

Session 67

In our last session, we were looking at the four skills that a son will need to govern in the heavenly places. We not only saw examples of how rulers like David and Solomon employed these 4 skills, but we also saw how that the Lord Jesus Himself would employ wisdom, justice, judgment and equity in His righteous rule once His kingdom is set up on this earth. At the end, we saw how God rebuked Israel's leaders for not having these decision-making skills.

Up to now, we have only seen these skills from the table of contents of Israel's adoption curriculum. We went back into Israel's program to see those who did and did not possess these skills.

But you need to know that there is a body of information that is dedicated to each one of these four decision-making skills, in order for us to receive the instruction of them, and that instruction is located in the letters of the apostle Paul. Not only that, but that instruction is laid out in the order it is to be learned. That means that God has determined the arrangement and not men.

As we have said before, the actual instruction in these 4 skills begins in Romans 12 and proceeds through the remainder of the book of Romans. That is not to say that you will not get further instruction as you progress as a son, you will. But the book of Romans constitutes the initial education in these 4 areas of decision-making.

So, what is the next thing you need to be aware of? You know that the doctrine, which is contained in Paul's epistles, is the part which effectually works in your inner man. But there is another part which is just as vital and just as important.

This "other part" to which I am now referring has to do with the way in which your heavenly Father presents information to you. This is a major shortcoming with the way most sermons are preached today, even when the intent is to preach good, solid doctrine. The reason I say it is a shortcoming is because without this "other part," without understand the way in which your Father presents information to you, godly edification cannot and will not take place.

God's way of presenting information has already been seen by you, in the little bit that we have already covered. But I want to take you over and show the thing in a single verse, where Paul instructs Timothy to "give attendance" to some things.

1 Timothy 4:13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

There seems to be this tendency to read through passages so lightly that we fail to see the significance of what we are being told in them. This is not just a suggestion from Paul to Timothy. This is not to be viewed as something that Timothy can "take it or leave it." In fact, this is so important that every other way of teaching God's word can be understood as one of the competing "forms of godliness" which Paul warned Timothy of.

2 Timothy 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: **from such turn away.**

What we are looking at in I Timothy 4:3, is the exact method for a Bible teacher to employ for both his study and teaching of the word. You see, it was God who not only designed the content of the word, but also the human spirit to receive that word. Therefore, God has determined a

specific, proper way in which I am to teach and in which you are to learn. And when it is done properly, it works!

The “other part” we are referring to, which is the “proper way” in which the instruction is to be received has to do with the exhortations that accompany the doctrine. The importance of the exhortations cannot be overstated. Why? Because the exhortations do something that, without it, the doctrine cannot be “written on your heart.” That’s why I said that without this being done the proper way (pre-doctrinal exhortations), it is not possible for godly edification to take place. Now, if I’m right about this, how important does that make the exhortations?

So, what is it the exhortations are designed to do? The exhortations act to initialize the human spirit, or ‘prime’ it to receive the doctrine in such a way that it really does end up getting written on your heart!

Summary Statement of the Exhortations:

The various exhortations prepare the son’s spirit/mind for the effectual working of their corresponding doctrines.

In other words, they make it so that the words of God are written on the “fleshy tables of the heart” so that those words actually “live” in the son as they do in his Father, thereby becoming what the son thinks with, walks by, and invests his time and talents in accordance with.

In order to give you an example of how the exhortations work, I want to bring 2 characters to your attention. You won’t encounter much from these two in Level 1 of your sonship. Your exposure to these will be more in Level 2 and much more in Level 3. These characters work in opposition to your sonship life.

Now remember, Proverbs 1:2-6 is the table of contents. Then, beginning in vs. 7 all the way to the end of Proverbs 9, those are the exhortations for the entire sonship curriculum. Proverbs 10 onward contains the doctrine that applies to God’s program with Israel, which is why we haven’t gone over and looked at any of that.

