

**GROWING IN GRACE LETTERS!** – Calling saints in Christ, (in our homes and with one another in Church), to walk in the Steps of Jesus! (1 Peter 2:15-25) Edited by James Bell, a servant of Jesus Christ!

### **8/5/25 / V1n13 – COCKROACHES AND A PASTOR'S BRIEFING!**

TRAGIC REALITY: Large numbers of men, women, and youth, all confessing to be Christians, (God alone knows the ones who really are!), are falling ... or running into, or creeping into the sin slaveries of various levels of sexual lust, fornication, adultery!

#### **IT STARTS IN SECRET... It starts as PORN IN THE MIND!**

A few years back I attended a Pastor's briefing, dealing with the problem of pornography. The speaker told of going late at night into a kitchen for a bite to eat. **When he turned on the light, he was shocked to find the place SWARMING WITH COCKROACHES! HOWEVER, when the light was turned on—the cockroaches immediately fled! COCKROACHES and SIN THRIVE IN DARKNESS! SIN!**

As to literal participation in porn, the speaker gave some of the alarming statistics that he uncovered in his research. (These stats are now quite dated; but ... things are WORSE NOW; so updated stats would only increase the SHOCK!)

**[1]** BILLIONS UPON BILLIONS per year — the revenues of the porn industry in the U.S.A. are bigger than that of the NFL, NBA, and Major League Baseball combined! **[2]** 77% of online visitors to adult content sites are male. Their average age is 41 and they have an annual income of \$60,000. 46% are married. **[3]** The average teenager spends three to four hours per day watching

television and 83% of the programming most frequently watched by adolescents contains some sexual content. \* 42% of songs on ten top-selling CDs in 1999 contained sexual content, 41% of which were "very explicit" or "pretty explicit."

**[4]** 38% of adults believe there is nothing wrong with pornography use. \* **August 7, 2006: 50% of all 'Christian' men and 20% of all 'Christian' women are addicted to pornography.** 60% of the women who answered the survey admitted to having significant struggles with lust; 40% admitted to being involved in sexual sin in the past year; and 20% of the churchgoing female participants struggle with looking at pornography on an ongoing basis. ***(LUST, fornication, adultery, and PORN ARE not just male problems!)***

**[5]** In December of 2000, the National Coalition to Protect Children and Families surveyed 5 Christian Campuses to see how the next generation of 'believers' were doing with sexual purity: 48% of males admitted to current porn use. 68% of males said they intentionally viewed a sexually explicit site at the School.

**SOMETHING MORE STUNNING THAN THE STATS! AT THE PASTOR'S BRIEFING,** The entire presentation to the pastors minimized the place, power, and preeminence of the Word of God. There was zero confession that the God-breathed Scripture is the CHIEF weapon/tool of the Holy Spirit in warfare against sin ... and, thus, against porn!

**CONSIDER THIS:** People consumed in porn (or whatever sin), ... who die in their sin and are in hell and torment— It is plausible that they might also plead as the rich man in Luke 16: "*SEND SOMEONE BACK FROM THE DEAD to warn my brothers less they come to this place!*" **Now ask yourself: Humanly speaking, what would impress sin loving folk? What would get their attention so that they would repent of their ways?**

(1) We could send them a CD with music and testimonies, which is primarily what the pastors were told to do.

(2) OR, we could do 'Hell/Death/Satan' reenactments like churches do at Halloween.

**(3) OR, what if** we could literally produce some genuine folk on temporary reprieve from hell to come back to earth to warn sinners to repent? Many churches of our day are already doing options (1) and (2) ... And if given the opportunity, they would be thrilled to be able to do (3)!

MANY OF THE mega churches would book 'those back from the dead' and get masses of people down the aisle and then 'play God' by telling folk, "PRAY this prayer after me ...!" "GREAT! You are saved!"

