

In our last session we were looking at the opposition labeled “the evil man” as Israel succumbed to it before and after they entered into the land. The “evil man,” along with the “strange woman,” is at work against the nation. When we left off, we saw the land of the Canaanites was very prosperous and the children of Israel were told not to look at all the things of the Canaanites. God knows that the cities, the wealth, and the land are the allurements of the world, which are intended to capture Israel’s attention and make them like the other nations of the world.

That is why they are told not to look at what the Canaanites do, or 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.”

Leviticus 19 says that when they come into the land, they cannot eat of the fruit trees for the first 3 years and the 4th year’s fruit is dedicated to the LORD. Only the 5th year’s fruit could be freely eaten. 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.

They are told not to make any covenant with the Canaanites and not to allow them to live in the land.

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.

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.

Paul talks about “the fashion of this world” passing away. The Corinthians fell victim to the “course of this world” and it knocked them out of their sonship education.

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." 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; he commands that these false prophets be put to death.

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 we cannot get focused on the things of this world. Just like Israel, just like the Corinthians, the love of the world (and the things of the world) seeks to lure us away from our sonship education.

Sonship requires some effort and most folks are interested in that, especially 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.

Ever before the book of Proverbs, the nation was warned about both the "evil man" and the "strange woman." Moses warned the nation about the opposition they would face from the world and the satanic policy of evil. From the beginning, they have been under the attack of both of these oppositions, so when Proverbs is written, David is able to point at these two oppositions and label them "the evil man" and "the strange woman."

In our program, the apostle Paul is going to warn us about both of these too. 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.

Having examined a few things about the "course of this world," let us now turn our attention to the "strange woman," or, the satanic policy of evil. There are a couple of things you need to know about the policy of evil. While it is something that is distinct and separate from the "evil man," there are times when the policy of evil will employ the world in what it is doing. When that happens, it may become difficult to differentiate between the two.

Another thing to keep in mind is that there will come a time in your sonship life when the world will no longer have a "pull" on you. At that time, the ungodliness of the world is no longer going to work on you, for you will past that. At that point, the policy of evil has the ability to produce an opposition all on its own. There is an opposing, religious system that is generated by the "strange woman," which is perfectly capable of operating apart the world.

When you, as a son, begin to make advances in your education, and the world no longer affects you the way it used to, that is when the policy of evil abandons its use of the world and its own particular brand of temptation and opposition kicks in.

One of the things you will notice about the "strange woman" is that, unlike the world, she has a particular place that she dwells.

Proverbs 7:4 Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman: 5 That they may keep thee from the **strange woman**, from the stranger

which flattereth with her words. 6 For at the window of my house I looked through my casement, 7 And beheld among the **simple ones**, I discerned among the youths, a **young man void of understanding**, 8 Passing through the street near her corner; and **he went the way to her house**,

Notice that this is not talking about a son who has only been adopted; but this a son who has completed his first level of education and he is “among the simple ones;” a “young man.” That is why I have said to you that when you come out of the first level of your sonship education, that is a dangerous time. It is true that you know some things, but you are still very one dimensional. There is a tendency to think you know more than you do.

There is something else to take not of; the proverbial style is perfect for describing the kind of allurements that the policy of evil is going to have. It is described as a “street walker” who encounters a youth who “void of understanding.” He will be no match for her.

Proverbs 7:6 For at the window of my house I looked through my casement, ⁷ And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding, ⁸ Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house, ⁹ In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night: ¹⁰ And, behold, there met him a woman *with* the **attire of an harlot**, and subtil of heart. ¹¹ (She *is* loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house: ¹² Now *is she* without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.) ¹³ So she caught him, and kissed him, *and* with an impudent face said unto him, ¹⁴ *I have* peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows. ¹⁵ Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee. ¹⁶ I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved *works*, with fine linen of Egypt. ¹⁷ I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. ¹⁸ Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves. ¹⁹ For the goodman *is* not at home, he is gone a long journey: ²⁰ He hath taken a bag of money with him, *and* will come home at the day appointed. ²¹ With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him. ²² He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; ²³ Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it *is* for his life.