Now, the exhortation we are going to look at (in Proverbs 2:10), pertains to a son that has finished his sonship orientation and now the son is engaged in getting his sonship establishment. That establishment is the exhortations and doctrine that are intended to set the son’s attitude in all the things that are necessary before he starts his education proper. For example, it is in his establishment phase that the son settles, once and for all, the issues of his commitment to the education and the edification. Another example of what takes place in the son’s establishment phase is the issue of sonship prayer and the searching of the heart.

But to return to Proverbs 2:10, this is the exhortation of a son who is entering his establishment phase. The corresponding establishment in Paul’s epistles is Romans 8:16-39.

Now, let’s read the exhortation as it sits in Proverbs 2.

Proverbs 2:10 When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; 11 Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee: 12 To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things;

The “evil man” is the first of the 2 characters that we are using to look at the exhortations. Just to refresh your memory regarding “froward,” it means “contrary to” or “away from.” Look at

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the 2 parts of the word: “fro” and “ward.” “Ward” is a direction you are headed toward. Northward is toward the north, etc. So, what is “fro?” It is from the word “from.” We even use the word “fro” in our speech today. We describe something that moves toward us and away from us as moving “to and fro.”

Well, “to – ward” is in the direction of coming together; being closer. “Fro – ward” is moving in the direction of moving apart; moving away. Since the context of Proverbs 2 is godly wisdom, then the evil man that “speaketh forward things” is talking about things that are “away from” or “contrary to” the wisdom your Father wants in your heart. So, in a nutshell, when you are talking about godly thinking, you can label “froward” as “ungodly thinking.”

One more thing about “froward.” Froward thinking will lead to “untoward” actions. Peter, preaching during the 1-year extension of mercy, uses this term when He warns the his audience not to be a part of the Christ-rejecting, apostate nation. That is, he is warning them not to be a part of those who are “un-to-ward” in their actions (toward God).

Acts 2:39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. 40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this **untoward** generation.

By the way, did you notice that vs. 40 calls the warning about being “untoward” an exhortation? When you see that “the generation’s” actions are “untoward,” then you know that it came from their froward thinking.

Proverbs 2:10 When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; 11 Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee: 12 To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things; 13 Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness; 14 Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked; 15 Whose ways are crooked, and they froward in their paths:

And now we come to the 2nd character that opposes the son in his sonship education.

Proverbs 2:16 To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words; ¹⁷ Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God.

I know we have talked about these 2 characters in the past, but we haven’t said everything that needs to be said. These 2 are going to oppose you at some point in your sonship education.

Now, the books that have to do with the Level 1 education of a son are Romans – 1 & 2 Corinthians – Galatians. That is important to know, for if you are going to be victimized by either the “evil man” or the “strange woman,” then you will see it reflected in these epistles.

When it comes to the opposition that you are going to receive, as a son, it will come from these two areas and these 2 areas are intended to either get you to be a “Corinthian” in your thinking or a “Galatian” in your thinking.

To be a Corinthian is the victimized by the natural ungodliness of this evil world – the evil man. We have likened the “evil man” to the course of this world, which is mentioned by Paul.

Or, if you fall victim to the strange woman, then you have been victimized by Satan's policy of evil. His work in that policy of evil is geared to ruin your sonship life by use of an opposing spiritual system. I hope you realize that by saying that, there is a religious overtone to the "strange woman." And if his first couple of attempts are unsuccessful, then he will attack by using the very Bible you hold in your hand and that attack will be carried by men in pulpits and it will be done in local churches.

