive, "worthy of death." So the so-called "gay life," the so-called life style is not gay or happy or life. It is a death style.

DRUG ADDICTION

One of the many manifestations of a negative attitude toward the Word of God and the Divine Viewpoint of life is drug addiction. Hallucinogenic drugs, such as LSD; hard drugs, such as heroin, cocaine, or opiates, destroy the function of the mind, the mentality of the soul.

With the destruction of the mentality of the soul, plus the conscience with the established norms and standards, there comes the neutralization of the individual's free will. His free will becomes a slave to his habits, even to the point of subjecting himself to demon influence.

The young person who samples drugs because that is the thing to do, the "in thing," or the adult who takes a "trip" out of curiosity or for kicks, little realizes the danger of addiction and its dire consequences. Once hooked, the drug addict must satisfy his craving for narcotics. He will either end up in some institution or some gutter, or he will embark on a life of crime, and, in the end, turn his volition over to demonism. DRUG ADDICTION IS ONE OF THE SINS WHICH THE OLD SIN NATURE SPONSORS.

Galatians 5:19-21, "Now the works of the flesh (old sin nature) are manifest, which are these: Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, IDOLATRY, WITCHCRAFT, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Verses 22, 23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance; against such there is no law."

How does demon possession or demon influence occur in human beings? The answer is complex, but can best be summed up with this statement. Demon possession or demon influence comes ONLY where per-

sons are POSITIVE TOWARD DEMONS AND WILLING TO RECEIVE THEM. What factors combine to condition such a person toward acceptance of demonism? The following factors are the most prevalent:

IDOLATRY AND WITCHCRAFT. Demons hover in the vicinity of every idol. They function through idols in the practice of idolatry. Zechariah 10:2, "For the idols have spoken vanity, and the diviners have seen a lie, and have told false dreams; they comfort in vain: therefore they went their way as a flock, they were troubled, because there was no shepherd."

As a definite part of religion, idolatry ascribes Divine power to natural agencies and pays Divine honor to a CREATED object. Romans 1:18-32.

The first two of the 10 Commandments prohibit idolatry, be it MENTAL or OVERT. Exodus 20:3-5, "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the Earth."

The Bible defines idolatry as spiritual adultery. Jeremiah 3:8-10, "And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also. And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and committed adultery with stones and with stocks. And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah hath not turned unto Me with her whole heart, but feignedly, saith the Lord." Its overt expression is always preceded by idolatry of the soul. **Let us not presume that idolatry is confined to the heathen.** BELIEVERS ALSO CAN BECOME GUILTY OF THAT SIN. Galatians 5:19ff.

The Exodus generation, all of them were believers, succumbed to idolatry during Moses' absence from the camp at the very time he was receiving instructions from the Lord on Mt. Sinai. Exodus 32. Forty days had passed since Moses had set out to meet with God, and still he had not returned. Would he come back at all?

With a complete breakdown of authority, the people told the leaders what to do. Exodus 32:1, "Up, make us gods, which shall go before us: for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him." Now, not long before that fateful day, they had agreed to obey the law of God. Exodus 19:8, "And all the people answered together, and said, All that the Lord hath spoken we will do." All of their so-called faithfulness was forgotten.

Idolatry was so deeply ingrained into their mentality from the sojourn in Egypt, that it came to the front. And Aaron, who should have known better, and should have asserted his authority, meekly submitted to their demand. Exodus 32:2, 5, "And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me." "And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it: and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow is a feast to the Lord." "The feast to the Lord," which he proclaimed, turned out to be an unadulterated idolatry, debauchery of the worst kind, and only the fervent intercession of Moses saved the Israelites from instant annihilation. Exodus 32:9-14.

Even so, about 3000 Israelites died the sin unto death that very day. Exodus 32:28, "And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men."

The pattern of Israel's failure during the "golden calf" incident, as well as later on, was NEGATIVE VOLITION TO THE WORD OF GOD as it was then made known. Persistent negative volition, be it toward the cause of the Word of God in the believer's life, or toward the Person of Christ in the un-

believer's life, leads to darkness in the soul. And this results in calluses on the soul, a past feeling and a searing of the conscience. And then you have a complete reversal of the norms and standards, and it distorts his affections and his loyalties and he deserts the true object of his love in favor of all that is evil and harmful for him.

Category one love of God is effected. Category two love, marriage is effected. And Category three love of friends is effected. And he throws himself into a lot with some worthless people and relationships. Rejecting Category one love for the Lord, he becomes apostate and ends up in idolatry. And he loves nothing, for AN IDOL IS NOTHING.

Idolatry wears many faces and assumes odd disguises. While crude symbols and images of God, for gods, figure largely in primitive idolatry, in some regions of the world, other objects are the source of worship: trees, animals, and their strength, the power of nature.

The Ziggurats of ancient Babel and Ur were the scenes of rituals conducted in the honor of astral bodies, the moon god and his consort. Not all forms of idolatry require representations in wood, stone or metals of animate or inanimate objects of worship. Idolatry has other means of ensnaring people. It branches out into adoration of people, canonized or otherwise celebrated, for so-called miraculous feats, ancestors and heroes. Still others worship at the shrine of sex, as in the Phallic cult, idealistic, or abstractions.