The point I am making is that the power of the harlot’s sexual attractiveness is exactly the kind of power generated by the opposing, spiritual, religious system to attack the son’s inner man. The truth is, if the young man of Proverbs 7 had been utilizing the wisdom given to him, he would not have been in her part of town to begin with.

Don’t lose out on what I am saying to you. I am talking about you. There are some places that, if you have any wisdom at all, you will never find yourself going to. And because this is the “strange woman,” you should understand that I am not talking about avoiding the “Crimson Lips” on the back side of Monahans. I’m talking the place where the strange woman has taken up residence. I’m talking about the place where the policy of evil’s opposing religious system has gotten herself all dolled up, so she can entice you.

Let's go back to the passage and notice a few more things that are tucked away over there.

Proverbs 7:4 Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman:

Verse 4 is describing natural relationships; such as sister. So, the policy of evil is going to attempt to inject an unnatural relationship.

Proverbs 7:5 That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words. 21 With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him. 22 He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; 23 Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that **it is for his life**.

The "life" at the end of vs. 23 is not about his eternal life, but about his "functional life." That is what the policy of evil seeks to destroy. That is why I told you that the "strange woman" is after the son's inner man. She wants your soul. She wants to kill your sanctified life. And since being an adopted son is the 3rd component of your sanctification, then it is an accurate assessment to say that she is targeting your sonship life. Her goal is to get to walk away from your sonship education.

As you get into the education proper, you will encounter both of these oppositions. Take a look at Romans 12 and let me show you the "evil man."

Romans 12:2 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.

By the time you get to this verse, you realize that when you see the exhortation not to be conformed to this world, that you are looking at the "evil man." Then, as you get into the next chapter, you encounter the other major opposition; the "strange woman."

Romans 13:11 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore **cast off the works of darkness**, and let us put on the armour of light.

The "works of darkness" are not the same as "conformity to the world." This is the "strange woman." What you know from the placement of these verses is that when you begin your education, you will be faced with a temptation from the world. It will allure you and make itself attractive so that you go after it instead of your sonship education. And you will have that temptation from the "get-go."

But a little later on in your education, specifically when you are under the instruction of godly judgment, you will, for the first time, run into the policy of evil's strange woman. Of all the four decision-making skills, the ones that really make your sonship shine is judgment and equity.

And when you begin your instruction in godly judgment, not only are you advancing, but so is the opposition against you. It is no longer just the world, but now the policy of evil joins against you.

As you are educated in godly judgment, there is an “armour of light” that you will begin to operate out of. If you recall our summary statement for godly judgement, it is the ability to make decisions, not on what is right and what is wrong, but on what is good, what is better and what is best. This is where you, as an adult son with liberty, choose to make decisions that bring the greatest pleasure to your heavenly Father.

This is when you, for the first time, become a threat to the adversary. It is at this point that you become a “son” in earnest. Therefore, you encounter, for the first time, works of darkness. And in the beginning, the policy of evil will employ some aspects of the world in its attack against you. For example, keep reading in Romans 13.

Romans 13:12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. 13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

Do you see that the things mentioned in vs. 13 sound very much like things of this world? That is because they are things of this world. And this is an example of how (and when) the policy of evil will employ aspects of the world in its attack upon us. Therefore, the **FIRST WAY THE POLICY OF EVIL WILL ATTEMPT TO TRIP YOU UP IS BY USING THE THINGS OF THE WORLD** against you to destroy your sonship life. This is the strange woman’s first attempt to attract you away from your sonship. If you don’t fall victim to that temptation, then you will see the strange woman shift her tactics to something else that may attract the son.

The goal is to “de-sanctify” God’s people. That’s why you get that list of things like, “rioting, drunkenness, chambering, wantonness, strife and envy.” But when the son resists all this and refuses to fall prey to the tactic of the policy of evil, then the “strange woman” will ramp up her attack in an entirely different way.