**INDEED, the above is COMMON as to MODERN EVANGELISM:** (1) Stir up emotions to get folk down the aisle. (2) Get them to pray a prayer. (3) Pronounce them saved solely on the grounds that some preacher or outreach worker has led them in a prayer. (4) Baptize them... and by all means COUNT THEM and publish the photos! **(5) BUT the SAD reality is that**

most of these modern converts NEVER show any evidence of conversion; most remain dominated by self, society, sin, satan, and sensuality! **IN GREAT CONTRAST, JESUS** says that if the lost will not HEAR THE PREACHING of His prophets, they will not repent even if one rose from the dead! **(Luke 16:19-31)**

Moreover, it still pleases God that by the foolishness of preaching to save those who believe! (1 Cor. 1:21)

And as for how God matures His saints so that they DEVELOP Christlikeness, winning their battles over sin, including all forms of sensuality— **God has given His church pastors and teachers so as to build up and to empower the rank and file saints by the use the Word of God and by the Power of the Holy Spirit. (Eph. 4:11-16)**

[GODLY SONGS, HYMNS, and SPIRITUAL SONGS have a strong place in this whole process; but never a place prominence over the pure Word of God!]

**HOWEVER, THE SPEAKER TO THE PASTORS** said that ‘studies show’ that people remember 10% of what they’re told, 40% of what they read, and 90% of what they hear in music — **Thus, to win the battle with PORN and/or other sins, PREACHING/TEACHING is not very effective! WE MUST HAVE MUSIC!**

**THE REAL TRUTH:**

The right method to reach the lost and/or the wayward/THE BACKSLIDDEN IS NOT DETERMINED by some survey of what people like or don't like ... or of what lost people SUPPOSEDLY

respond to or don't respond to! **RATHER, GOD TRANSFORMS BY HIS HOLY SPIRIT QUICKENED WORD — 2 Timothy 3:15-17!**

**REMEMBER: The masses did not positively respond to the PREACHING of Noah; nor to the preaching of JESUS CHRIST! NEVERTHELESS, God did not change, alter, or water down His ordained method!**

**[IN THIS PASTOR'S MEETING, to be fair,** THE SPEAKER said that he had lots of Scriptures that he could have given us, exposing the problems of porn and immorality. BUT he said that because we were Pastors ... He figured that we already knew them!]

**Afterwards, I sincerely thanked the speaker for his presentation and plead with him** that in future opportunities with pastors — that THEY/WE might well need the Scriptures as much as or more than most! ***For even by his own statistics-- Pastors are only 10% points behind others in porn abominations.***

**NOW, AGAIN, ON THE FRONT END of his presentation, the speaker to the pastors said:** ON AN OCCASION, late at night he went into a kitchen for a bite to eat. When he turned on the light, he was shocked to find the place SWARMING WITH cockroaches! **HOWEVER, with the light turned on— the cockroaches immediately fled! COCKROACHES THRIVE ON, IN DARKNESS!**

**THE SPEAKER, at the Briefing for Pastors, TOLD US THAT he had developed “MUSIC FOR THE SOUL!” recordings to help those (to help the masses drowning in the COCKROACHES**

**OF PORN!)** WELL, INDEED, the great spiritual COCKROACHES of self, sin [MAYBE especially the PORN SINS], society, and satan thrive on and in darkness. **WHICH IS WHY WE MUST BRING THE LIGHT OF JESUS and HIS WORD** to ourselves and up against our great 'cockroach' enemies of self, sin, society, satan, and especially against all sex related sins!

**NOW, AS BEST I RECALL, the SPEAKER ONLY REFERENCED ONE SPECIFIC VERSE IN HIS PRESENTATION! HOWEVER, it was and is a GREAT SHINNING LIGHT — Exposing many spiritual COCKROACHES ... and when THE LIGHT shines ... the darkness flees!**

TURN THE LIGHT ON! Let it shine and the Cockroaches of self, society, sin, and satan, (in all arenas ... but especially in the sensuous sex area) -- THEY HAVE TO FLEE!

Here is the Scripture that the speaker referenced: Ephesians 5:3-4, "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient."

**[Here are some amplifications]** "But/as for fornication and all uncleanness, [all impurity, immorality, sexual vice] or covetousness [greediness, the itch to get your hands on what belongs to others], let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; [must not even be named among you as fitting or proper; ... not even to be named... don't even talk about such things... ***But among you there must not be EVEN A***

***HINT of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed,*** because these are improper for God's holy people.] Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient. ***[There must be no shameful conduct, no sexually suggestive talk ... No dirty stories, foul talk or coarse jokes. They are wholly out of place among you.]***

**INTERESTINGLY, THIS PASTOR'S MEETING was the day after the Super Bowl, of that year.** Days before the Super Bowl, a secular sports writer had an article entitled, ***"Super Bowl Is About Sex More Than Game*** From Ads to Halftime Show, Naughtiness Reigns; By JIM ARMSTRONG.