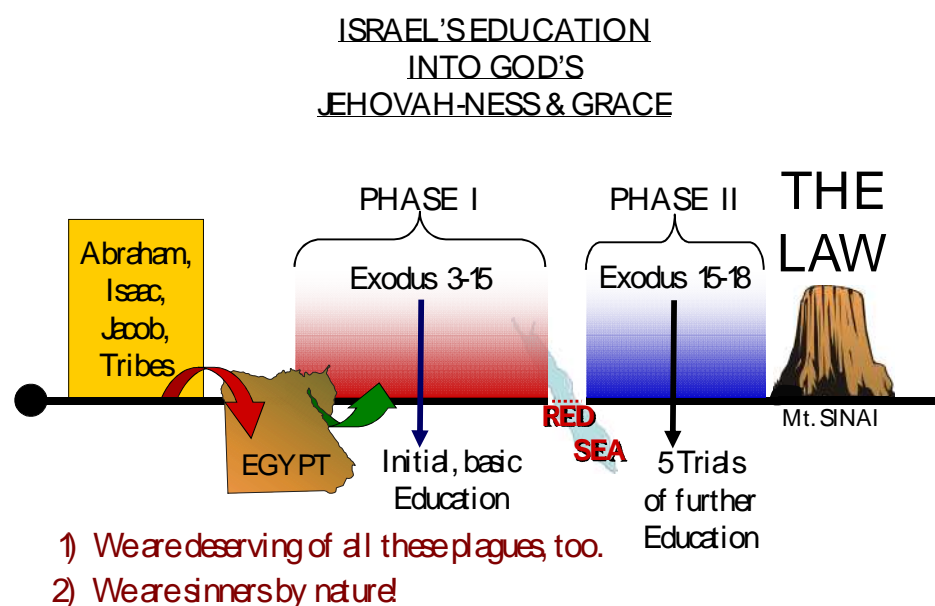
The Evil Man is first mentioned back in the Psalms. He is mentioned in the exhortation in Proverbs 2 and he is mentioned again further along in the book of Proverbs, as you increase in your sonship education. This is not just repetition. Not only will you face him again later, but his attack against you will be slightly different than it was at the first. As the son advances in his education, so the attacks advance as well. Actually, there is coming a time when you will stop hearing about the evil man, for he is going to "pass off the scene," so to speak. We'll talk more about that later on.

You will wind up hearing more about the "strange woman," as you advance in your education, than you do the "evil man." For example, we find the "evil man" in chapters 2, 17, 24, 29. But we find the strange woman in chapters 2, twice in 5, 6, 7, 20, 23, 27.

While the son advances in the forms of doctrine, he will need to be exhorted, sometimes, by same terminology or phrases. But as those phrases are repeated in the exhortations, they also have a meaning that has also advanced with the curriculum. Those exhortation issues (like the evil man and the strange woman and the right paths and so forth) have corresponding advances to them as well. And so you can't just exhort the son to them at one time or at one stage and just let it go at that, but you have to come along and, with the advancement he's going to make in the doctrine of the curriculum, the Father is going to have to give (and the son is going to have to receive in the exhortation), information that also advances his understanding and appreciation of how the opposition is going to ramp up its attacks, as well as how the issues concerning this stage of his education is going to have advanced issues to it as well.

Now, how do you know that what I am telling you is correct? How do I know there is going to be 2 major oppositions to my sonship life? Actually, there is something that tells you about this even before you hear about the "evil man" and the "strange woman."

Back, even from the time when God was bringing the nation of Israel into her establishment, these 2 oppositions were a part of her understanding.



When they come out of Egypt, the nation suffers various temptations but they all fall into 2 main categories. One of those has to do with the “world” which they had just come out of; Egypt. Do you remember what they said about it? They wanted to go back. For Israel, what Egypt represented to them is what is to us, “the fashion of this world.” That is the “evil man” of Proverbs.

Just to make sure you are following this, there were things they were used to in Egypt, the materialistic things, etc. that they missed and wanted to go back to.

Let me give you some examples. They flunked their education in phase 1 (under the plagues that fell on them and Egypt) and so they had to “stay after class,” so to speak and go through the 5 trials (phase 2 of their education). And since they flunked both phases of their education, then the only left at God’s disposal was to all them to learn it the hard way by putting them under the law so that they would finally learn just how rotten and sinful they were and just how incapable they were.

