

True Fellowship Holiness Church Bible Study  
July 15, 2020  
Facilitator: Co-Pastor McMullen  
Pastor: Marvin Avant



## **Bible Study**

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Co-Pastor Francena McMullen, Facilitator

### **Take Heed to the Warnings**

Signs and warnings are important to pay attention to. Just about anywhere you go, you will come in contact with some kind of warning, whether in the form of announcements, symbols, lights etc. We are often governed and controlled by these warnings, like the ones we receive from the police, governments, doctors and employers. Not heeding these warnings can result in some pretty big consequences. When we do pay attention to these warnings and follow the rules and laws in place, we tend to live better and safer lives. The same goes for warnings from the Bible. Too often the most ignored warnings are those from God. The first warning given by God was during creation. Man ignored this warning and that came at a great cost. God's warnings are for our benefit – to help and guide us. Jesus warned His followers against sin and evil. He said: "Watch out! Be on guard" (Luke 12:15). He also warned His followers against false and hypocritical religious people and leaders: "Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and 'The time is near.' Do not follow them." These warnings are for our safety, issued because of God's great love for us. Here are seven cautionary warnings from the Bible.

#### ***Warnings About False Prophets and the Antichrist***

**1. Beware of False Prophets (Matt. 7:15).** These are everywhere (**I John 4:1**)! Notice Paul says they won't come with name tag that says "I'm a False Prophet." Counterfeits come in disguise like the real men and servants of God. They talk, pray, sing, attend church, read the Bible, and even preach God's word LIKE a true Christian; but they are not real Christians (**II Cor 11:13-14**). The Lord Jesus said that by their fruits they shall be detected (**Matt. 7:20**).

Christ appeals to Scripture, but false prophets don't appeal to Scripture. They have an entirely different appeal. There is often a monetary motive involved or an entirely selfish motivation. It is important that you pay close attention to their message. "We have the word of the prophets made more certain and you will do well to pay attention to it" (2 Peter 1:19). God has spoken, and Christ appeals to His Word. The false prophets make a rather different appeal: "By appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error" (2 Peter 2:18). Ask yourself what kind of message is this person delivering? If you feel like any part of the message isn't aligned with God's message, then they are a false and you need to beware.

The Bible doesn't say specifically where the Antichrist will come from. Second Thessalonians 2:3-4 tells us how we will recognize the Antichrist: "Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God."

While many try to speculate who the Antichrist is and the date and time we will encounter him, we should focus on what the Bible says. Revelation 13:5-8 says, "The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months. He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander His name and His dwelling place and those who live in heaven. He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast – all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world."

## 2) Warnings About Sin

As Christians, we are to avoid sin, but this can be quite a task because we are sinful beings. As much as we don't want to, we are still capable of sin in our daily lives because of the sinful nature that was injected into us through the fall. Because God is holy, He cannot tolerate sin, and our sin separates us from him, becoming a barrier to our fellowship with Him and even causing us to lose the joy of our

salvation. Isaiah 59:2 says, “Your iniquities have become a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that He does not hear.” The seriousness of sin should make us realize we cannot tolerate it or give sin any ground in our lives.

### 3) Warnings About the Last Days

The Last Days is not a topic many people, including Christians, like to talk about. Few churches preach or teach on the last days, but scripture has much to say: Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 2 Peter 3:3-4; Matthew 24:42-44; Luke 21:25-26; Matthew 12:36

### 4) Warnings of the Heart

**Beware of a Wicked Heart (Deut. 15:9a; Prov. 23:7a)**. The heart of man is the seat of his thoughts and issues in life (**Mark 7:21-23**). This is where temptation is conceived and born. Whatever you premeditate in your heart will eventually manifest itself in what you do! The man with an evil heart will surely be destroyed; but he who guards his heart and fills it with God’s words shall be blessed.

### 5) Warnings About Jealousy, Money, and Greed

Oftentimes, poverty and selfish desires of many provoke them to become lovers of money and things instead of God. Covetousness, being a materialistic view of life, is dangerous and damning that Paul even equates it to idolatry (**Col 3:5**).

