

## The New Testament Curses of God

*Beloved brethren, in these coming meetings we will be going through curses which are applicable in New Testament realities. I plan to preach on this in more detail than I ever have before, and we need to renew our minds concerning these realities anyway. I will probably preach on Leviticus 26 and curse #2 tomorrow evening, but I am not entirely sure yet. You can be safe if you study those two things. There are more curses which I will be preaching on, Lord willing, besides these three, but I have not pasted them for you yet because I am still working on the final copy, so I thought to give you the first three so we can begin the meetings. Godspeed my beloved brethren, until tomorrow evening.*

- 1) **Spiritual Famine or Spiritual Desertification:** God blessed the land with prosperity by sending *rain* (Lev. 26:4-5, Deut. 7:12-14, 28:3-5, 8, 11-12), and He cursed the land with famine by withholding *rain* (Deut. 28:16-18, 23-24, 33, 38-42, 48, 51). Now what, oh man, do you not believe that God, in His wrath, will withhold *spiritual rain* from His New Testament people? [Spiritual Famine or Spiritual Desertification \(chapter 16, section 3\)](#)

**Old Testament:** Amos 8:9-13 [famine], Isa. 5:6, 44:3 & Joel 2:23 [the Spirit of God is rain], Isa. 41:17-18 [pools and springs], Isa. 35:6-7, 43:19-20, 49:9-10 [streams, pools, and springs invading wilderness' of dragons], Ps. 46:4 [river], Isa. 13:20-22, 34:10-15 [deserts, the dwelling place of devils].

**New Testament:** Acts 2:15-21 [the Covenant beginning is an outpouring of rain, this is applied as prophesied in Joel 2:28-32, this is applied in parallel types in Ps. 68:9, 15-20, applied in Eph. 4:7-13, & recollectd in 1 Cor. 1:4-8], Heb. 6:7-8 [rain is a present-continuous salvific experience recorded and interpreted in Heb. 6:4-5], John 7:38 [rivers of water invade deserts of dryness], Lk. 10:19 [devils inhabit deserts], Heb. 6:8 [men can become desert-lands of thorns and briars, an inviting habitation for devils, Jn. 13:27], James 5:14-20 [rain-releasing effects can be wrought by effectual prayers of New Testament intercessors, and here, in James 5:17-20, the rain restores the fruitfulness of NT Israelites who were caught in rain-less days, upon the release of rain the erring brethren, fruitless and inhibited because of a personal spiritual famine, are restored from their "err from the truth" thus fruitfulness springs forth from their decertified souls; a desert wasteland experiences restoration].

**Terrifying Conclusion:** "Nevertheless in those days, saith the LORD, I will not make a full end with you. And it shall come to pass, when ye shall say, Wherefore doeth the LORD our God all these things unto us? then shalt thou answer them, Like as ye have forsaken me, and served strange gods in your land, so shall ye serve strangers in a land that is not yours. Declare this in the house of Jacob, and publish it in Judah, saying, Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not: Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it? But this people hath a revolting and a rebellious heart; they are revolted and gone. Neither say they in their heart, **Let us now fear the LORD our God, that giveth rain, both the former and the latter, in his season: he reserveth unto us the appointed weeks of the harvest.** Your iniquities have **turned away these things**, and your sins have **withholden good things from you.**" – Jer. 5:18-25

- 2) **Stripped of Power & Success at War:** God blessed the people by giving them unconquerable armies and impregnable fortifications (Lev. 26:6-8, Deut. 28:6-7), and He cursed the people by disarming them of their battle-skills ("The battle is the LORD'S"), and contra-2ise He blessed their enemies so that, when they attacked Israel at God's beckoning, Israelite fortifications were breached and their defenses overthrown (Deut. 11:22-25, 28:25-26, 49-50, 52, 32:30). Now what, oh man, do disbelieve that God, in His wrath, would leave His New Testament people so that they, being rendered defenseless at God's absence, are conquered by their enemies who seek their life? (For a detailed address of this biblical reality see [Life – City & Nation \(chapter 11, section 4\)](#) & [Personification & Anthropomorphism \(chapter 12, section 1\)](#)).

