OPEN

Have you ever visited a harlot? Have you ever gone to a house of prostitution? Have you ever driven down certain streets because you know who’s going to be standing on those street corners and you know that you can get what you want in any shape, in any form, in any size, any sort of perversion? All you have to do is pay for it. You are lacking sense if you head that way. And you are going to destroy yourself.

PART ONE

Can you be immoral and not reap the consequences? No, Beloved. There will come consequences one way or another. Let’s look at some of these, especially in relationship to marriage. Because you see, what’s happening today is so many families are being destroyed because one of the partners decides to be immoral, because one of the partners is entrapped or led away by the desire of their eyes or the desire of their heart. And then they
transgress. They step over God’s line. And then there are consequences. In Romans, chapter 1, God talks about what happens when men know God and they don’t honor Him as God. They don’t glorify Him as God. To glorify God means that you have a correct opinion of God, a correct and accurate estimate and you order your life accordingly. In Romans chapter 1 he talks about how all of us are going to be held accountable before Him, and how no man is going to have any excuse before God. Because God has given plenty of testimony, the testimony of a knowledge within that there has to be a supreme being and the testimony of creation, that says, “Hey, all this didn’t happen by accident. There has to be a creator.” And then He talks about what happens when we have this knowledge of God and when men had this knowledge of God and they turned away. And He says, “They exchanged the glory of an incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and of four footed animals and crawling creatures; therefore, because they turned away from truth, because they turned away from this witness within and this witness without, therefore God gave them over to the lust of their bodies.” Now you and I live in a body of flesh. And it has desires. It has lusts. But God is able to restrain those. But when you and I reject the knowledge of God He gives them over, he gives us over to the lusts of our bodies. And He says, “That their bodies might be dishonored among them.” And he’s talking about sexual immorality there. He’s talking about having sex outside of marriage. Or being married to someone and having sex with someone that you’re not married to. He says, “They exchanged the truth of God for a lie. And they worshiped and served the creature rather than the creator who has blessed forever.” And that’s what we’re doing today. I mean just stop and look at your society. Aren’t we “us” oriented? Aren’t we serving us and serving others and not acknowledging God? Don’t we even take the standards of God and say, “I’m sorry, but those are out-dated. No, God surely didn’t mean that. No, that book’s written by man.” It’s not written by man. I mean
man was the scribe, but God was the author. And He breathed into men the words that He wanted recorded for us. And every word of God is pure. The psalmist says, “Purified as silver in a furnace of fire seven times.” So He goes on to say then in verse 26, “For this reason, God gave them over to degrading passions: for the women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural and in the same way also, the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire one towards another. Men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their err.” Receiving in their own persons, this is the consequence of immorality. This is the consequence of when you and I do not obey God’s laws. First Corinthians, chapter 6, and we’ve looked at it before. But in 1 Corinthians, chapter 6, verse 18, He says, “Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.” Sexually transmitted diseases are a consequence of being immoral. God never intended for a woman to sleep with more than one man. That’s God’s will. And they have found that even young girls that have been immoral and had numerous sexual partners are ending up with all sorts of problems so that many of them are having to have hysterectomies before they ever get married, which means that they lose the wonderful ability to give birth to a child. Well I want to take you back to the Book of Proverbs because the Book of Proverbs has a lot to say about someone that’s thinking about being immoral, someone that’s thinking about committing adultery. We want to look at Proverbs 6 this week. And he says, in verse 23, “The commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life.” Now listen, if you don’t have light, you’re going to fall in the darkness. You’re not going to see where you’re going. And you’re in danger. That’s why you need light. And so God’s commandment is light so that you don’t stumble in the darkness. His teaching is light so that you don’t end up with the unfruitful deeds of the darkness, and reproof are the disciplines of life. In other words, God comes