Just to begin to show this to you, let me point out that the education proper (to produce a simple son) runs from Romans 12:3 to 15:7. As you work through the doctrine, you will come to realize that as soon as your heavenly Father is finished educating you in godly equity, He cannot just end the book of Romans. You will see that there is something else that needs to be said. And indeed there is, for the book continues for another chapter and half.

It is in that additional information that the policy of evil’s shift in tactics is pointed out to you. Just to look at it momentarily, turn to Romans 16.

Romans 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. 18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

Do you see those “good words and fair speeches?” Does that remind you of the description of the strange woman? And who does she deceive? She deceives the “hearts of the simple!” By this point, you are indeed a simple son!

Proverbs 7:5 That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger which **flattereth with her words**. 21 With her **much fair speech** she caused him to yield, with the **flattering of her lips** she forced him.

And if you return to Romans 16 for a moment, there is one more thing you should notice. How do we know what is going on in vv. 17 ff. is the strange woman? How do we know this is the policy of evil? We know, first of all, from the fact that there is a religious or spiritual overtone to what is happening. Look at vs. 17.

Romans 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

These are people in the local assembly, which are causing divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine you are learning. We know from the next verse that these attacks are meant to “deceive the hearts of the simple.” But look at who is behind all this, mentioned in vs. 20.

Romans 16:20 And the God of peace shall **bruise Satan** under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

This is the first time that Satan gets openly named like this in Paul’s epistles. By the open mention of Satan, what you have is the equivalent of a declared statement of war. Things are now about to get serious. It is no longer about Satan trying to trip you up with the world; now the attack is going to be more direct. By this time, you are a level 1 son with an education in godly wisdom, justice, judgment and equity. By this time you are on Satan’s radar. By this time you have put on that armour of light. And in view of where you have advanced to, as a son, the attack is going to change from what it was before (an indirect attack utilizing the world) to something entirely different. Now, the attack is going to come from the word of God itself! You can see that in vs. 17 – “offences contrary to the doctrine...” describe the different nature of the attack. This is no longer about being “like the world,” but now it is a full, frontal attack against the doctrine of your sonship. More specifically, it is an attack against the education in godly wisdom, justice, judgment and equity. In other words, it is an assault on your godly edification and it is going to be accomplished by the mishandling of God’s word to produce a contrary doctrine.

What you come to understand is that the Adversary is going to utilize the mishandling of the word by men who stand in churches and preach every week. These men, by “good words and fair speeches” will seek to deceive the hearts of the simple.

With all of this in view, then you also know that there is something else that is about to begin happening to you in your sonship life. You are about to begin “the sufferings of Christ.” These are not the “sufferings of this present time,” which everyone is eligible to undergo, but these are

sufferings that come your way only, and because of, your sonship life and your advancement in it.

From this point onward, the attack is going to go away from its attachment to the world and now it is going to be much more crafty, more subtle mishandlings of the word. It will put forth corrupted forms of Bible doctrines that may be very alluring to a son.

In Proverbs 8-9, you have the final exhortations to the education. Since this concerns a son who is advanced in his education, we find in chapter 8 that wisdom is personified. Wisdom is talking and exhorting because wisdom is now living in the son's inner man.

Proverbs 9:1 Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars: 2 She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table. 3 She hath sent forth her maidens: she crieth upon the highest places of the city, 4 Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him, 5 Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine which I have mingled. 6 Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.

Now, what I'm after here is that wisdom is the focus at the start of the chapter. Later on in the chapter, you will run into the strange woman again. And this time, bear in mind this is for an advanced son, in order to be effective, the strange woman is going to use the exact same words as wisdom! Take a look at it. Drop down to verse 13.

Proverbs 9:13 A foolish woman is clamorous: she is simple, and knoweth nothing.

This "foolish woman" is the "strange woman." Now, look at her actions.

Proverbs 9:14 For she sitteth at the door of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city, 15 To call passengers who go right on their ways:

Now look at the next verse and notice what she says.