Did you ever ask yourself why 5 trials? Did you ever wonder why not 4 or 6 or 12? Well, think about it for a minute and what comes to your mind? What do you know about things that are made up of 5 parts? If you are thinking of the 5 mandates of the Davidic Covenant, then you could not be more correct! Those 5 trials have a connection with the 5 mandates of the Davidic Covenant. But that is not what I’m mainly after, so let’s move on.

I wanted you to see some examples of how the “evil man” was influencing Israel. The “evil man” being the “world” and Israel’s “world,” which they had come out of, was Egypt. For our first occasion to see the “evil man” at work with them, I have picked Exodus 14.

After all that God did with the plagues; how He delivered them from the later plagues, and seeing what God did to the Egyptians, Israel’s lack of trust in God’s Jehovahness was exposed when they saw that Pharaoh was pursuing them. When the congregation saw that Pharaoh

pursued them, they were afraid and they began to regret their decision to leave; they claimed they were better off serving the Egyptians.

Exodus 14:10 And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD. ¹¹ And they said unto Moses, Because *there were* no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt? ¹² *Is* not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For *it had been* better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness.

When God destroyed Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea, they sang of how good God was – like they never doubted He would come through for them.

Exodus 16:1 And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt. ² And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness: ³ And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, *and* when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.

As God fed them with manna, they even found a way to complain about that and they wished for the things of Egypt.

Numbers 11:4 And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? ⁵ **We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick:** ⁶ But now our soul *is* dried away: ***there is nothing at all, beside this manna,*** *before* our eyes. ⁷ And the manna *was* as coriander seed, and the colour thereof as the colour of bdellium. ⁸ *And* the people went about, and gathered *it*, and ground *it* in mills, or beat *it* in a mortar, and baked *it* in pans, and made cakes of it: and the taste of it was as the taste of fresh oil. ⁹ And when the dew fell upon the camp in the night, the manna fell upon it. ¹⁰ Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased.

When the people heard the report of giants in the land, they complained again.

Numbers 14:1 And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. ² And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! ³ And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? ⁴ And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.

But Israel also encountered some specifically designed temptations that did come from this world at all. This is the 2nd major category of temptation and opposition. This category was not designed to make them want to go back to Egypt and enjoy the things of their “world.”

I want you to see how this “evil man” opposition continues even after they enter into the land of promise. You see, when Israel does get to enter into the land, under the leadership of Joshua, they are to realize that the same two enemies (evil man/strange woman) are waiting for them there too. This is not the “world of Egypt” but this is the “world of the Canaanites.”

That is why they are told not to look at what the Canaanites do, they are not to look at how prosperous they have been. So, let me ask you, were the Canaanites prosperous? How is their land described by the 12 Israelite spies? It was a land “flowing with milk and honey.” And that is what the Lord called it when He was describing the land He was leading them to.

Exodus 3:7 And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;⁸ And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a **land flowing with milk and honey**; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

Numbers 13:21 So they went up, and searched the land from the wilderness of Zin unto Rehob, as men come to Hamath. 23 And they came unto the brook of Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with **one cluster of grapes, and they bare it between two upon a staff**; and they brought of the pomegranates, and of the figs. 26 And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land. 27 And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and **surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it.**

Not only is the land prosperous, but they are told not to look at the large cities of the Canaanites and be impressed by them. In fact, they are told to tear all of that down to the ground. They aren’t just going to “move in” to all this luxury.

As for the crops and fruit trees, God tells them they can’t touch a single piece of fruit on the trees for 3 years! Why? He is preparing them to destroy the “fashion of this world” because that was going to be the first major area of temptation. And, by the way, that is the area they succumbed to.

Exodus 23:31 And I will set thy bounds from the Red sea even unto the sea of the Philistines, and from the desert unto the river: for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand; and thou shalt drive them out before thee.³² **Thou shalt make no covenant with them**, nor with their gods.³³ They shall not dwell in thy land, lest they make thee sin against me: for if thou serve their gods, it will surely be a snare unto thee.

