

THE TELEVISION

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I'm going to preach to the teleholics this morning. I'm going to preach a message titled "The Television." It's been over ten years since we've actually preached an entire message on this subject. We've preached on it a number of times for a few moments — five, ten minutes, make mention of it. But I'm going to preach some things that I believe will be important to you here this morning. I've brought probably two hours' worth of quotes into the pulpit. I'm only going to read just a few of these. I'm going to mainly stick with the Scriptures and talk to you about what the Bible has to say, but I do want to give you a few quotes by others over the years and what they have said about this particular subject.

Watching television has become America's favorite pastime. We get most of our news from the television. It's become a baby-sitter for many families. It is the family altar. It's the glass altar that is in most people's homes in the time in which we live. One fellow said, "I've watched television from infancy to adultery," and that's just about the truth over the history of the subject of television.

We begin reading in verse 1 of Psalm 101. David is writing, and he said:

"I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O LORD, will I sing. ²I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. ³I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; *it shall not cleave to me.*"

Now, Father, we come here this morning in Jesus' name, Lord, and by the power of the sweet Holy Spirit. God, as we come here this morning, we ask, Lord, Your blessings and anointing upon the reading of Thy Scripture. God, this is a so important subject. I pray that hearts will be opened and will not be closed to this subject. I pray, Lord, that You would deal with our hearts this morning on this, that we would see some truth. God, we ask that You just lead and guide us in truth and in righteousness and holiness. Lord, we thank You for who You are. Lord, we ask that Your will be done in each of our lives, for it's in Jesus Christ's name we pray, Amen.

You may be seated. Someone said some years ago that the three causes of depression is ABC, CBS, and NBC, and that's probably the truth. Somebody said that

HBO stands for Hell's Box Office. How true that is as well. Somebody said, "If you have a half a mind to watch television, go ahead. That's all you need is about a half a mind."

The introduction of television into our culture

Now, the first thing I want to present to you this morning is the introduction of television into our culture a little less than a hundred years ago. We are the TV generation. Most of us in this sanctuary this morning have grown up with television in one form or the other, and we have to ask the question, "What did people do before there was television, in other words, the first 6,000 years of the history of man"? Well, first of all, they had a life, and they were able to think and they were able to pray and they communicated with one another. They read their Bible, they witnessed, and they went to church and things of that nature. That's what people did before they got television. But David says in verse 3, "[If the foundations](#)" — Now, the foundation is the settled order of things — "[be destroyed, what can the righteous do?](#)" The foundation is what supports the edifice of a house. David said, "[If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?](#)" In other words, if the foundations crumble in our society — and they have crumbled partly due to the introduction of television into our society — he's saying what can the righteous do if they have no foundation?

Now, when I speak of television this morning, I'm not necessarily talking about just the electronic device itself because we know that the television, the electronic device, the instrument can be used for good or bad. We've got a television in the nursery right now that is showing the preaching service and the singing. If somebody had to carry their child into the nursery, they can watch that. So that is used for good. There are a number of ways television can be used for good. I was on television for a year in Ann Arbor, Michigan. We filmed the services in our church, and then we sent them to the television station. We were on every Sunday morning for an hour, so that was used for the good. But what I'm talking about are the things that are channeled through the television — the worldliness and the wickedness that we see whenever people plug themselves into the stations. So we're going to be including television, video games, even the Internet or anything else that you might come up with that I missed. We're going to be including all those things if they're used for that which is wicked.

Now, I want you to understand as you come to the Scriptures that God hates idolatry. Anything that takes the place of God is idolatry. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 10:14, "[Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.](#)" We find that the Lord is

provoked to jealousy through idolatry. We're to love the Lord with all our heart, all our soul, our mind, and strength.

Do you realize this morning that 98.2 percent of all Americans have at least one television in their home? In 1950 that was only 9 percent. We find that 40 percent have three or more televisions. Over 50 percent of children ages five to seventeen have a television in their bedroom, and 25 percent of children ages two to five have one in their bedroom as well. So we're talking about something in the last 50 to 60 years that has become like a Trojan horse in America and in the living rooms of our homes.

As we come to Psalm 106, I want you to notice how God dealt with the nation of Israel. Verses 35 and 36 of this chapter say, "But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works.³⁶ And they served their idols: which were a snare unto them." Notice He's talking about His people learning the way of the heathen. He says in verses 37 through 40, "Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils,³⁸ And shed innocent blood, *even* the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood.³⁹ Thus were they defiled with their own works, and went a whoring with their own inventions.⁴⁰ Therefore was the wrath of the LORD kindled against his people, insomuch that he abhorred his own inheritance." We find that when the children of Israel went into the land, they did not obey God, and we find that God had to bring His judgment upon them because they began imitating the heathen and the pagan in the land.

Now, as we begin looking at this subject, people ask, "Well, what is wrong with television?" and that is not the real question to ask. You've got to ask the question, "What is right with television?" And I'm going to explain some of these things as we move along.

The average family sits in their home across the nation, and over 90 million people are watching television every night, and the Christian families are watching as much as the pagans, and they're usually watching the identical same programs. That ought to tell us something about what's going on in our land. Now, a few more statistics — and, again, I'm not going to read everything I've got up here but just a few. But let me say this before I get started. Ninety percent of the statistics that I'm going to give you are old, and I purposely kept them that way. We know that the television today is out of Hell. We know that there's nothing you can turn on today and watch and be edified as a Christian, so I don't even have to deal with the programs today. I can take you back

twenty years and show you they were out of Hell then. So if they were bad then, you know what's going on in our society today.

