

Hypocrisy Wearies God

"Hear the word of the LORD, You rulers of Sodom; Give ear to the law of our God, You people of Gomorrah: "To what purpose [is] the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?" Says the LORD. "I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams And the fat of fed cattle. I do not delight in the blood of bulls, Or of lambs or goats. "When you come to appear before Me, Who has required this from your hand, To trample My courts? Bring no more futile sacrifices; Incense is an abomination to Me. The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies—I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting. Your New Moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates; They are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing [them]. When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; Even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood." (Isaiah 1:10-15 NKJV)

Here we see the seriousness of hypocrisy as the people are referred to as the rulers of Sodom. Sodom was a most detestable place, so much so that God destroyed it with fire and brimstone. Judah was supposed to be God's people. However, they had played the harlot and left their God to pursue sin.

They had not stopped their religious practices, however. They continued to go through the motions by bringing animal sacrifices at the appropriate times. They burned incense and bowed before God in prayer just like nothing was wrong. However, something was terribly wrong; they had mingled sin with sacrifice.

According to the text above, God is wearied by hypocrisy. He cries out "I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting. . . . I am weary of bearing them." Pretending to serve God and holding on to secret sin is a constant reminder to God of your waywardness.

It might actually be better not to be involved in service, than to be involved with a wayward, unrepentant heart. We know some suffer illness for partaking of the Lord's Supper with un-confessed sin. Jesus was most harsh with the Pharisees because of their hypocrisy. However, running away is not the solution.

Rather one must repent and cling to the mercies of God if he is to recover. Running away might make one's judgment less harsh, but he will still be judged. Conversely, ". . . If we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged." (1 Corinthians 11:31 NKJV)

This is a serious issue for God says that He will hide His eyes and He will not hear their many prayers because of the blood on their hands.

Do not be deceived; you cannot deceive God! God knows what is in your heart even if you are unwilling to admit it. You waste your time when you go to church with a false heart. Mingle sin with your worship and your prayers become abominable to the Lord.

Of course, these words are written to people characterized by waywardness. Not all were like this; there was a remnant amongst them. However, ". . . these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. And do not become idolaters as [were] some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall." (1 Corinthians 10:6-12 NKJV)

Yes, stand by forsaking your sin. Confess all known sin and turn from it. Ask God to reveal your secret sin that you may confess and forsake it. Why continued to have God shun your prayers when repentance will open the heavens? Truly, you are deceived if you believe God does not know or care about your hypocrisy. Don't let another day go in this condition. Deal with it now.