You can work hard, save your money, and even buy many things you desire, but the truth is someone else will always have more to their name. We all know the Joneses. They’re the ones who just got back from a two-week trip to Europe dragging suitcases stuffed with souvenirs. They drive their kids to private school in their new car, and every weekend, they head out of town – fashionably dressed – to eat at their favorite restaurants. They always seem to have money to do everything they want to do whenever they want to do it. No budget. No worries. They’ve got it all. Or so it seems. The truth is, they don’t have everything and keeping up with Joneses isn’t going to bring joy. God tells us in 1 Corinthians 13:5

that “love is never jealous,” and loving our neighbors is something we are called by God to do. The next time you begin feeling envious of what others have, take a close look at what God has blessed you with and say a short prayer of thanks. Ask God to change your heart and allow you to be grateful for the blessings He has bestowed upon you.

## 6) Warnings About Sloth (Laziness)

The Bible has a great deal to say about laziness. Proverbs is especially filled with wisdom concerning laziness and warnings to the lazy person. Proverbs tells us that a lazy person hates work: “The sluggard’s craving will be the death of him, because his hands refuse to work” (21:25); he loves sleep: “As a door turns on its hinges, so a sluggard turns on his bed” (26:14); he gives excuses: “The sluggard says, ‘There is a lion in the road, a fierce lion roaming the streets’” (26:13); he wastes time and energy: “He who is slothful in his work is a brother to him who is a great waster” (18:9 KJV); he believes he is wise, but is a fool: “The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who answer discreetly” (26:16).

Proverbs also tells us the end in store for the lazy: A lazy person becomes a servant (or debtor): “Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in slave labor” (12:24); his future is bleak: “A sluggard does not plow in season; so at harvest time he looks but finds nothing” (20:4); he may come to poverty: “The soul of the lazy man desires and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich” (13:4 KJV).

There is no room for laziness in the life of a Christian. A new believer is truthfully taught that “...it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast” ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#)). But a believer can become idle if he erroneously believes God expects no fruit from a transformed life. “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” ([Ephesians 2:10](#)). Christians are not saved by works, but they do show their faith by their works ([James 2:18, 26](#)). Slothfulness violates God’s purpose—good works. The Lord, however, empowers Christians to overcome the flesh’s propensity to laziness by giving us a new nature ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)).

In our new nature, we are motivated to [diligence](#) and productiveness out of a love for our Savior who redeemed us. Our old propensity toward laziness—and all other sin—has been replaced by a desire to live godly lives: “He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need” ([Ephesians 4:28](#)). We are convicted of our need to provide for our families through our labors: “If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever” ([1 Timothy 5:8](#)); and for others in the family of God: “You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’” ([Acts 20:34-35](#)).

As Christians, we know that our labors will be rewarded by our Lord if we persevere in diligence: “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers” ([Galatians 6:9-10](#)); “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving” ([Colossians 3:23-24](#)); “God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them” ([Hebrews 6:10](#)).

## 7) Warnings About Backsliding

Backsliding refers to going backwards spiritually and morally. When a believer backslides, he falls back in some way into a less desirable condition; His lapse may be a relatively minor one and unintentional. He may simply fall back through neglect by not praying, reading the Bible, and keeping his focus on living for God. On the other hand, a believer may backslide by deliberately choosing to indulge in this life’s sinful pleasures. This type of backsliding can carry disastrous consequences. It can bring dishonor to the One who laid down His life for us. But there is good news for us when we backslide. God doesn’t condemn him. God’s loving concern for backsliders is steadfast and sure. A big step you take to escape

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the tangles of sin is turning to Jesus, the only One who has defeated sin and death out of His deep love for us.

It is a shame to quit serving the Lord and go back to the old life! That is why Jesus said to count the cost (**Luke 9:62**). Falling and failing in the spiritual life can happen even to the best – to Noah, David, Solomon, Demas (**Philem. 24** cf. **II Tim. 4:10**). If you are a Christian believer, beware of coldness, backsliding and falling from your blessed relationship with the Lord!