along and says, “No, don’t.” the whipping, taking you to the divine woodshed is to get you back in shape. And to say, “Wait a minute. Wait a minute, you’re about to destroy yourself.” He says, “They’re to keep you from the evil woman, from the smooth tongue of the adulteress.” “I was watching you the other day and I just want you to know that I am so impressed with you.” Listen, you will hear those flattering words. Beware! Be careful! There are so many women on the make today. We have lost our scruples. We have no fear of God before our eyes. Immorality is totally acceptable in our society now except for a contingency of those that believe the Word of God. And they know it will never be acceptable. So he says, “Listen to me. It’s going to keep you from the evil woman.” Now listen. If you’re enticing men, if you’re seducing men, if you’re going around having sex outside of marriage, if you’re a little college girl and you’re sleeping with this guy and then sleeping with that guy or if you’re an adult woman, a career woman and you’re sleeping around, turn on the television, go to the movies, look at all those women that are hopping into bed, they’re evil women in the eyes of God. Now that is hard language, isn’t it? I was an evil woman in the eyes of God. I was an adulteress and I knew how to use my tongue. “Do not desire her beauty in your heart, nor let her catch you with her eyelids.” In other words, she knows how to flirt with her eyes. Don’t be caught by that flirtatious eye. Watch it carefully. Turn away from it. Don’t look. He says, “For on the account of a harlot one is reduced to a loaf of bread. And an adulteress hunts for the precious life.” What is he saying? She’s on the make. I mean she’s out to get you. She’s looking. She wants a man and she’s looking and you are the target. Now some of you I know are saying, “I’m not the target of anyone.” Well, I want to tell you something. You would be better off not being the target of any woman than to be having sex like so many men outside of marriage because you are in a place, if you stay moral, where God can bless you. And you are going to restrain yourself from the judgment of God. This is a book, written by a father to his son of
wise sayings. I mean most of it is. It’s a book of wisdom. It’s the wisdom that are the precepts and standards for your life. Proverbs 23, verse 27. He says, “For a harlot is a deep pit. And an adulterous woman is a narrow well.” Have you ever fallen or seen somebody that’s fallen down a narrow well? You can’t get them out. And they’re in danger of dying. They’re in danger of dying of starvation. It says, “Surely, she lurks as a robber.” She’s out to steal the blessing of God from you. “She increases the faithlessness among men.” Those that are not faithful, not faithful to their wives, not faithful to their children, not faithful to their commitments. I have seen a guy get involved with a gal like this and I have seen his life absolutely destroyed. Well, go back to Proverbs, chapter 6, verse 27. “Can a man take fire in his bosom and his clothes not be burned?” Can you pick up hot coals from the fireplace and put them on your chest and not be burned? No. There’s fire there. And you are going to be burned. “Can a man walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched?” No. “So is the one who goes in to his neighbor’s wife. Whoever touches her will not go unpunished.” And what will that punishment be? Well just listen. “Men do not despise a thief, if he steals to satisfy himself when he’s hungry.” I mean, you see a thief and you see him take an apple because he’s starving to death. He says, “But when he is found, he must pay sevenfold.” He was hungry. He took a piece of food and we don’t despise him, but we say, “Look, you did it, you’ve got to pay for it.” And they have to pay sevenfold. He says, “He must give all the substance of his house.” He stole and he’s got to give the substance of his house. He says, “The one who commits adultery with a woman is lacking sense.” He says, “He who would destroy himself does it.” Why? Because there’s a God in heaven and because God created you, and because God created you for Himself, and because God did not create you for immorality. You say, “But I have a sex drive.” Yes, you have a sex drive and God says, “If you’re going to burn, then you get married.”