**Old Testament:** 1 Sam. 17:47, Jer. 17:5, & Ps. 31:20, 62:5 [the battle is the Lord's], Ps. 119;114 [hiding place and shield], Ps. 61:3 [shelter and strong tower], Ps. 18:1, 10 [fortress, buckler, and high tower], Ps. 127:1 [watchmen], Hos. 9:12, Ezek. 21:5, Ps. 17:13-14 [the Lord joining the opposing army which fights against Israel]

**New Testament:** 1 Pet. 2:11 [war against the soul], Rom. 7:23 [warring], James 4:1 [wars], 1 Tim. 1:18 [warfare], 2 Cor. 6:7 [armor], 2 Cor. 10:3-6 [war, weapons, & strongholds], Rom. 13:12, 1 Thess. 5:8, Eph. 6:10-19, & Rev. 12:11

[armor, weapons, wrestling, & the secret of victory], 1 Cor. 9:26, 1 Tim. 6:12, & 2 Tim. 4:7-8 [the fight is for eternal life], 1 Pet. 4:1 [soldier-like readiness to suffer], 1 Cor. 15:32 [fighting beasts], 2 Tim. 2:3-4 [a soldier-like lifestyle].

**Terrifying Conclusion:** God has delivered His Old Testament people over to tribute, captivity, and annihilation, and is there no New Testament servitude and captivity to avoid (2 Tim. 2:26, Gal. 3:1, 5:1, 7-8), no war to fight in, no battle to win, or no overthrowing annihilation to escape (Rev. 13:17, Rom. 8:13, Eph. 6:12, 1 Jn. 5:4-5, Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26, 3:5, 12, 21, 21:7)? What? Do you not believe that God, in His wrath, will raise up devils to rob us of our weapons of righteousness, inundate us until we remain without skill or success to win the battle, making us tributaries to worldly wisdom (1 Cor. 3:18 [being deceived to think worldly wisdom is true wisdom], 1 Cor. 4:8-10 [being deceived to oppose apostolic doctrines and ways, i.e. normal & scriptural Christianity], James 3:15 [being deceived to fellowship with and walk in devilish wisdom instead of God's wisdom], James 1:26-27 [being deceived so that our religion is vain])? If we do not recognize the war, learn the skill to fight the battle, reckon the eternal consequence of success or loss, discern the condition of temporary defeat, and discover the means to restore success, surely my brethren, we will perish! We must be of the number that "waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of aliens" (Heb. 11:34)! Behold it, oh man, your longstanding foes upon the battlefield! The battle rages, oh man, and the cries of your fallen comrades do sound from the carnage of dead men! "He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches" (Rev. 2:11)! Oh my brethren, "thy prophets have seen vain and foolish things for thee: and they have not discovered thine iniquity, to turn away thy captivity; but have seen for thee false burdens and causes of banishment" (Lam. 2:14)! How, you ask? By misapplying promises to the people of God when, at present, they are disqualified from their performance (see [Life – City & Nation \(chapter 11, section 4\)](#)).

- 3) **Bodily Sickness:** God blessed the people by giving them impeccable physical health (but the promises which enabled the prosperity of health was subject to God's sovereign appointment in each individual's life), and God cursed the people with body-destroying sicknesses, diseases, and plagues. Now what, oh man, do you not believe that God, in His wrath, will afflict His New Testament people by a Body-destroying spiritual disease?

**Old Testament:** Exodus 15:26, Deut. 7:15, Ps. 103:3, & Deut. 28:21-22, 27, 35 [the blessing of impeccable physical health and the curse of body-tormenting physical sickness], Isaiah 1:5-6 [*incurable spiritual disease* which incites castaway wrath from God], see the chapter, [The Righteous Judgment of God \(chapter 11, section 4, see subject title "wound for wound"\)](#), for a detailed study on *bodily wounds* in their physical and spiritual typological aspects.

**New Testament:** James 5:14-15 [the blessings and promises available for physical health], Mark 2:17 [salvific-healing for sinners who are spiritually sick, therefore the righteous are, through salvation, already healed, and there are promises for continued healing], 1 Pet. 2:24 [impeccable spiritual health: Christ's wounds merit our present-continuous healing], 2 Tim. 2:17 [sin threatens spiritual health: evil words, false doctrines, hypocritical and sinful behaviors are viewed as contagious spiritual diseases], Matthew 18:8-9 [those who are spiritual healthy can become spiritually diseased, which means saints can become sinners, and at such a time only one operation is available to stop the spreading of the incurable disease; amputation from the Body], Rom. 12:4-5 & 1 Cor. 12:12-13 [the regenerate are one Body in Christ; His Body], Col. 2:19 & Eph. 4:15-16 [our present-continuous health is determined by how much we abide in and are nourished by Christ one another, personally, and Christ through one another, corporately - this is comparable to the principles of life and health seen in John 15:1-7 & Eph. 5:29], 2 Pet. 1:4, 2:18-22 [dead men (i.e. the "twice dead"-Jude 12) are diseased men, spewing out "corruption" and "pollution" which defiles and infects the living saints, drawing them to their death] Jude 12 & 2 Pet. 2:13 [the presence of non-excommunicated, backslidden men is hazardous and potentially fatal to the Body of Christ; like ceremonial "blemishes" of utter disqualification (Eph. 5:27); like health-destroying leprous "spots" making the Bride the living dead (Num. 12:12)].