Proverbs 9:16 Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: and as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,

Compare that to what wisdom says in vs. 4.

Proverbs 9:4 Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,

It is the exact same words that are meant to entice the son to "turn in!" But what does wisdom say to the son?

Proverbs 9:5 Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine which I have mingled.

Notice how close the strange woman's words are to this.

Proverbs 9:17 Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.

Do you see that all the elements are there? An invitation to eat and drink is in both! There is an ungodly twist that the strange woman gives to wisdom's words and she makes them her own. That is what the strange woman will do. Just to drive this point home by using something in our epistles, let us turn to 2 Timothy 3.

Now get this in your mind. What the strange woman is going to do is use the words of wisdom, and by slight manipulation, she will create a form of godliness; a form of godly edifying. That is, she will produce a form of Bible instruction from the words of wisdom, but it will deny the power thereof, which means, it has denied the power to produce a son. And if it denies the power to produce godliness, then what has it done to the son's life? It has killed it! She will have ruined the sonship life of the son.

2 Timothy 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

People read this verse and suddenly they want to talk about we are living in the last days. Again, this is the error of defining a word in only one way. Since this is in Paul's epistles, he is not talking about the last days of Israel's program, but he is talking about the way things will take place, throughout this dispensation of grace, AMONG SAINTS! I was tempted to write that Paul was describing events in the dispensation of grace in the church, but there is a lot of "Christian" activity that takes place outside of the church. Therefore, I just say it the way I did, "among saved people." That would include churches, Bible studies, Bible colleges and institutes, various and sundry ministries, t.v. and radio programs, Bible correspondence courses, Bible conferences and seminars, and anything else that puts itself forward as having to do with spiritual, religious issues.

Now, don't lose the point. What we are about to read is what the strange woman is going to do with her "flattering words" and she is going to do it in churches and every other venue.

2 Timothy 3:2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

The "men" mentioned here are believers in Jesus Christ. They have been justified unto eternal life by faith in Christ. But look at how they are described in their actions and attitudes.

2 Timothy 3:3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, ⁴ Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; ⁵ Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Because they have a "form of godliness," we know this is not talking about the lost world, they are interested in such. These are believers who have fallen victim to the policy of evil's perversion of the words of truth. And what does Paul tell Timothy to do with these people?

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

Don't have anything to do with them, is Paul's advice. The goal of the policy of evil is to produce this counterfeit form of godliness which cannot and will not produce an edified son. The policy of evil will produce this counterfeit form of godliness in the midst of a great music ministry (so that you feel so good that even if you catch a whiff that something is wrong, you still will not give it up), with promotion from the "who's who" among the Christian world (which will prove beyond any doubt that this must be the right thing to do and believe), in the mega-churches of the world (can that many people be wrong?), by the ever so subtle manipulation of the verses in the Bible. That way, you can rest assured that what you are being taught is "from the Bible."

What you have in the pastoral epistles is an education in all the strategies employed by the strange woman in this dispensation of grace. The amazing part of this is that Paul outlines the policy of evil in the very same order given in the exhortations in the book of Proverbs. That is why back in I Timothy you start with basic assaults against the "godly edifying which is in faith" (I Timothy 1:4)...

1 Timothy 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope; ² Unto Timothy, *my* own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, *and* peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord. ³ As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they **teach no other doctrine**, ⁴ Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than **godly edifying which is in faith: so do.**

...all the way to the counterfeit "form of godliness" in 2 Timothy 3. When Paul says that this thing is a "form of godliness," he is saying that it looks just like the real thing. That means, to the outward observer, it looks like the real thing. It will even use much of the same terminology as godly edification. But the power has been substituted for, and another power is operating instead of the power of godliness.

In our next session, we are going to return to the table of contents and look at things in level 2 of the sonship education. In other words, we will be looking at the things which follow after the 4 decision-making skills of the education that makes you a simple son. I think you will be very excited to learn about these things.