

These Perilous Times
Vol. 5 No. 24 Dec. 21, 2014

Intemperance—The 21st century sin of choice!

This time of year, when we celebrate three nationally recognized holidays back to back, {with the exception of our Lord’s celebrated birth, which is a solemn occasion for Christians—not a mere holiday} most Americans will become **blatantly intemperate**.

Lustful appetites are increased especially for food. No worries though, we can make New Year’s resolutions to pay for our self-indulgences over the past year, beginning January 1 of the New Year—Tis the season to eat, drink, and be merry, right, {sarcasm intended}!

“When thou sittest down to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before thee: and put a knife to thy throat, if thou be a man given to appetite.” Prov. 23:1, 2

What does this mean for us?

Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season

The sin of gluttony is not becoming, but is a pandemic not only in the United States, but around the world.

Pseudo scientist, known as Psychologist are calling over-eating a disease, but in reality is the sin of choice of the last days, as it was before the flood!

Solomon speaks some very strong language in the previous mentioned text concerning the sin of appetite. I know for myself I do struggle with sweet treats. Fighting against appetite is a daily battle, like all temptations but not an excuse to become intemperate or over indulge in anything, including our spending habits, work ethics, {even for the Lord}, or our leisure time etc.!

Inspired words from God's messenger

“Some do not exercise control over their appetites, but indulge taste at the expense of health.

As a result the brain is clouded, their thoughts are sluggish, and they fail to accomplish what they might if they were self-denying and abstemious.

These rob God of Physical and mental strength which might be devoted to His service if temperance were observed in all things... ¹ As in a previous issue of TPT, I would like to allude to Daniel for wisdom, and admonition concerning the importance of a healthy diet.

And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, {food} and of the wine of which he drank, so nourishing them three years, at the end thereof they might stand before the king. But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself..."

Daniel 1:5, 8

¹ E. G. White Counsel on Diet & Foods, pp. 132-137.

Daniel, learned through early childhood training from his Godly parents that intemperance was a sin against the physical body that eventually led to sins against the God of heaven—like bowing down, and worshipping idols.²

Instead of eating the king's gourmet cooking, and choosing a fine red dinner wine from the royal wine list, he asked Melzar, the prince over the eunuchs to give him, and his three friend's water to drink, and vegetables to eat. He also asked to have their physical condition checked at the end of ten days.³

Needless to say that God's four young servants that refused to eat food from the king's table, or drink his wine; as did the other Israelite captives, were found healthier looking in the flesh.

And after a three year test of educational training, while on the same diet, they were found ten times better in all matters of wisdom and understanding than all the king's men!⁴

² Daniel 3:13-18

³ Daniel 1:11-13

⁴ Ibid. 1:14-21

Words from God's inspired messenger

“The same sins exist in our day which brought the wrath of God upon the world in the days of Noah. Men and women now carry their eating and drinking to gluttony and drunkenness. This prevailing sin, the indulgence of perverted appetite, inflamed the passions of men in the days of Noah, and led to general corruption, until their violence and crimes reached to heaven, and God washed the earth of its moral pollution by a flood.

The sins of gluttony and drunkenness benumbed the moral sensibilities of the inhabitants of Sodom, so that crimes seemed to be the delight of men and women of that wicked city.

Christ thus warns the world: “Likewise as it was in the days of Lot; that they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone out of heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the son of man is revealed.”⁵

⁵ E. G. White. Testimonies for the Church Vol. 3, 1873, pp. 163, 164.
Luke1726-30

The Wisdom of Solomon

Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way. Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh: For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags..." Prov23:19-21

A Biblical recipe for conquering lustful habits

"...According as His divine power hath given to us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue.

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience; godliness and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

For if these things be in you, and abound, they
make you that ye shall neither be barren nor
unfruitful in the knowledge in our Lord Jesus
Christ." I Peter 1:3-8

