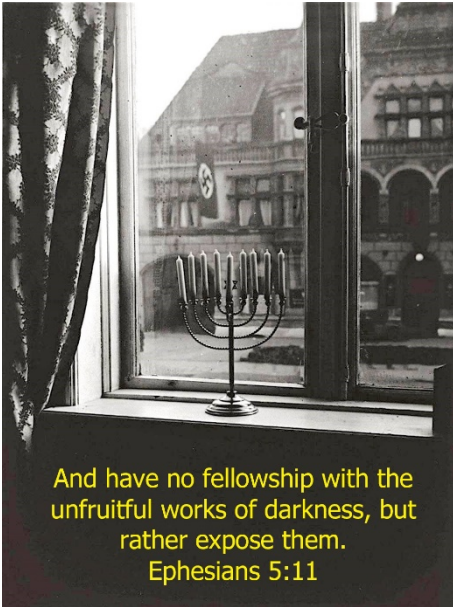


“Becoming or Escaping Babylon” Revelation 18:1-8



And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.  
Ephesians 5:11

I. *The angelic / heavenly light that exposes darkness -*  
**18 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. Revelation 18:1 (NKJV)**

1. *Sin, moral darkness, distorts our vision, the LIGHT of Christ – John 8:12; the LIGHT of God’s Word – Psalm 119:105, even the LIGHT of true Christians – Matthew 5:14-16 expose the sinfulness of an ungodly world, the light of the angel coming down from heaven - Revelation 18:1 is a similar kind of light ...*

A. *Christ as Light –*

**<sup>12</sup> Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” John 8:12 (NKJV)**

B. *God’s Word as Light –*

**1 Nun <sup>105</sup> Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path. Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)**

C. *Christians as salt and light –*

**<sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. <sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. <sup>16</sup> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:13–16 (NKJV)**

2. *Christ calls us salt, as well as light, why? In the first century, salt was not only for flavor, but it was also a preservative, in a day without refrigeration it kept meat fresh, longer. We are here to counter the corruption, the rotting, of a sin-filled world! We do this by being different, not joining in the world’s sin, but rather repenting from ours! Also, we do not stop the world’s rotting, but we are supposed to slow it!*

3. *As light, we are NOT to have fellowship with, but expose the unfruitful works of darkness – Ephesians 5:11*

II. *The angel exposes and tells the truth about Babylon – Moral Dirt shone!*

**<sup>2</sup> And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! Revelation 18:2 (NKJV)**

1. *Remember this is an angel, a messenger, a communicator of God’s truth, one coming down from heaven, having great authority Revelation 18:1 –*

2. *He cries MIGHTILY, with a LOUD voice –*

A. *Not a ReVoice, not a gentler dealing with sin, not non-offensive, as some seem to think the Bible to be wrong in its strong language or dealing with sin and sinners – Leviticus 18:22; Deuteronomy 22:5*

B. *It is a LOUD VOICE, a MIGHTY CRY – “cried mightily” - implies emotion, what emotion? Sadness? Anger? - <sup>2</sup> And he cried mightily with a loud voice – Revelation 18:2 A*

3. *If we make such a cry, it must come first against our own sins, sinfulness –*

A. C. H. Spurgeon, nicknamed the “Prince of Preachers” applied **Revelation 18:2** to his own heart and soul, when he said –

“I have a heart, which God knows, I wish I could wring from my body and hurl an infinite distance; a soul which is a cage of unclean birds, a den of loathsome creatures, where dragons haunt and owls do congregate, where every evil beast of ill omen dwells; a heart too vile to have parallel ... **deceitful above all things and desperately wicked**;... **Jeremiah 17:9** This is the reason I am forgetful of Christ.” C. H. Spurgeon *Elders & people consider Paul’s words - Acts 20:28* “**Take heed to yourselves...**”

B. Now, the part taken from **Jeremiah 17:9** was about the heart, it is right we recognize our own heart’s sinfulness, wickedness, deceitfulness - this is recognition of, and remorse for sin, is what we see in **Matthew 5:3-4**

**<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. Matthew 5:3-4 (NKJV)**

People are poor in spirit, mourn, cry LOUDLY, because they are mourning over sin, (1) they cannot stop (2) they know it (sin) can destroy them! This moves toward hungering & thirsting for righteousness, and being PURE, in heart –

C. It is a sinfulness that we should mourn over is a lack of righteousness that will destroy us if we are not changed –

**<sup>20</sup> For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:20 (NKJV)**

D. I think it is always a good policy to be as tough as nails when dealing with your own sin, Jesus said-

**<sup>27</sup> “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ <sup>28</sup> But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup> If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. <sup>30</sup> And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. Matthew 5:27-30 (NKJV)**

One of the arguments we heard at Presbytery this week for allowing Gay, but celibate pastors in the pulpits, is “we sin too” “he says his sin is impossible to overcome, so is ours ... we sin in our hearts and we are pastors and elders, we should allow him to be a pastor and elder too!”

No, no, no, this thinking is all wrong! Do pastors sin? Do elders sin? Yes! But, should pastors or elders be gentle (weaklings) in the battles with sin, because they are failing in sanctification?