Idolatry claims its faithful followers from every walk of life and in every generation. Always and ever, it invites demonism and has an adverse effect on the body and the soul. If practiced by a majority of people in a nation, IDOLATRY BECOMES THE CAUSE OF NATIONAL JUDGMENT.

Ezekiel 6:4-6, "And your altars shall be desolate, and your images shall be broken: and I will cast down your slain men before your idols. And I will lay the dead carcasses of the children of Israel before their idols: and I will scatter your bones round about your al-

tars. In all your dwelling places the cities shall be laid waste, and the high places shall be desolate: that your altars may be laid waste and made desolate, and your idols may be broken and cease, and your images may be cut down, and your works may be abolished."

After World War II a large number of people returned to this country as great admirers of the mystic culture and idolatry of India, China and various other places where they had been. As a result, people began to talk in terms of "greater understanding" and "broadened horizons." This led to a toleration of idolatry in which the old clichés were dusted off and voiced, "After all, what does it matter whom you worship, or bow, as long as you are SINCERE?" Consequently the Oriental cults, along with demonism which had enslaved and impoverished the Asiatic and Indian people, made deep inroads into this country.

No doubt Satan gloats over the fantastic transfer of demons from the Orient to our nation, for such a degree of demonism was not seen here since the early days of the American Indian. The aspects of world travel have only HEIGHTENED the influx of eastern religions. Once it was we who sent out missionaries to foreign countries to spread Christianity. Today the situation is practically reversed. Our missionaries are barred in many of those nations. Instead we have people from the United States making their pilgrimages to the meccas of idolatry to study foreign mysticism. Or else, gurus of all descriptions tour our nation, disseminating doctrines of demons and drawing vast crowds of adherents. Fat little idols are accorded a place of honor in countless homes. "It's the 'in thing,' you know." WHILE THE TRUTH OF CHRIST IS NEGLECTED AND REJECTED.

Because of the ever-present danger of idolatry, the believer is sternly warned to separate himself from all forms of idolatry. 1 Corinthians 10:14, 19-21, "Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry." "What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any

thing? But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with demons (through idolatry). Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of demons: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of demons."

2 Corinthians 6:16, 17, "And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the Living God, as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people, wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate."

Now in Galatians 5:19-21 you notice the closeness of IDOLATRY AND WITCHCRAFT. "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, IDOLATRY, WITCHCRAFT..." Drug addiction is one of the sins which the old sin nature sponsors. And in Galatians 5 we have a partial list of sins.

"The works of the flesh" is the production of the old sin nature from the AREA OF WEAKNESS. The passage lists mental attitude sins and their resultant overt activities, sexual sins, sins of the tongue, and a sin against God, idolatry, a sin toward the Word of God, heresy, and a sin toward self, drug addiction.

Now in vain you can look for the words "drug addiction" in your English text. It is the second word in Galatians 5:20, which the translators have translated "witchcraft." However the Greek word is PHARMAKEIA, which originally meant drug addiction. This is the very word from which we get our English word "pharmacy." PHARMAKEIA is drug addiction. And this invites demonism. More often than not, it goes hand in hand with idolatry.

And as we saw, it was drug addiction which led to other excesses in the Manson cult and transformed his followers into violent, knife-wielding demoniacs.

But it is absurd to attribute every strange behaviour pattern to demon possession. Violence, total disregard for authority, the disasters resulting from associations with bad company USUALLY EMANATE FROM THE OLD SIN NATURE OPERATING WITHOUT RESTRAINT, and NOT from demon possession.

Mark 7:21-23, "For from within, out of the heart (mind) of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within and defile the man." Neither Satan nor the demons can be blamed for all that is evil. More often than not, MAN HIMSELF IS AT FAULT. HE MUST SHOULDER THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS OWN DECISIONS AND ACTIONS.

"Witchcraft" is the Greek word PHARMAKAI, which speaks of generally of the use of drugs, whether helpfully or harmfully. Helpfully by a physician and harmfully by someone whose purpose is to inflict injury, like poisoning others or yourself. Aristotle, Ptolemy, and the Septuagint use the word "witchcraft" because witches used drugs. A witch is a female demon.

In Isaiah 47:9 it is a synonym of the word ENCHANTMENTS, which means "enchantments." This word is uniformly used always in a bad sense of the witchcraft and the enchantments of the Egyptians in Exodus 7:11, 22. Isaiah 47:9, "But these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine

enchantments." Exodus 7:11, 22, "Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments." "And the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments.."

It is used in the New Testament to refer to sorceries in Revelation 9:21, "Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts." And in Galatians 5 the passage speaks of drug addiction in reference to witchcraft, magic art and sorcery.

There is a close correlation between drugs and demonism. So Satan and the old sin nature are in business nullifying the unbeliever and the believer with drugs, SO THEY DO NOT DEPEND ON THE WORD OF GOD, the Lord Jesus Christ and the guidance and direction and teaching of God the Holy Spirit.

Now that is the thrust of Galatians, where the believers are no longer being led by God the Holy Spirit, but by their old sin nature and the God of this world, Satan. You can have the fruit of the Spirit, or the fruit of the spirit of Satan and the production of your old sin nature, which will eventually end up in the sin unto death. You can go home before your time. Drugs are definitely in Scripture connected with demonism, hence the word "witchcraft."

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