**Terrifying Conclusion:** Matthew 18:8-9 is not a word directed to individual Christians, as some may assume. It is not intended to teach us how we should treat our *actual bodies* when we feel endangered by sin. Though there are spiritual principles which may be gleaned from this approach to the text, this was not the meaning for which Christ spoke it. I acknowledge the spiritual insights of this view. I am edified to consider what true repentance from sin *looks like* and *feels like*. It is true, when one truly repents there is a relentless effort which forces the cutting off of sin, a consciousness of eternal judgment which drives the man to pay any cost, but Christ did not speak this as a demonstration of personal sacrifice for individual Christians. No, this was spoken to address the Body of Christ as a whole. The emphasis is not on any personal cost to our physical bodies, as if we would cut off an actual member of our body to escape sin. The emphasis is directed to a corporate cost to our Spiritual Body, *the Church*, when we have to cut

off a member of the Body of Christ from the Church (i.e. excommunication). When reading Matthew 18:8-9 standing alone, this interpretation is not apparent, but when reading these verses in context with verses 1-20, the message is very clear. The chapter, as a whole, is an address to the corporate Church. In it are repeated instructions on what to do when the saints of the true Church fall into a damnable offence. My reader, look upon verses 1-20 before we continue:

“At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and **become as little children**, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself **as this little child**, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive **one such little child in my name receiveth Me**. But whoso shall **offend one of these little ones which believe in me**, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe unto **the world** because of **offences!** for it must needs be that **offences** come; but woe to **that man by whom the offence cometh!** Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot **offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee:** it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. And if thine eye **offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee:** it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire. Take heed that ye **despise not one of these little ones;** for I say unto you, That in heaven **their angels** do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that **one of these little ones** should perish. Moreover if **thy brother** shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast **gained thy brother**. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto **the church:** but if he neglect to hear **the church**, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” – Matthew 18:1-20

The chapter is an address to true believers in Christ (here called “little children”, “little child”, and “little ones”). Christ uses an actual “little child”, set in their midst, as a demonstration of the childlike humility which saved men have toward their newfound Parent – God Almighty. As the teaching develops it is made clear, the “little ones” are those which, Christ says, “believe in Me”. By saving faith, these “little ones” are regenerated and indwelt by Christ, therefore anyone who receives “one such little child **in My Name**”, Christ said, the same man “**receiveth Me**”. The believer, here called “one such little child”, is united with the living Christ in so sacred a union that, **to reject the “little child” is to reject Christ!** This union is depicted well in the following analogy that Christ speaks. This “little child” is a part of the Body of Christ, therefore whatever is done to the child is done to Christ Himself (see Matt. 18:8-9). After introducing the hallowed union that Christ has with true believers, He forewarns us, when you offend one of these believers, causing them to fall into damnable sin, “it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea”. When saints are overcome by the world (Jas. 4:4) and intoxicated by “earthly” wisdom (Jas. 3:15), they engage in spiritual “wars and fightings among” the saints (Jas. 4:1). “But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another”, Paul warns (Gal. 5:15). James and Paul spoke in agreement with Christ when He said, “WOE unto the world because of offences... woe to that man by whom the offences cometh!” This means that when one saint is offended, and in turn this saint – who is overcome by the world – is used to cause other saints to offend, so it happens in the NT according to the old Deuteronomic warning where suddenly, because of the offence of one, many are being offended, or in other words, “lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby **many be defiled**” (Deut. 29:18, Heb. 12:15).