No, if we cannot repent, and gain victories, even over heart sins, rather than defile the church of God, with our Babylonian, keep-on-sinning-because-everyone-else-is attitudes, we should realize we are in danger of losing our souls and corrupting the church and we should be ready to RESIGN! Still less extreme than cutting off and hand or plucking out an eye! David had seen the sinfulness of Saul, and he knew his own sins to be great and he prays – **<sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Psalm 51:11 (NKJV)**

When David is chased out of Jerusalem by his own rebellious son Absalom, as a consequence of his sin with Bathsheba, David does not complain, even when Shimei cursed and threw stones at David and those who were with David – Shimei was all wrong in the particular accusations he brought against David, they did not specifically fit David’s sin, he accused David of sins he did not commit, and yet when one of David’s offers to Re-Voice Shimei by taking off his head --- David says - “**Let him alone, and let him curse; ...**” **2 Samuel 16:11 (NKJV)**, If you read further you realize, Shimei kept cursing throwing stones and dirt ... -

If Shimei’s loud and wrong voice be allowed against sin, surely LOUD TRUTH should not be muffled!

*This is true when faithful preachers preach against sin –*

***“I love those that thunder out the word! The Christian world is in a deep sleep. Nothing but a loud voice can wake them out of it.” George Whitefield***

E. There are occasions, I believe, we are to be gentle, the woman at the well. It is important to realize when and to whom to be gentle with, and when and to whom to be tougher with sin: how did Jesus preach to Pharisees? Was He gentle with their heart sins? – they were religious leaders -

***27 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. 28 Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. Matthew 23:27–28 (NKJV)***

4. Yet, Babylon the great is a fallen, fallen assembly of people, they do not understand, as Spurgeon did, the severity, the grave consequence of their sin ... they will attempt peer pressure to push or to pull us to perversity -

A. Because we are the Temple (Dwelling Place) of God, we must cleanse / sanctify ourselves, think of how passionate Jesus was about cleaning the earthly temple –

***13 Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. 15 When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers’ money and overturned the tables. 16 And He said to those who sold doves, “Take these things away! Do not make My Father’s house a house of merchandise!” 17 Then His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.” John 2:13–17 (NKJV)***

B. He was even more passionate for His spiritual temple, His bride, the church –

***5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler – To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, Revelation 1:5 (NKJV)***

***25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. Ephesians 5:25–27 (NKJV)***

C. Note Babylon is a different kind of temple / dwelling place / city –

***2 And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! Revelation 18:2 (NKJV)***

*In the Book of Revelation two places (symbolic for peoples) are representative of (1) true believers, what is called the invisible church the New Jerusalem, verses (2) unbelievers, the invisible assembly of Satan’s people Babylon note the stark contrast –*

***9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, “Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.” 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. 12 Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: 13 three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. 14 Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. 15 And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. 16 The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal. 17 Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel. 18 The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. 19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysopease, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. 21 The***

twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. Revelation 21:9–21 (NKJV)

Now, whether or not streets of gold and gates of pearl, are a “literal” description of Heaven, they are definitely **SYMBOLIC!** They are symbolic of God’s people, the Lamb’s wife, and her heart character, as sanctified by Christ, by the washing of water by the word, washed by her sweet Husband Jesus – Ephesians 5:26

In contrast, Babylon, the harlot, has as a description of its / her character - a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! Revelation 18

III. *Neither an ungodly world, nor Babylon, sees this truth, sees this danger, they are not self-aware of how bad they are, nor aware of the judgment that is FAST approaching -*

1. *An ungodly world does not see anything bad, or THAT BAD, in Babylon or in sin, or in themselves as sinners – <sup>3</sup>For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.” Revelation 18:3 (NKJV) *They are drunk, not seeing straight! Not thinking!**

2. *Scripture tells us a lot about wine, we as Christians have our own, given to us by Christ, we drink it celebrating what Christ has done for us, we drink it as His followers – Luke 9:23*

<sup>27</sup> Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “**Drink from it, all of you.** <sup>28</sup> **For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.** <sup>29</sup> **But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.”** Matthew 26:27–29 (NKJV)

3. *Babylonians have their own wine – the wine of the wrath of her fornication Revelation 18:3*

*They drink this as Belshazzar the old Babylon king did, confident in Babylon’s wealth and fortifications –*  
5 Belshazzar the king made a great feast for a thousand of his lords, and drank wine in the presence of the thousand. <sup>2</sup> While he tasted the wine, Belshazzar gave the command to bring the gold and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple which *had been* in Jerusalem, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. <sup>3</sup> Then they brought the gold vessels that had been taken from the temple of the house of God which *had been* in Jerusalem; and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. <sup>4</sup> They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze and iron, wood and stone. Daniel 5:1–4 (NKJV)

*They trusted in things they should not have, as the handwriting of judgment, was on the wall -*

<sup>31</sup> For their rock *is* not like our Rock, even our enemies themselves *being* judges. <sup>32</sup> For their vine *is* of the vine of Sodom and of the fields of Gomorrah; Their grapes are grapes of gall, Their clusters are bitter. Their wine *is* the poison of serpents, And the cruel venom of cobras. Deuteronomy 32:31–33 (NKJV)

4. *Babylon certainly does not recognize her own faults, nor her soon coming judgment –*

<sup>7</sup> In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, ‘I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.’ <sup>8</sup> Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong *is* the Lord God who judges her. Revelation 18:7–8 (NKJV)

5. *We must see this, and come out –*

<sup>4</sup> And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. <sup>5</sup> For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. <sup>6</sup> Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. Revelation 18:4–6 (NKJV) *Remembered, measured & judged – Daniel 5:25-26*

*Note the cup in Revelation 18:6 might be compared to the gold vessels that had been taken from the temple of the house of God Daniel 5 in that Satan desires that we who are meant for God’s service and glory be used for his ... Let’s do all in our power to ESCAPE and to not BECOME Babylon!*