**ARMSTRONG WROTE:** "Everywhere you look on Super Sunday, somebody is selling sex. Sex, sex, sex. Sex, sex, sex. Used to be they peddled sparkplugs and trucks and cigarettes during the Super Bowl. If they resurrected the Marlboro Man today, they'd probably dress him up in a garter belt and fish-net panty hose. Remember back in the day, when the Dallas Cowboy's cheerleaders were considered borderline risque? Now they're just another face in the nudist camp."

SO... I RAISED A QUESTION at the pastor's meeting:

**[1] In light of** "...there must not be EVEN A HINT of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people..."

**[2] And in light of** the huge problem with PORN... which begins with 'soft porn' (the sexually suggestive images on TV ads, etc.) ...

***[3] If we are serious about FIGHTING AND WINNING AGAINST PORN— How do we square that with at one and the same time INVITING PORN and immorality right into our church buildings by means of big screens blasting the Super Bowl?***

Now THE SPEAKER for the pastors' meeting, trying to answer my question, was in a difficult position because 'his church' ... like many, was a big promoter of inviting sexual immorality into the church, (via SUPER BOWLS), in the name of doing evangelism.

BUT who can argue — for these churches have huge SUCCESS numbers that validate their method! (And most of the pastors had watched the Super Bowl... and, BY THE WAY, the consensus among them was that the SEX ADVERTIZEMENTS WERE WORSE THAN EVER!)

**IT IS SAD and ALARMING! We all love the Word of God... UNTIL it does not square with our practice!** Then, we push it aside with lame excuses and go on our way ***amazed that anyone would be so negative and narrow minded as to suggest that it might be wise to heed ONE BIBLE VERSE!***

BE THAT AS IT MAY ... just those two powerful verses are revolutionary. And let he/she who has ears to hear, carefully hear: Ephesians 5:3-4 --

“But/as for fornication and all uncleanness, [all impurity, immorality, sexual vice] or covetousness [greediness, the itch to get your hands on what belongs to others], let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; [must not even be



named among you as fitting or proper; ... not even to be named... don't even talk about such things... But among you there must not be EVEN A HINT of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.] Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient. [There must be no shameful conduct, no sexually suggestive talk... No dirty stories, foul talk or coarse jokes. They are wholly out of place among you.]

**NOTHING IS MORE POWERFUL THAN** THE PURE WORD OF GOD, hid in the heart, quickened by the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit BREATHED out the Word of God is THE HOLY SPIRIT'S chief weapon by which we are able to QUENCH all the fiery darts of the evil great COCKROACH SATAN... AS WELL AS all the sensuous lusts of the flesh!

O let us come into the light! AND also, BEWARE ... John 3:19-21  
*"And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*

*For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.*

*But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God!"*

Grace and Peace to all Saints in Christ!

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**EVERY SATURDAY \*\*\* 8:00am**, — Men's Bible Study! (*Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee's Biscuits!*)  
**[8/9/25 – Ephesians 6:17-18]**

**NEXT Ladies Bible Study, AUGUST 19, 2025 @ 11:00am**  
**(LADIES Bible Study, from JOB!) (NO CHILD CARE.)**

**\*\*\*EVERY TUESDAY: LADIES PRAYER MEETING FROM 10:00 to 10:30am, come in back door, under drive-thru awning, go IN THE IMMEDIATE FIRST ROOM ON THE RIGHT!**

**\*\*\* Tuesday Evening, Southside Young Adult Group; Bible Study, (EXODUS), @ 7:15pm, at Jaden & Rhi's home**

**WEDNESDAYS: 6:30pm — \*\* Adult MEN'S Prayer Service**

**\*\* Young FAMILIES STUDY/Prayer Service**

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**\*\*\* LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD BY MAIL or by ONLINE GIVING; For Church Ministry and/or MISSIONS:**

**SUCH funds, (if checks), make out to Southside Baptist) — MAIL TO: Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1594, Gallatin, TN 37066 / OR... TO GIVE via ONLINE GIVING:**

<https://southsidebaptist.breezechms.com/give/online>