To prevent this danger – the spread of offences throughout the body of Christ – the Lord said “WHEREFORE”: “Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot **offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee:** it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. And if thine eye **offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee:** it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.” Christ gives further caution so that, in the process of preventing Church-wide

leavening into malice, wickedness, bitterness, and insincerity – be careful! – don’t make a mistake, don’t cut people off from the body of Christ through ungodly despise, let it be done only through sincere love. Speaking on this wise, Christ said, “Take heed that ye **despise not one of these little ones**; for I say unto you, That in heaven **their angels** do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.” The Lord teaches us not to cut them off from the Body of Christ *through despise*, yes, but the main emphasis is, after these regenerate men who have turned into offenders are cut off (so as to save the Body from the leaven of their sin spreading and destroying all), we should remember that God does not want any one of these cut off brethren to perish even though they are currently backslidden, gone astray, and cut off from the Church (2 Cor. 2:8-9).

The Lord teaches that He wants us to “save that which was lost” by neglecting the righteous (as the Lord leads), He wants us to seek “that which is gone astray” (Matt. 18:11-12)...and if such a one is found and restored again to the Shepherds fold, which is the body of Christ, my reader - there is great rejoicing in heaven! “Even so”, Christ says, in the light of all these things, “it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish” (Matt. 18:14)...therefore let all cutting off, plucking out, and casting away excommunications take their proper course (see Matthew 18:15-17). Anyone who follows this Divinely authored formula for excommunication, as seen in Matthew 18:15-17, can be sure it is done in Christ’s Name. The Lord promises that, by following this formula (see Matt. 18:15-17), when the Church is thus gathered in an effort to deal with the rebellious brothers – Christ will be there in the assembly – and with Him are veritable, sure, and wondrous promises: “Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My Name, there am I in the midst of them” (Matt. 18:18-20). You see, my reader, Christ’s Divine-union with believers is spoken of in verse 5, verses 8-9, and verses 18-20, and this is His Bodily response to an individual member’s rebellion. Did not the writer of Hebrews warn us about how members of the Body of Christ can be “turned out of the way”? The Lord Jesus desires that, when the members of His Body are defective – when “the hands” “hang down”, the “knees” are “feeble”, and the “feet” are “lame” – Christ says, “let [them] rather be healed” instead of amputated from the Body (Heb. 12:12-15)! Thus let us follow the precautionary measures for healing as seen in Matthew 18:15-17, Galatians 6:1, Jude 1:22-23, James 5:19-20, and 2 Timothy 2:24-26. In the process, brother, stay “**with them** that call on the Lord out of a pure heart” (see 2 Tim. 2:19-23), don’t be ignorant of Satan’s devices. Oh, how many perish for lack of knowledge? For lack of obedience to the doctrines of separation (2 Tim. 3:5, 1 Tim. 6:3-5, Romans 16:17-18)!? In such a dilemma as this, sadly, most Christians don’t know what to do! Most Christians are oblivious to *the danger* of backsliders who *continue in the Church!* Most Christians are ignorant of the Spiritual Biology of the Body of Christ! God laments today, yet again, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hos. 4:6)! Yes, members of Christ are destroyed for lack of knowledge! Yes, local Churches – “Bodies of Christ” – are destroyed for lack of knowledge! And most Christians misinterpret Matthew 18:8-9 because they are ignorant of the *doctrinal rules* and warnings which are repeatedly given to the Body of Christ all throughout the scripture – stating clearly that – we, the Body of Christ, are in danger of hellfire if we continue in *unholy-union* with of one body-part of Christ that is fallen, backslidden, and offended!

When and if a saint backslides into a *disqualified* spiritual condition, the man is then disqualified from biblical *companionship, friendship, fellowship, and yoking*, and by God’s command, there needs to be a “forsaking” of the one to save them all (Prov. 9:6), a “purging” of the one to save the “holy lump” (1 Cor. 5), a “casting out” of the one to preserve the health and progress of the congregation (Prov. 22:12). Because the backslider’s presence aggravates and contends against the presence of God and His people, the backslider has become a presence of *spiritual disunion* from God and His body. This disunion is dangerous! In essence, the backslider’s spiritual condition is in *contradiction* and *enmity against* the cause of Christ and His people – this merits his removal (Prov. 14:7). Dismembering the offender saves the body! “Cut them off and cast them from thee”, Christ said! “Pluck it out and cast it from thee” (Matt. 18:8-9), and why? No matter how precious the member, it must be cut off from Christ’s body...or the offender will cause the whole body to offend (see Matt. 18:3-20). These offenders, my brethren! Cut and “**cast them**” from the body! Or the body is be “**cast** into everlasting fire” (Matt. 18:8)! We are warned, brethren...will we take heed?

