

Lesson Nine

Drugs and Addiction

Introduction

- A. The way illicit drugs have ravaged this society both in the users and in the horrific violence associated with drug trafficking is well-known.
- B. Our chief concern is the Christian and the drug problem.
- C. Drug abuse: "Use of drugs for non-medical reasons in an attempt to influence the mind and body; an attempt to alter the emotions, to change the senses, to escape from reality."
- D. This is a Bible subject.

I. The Bible Condemns Drug Abuse

- A. 1 Corinthians 6:19,20 condemns the abuse of body and mind.
- B. 1 Corinthians 6:12 warns against habituation or addiction.
- C. Deuteronomy 18:10 condemns efforts at divination.

"The underlying thought in all forms of divination is that by employing certain means men are able to obtain knowledge otherwise beyond their reach....The Greek and Roman *mantis* (diviner) worked himself up to the necessary ecstatic state by music, drugs (intoxicants, etc.), sacrificial smoke and the like.

- D. Galatians 5:20 and Revelation 21:8 condemn sorcery.

1. The Greek word for sorcery is *pharmakia* which signifies the use of drugs: "primarily signified the use of medicine drugs, spells; then poisoning; then sorcery, Gal. 5:20....In sorcery, the use of drugs, whether simple or potent, was generally accompanied by incantations and appeals to occult powers, with the provision of various charms, amulets, etc...." - Vine's Exp. Dict. of NT Words, Vol. IV, pp. 51,52.

2. May explain the hold that sorcerers gained on people.

- E. Romans 13:13 forbids drunkenness.

- 1. Characteristics of drunkenness seen from Genesis 9:20,21; 19:31-35; Prov. 23:33-35.
 - a. Impaired consciousness
 - b. Irrational behavior
 - c. Incoherent speech
 - d. Hallucinations
 - e. Inability to reason
- 2. Effects of drugs are identical, therefore intoxication.

II. The Bible Attacks the Causes of Drug Abuse.

- A. Causes listed by National District Attorney's Association:

1. Belief that medicine can solve every problem.
2. Dissatisfaction with the establishment (rebellion).
3. Desire for easy solutions - escape from reality.
4. Increasing permissiveness in homes growing out of materialism.
5. Peer group pressure.
6. Rock Music.

B. Youth reared by Bible-obeying parents will be fore-armed.

1. Taught to accept hardships as part of sinful world (Phil. 4:12; Rom. 8:22,23).
2. Taught to respect authority (Eph.6:1-3; Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:17).
3. Taught to depend on Christ (Phil 4:13).
4. Taught to appreciate the value of suffering (2 Cor. 12:10; Jas. 1:2-4).
5. Have parents fulfilling proper role:
 - a. Father bringing them up (Eph. 6:4).
 - b. Mother loving her children, at home with them (Tit. 2:4,5).
 - c. Parents exercising discipline (Heb. 12:9-11).
6. Taught to resist social pressure (Ex. 23:2; Matt. 7:13,14).
7. Taught to think on pure things (Phil. 4:8), to honor good men and women (Ps. 15:4), to sing praise when merry (Jas. 5:13). This approach to music would destroy the rock music of our generation.

III. The Bible Offers a Superior Alternative to Solution of the World's Problems

A. The drug advocate claims that drugs:

1. Expand his mind.
2. Can redeem the world - bring into a new relationship with God.
3. Get one away from the tragic world of materialism, pride, greed, etc.
4. Provides a good feeling - "kicks".
5. Help one forget his problems.

B. The Christian

1. Expands his mind with the world of God (Ps. 119:97-100).
2. Redeems the world by the "good news" (Rom. 1:16).
3. Gets away from the materialism, greed, pride of this world by crucifying the flesh (Mt. 16:24; Lk. 14:33; Mt. 6:19-21; Gal. 5:24).
4. Obtains "joy unspeakable and full of glory" (Phil. 1:8), "in the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 14:17), "in the Lord" (Phil. 4:4).
5. Casts his cares upon the Lord (Phil. 4:4-7; 1 Pet. 5:7).

Conclusion:

1. First temptation similar to the drug temptation:
 - a. Satan used the same approaches
 - 1) Thrill of rebellion
 - 2) Mind expansion
 - 3) Social pressure
 - 4) Pleasure for senses
 - b. Same sad consequences upon herself, her companion, her children.
2. The "way of the cross" and the "way of drugs" lead in two different directions.
 - a. One is the way of suffering; the other the way of escape.
 - b. One leads to an early grave; the other to life eternal.

- Outline of Sermon preached by Sewell Hall at Thayer Street Lectures, 1970.