Over 70 percent of the average day care centers have televisions in order to baby-sit the children. The average American watches four hours of TV per day. That's 28 hours per week; that's 120 hours per month; that's 1456 hours per year. The average American spends the equivalent of over 50 days each year watching television. As a matter of fact, by the age of 18, the average person has wasted over three years of their life watching television. If you've spent only two hours a day watching TV, you would waste one full year every twelve years, and that would be a total of six wasted years if you lived to be 72 years of age. So not only are there some wicked and hellish things on television, but it is a great waster of time.

The average teenager will see 50 R-rated movies this year, and by the time the average child reaches 16 years of age, he will see over 200,000 acts of violence, including 33,000 murders. This was Time Magazine, June 1989. You know that that statistic is far higher now. By the time the average teenager reaches 16 years of age, he will see over 400,000 illicit sexual scenes in movies and television. By the time a child finishes elementary school, he will see 8,000 murders, 100,000 acts of violence on television — and, again, that is a lot higher right now. A study that was done by TV Guide in 1993 reported that in a single day, TV showed over 1800 acts of violence, over 300 assaults, over 300 uses of guns, and over 200 punches. Again, this is NBC nightly news in 1993.

I'm going to read the actual research that was done in 1991. They estimate that 50 percent of all crimes are related to television violence. Just these things, even apart from what the Bible says, ought to tell you and me that there's something desperately wrong. Ted Turner, speaking to a group of broadcasters, made this statement. He said, "Delegates to the United Nations are not as important as the people in this room." Now, think about what he's saying. He's saying we are the ones who determine what the people's attitudes are. It is in our hands. They know this. They have believed this. This has been the design for years. I've got some other studies here in 1938 dealing with when television was introduced into three different cultures. These are white cultures, by the way — Africa, Europe, and also the United States — and it talked about the crime and violence and everything totally and completely escalating once television was introduced into a society.

Let me give you a few beliefs, and this is some years back also. This is a survey of over 100 of the most influential television writers, producers, and executives that shows a major reason for our moral decline. Now, here is the belief system in some of these people who are producing the movies, who are directors, who make the movies, who sell the movies. Ninety-three percent seldom or never attend religious services. It says here that 75 percent described themselves as left of center politically. Ninety-seven percent are pro-choice on abortion. Eighty percent do not regard homosexuality as wrong. It says only 5 percent agree strongly that homosexuality is wrong compared to 49 who disagree strongly. Eighty-six percent support the right of faggots to teach in the public schools. Fifty-one percent do not regard adultery as wrong, and only 17 percent strongly think that extramarital affairs are wrong.

Now, think about what I've just read to you. This is the belief system of those who are making the movies that we sit our families down in front of across America and watch night after night. They hate God. I want to say this two or three times this morning. Hollywood hates God, and they hate everything that you believe. They hate Christians. They hate the Bible. They don't want to have anything to do with Jesus Christ, and still night after night after night, we as Americans allow them to entertain us and teach us their doctrine.

Let me make two statements about Walt Disney and Star Trek. Now, here's something that I picked up years ago, and this is one of the reasons that we don't take our youth to Disney World, nor do we take our adults down there either. I'm going to give you some statistics from back in the 80s and early 90s, and you can bring these up to date. It says that Walt Disney welcomed an estimated 12,000 homosexuals into its Florida theme park for a celebration that they called "A Day of Magic." This is the summer, June 3rd, 4th and 5th of 1994. This was the fourth annual "Gay and Lesbian Day" at the Magic Kingdom Park in Orlando, Florida. Do you believe that churches get their youth groups together and travel to Disney World every year? They do it all across our land, and it is a place where the faggots meet every year and promote the homosexual agenda.

Now, some of you may have never even seen Star Trek or Star Trek: The Next Generation. Again, I'm going to stick with some old movies. I'm not even going to bring you up to date on the movies in the last ten years because you know they're out of Hell. You know they're promoting immorality and homosexuality. I mean, we know that. We know that they hate God. The language is bad. We know that anything that

you plug into right now — it doesn't matter what station it is — they are against the things of God Almighty. I read these statistics ten years ago, and a man got up and walked out of here because he was a big Star Trek fan, and he never came back.

I want you to listen now. I'm talking about the doctrine that is being preached. First John 2, verses 15, 16, and 17, talks about the lust of the eyes. You see, the devil is using the media, the things that we see; he's using music today, the things that we hear, to draw individuals away from God and into the world. We end up imitating the things that we see and hear. Watch musicians. They imitate those that they follow, and the same is true with the television. We imitate many of the actors. We used to watch TV programs growing up. There was one called Combat. Man, I fought the Germans for years back then. You know, we imitated what was being played out on those television programs. I'm saying to you that Satan painted a picture for Eve of advertisement in the Garden back there in the same three areas that he is tempting you and me today as mentioned in 1 John chapter 2. He tempted Jesus Christ in those areas, and he tempted Adam and Eve in those same areas. I'm saying to you that the television is a Trojan horse that's been brought into the homes and living rooms of people around our country.

