

Pleasures

-- May 3, 2009/ Sun Valley Bulletin

If you are given to God's good pleasure, it can only do you good; but if you are just given to pleasure, it will be disastrous. What sins cannot be described as surrender to human pleasure? The one who lives in pleasure is dead even while he lives, 1 Timothy 5:6. Some who obey the Gospel are choked with the pleasures of this world, Luke 8:14. Before we obeyed the Gospel we were sometimes foolish, disobedient, and deceived serving various lusts and pleasures, Titus 3:3.

The **works of the "flesh"** are listed as **1. adultery**, you covet your neighbor's spouse anticipating more pleasure there than in your lawful companion. **2. fornication**, you primarily focus on your own pleasure and certainly not on the well-being of anyone else. **3. uncleanness**, even though you know it is dirty morally, you arouse and stimulate unholy pleasures. **4. lasciviousness**, this work implies giving in to whatever sensual pleasure one desires without regard to the inhibitions of what is proper. **5. Idolatry and witchcraft** are basically the use of religion to indulge in the pleasures otherwise frowned on such as drunkenness, nakedness, and emotional ecstasies. **6. hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders**, are the pleasures of ill-will toward others. We nurse our hatred because it feels good; it is exciting. The heart beats faster. We feel stronger even as we begin the strife, stir up bad feelings in others, and envy their "unjust" good fortunes. With murder comes the exultant, primordial cry of Tarzan. You want to tell me that is not giving in to pleasure? **7. drunkenness, revelings, and such like**, They count it pleasure to riot in the daytime, 2 Peter 2:13. Many will not obey the Gospel precisely because they love to drink and get loud and crazy: the pleasure of the "buzz" and the pleasure of the delusions of the drug.

Why does a drunk keep on drinking after the pleasure is gone?? Because the stupor is less painful than the consequences of sin seen in the daylight of the next day. Why does the promiscuous continue to sleep with strangers when the pleasure is gone?? Because even the companion of the gutter is better than being alone with thoughts of such worthlessness. Why does the brawler continue to provoke conflict even after the thrill is gone?? I don't know if that thrill ever goes away! Even looking back on the destruction, such habits are hard to stop. There is no rhyme or reason or even pleasure. tp