

Four Admonitions

No. 282

Introduction.

- I. The story is told about a man who approached a house that was in dire need of painting. When the owner came to the door, the gentleman said to him, "Sir, I see your house needs painting very badly." The owner said, "But I am poor and cannot afford to buy the paint." To this the gentleman replied, "I will furnish all the paint needed if you will do the painting." The owner of the house was very happy and accepted his generosity very graciously. When the paint arrived the man decided he would like to help others get their houses painted also, but he did not want to put out any more money for extra paint. He decided what he would do and no one need know his secret. He watered down the paint. O, it still looked like good white paint but it had lost its strength. He then went to other poor people and offered to furnish the paint for them to paint their houses and they accepted the gracious offer. But when the houses were all painted with this so-called white paint, not one of them was a whit whiter. Actually, they looked worse than before.
- II. There is a tendency in the religious world to "water down" the word of God and still believe that a "watered down" gospel will produce people who are Christlike and acceptable to God, but it will not work.
 - A. A watered-down gospel will produce watered-down Christians and will leave our lives corrupt and dingy and repulsive to God.
 - B. Only when the full gospel, with all its strength and power, is preached and applied will our lives be acceptable and pleasing to God.
- III. In Ephesians the 4th chapter, verses 26-30, Paul penned these words to Christians that must never be watered-down.
26 Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 7 and do not give the devil an opportunity. 28 Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have something to share with him who has need. 9 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear. 0 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
 - A. This is one of the most needed texts in the New Testament.
 - B. It contains "Four Admonitions" that are needed in our daily walk with Christ. It is only when we heed these admonitions that we truly magnify Christ in our lives.
- I. **Be Angry** - The first admonition is to be angry.
 - A. Paul said, "Be angry." (Eph. 4:26a).

1. The word “angry” here refers to a righteous anger or indignation. Christians are admonished to have righteous anger.
2. John the Baptist became angry with a righteous anger. (Matt. 3:1-8).
3. **Jesus often became angry with a righteous anger.**
 - a. Jesus become very angry with the scribes and Pharisees. (Matt. 23:14,15).
 - b. Once Jesus **entered the synagogue** on the Sabbath day and saw a man there who had a withered hand. The Pharisees watched Jesus to see if He would heal this man on the Sabbath day which they taught was a violated of the Sabbath. If He did, they would accuse Him of breaking the law. Jesus told the man with the withered hand to stand forth. He then said to them, “Is it lawful on the Sabbath day to do good, or to do harm? to save a life or to kill?” But they held their peace. The Bible then says that Jesus looked upon them “with anger” because of the hardness of their hearts. He commanded the man to stretch forth his hand and Jesus healed it. The Pharisees then rushed out and took council with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus. (Mk. 3:1-6).
 - c. On another occasion Jesus **entered the court of the temple** and saw those who sold and bought. They were desecrating the temple by making it a place of business and also were cheating the people by charging extraordinarily high prices for the animals to be sacrificed, and by charging for the coins to pay the temple tax. He was so angered that He overthrew the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves and drove them out of the temple saying. (Matt. 21:12, 13). Yes, Jesus often became angry with a righteous anger!

3. **One of the signs of a decaying church is the fact that Christians often do not get angry over sin.**

- a. Some excuse themselves saying, “We are just tolerant,” but this not tolerance. It is plain ordinary indifference. It is conforming to the world rather than transforming the world.
- b. Christians need to get out of the deep freeze of indifference and conformity, and get hot with a righteous anger.
- c. When we get hot with righteous anger, we will not smile at sin or excuse sin or ignore sin, but we will do all that is in our legal power to destroy sin and right the wrongs.

Religious rights are being more and more restricted - prayer, teaching the Bible, right to speak the truth.	About the liquor and drug traffic.	What is displayed on the magazine stands at grocery checkouts and other places
Wolves entering our churches - false doctrine, devouring God’s children.	Filth shown on TV & Vulgarity on Radio	Get angry over all the evils destroying our nation, homes and churches.

B. Paul warns, however, that we must not let our righteous anger or our unrighteous anger lead us to sin. (Eph. 4:26, 27).

1. Righteous anger is born out of love and it leads us to do good.
2. **Carnal, unrighteous anger**, is born out of sin and it leads us to say ugly things and to act in an un-Christlike manner.

3. Paul warns us that we must not let the sun go down on this kind of anger.
 - a. If we let this kind of anger abide in us, we give place or power to the devil and he will lead us to sin.
 - b. James said. (Jas. 1:19,20).
 - c. **We need to reflect often on the message of this hymn.**

<p>Angry words! O let them never, From the tongue unbridled slip, May the heart's best impulse ever, Check them ere they soil the lip.</p> <p>Love one another thus saith the Savior, Children obey the Father's blest command, Love each other, love each other, 'Tis the Father's blest command.</p>	<p>Love is much too pure and holy, Friendship is too sacred far, For a moment's reckless folly, Thus to desolate and mar.</p> <p>Angry words are lightly spoken, Bitterest thoughts are rashly stirred, Brightest links of life are broken, By a single angry word.</p>
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II. **Labor** - The second admonition Paul gave is to labor.

- A. He said. (Eph. 4:28).
 1. Christians are not to steal nor are they to depend upon others to support them if they are able to work.
 2. Christians are to labor that they might support themselves and also help those in need.
- B. Christians are also commanded to do **“the thing that is good.”**
 1. Christians are not to work at occupations that cause them to sin and occupations that destroy their influence.
 2. For this reason a Christian cannot work at an occupation where he is required to lie or defraud. For this reason a Christian cannot work in a liquor store or at any other occupation that destroys his influence and destroys the souls of others.
 3. **This is not working “the thing that is good.”** It is working the thing that is evil and must be cast aside by the Christian. Our souls and the souls of others are worth far more than any job.

III. **Purity Of Speech** - The third admonition Paul gave is to have purity of speech. (Eph. 4:29).

- A. The word “unwholesome” comes from the Greek word “sapos” and means “corrupt, rotten, unfit for use, worthless, bad.”
 1. The Christian should never let such speech come from his mouth. (Jas. 3:10).
 2. To do such brings reproach upon Christ and evidences his heart is not pure. (Matt. 12:34).
- B. Paul said we are only to let “such as is good for edifying” come out of our mouths.
 1. Our speech should build others up and should bring glory to God.
 2. Let us pray. (Psa. 19:14).

IV. **Grieve Not The Spirit** - The fourth admonition Paul gave to grieve not the Spirit. (Eph. 4:30).

A. The Holy Spirit is a Divine Person who loves us and has great feeling for us.

1. The Holy Spirit is made happy when we walk uprightly and cleave to what is good.

2. He is “grieved” when we utter corruption or sin in some other way.

B. In 1 Thessalonians 5:19 he admonishes us not to “quench” or “extinguish” the influence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

1. To spurn, to so insult the Spirit will end in our condemnation.

2. The Hebrew writer gave this warning. (Heb. 10:26-31).

26 For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge His people." 31 It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

3. This sobering passage should instill in our minds the dreadful consequences of extinguishing the influence of the Holy Spirit in our lives by wilfully abiding in sin.

Conclusion.

I. It is also serious for the non-Christian to spurn Christ and the Holy Spirit in his life and continue in sin. This will lead to eternal condemnation. (Jn.3:36; 3:5).

II. Both the Spirit and Christ invite you to come and submit your life to God and walk in the light that you might partake of the blessings of God and might have eternal life. Come as we stand and sing.

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