Now, I'm going to be reading in Deuteronomy in just a minute, but let me read the philosophy and doctrine of the creator and producer of Star Trek, who is Gene Roddenberry. Now, first of all, he was a humanist and he believed in evolution. He believed in the existence of human beings on other planets, and he believed there will be no second coming of Jesus Christ and no divine judgment upon sin. Now, that is his belief system, and millions upon millions followed the Star Trek and the Star Trek: The Next Generation thinking that these are good movies, but the man who produced the movies hated God Almighty. He made this statement. He said, "Star Trek is my statement to the world." He said, "Understand that Star Trek is more than just my political philosophy; it is my social philosophy; it is my radical philosophy, my overview of life and the human condition." The editor of the humanistic magazine who interviewed this man Roddenberry said this: "Star Trek is probably the most humanistic entertainment program on television or perhaps even has ever been on television." Now, this was not a preacher that said this. This was out of the magazine, the humanistic magazine. He said that Roddenberry said this on religion: "There has always been fundamentalism and the religious right, but I think there has been too much of this. I keep hoping that it is temporary foolishness. Some of it will be around because there will always be people who are so mean-spirited." And there are many

other things that he said, and the point is that these people in Hollywood that hate God, hate your Bible, hate Jesus Christ, and hate you are the ones who are producing the movies that the majority of Christians are watching today.

Notice with me, please, now, as we come to Deuteronomy chapter 7. For time's sake, let me take one verse out of this chapter. And, by the way, by the time I get through with this message, I'm going to know where your heart is by looking into your face, and I'm going to know whether you're in front of the television very much, and I'm going to know what you're watching — Amen? — or whether you're going to be happy and joyous and excited about the truth or whether you're going to be vexed in your spirit, Amen?

Now, notice that he's talking about idolatry in this passage in Deuteronomy chapter 7. In verse 26 he said, "Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it: *but* thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it *is* a cursed thing." Now, in the chapter he's dealing with idolatry, but I want you to notice that he said whatever you bring into your house, you're going to be cursed by it if it's an abomination, and he says in this passage you're going to become like it. In other words, those who watch Hollywood and are entertained by Hollywood day after day, they take on the doctrine and philosophy and mentality of those that they're watching.

I mentioned 1 John chapter 2 to you already and that there are three areas of temptation whereby we are tempted. I want you to read that and look at it. We preached out of that chapter just a few months ago and dealt with the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. Those are the three areas of temptation. And, again, we find that Satan is an enemy. Paul clearly says this in 2 Corinthians 2 and in verse 11. It was the Greeks and the Trojans that fought, and they were at a standstill, a no-win situation for ten years, and then finally the Greeks devised a plan whereby they would deceive the Trojans and win the war. And the same thing is happening today. We find that the television and Hollywood has become a Trojan horse that has come into our homes that's destroying our families, destroying our kids. It is keeping us away from the house of God and the Word of God and prayer and things of that nature. We find that the television has replaced family worship in the majority of homes.

Now, notice with me as we come to James chapter 4. I'm going to take one verse out of this chapter, and then we're going to move on. Verse 4 says, "*Ye adulterers and*

adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." I say to you again that Hollywood is an enemy of God, and if we are friends with Hollywood, then you see what God has to say about us.

The effects of television

The second thing I want to present to you this morning is the effects of television. How does television affect individuals? The Bible tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:21 to abstain from all appearances of evil. Now, again, I'm not going to deal with the present-day movies. I'm going to go back to some of the movies that Brother Bill had probably seen in his time and Brother Richard and Brother Ron and Brother Avery and some of these in here. Some of you have probably seen them because they sell these now, and DVDs are popular in the time in which we live — you know, the Beverly Hillbillies and the Dukes of Hazzard and all this garbage. And it was bad then.

I'm going to mention a few quotes in just a moment, but I want you to understand that television has had a bad effect upon America and especially this last generation. You know, we're the television generation. Probably most of us have enjoyed watching a good movie. I still enjoy watching a good, decent Christian movie. But you've got to ask the question, "Where do you find them?" There is no way you can go to the cable, there's no way you can go to the dish or the local stations and find any decent programs to watch. If you did find something that was halfway decent, then you've got to deal with the commercials and everything else. I want you to understand that just the commercials alone could destroy a person's heart and mind — just the commercials alone, not even including the program. Somebody one time said, "Do you know the reason I don't let my children watch the television?" They said, "The same reason that I don't let them drink out of the toilet," Amen?

Now, think about this. When you watch television, you're letting people come into your home that you otherwise would not let into your home. Let me put it like this: Those that drink and curse and smoke and commit adultery, you wouldn't dare let people sit around in your home and drink and curse and so forth, but when you watch television, you're allowing all of this to come right into the living room while you're sitting around with your family watching these kinds of things.

I'm going to give you some other quotes here in just a moment, but maybe you've not been through the experiences I've been through. I gave up the television many

years ago, but then I started looking for decent films to watch. I really only have a few, and one of them is *Sheffey*. There are not very many that you can find that are decent and edifying and uplifting to you and your family. But we've all probably been through this thing where we're going to find something — maybe some of these old movies that we used to watch growing up. I forgot about some of them. I forgot what was in them, and after I became a Christian, I tried to watch some of the old cowboy movies. What guy doesn't like a cowboy movie? A few years ago I bought a DVD of Gene Autry and Roy Rogers. They were only a dollar at The Dollar Tree — you know, stores like that — and I thought, "Well, these will be decent." But do you know what the bottom line is? They're humanistic in their philosophy. Now, I want you to listen to me. There may not be any cursing but you've got bar scenes; you've got smoking; you've got murder; you've got killing and all these things. The good guys wear the white hats and the bad guys wear the black hats, but you've got to ask the question, "Where is God in Roy Rogers and where is God in Gene Autry?"