Deuteronomy 7:1 When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou;² And when the LORD

thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, *and* utterly destroy them; thou shalt **make no covenant** with them, **nor shew mercy** unto them: ³ **Neither shalt thou make marriages** with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. ⁴ For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly. ⁵ But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall **destroy their altars**, and **break down their images**, and **cut down their groves**, and **burn their graven images** with fire. ⁶ For thou *art* an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that *are* upon the face of the earth.

Not only did they not do this, but they intermarried and even began to name their children after the Canaanites. They fell victim to the “evil man.” And just to say it in a way which will hopefully stick in your thinking, the first major area the Israelites would have to deal with, once they got into the land, was the “world at-large.” The “evil man” represents what ungodly men produce and fashion in the world – and that may or may not have a thing to do with the satanic policy of evil. Ungodly men, fashion their own ungodly world, in which they live. And that is a major problem for a son, because he is not to be “fashioned according to this world.”

That’s what Romans 12 has in mind when it talks about not being “conformed to this world.”

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. ² 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.

That’s why Paul talks about “the fashion of this world” passing away.

1 Corinthians 7:31 And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away.

Like I said, this was the Corinthians’ problem, they loved the world, they loved the fashion of this world and they loved it more than they loved their sonship life.

Now, please turn with me to Deuteronomy. Even though Moses is not going to enter the land with the people, he warns them that when they get in there, they are going to encounter those Canaanites and they are not to go along with what those Canaanites are doing. He warns them not to be impressed with “their world” and don’t let them influence you.

Deuteronomy 7:25 The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for it is an abomination to the LORD thy God. ²⁶ 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.

Deuteronomy 12:29 When the LORD thy God shall cut off the nations from before thee, whither thou goest to possess them, and thou succeedest them, and dwellest in their land; 30 Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be

destroyed from before thee; and that thou enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise.

As soon as Moses warns them about the “evil man” aspects of temptation, he immediately begins to warn them about a 2nd major opposition; the “strange woman.” And this comes from a specifically named person! Remember that the “strange woman” is the satanic policy of evil.

Deuteronomy 13 begins with a warning about false prophets, even the ones that produce a working sign or wonder.

Deuteronomy 13:1 If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, 2 And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; 3 **Thou shalt not hearken unto the words** of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

God not only tells them not to “hearken to his words,” but God says to do something else as well.

Deuteronomy 13:5 And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be **put to death**; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. **So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.**

Then he warns them of the influence of a family member to go and serve other gods.

Deuteronomy 13:6 If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which is as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers; 7 Namely, of the gods of the people which are round about you, nigh unto thee, or far off from thee, from the one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth; 8 Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him: 9 But thou shalt surely kill him; thine hand shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people. 10 And thou shalt stone him with stones, that he die; because he hath sought to thrust thee away from the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. 11 And all Israel shall hear, and fear, and shall do no more any such wickedness as this is among you.

Now we come to the part that I’m really after in this chapter.

Deuteronomy 13:12 If thou shalt hear say in one of thy cities, which the LORD thy God hath given thee to dwell there, saying, 13 Certain men, **the children of Belial**, are gone out from among you, and have withdrawn the inhabitants of their city, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which ye have not known; 14 Then shalt thou enquire, and make search, and ask diligently; and, behold, if it be truth, and the thing certain, that such abomination is wrought among you; 15 Thou shalt surely smite the inhabitants of that city with the edge of the sword, destroying it utterly, and all that is therein, and the cattle thereof, with the edge of the sword.

What I'm mainly after is in vs. 13; "the children of Belial." They are going to encounter someone who is just what 13 said, "a child of Belial." This is the "strange woman" which is the adversary's policy of evil.

"Belial" means "worthless, of no value whatsoever." "The children of Belial" is the adversary's name in God's program with Israel, when it came to the particular policy of evil that Satan put together against Israel. This is not about the world, in general. This is an attack of the policy of evil which has a religious component to it. It is an opposing spiritual wisdom, if you will.