Like veins the heart, so is every body part, they all share in a single source of life. This life flows within, among, and through them all, “for in Him we live, and move, and have our being” (Acts 17:28). With such an interconnected livelihood, let us reckon the implications: When one member of Christ is bitten by the Serpent’s infernal bite, it becomes a poisoned part...and if the livelihood of Spiritual communion with this body-part continues as before, those sacred and life-giving connections will become the transport for Satan’s fiery venom. That which was injected into the dying member will, when drawn into the heart, violently overcome the whole Spiritual Man. The outlets which communicated *holy* life-blood to the body, now poisoned, carry death to every member! Poison is to the body like

leaven to the lump, the whole body is killed. When at one time “the unity of the faith” made manifest the perfection of God’s glory – a Christ-filled “Perfect Man” (Eph. 4:13) – on the contrary here, through inordinate unity, alas, the body of Christ is a discolored, hardly conscious, dying Man! The Man is poisoned into bodily distress, yes, because of the unholy union it has with a poisoned member - thus the Church is fighting for its very life! My reader, has the Lamp of your local Church gone out? Has Christ, the eternal High Priest, removed the Candlestick out of its place? Do you live in such a time when, alas, “the Lamp of God went out in the Temple of the LORD” (1 Sam. 3:3)?

- 4) **Earth-Swallowing Death:** Do you remember when “the earth opened her mouth and swallowed [men] up, with all that appertain unto them, and they [went] down quick into the pit” (Num. 16:30)? Do you not believe that God, in His wrath, would command that the earthly-body of your flesh would open wide its mouth to swallow you down into the “passions” of hell, like as “the earth closed upon them” and they died (Num. 16:33)?

**Old Testament:** “And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind. If these men die the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; then the LORD hath not sent me. But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD. And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them: And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods. They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation. And all Israel that were round about them fled at the cry of them: for they said, Lest the earth swallow us up also” (Numbers 16:28-34). “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. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall” (1 Cor. 10:11-12).

**New Testament:** Do you not know that your battle is against “the world” (1 John 2:15-17), or in other words “the earth” (Col. 3:5), and the deadly venom of hell that resides therein (“the body is dead because of sin” –Rom. 8:10). Therefore it is said, “mortify therefore your members which are **upon the earth**” (Col. 3:5), for it, the flesh, “is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God” (Rom. 8:7-8). No, “flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption” (1 Cor. 15:50), therefore it is written: “That which is born of flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit” (Jn. 3:6), and “as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the children of God, even to them that believe on His Name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:12-13). Of a truth then it is also said, “whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world” (1 Jn. 5:4), and again, “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His” (Rom. 8:9). The wretched venom that resides in “the body of this death” (Rom. 7:24) is what we need deliverance from, presently and continually, and because we have been made partakers of God’s flesh-killing (Rom. 6:7), earthly-body-crucifying (Gal. 2:20), amazing grace (Eph. 2:8-10), we are indebted to walk out in its results: “That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 5:21). “Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die; but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live” (Rom. 8:12-13).

You see, beloved, Satan has power over those who make “provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof” (Rom. 13:14). All who make such a provision do walk “according to the course of this world” (Eph. 2:2), a course controlled and ruled “the god of this world” (2 Cor. 4:4), Satan, “the prince of the power of the air” (Eph. 2:2). According to scripture, this world is conquered and ruled by the kingdom whose gates are called, “gates of hell” (Matt. 16:18), and when a man turns away from God and turns to the flesh, the “friendship” therewith is a declaration of enmity against God (James 4:4, Rom. 8:6-8). When one makes a league, a confederacy, or an alliance with the flesh (the world), the spirit of this world’s ruler (Eph. 2:2), Satan, will control the course of your heart (2 Tim. 2:26), words (Matt. 16:23), and deeds (James 3:15). Therefore it is said that, at such a time, “the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell” (James 3:6). At such a time the devil will, like Philistines took Samson, take you captive and employ you in blind servitude – therefore, alas, the Devil is near (James 4:7) and God is not (James 4:8)! While God is “afar off” (Ps. 138:6) the Devil is at hand, yes, but let the reader understand that if God draws near again then the Devil will “flee from you” (James 4:7)! Do you see now, oh man, how it is indeed possible for a New Testament saint to, alas, be

swallowed up by the earth into the fiery passions of hell? This, indeed, is a cursed place to be, and without recovery one will end up in hell itself!