My dad loved cowboy movies. My brother and I both are named after cowboys. You didn't know that, did you? My middle name is Wayne. Guess where that came from. My dad named me after John Wayne. Can you imagine? If he would have been a Christian at that time, I would have had a name like John the Baptist or Paul or Peter or maybe Jehoshaphat, but, no, he named me after a cowboy. And my brother's middle name is Shane after the movie years ago. Some of you older ones have seen that. You know, I'm just glad that my dad wasn't watching *The Lone Ranger*. Do you know what my name would probably be now? Brother Tonto or something like that if he would have been watching those kinds of movies.

But the point is, I bought a few of these DVDs thinking, "They're only a dollar. They're clean," and so forth, and I sat down and watched some of them, and I told my wife, "You know what? After watching this episode, I'm empty when I get through. This thing has not helped me. They've solved all their problems without God." You do not see them go to church. You do not see them involved in any religious activity, reading their Bible. No. What do you see? You've got people like John Wayne kill a million people with five bullets and a revolver. And do you want your children walking around saying, "Make my day" — you know, Clint Eastwood? Is that what you want your children to do?

I'm simply saying to you that I thought that maybe some of those movies back then were okay. I thought they were okay when I wasn't saved, but now the cartoons

and the violence and the demonic and the rock music bothers me. I've got Captain Planet here and Ted Turner, his philosophy, what he believes about that, The Simpsons, the Teletubbies and Mr. Rogers. If he wasn't a fairy, I'll tell you, he sure got close. But, anyway, what about Beauty and the Beast? This has to do with bestiality, a woman falling in love with a beast. And I could go on and on with a list of things. *Lion king* had witchcraft in it, and still families sit their children down in front of that and let them watch it.

Now, let me give you a few quotes from a few shows, and these are years old as well. And I want you to listen to these very carefully because I believe this is very important. At one time I bought a DVD, and I said, "Well, surely Bonanza's good. I watched that growing up. That has to be good." And I watched it and got through with it and threw the DVD away. You know, you can throw them away when you only pay a dollar for them. You don't feel too bad about it. But I threw it away. Why? I told my wife, "I had forgotten about Bonanza. I grew up on that. I wasn't saved. I thought it was good. I thought it was a good program." But what's the bottom line? Do you know what the bottom line is? There is no God. There is no church. There is no Bible reading. There's nobody praying. There's nobody seeking God. One writer made this statement about Bonanza and the Cartwright family: "To the unspiritual mind, all is well, but here is a family with no need for God. These three sons often visit the local saloon, and occasional drinks are poured by dad at home. If Little Joe is upset, maybe a drink is given to calm him down. One could go about unholy relations and love affairs, situation ethics, humanism," he said, "but when you boil it down, no Christian dad would want a son like Hoss, Adam, or Little Joe, and no pastor would want the unregenerate Cartwright family for their members." Would you want a son like Little Joe or Hoss or Adam? No, you would not. Would we let them join this church? Absolutely not. Why is it, then, that we will sit down and allow them to entertain us and our families?

Another quote on The Waltons. I used to like them. Again, I found a DVD of them, but I want you to listen to this — and this is so true. I told my wife, "Even though the mama and children go to church," I said, "daddy doesn't go to church," and I said, "Just think about what is being taught." And this writer makes this statement. He said, "The Waltons TV show is often mentioned as one of the world's greatest attempts to present good on the screen, but, again, God is portrayed to be for women and children and not for men. Teens soon drift from the nest and the Christian life. Situation ethics are often seen where doing good for someone is more important than obeying God. The

point is, it is entertaining, but it is moving us away from God." There is no neutrality in life. You're either going toward God or you're being moved away from God. What we listen to, what we read, what we watch is either drawing us closer to God or is taking us further away from God Almighty.

Now, what about Andy Griffith? It's got to be good. They're using it in Sunday schools now all over America in the churches. It's got to be something good and wholesome. It's got to be good for my family. What about two single guys that are stars up in their years not married and two single women? You see the dating game and women working outside the home and the public school, and you sit down with your children and watch this. You see, we never think about what is being taught. Is it wholesome? Is it drawing my family closer to God, or is it bringing them away from God? Just a simple little Mayberry movie is telling us that women are to cut their hair off, that they can go to work, put your kids in public school, and here's grown people dating till they're 55 years of age. And the point is, there's not a real family life there. There's not a real-life situation for you and me that love the Lord.

My son-in-law and I were talking about children seeing people get shot all the time — you know, like war movies, even cowboy movies — and we were talking about the fact that what if you were sitting in your car at a gas station and somebody ran out of the gas station and another ran out after him, and they turned and began shooting at one another, and one of them falls dead in front of your car and in front of your children, and they saw that murder. That would be implanted in their minds for the rest of their life. It would horrify them. But they see hundreds of murders every day on television, and we think nothing about it. A preacher friend of mine called me the other night, and we were talking about doctrine and church and things, and I brought this subject up. He said, "Man, I've been through the same route." And I mentioned Roy Rogers. He said, "Let me tell you about Roy Rogers." He said, "I watched a film, and it all seemed to be good until I got to the end of it. The good guys won," and he said, "Then the bad guys ended up shooting each other at the end of the movie." And he said, "Two guys shoot each other and they both fall over dead," and he said it was like a knife that stuck him in the heart, and he said, "I turned around and looked at my children, and I said I've just allowed them to watch a murder."