This second category is from the adversary himself and, for Israel, it was intended to infect Israel with pagan idolatry. It was meant to corrupt them and incite God's judgment against them.

We too will face this 2nd category of opposition from the adversary, and for us, it is designed to have an impact on your inner man – and not in a good way.

In our epistles, the Corinthians were being victimized by the evil man; the course (fashion) of this world. You can chart exactly where the Corinthians stopped their sonship life. Romans 8:15. They never go to the checkpoint of Romans 12:1-2 where they present their body as a living sacrifice.

1 Corinthians 10:1 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; ² And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; ³ And did all eat the same spiritual meat; ⁴ And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. ⁵ But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. ⁶ Now **these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.** ⁷ Neither be ye idolaters, as *were* some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. ⁸ Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. ⁹ Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. ¹⁰ Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. ¹¹ Now **all these things happened unto them for ensamples:** and they are written **for our admonition,** upon whom the ends of the world are come. ¹² Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. ¹³ There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.

There is a more in this passage than we can look at right now. But what I want you to notice is that these "things" which happened to Israel are for "ensamples" to us! Not because we are living under the law or because we are following Israel's program, but because they show you exactly how you, as a son, are going to be opposed.

They are not just examples, but ensamples. It is an "ensample" not only in that it is for us, but in how an "ensample" differs from an "example." An "example" follows a pattern in a general way, but an "ensample" specifically follows the pattern, not just in "what" but also in "how" the pattern is followed. For the Corinthians, and for us, the pattern of this temptation which was

suffered by the nation of Israel is under the category of the “course of this world” or “the fashion of this world” or, as we now know it to be, “the evil man.”

I want to make another application, especially in view of the wisdom of men. Part of the “world’s” temptation is to get you to conform with what everyone else is doing. There will be people who come in here, who may say all kinds of nice things about sonship, but they are going to try to get us to conform with the way things are done in churches which are not involved in sonship. I know this could “bleed over” into the policy of evil’s religious designs, but even the world has some say about making everyone “conform” to a certain “form” or “pattern.” Folk will come in here and say, “this doesn’t feel like church.” Or, “where is your Sunday School,” as if Sunday School is in the Bible.

They don’t know that Robert Raikes started Sunday School back in the 1780’s to provide education to working children on their one day off from the factory. In 18th century England, education was reserved for a minority and was not compulsory. The wealthy educated their children privately, i.e. at home, with a hired governess, or possibly tutors once they were older; boys of that class were often sent away to boarding school, hence these fee-based educational establishments were known, confusingly, as public schools. The town-based middle class may have sent their sons to grammar school; daughters were left to learn what they could from their mothers or from their father’s library. The children of factory workers got no formal education, typically working alongside their parents six days a week, sometimes more than 13 hours a day. In 1870, this was a full 90 years before children could attend schools during the week. But, I’m getting off point.

The point is, there are a lot of things that people think a church should do in its services. The problem is that none of them are in the Bible. The world loves comfort, it loves fashion, it loves to be well thought of, and it loves conformity. I’m not saying we should make everyone sit on the floor so no one is comfortable, or we should all dress like bums so we won’t be affiliated with fashion, or that we should try to offend people so they won’t think well of us or that we should be different solely for the sake of being different. What I am saying is that the love of those things should not lure us away from our sonship education.

Sonship is work and most folks don’t want that, not when it is associated with church. Sonship involves an education and people don’t want to do anything that resembles “going back to school.” Sonship means learning to think in a whole new way and people like what they are used to; what they are familiar with.

The next thing we need to do is take this back to Proverbs where Solomon is warned, by his father David, of these 2 particular oppositions that will seek to ruin his sonship life.

What I’m trying to get you to see from this is that in Israel’s program, before you ever encounter the “evil man” and the “strange woman,” you have those 2 major oppositions outlined and exposed. Moses warns the people about both of them and David warns Solomon about both of them.

The apostle Paul is going to warn us about both of these. You will understand that after your own sinful flesh, you are going to encounter 2 enemies that have the ability to ruin your sonship life.