PART TWO

Now he goes on to say, “Wounds and disgrace, he will find.” Genital herpes, sexually transmitted diseases, other kinds of wounds, the wounds that will come from knowing that you hurt another man’s wife, from knowing that you hurt your wife, from knowing that your children found out and now they’re full of bitterness towards you or hatred towards you, or your kids end up just like you. “Wounds and disgrace will he find.” And listen. “His reproach will not be blotted out.” It says, “For jealousy enrages a man.” That husband finds out that you went into his wife. Jealousy enrages him. And that’s natural. And it says, “And He will not spare in the day of vengeance. He will not accept any ransom, nor will he be content, though you give him many gifts.” And we need to move on to Proverbs, chapter 7, where you see even more that God says happens when we don’t listen to God. He says, in verse 6, of chapter 7, “I was at the window of my house and I looked out through the lattice and I saw among the naive, I discerned among the youths a young man lacking sense passing through the street near her corner. And he takes the way to her house.” He’s going down the street. He comes near to her corner. He’s tempted. He’s drawn. God does not spare anyone. God is not a respecter of persons. It says, “In the twilight, in the evening, in the middle of the night, at the darkness, when the light is going down, when things are not as easily recognized, when you think that you can hide, and behold a woman comes out to meet him dressed as a harlot and cunning of heart.” You know I was in the beauty parlor the other day and I picked up a hair styling magazine to look at it. When I flipped the back of the magazine over, I nearly died. I nearly died at these so called evening clothes for these evening clubs. This is an abomination to God. This is uncovering the nakedness of a person and that is only to be done in the marriage bed. The short skirts, the low blouses, the tight clothes, the seductive clothes are the attire of a harlot. And if you wear that, what you’re saying is, “I’m for sale. I’m up for hire. Here, look at the merchandise. You want to see it more
closely? Look at my revealing outfit.” The attire of a harlot, you’re selling yourself so cheap. No, don’t sell yourself. You know when you wear clothes like that, you might as well put something, a sign on it that says, “Slightly soiled, greatly reduced in price.” Men, really, really, in their hearts, don’t want second-class goods, although they’ll sleep with them. You know, really, when they get married, they’d rather have someone that’s been pure. “She’s boisterous and she’s rebellious. Her feet do not remain at home.” I mean you watch girls that have no nesting instinct. You watch women that aren’t interested in building a home. You watch the women that are out on the streets and hunting and looking and dressed like that. Let me just say one more thing. Don’t ever say, “Well, it’s not my fault. He’s just a dirty old man.” Remember, men are turned on by sight. So don’t wear the attire of a harlot. It says, “She’s now in the streets in the squares and she lurks by every corner. So she seizes him and kisses him and with a brazen face, she says to him: ‘I have offerings today, I paid my vows. Therefore I’ve come out to meet you, to seek your presence earnestly and I’ve found you. I’ve spread my couch with coverings, with colored linens of Egypt. Come let us drink our fill of love into the morning. Let us delight ourselves with caresses. My man is not at home. He’s gone on a long journey. He’s taken a bag of money with him. At full moon, he’ll come home.’ With her many persuasions, she entices him. With her flattering lips, she seduces him.” Don’t be a fool. Don’t let a woman capture you with her enticing, seductive words. Why? “Suddenly he follows her.” “As an ox goes to the slaughter or as one in fetters to the discipline of the fool.” Do you remember those things from early America, when they would put them in the town square and when they would have them in the stocks like this? And their head would be out and their hands would be out and there would be some sort of sign. Or they would know this person played the fool. This person did something very foolish, did something very bad. It says, “Suddenly he follows her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, or as one in fetters to the discipline of a fool, until an
arrow pierces through his liver; as a bird hastens to the snare” He does not know that it will cost him his life. Listen, indiscretion can change the course of a person’s life. There was a man and this is a true story. And he was faithful to his wife. He went on one of these big business things where they take you away and they train you and train you and train you. And that night, they said, “You have studied so well. You have hung in there with us, we have a treat for you to end all treats.” And what was the treat? They gave them all a woman, free of charge, for the night. All the buddies were standing around. He was embarrassed to not take the woman. For the first time, he went out and committed adultery. The bedroom was paid for. Everything was paid for, the booze, everything. When they finished, he looked over at her sitting in the chair as she pulled on her hose. And she looked at him and she said, “Welcome to the world of AIDS.” It cost him his life. It cost his wife her life. And it left the children parentless all because of one act of indiscretion. “Now my sons, listen to me. Pay attention to the words of my mouth. Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways. Do not stray into her paths. For many are the victims that she has cast down and numerous are all her slain. Her house is the way to Sheol, the way to hell descending to the chambers of death.” God says, “Marriage is honorable in all.” He designed sex. He means for you to enjoy sex. “And marriage is honorable in all and the bed undefiled.” Enjoy it. Enjoy it. But know this: “That fornicators and adulterers God will judge.” The ways of a man are before the Lord. He knows your goings. He knows that her path is the way to death. And that’s why He warns you, “Don’t go there.” “And man that that commits adultery reduces his life to nothing more…,” as it says in Proverbs, “…to the price of a load of bread.” Listen, you’re worth far more than a loaf of bread. You’re worth the death of the Son of Jesus Christ. And Jesus Christ came to set you free, so if you’re a slave to adultery or immorality, I want you to know and believe me, I’ve been there. You can be set free. You can be a new creature. Cry to God and ask Him to save you.