You see, these are the things that we do not think about. There are some things we'll say, "Oh, yeah, I know that's wrong," but what about some of these older movies that we could bring up that now are counted as wholesome and they're being used in

church and Sunday school? I'm telling you, they are out of Hell. When I was growing up there were programs like I Love Lucy, a rebellious woman, Hee Haw, Leave it to Beaver. None of these were godly. None of these were good. The Beverly Hillbillies — Old Jed, he's a good ole guy. Granny, she's all right. She had the right perspective of the Civil War. She said that's when America was invaded. Jethro, you know, he's a good ole boy. But what about that Elly May? You know, they showed the pool scenes with her in her bathing suit. How many have ever seen that? You see, that stuff is not edifying. The Mash program that used to be on years ago, the medical team in Korea, all we find is drinking and fornicating and lying and cheating and a stupid Catholic priest who doesn't even know what he's doing. I mean, this is the doctrine that's being taught through these things.

The Dukes of Hazzard was one of the most watched programs at one time, and you find there's a naked girl running around and two bubbas that don't know how to open a door on a car and get in it right. They crawl through the windows. And I'm saying to you that these things were brainwashing. There was a teaching process going on. There was doctrine that was being given all through the years through these programs. Now those are counted as mild and good and wholesome and good for family. But I'm telling you what. They're not good. Happy Days, the setting was the 50s, and it was originated for teens. There's one rebellious guy. His name is The Fonz, and everybody looked to him for advice. And there were two girls who worked in a brewery, and all it was is the dating games. And the parents were idiots, and they were just stupid in the eyes of the children, and still we find that people today say, "Oh, that's a good program" — drinking, fornicating, immorality, rock music, and so forth, and still those things are counted as good in the times in which we live.

I'm saying to you there are things that you need to think about. There are things in your lives that your children need to think about right now. You don't need to wait till your children are grown and say, "Oh, I wish I could get that stuff out of them." I grew up with this stuff. I grew up on these things, and, again, things are far worse now than they were twenty and thirty years ago. There's no doubt; you cannot watch anything on television that is edifying in any way.

So what about the effects of television? It affects us physically, mentally, and spiritually. I'm going to be reading 1 Corinthians 15, verse 33. It says, "[Be not deceived...](#)" Now, this passage is talking about doctrine, but look at this. It says, "[...evil communications corrupt](#)" — what? — "[good manners.](#)" We find that television affects

us physically without any doubt. You cannot get exercise sitting on a couch as a couch potato eating potato chips watching somebody else run up and down the football field with a ball. It does not work. We have created a generation of overweight, lazy couch potatoes in America. The majority of Americans are overweight today, and one of the reasons is not only the food we eat, but the average American watches television four hours a day. We find that it encourages laziness and idleness, and the Bible says that we're to redeem the time. The Bible says also in Psalm chapter 90 that we are to number our days. So television affects us physically.

But not only does television affect us physically, it affects us mentally and emotionally. I'm not even going to get into this, but I just read a study, two books on artificial lighting and what it does to the cells in our body and how the television is designed, how it's made and the projection of that particular fluorescent-type light that is projected into our eyes and what possibilities it can do to a human being over time. That's another study for another message. But it is a proven fact that television puts us in a hypnotic, zombie-like condition. Without any doubt, that is true.

When I've been on visitation, sometimes I would have to ask the people, "Can I turn the television off?" I hadn't seen one of my close relatives for over a year. We drove to Tennessee; I called him, and I said, "I'm in town." So we drove to their house. We went into the living room. He and his wife were sitting in front of the television. Now, I hadn't seen him in a year. He looks at me, and, you know, we shake hands and hug. And he said, "Hey, how are you doing?" and he turns back to the television. My wife and I sat there for 30 minutes, and I kept trying to talk, and they're watching the television. And finally I got up and said, "Well, we're leaving. Bye, bye." And they were still sitting there watching the television when we walked out the door. I hadn't seen them in a year.

There's no doubt that television shortens attention span. It affects learning and reading skills. It is a proven fact that it affects math skills. A study was done in 1991. Without any doubt, it puts people into a passive state. Without any doubt it increases depression. It increases the rate of suicide. Not only that, it causes people to not know how to cope with reality. If people tell me that they're depressed and they're having mental problems, I ask, "How much television do you watch?" That's usually the problem.

The Bible says in 1 Peter chapter 2, verse 11, that fleshly desires war against our soul. And we find that in 2 Timothy chapter 4 the Bible talks about the last days. The

Bible talks about preaching the Word. The Bible talks about the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine. I want to submit to you that we live in a time where the average person cannot take the preaching of God's Word. They get offended easily, and we find that people cannot take the preaching of God's Word because they're politically correct in every way and they've been watching the television. They get angry when you begin talking about the things of God Almighty.

Television not only affects us physically, mentally, and emotionally, but it also affects us spiritually. It robs us. It desensitizes us. It dulls our spiritual discernment or understanding. Colossians 2, verse 8, says, "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." I'm telling you that television will desensitize us. It will rob us of truths and precious things of God. It will poison our minds. It will cause us to become addicts. We'll become addicted to it. I don't want to know this, but I wonder sometimes how many on Sunday nights and Wednesday nights are sitting in front of the television instead of being in the house of God. As a matter of fact, it would make me angry if you told me how many were probably doing that. I'm saying to you that it is destroying us. It's causing divorce; it's causing rebellion. Hollywood hates God, and the pagans are watching their movies produced by their people, and Christians are sitting watching the same things night after night.

What about the fashions of this world? Where do we get our values? Where do we get our dress standards? Where do we get our hair styles from? You see somebody on television and say, "Well, I want to cut my hair that way" — men wearing their hair long in rebellion against God Almighty; women cutting their hair off in rebellion because of some movie star or something they saw in a magazine. I'm saying to you, this stuff is out of Hell, and it's rebellion against God Almighty.

I'm going to be reading verses 6 through 8 in 2 Peter chapter 2. Now, watch this very closely. It says, "And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned *them* with an overthrow, making *them* an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; ⁷And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: ⁸(For that righteous man" — Notice Lot is a saved man. He's not a homosexual, but he's living near that lifestyle. Verse 8 says, "(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing"— Did you get that? What he saw and what he heard, the Bible says it "vexed *his* righteous soul from day to day with *their* unlawful deeds;)" This man was destroying, vexing his soul by seeing and

hearing what was going on. Now, I'm saying to you, the television will do the same thing to you and me.

In Romans 6, verses 16 through 18, the Bible talks about servanthood. Whoever you yield yourself to you will become a servant to, and many have become slaves and are in bondage to Hollywood. I read a quote that said, "If 30 to 60 second spots known as commercials are an effective means to sell products, what about 30 to 60 minutes of TV programs known as news and sitcoms and etc.? What do you think they're doing?" You see, the average American sees over 40,000 commercials every year. Eighty percent of what we see through the eye-gate and 20 percent of what we hear we remember. I'm saying to you that television is brainwashing an entire society, and this is one of the reasons people don't respond. We go on visitation, and it doesn't matter what season it is, it's sports year round, and we knock on doors and the televisions are blasting. We can hardly get people to talk to us because they don't want to leave the television set for just ten minutes.

Notice with me in verse 11 of 1 Peter chapter 2. Verse 11 says, "Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." Notice that fleshly lusts war against our soul, and we don't even realize it's happening, and he said abstain from these things.

Turn with me, please, to 1 Timothy chapter 5. We're talking about the effects of television. I can see it in some of your faces that you're watching that thing every day. It's already bothering you, isn't it? You can come to the altar before I get through preaching if you want to. I'm telling you that the solution to this thing is repentance and deal with this and get this garbage and this abomination out of our house one way or the other, because it's not only destroying our lives, it's destroying our children and those that are around us.

Participating in sin as a spectator

What about participation in sin as a spectator? Do you realize that to spectate is to participate? Do you realize that when I watch something, I am approving of that sin, and by approving of that sin, I am participating in that sin? How many believe that? In 1 Timothy chapter 5, verse 22, it says, "Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure." He said don't be partakers of other men's sins. Now, listen to Matthew chapter 5. If you want to turn there, you can, but I want you to listen. My point is this. We're very visually stimulated — and especially

men. When we sit and watch something, we are participating in what we watch. We're not just a spectator. I'm saying we're condoning that; we're approving of that sin. We've got families that sit around and listen to cursing. Years ago if there was one curse word, they'd turn it off. Now they're listen to cursing. They're watching naked women walk around and all kinds of humanistic philosophy and things of that nature. We have desensitized ourselves. We're watching these things and listening to them with our families, and we wouldn't have done that twenty years ago.

In Matthew 5, verse 28, Jesus said, "But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her"— Now, listen — "hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." Do you know what the point is? To look with the eye is to commit with the heart. That's what the Book says. TV affects our heart and encourages mental and spiritual adultery. I'm simply saying to you that these two, the eye and the heart, are connected, so to look with the eye is to commit the act with the heart whether we physically go through that or not.

Now, what about the programs? I want you to think about this. Some say, "Well, some are good and some are not" — you know, this kind of thing. You're not going to find anything good on television today. That's just the bottom line. And I'll be happy to talk with anybody after the service on this. The bottom line is you're going to have to deal with music. You're going to have to deal with commercials. You're going to have to deal with nudity. You're going to have to deal with evolution, humanism. There's something that you're going to have to deal with by watching the television in the time in which we live.

What about religious programs? I don't even have to deal with that. We know what's going on in religious programs. People say, "Well, I'll just watch some religious programs." This is the reason I have to deal with so many people now. I have to sit down with people every week because of their viewing of religious programs — "Well, Brother Reed, what do you think about this?" If they'd been in church, been in the Bible, been praying and not listening to these idiots on television, I wouldn't have to answer those questions.

What about the news? "Well, I just watch the news." That's the thing I hear all the time. "Brother Reed, all I do is watch the news." You're a lying dog. And when you do watch the news, you're still watching commercials and everything else. The news is lying to you, this propaganda. All I have to do is bring up a few issues. What about 911? What about the war? What about the elections of last year? They're lying to you.

But you keep going back to that. What about all the weather channels? How much weather do you need, ladies and gentlemen? Come on. What about the sports channel? The beer commercials sponsor them. There's nudity; there's pride; there's adultery. How much do we need of that? What about the sitcoms? They laugh at God and make fun of God, and the fathers and dads of the house are always the idiots and the last to know anything about what's going on.

What about Disney pushing the homosexual agenda? What about game shows promoting covetousness? That's exactly what they do. What about soap operas? Like the lady years ago and in another state stood up in church one night and said to pray for a lady who was going in for surgery on I think it was General Hospital. This really happened. What about horror films? They're demonic. If you like them, you need to get saved. If you like scary movies and horror films, you need to get saved. You're out of the will of God totally and completely. What about the Discovery Channel? They're rewriting history all the time. What about the cooking shows? This is making people fat. What about the war movies teaching us how to kill and telling us that the wars that we fought since the 1860s are all justifiable and we freed the world. And what about the old movies in the 1920s and 30s and 40s? Check them out after The Roaring Twenties. Are they going to church? Are they smoking? Are they drinking? Are they reading their Bible? Are they praying and seeking God for advice? Those are out of Hell just like everything else.

I'm saying to you that we are destroying our minds. We're becoming a nation of perverts. Are you following me? If a man ran around in a neighborhood at night in Coden, Alabama, and looked in the bedroom windows of married people, we would call him a Peeping Tom. We would call him a pervert. But families sit around and look in bedrooms every night of the week and watch bedroom scenes. If that individual is a pervert who wants to run around the neighborhood, what are you when you sit with your family and watch bedroom scenes night after night? You're a pervert, and that needs to be repented of. See, we can't take preaching anymore. We get offended because this is a sacred cow. It's an idol. It is a glass idol, and the average American spends four hours a day in front of that thing. And you can ask them when they read their Bible last, when they fasted and prayed, and I'll guarantee you it may have been for five or ten minutes at the very most.

The solution to television

We're going to have to wind this down. I've got a lot more I can say. But what is the solution to television? Well, the solution is a shotgun — 12-gauge would be sufficient — ball bat, club, grenade, whatever you want to use. That would be the solution to it. Kill it, shoot it, beat it to death. Whatever you've got to do, get it out of your house. It doesn't matter how much you train your children and teach your children, if you send them off to public school, they'll probably end up in Hell, or if you leave the television as a baby-sitter in front of them, they'll probably still end up in Hell one day. I don't care if you home school. Whatever you do, if you let your children watch television, you might as well go ahead and throw them to the world because it's going to destroy them.

The Bible says in Romans 13, "[But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.](#)" Could you sit down and watch a movie with Jesus? If He visited your home tonight, could you watch the same programs? Think about it. One generation will tolerate, the next one will condone, and the third generation will promote, and that's where we are in our society right now. The Bible says in 2 Peter that there are seven things that we're to add to our faith, and the very first thing is virtue. Jesus said in Luke 9 that you cannot be My disciple unless you first take up your cross and follow Me. I'm saying that television in America promotes pornography, blasphemy, and profanity, and it will cause your children to develop attitudes that you'll wonder where they came from.

Romans chapter 12, verse 1, says, "[I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies](#)" — Notice — "[a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.](#)" Before I read the next verse, again, there is no neutrality. You're going one way or the other. You're either going toward God or away from God. It used to be subliminal messages. They used to experiment with that. They put subliminal messages in movie theaters, and you never saw them with your eye, but they would flash those things in there and it would cause people to buy the popcorn or Coke. Can you imagine what they are doing in movies, not only the doctrine and philosophy, but whatever else they're doing with those things today and deceiving and destroying the minds and hearts of individuals?

A young man in our church had just got married. I was preaching against the television. I made the statement about killing your television, and he went home, took his 12-gauge pump shotgun, threw the television out in the front yard and pumped

shells into it. His wife ran out screaming and hollering at him. She didn't mind him killing the television, but it wasn't their television. They had just gotten married and they had borrowed it. So he had to pay for the television. But he killed that thing. He shot it all over the front yard. That's what needs to be done. You cannot control it. If you've got rabbit ears on it, if you're plugged into the stations, the cable, the satellite, I promise you, you will not be able to control it. You will not. You will condone things, and you'll just drift into this thing. You will not be able to control that television.

Verse 2 of Romans chapter 12 says, "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." I want you to notice that we are not to be conformed to this world but we are to be renewed; we're to be transformed by the renewing of our mind. Notice it begins in the mind, in the heart. See, that's why Paul said in Philippians 4:8 and 9 "think on these things." He mentions those things which are true and lovely and holy and pure. If there be any virtue, he said, think on these things. You can't think on those things and watch television. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 7:1 to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 6, verse 17, that we're to separate ourselves, come out from among them. The Bible tells us if we sow to the flesh, we'll reap of the flesh. I'm saying to you, ladies and gentlemen, that there is no way we can control that thing in our house — there's no way. And there's nothing good that's being presented by Hollywood for you and me to watch. Trying to flip through the channels and find something good is like trying to swim through a septic tank looking for a hamburger. I'm saying to you, it cannot be found.

Second Corinthians 10 and verse 3 says, "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: ⁴(For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) ⁵Casting down imaginations..." The word "muse" means to think, and the word "amusement" has the idea of not thinking. Think about the images that are placed in our minds on a daily and weekly basis. Verse 5 says, "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." I'm saying to you that there are images that are being placed in our minds that are destroying our faith and our Christianity and they're destroying our families.

As one man said, "Television is air pollution," and there's no doubt that it is. It's destroying the hearts and lives of people. The Bible says in Ephesians 5 not to let

certain things even be named among you that become saints. The Bible gives us a list of things there. It says don't even speak of the things of those who do them in secret — and we're watching them on television. The Bible says in Ephesians 5:16 to redeem the time. One man said you can't kill time without injuring eternity. The Bible says in Ephesians 5:18 to be filled with the Spirit. You cannot be filled with the Spirit and watch television. It is an impossibility. Looking at the wrong things will harm us. Go back and talk to Eve. Talk to Achan. Talk to David and many other examples that we find in the Scriptures. The Bible tells us in 1 Corinthians 10:20 to have no fellowship with devils. I'm saying to you that if you want a wholesome life and a wholesome family, children that will grow up and not imitate the world, you cannot have that thing in your home day after day blasting away. You cannot do that. And if you disagree with that, you just go ahead and do what you want to do and see what happens ten and fifteen years from now and see how it all turns out.

Do you know what we're up against this morning? It's a heart issue, isn't it? That's the bottom line. A lot of times we will not reject what the Word of God says, but on the other side, neither will we embrace it. We'll say, "Oh, yeah, that is true," and at the same time we will not embrace these precious truths that God has shown us in the Scriptures. That's why we're told to wear the entire armor of God Almighty because the devil is constantly trying to pierce through our hearts and our minds and destroy us.

I think we ought to have this morning what they used to have years ago — a "quitting meeting." Do you know what I'm talking about? Have you ever heard of one? That's where people quit doing things that they're doing that are wrong and contrary to the Scriptures. You know, we give public invitations. We tell a person to make a public testimony that they have received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Why not the same with the issue of something that's absolutely destroying us? There are some of you who cannot attend services regularly because of the television. There are some of you who can't take preaching because of the television. There are some of you who can't stay focused upon the things of God because of the television. There are some of you who cannot do what's right. There are some of you who have no peace and joy in your heart because you've been robbed by Hollywood.

I'm going to close in 2 Chronicles chapter 16. I'm going to be reading in verse 9, but before I read this verse, let me read two other verses. I just thought of these. I want you to read these and ask you if you believe these — because I have no other

agenda here except to try to help you this morning. Hebrews 13:7 is talking about the preacher and the pastor. It says, "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of *their* conversation." Do you believe that? And verse 17, says, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you." How many of you believe that? I have no agenda here except to tell you the truth. I have no agenda here except the Kingdom of God, the fact that I love you, I love your families.

I know some of you will probably get irritated at these things that I've given to you this morning, but this is the salvation of our families without any doubt. If you cannot view wholesome films that are edifying, that will bring you closer to God, then you need to stay away from them. Now, people are acting in these movies, to begin with, and 99.9 percent of them are not married, and we sit back and watch them in love scenes and kiss one another. Well, they're kissing somebody who's not even their spouse. I'll be honest with you, I don't want to see you smooching around on your wife in public even if you are married to her. Do you understand what I'm saying? I don't want to see that, and I surely don't need to be watching it with two people who are not even married. You see, these are things that we never think about. We just go on through life. We're part of this culture and this generation, and we never think of the fact that we have been desensitized; we've been reprogrammed.

It says in 2 Chronicles 16:9, "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of *them* whose heart *is* perfect toward him." Look at that. God wants to show Himself strong in the hearts of those who are perfect toward Him. Now, I'm going to stop reading there because the man that we're reading about, his heart wasn't perfect toward the Lord. At one time Asa loved God and walked with God and was faithful to God. Then he started walking away from God, and you can read about his end.

Men, let me say this to you this morning. Now, listen to me carefully. If the television is an issue that you have dealt with in your home or that you're willing this morning to deal with in your home, would you just stand to your feet with me. Now, who are the leaders in the homes? Think about this. Listen to me, men. I don't care what mama says or the children say. This is our responsibility. Is this something that you have dealt with — at least to some extent — or are you willing to deal with it this

morning and stand up and say, "Preacher, I'm going to deal with the television"? See, we give public invitations to those who are wanting to be saved. We say, "Oh, you must confess Christ publicly." The last time I did this, I lost three families. Let me tell you something. This is very serious, and if you don't deal with this, it's going to show up in your family. It's going to show up in your kids. You're going to be looking at other families and say, "Well, I wonder why their kids are doing so well and mine are rebellious and why they're learning this and mine are learning to imitate the world."

Men, you need to be men. I'm telling you, this is very serious. Let's talk to each other about this in the future, Amen? Let's challenge one another. What are we listening to? What are we watching? What are we reading? What are we looking at? What is it that's crept into our homes and that might be undermining our authority?

Let's listen to this song that we have this morning and ask God to help us. We all need help. I've gone through a process with this thing. Oh, I got rid of the television years ago, but I still wanted to hang onto a few things here and there. Listen, if it's not wholesome, if it's not edifying, if it's not drawing us toward Heaven, if it's not teaching us things that we need, then we don't need it.

I stand with you this morning, men, with the same commitment. I preached this to me as well as you. I stand with the same commitment. Would you come this morning?