



# Blackfoot Church of Christ

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## Without Self-Control

Joe R. Price

The “perilous times” of which the apostle spoke in 2 Timothy 3:1 are, as one commentator observed, times when the Christian “has to live under a constant sense of hindrance and difficulty of one sort or another” (Pulpit Commentary, Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Ed.), p. 39). The difficulties of living in the world while remaining separate from the world is one of the daily temptations we face (Jn 15:18-20; 1 Jn 2:15-17).

Those who abandon the restraints of revealed truth do not live under the trials of faith. They freely give themselves over to the desires and fulfillments of the flesh. They exert pressure on the righteous to compromise morality and yield the high ground of truth for the comfort of inclusion and self-satisfaction. The righteous are tempted to envy the wicked since it appears they escape the hindrances that faith compels (Ps 73:1-14). However, we must consider the result of their sinful indulgences and continue to trust the Lord (Ps 73:15-28): “But the transgressors shall be destroyed together; The future of the wicked shall be cut off” (Ps 37:38).

In his detailed description of those who exert pressures on the righteous, the apostle begins by observing, “For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,” (2 Tim 3:2-3).

Let us focus on “without self-control” for a moment. These are without the power to restrain themselves from evil. This does not mean that self-control is beyond their ability. It means they have chosen not to exercise control over their passions, their words and their actions. This word is used “here only in the New Testament, not in the LXX, but frequent in classical Greek, in the sense of intemperate in the pursuit or use of anything, e.g. money, the tongue, pleasure,

the appetite, etc.” (Ibid, 40). Unwilling to moderate themselves with divine truth, those without self-control throw caution to the wind, spreading the seeds of intemperance while pressuring the righteous to conform to their lustful excesses (2 Tim 3:6-8).

Self-control is part of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:23). It requires bringing the flesh with its passions and desires under the control of the Spirit of God (Gal 5:24-26). It requires applying the discipline of faith to one’s heart (its motives, values, and decisions) as well as to one’s body as it carries out the intentions of the heart.

We must control our minds. Since what comes out of our hearts is the essence of who we are, it is critical that we fill our hearts with the truth of God (Mt 15:19-20; Heb 8:10; 10:16).

We must control our bodies (1 Cor 9:27). Faith compels us to practice the faith we profess and use our bodies as instruments of righteousness and holiness instead of sin (Rom. 6:12-16; 1 Thess. 4:8).

Let us add self-control to our knowledge and withstand the perilous times that arise from those who do not follow Christ (2 Pet 1:6).

## **Despising One’s Birthright!**

By Bill Sexton

(Gen 25:34; Heb 12:16-17)

“Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.”

History records many transactions of men in which a great deal was given away for a moment of pleasure. Seen in its light, such is really so foolish! Many in our day, like Esau of old, are selling their birthright for a mess of meat.

I mean that people are trading their soul, their Right to Heaven, for a moment of worldly pleasure. The person who does that, like Esau, despises the birthright. Failing to value it as highly as he should. What a poor trade! Think with me briefly:

1. One has to be born again, “of the water and of the Spirit” (Jn 3:5), “of incorruptible” seed, the word of God (1 Pet 1:22–23) to become a child of God. In short that means giving adequate hearing to the word of God, allowing it to enter and dwell in the intellect, touch the emotions, and activate the will. In obeying from the heart (Rom 6:16-18), one purifies his/her soul in that obedience (1 Pet 1:22-23)

2. Having believed in Jesus, repented of one's sins and Confessed his/her faith in Him (Acts 8:36-37) and been baptized in water for the remission of sins (Acts 22:16) one is a child of God. Heaven is their home, conditioned upon them remaining faithful till death (Rev 2:10; Mt. 24:13).

3. Yet, many look away—to the world—and learn to love this Present world to the extent that they turn back and walk no more with Jesus in the path of righteousness (2 Tim 4:10; 2 Pet 2:20-22). When one so acts, he/she, like Esau of long ago—is making a very unwise, foolish TRADE! Time will cause them to see that they made a foolish exchange, but it will be too late then. While their soul is worth more than the whole world, they exchange it (Mt 16:24-26) for something that will pass with the time and materials (1 Jn 2:15-17).

Beloved, we ask each of us to examine ourselves (2 Cor 13:5) to see if we be IN the Faith. We can and we must continue in the faith, if we are to be eternally secure! Yes, I'm aware of the teachings that says once you get it you can't lose it. However, there are many passages that tell us otherwise. Listen to the Hebrew writer: "Takes heed brethren lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God, (Heb 3:12). Beloved, in all seriousness: You cannot depart from a place you've never been!

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever." (1 Jn 2:15-17).

Beloved, don't despise your spiritual birthright! It is in your hands to respond to the Lord as directed and be ASSURED that heaven will be your home, or be negligent or careless and lose it. The alternative is a place as horrible as you can imagine.

If you have not rendered obedience to the gospel, God's power to save (Rom 1:16-17), tomorrow won't be a good time to do that; do it now, today (2 Cor 6:1-2).

If you have initially denied yourself and submitted your life to Christ by obeying the first principles, being purified, born anew, please not allow persecution, difficulties, of worldly things to keep you from enduring to the end (Mt 24:13).

## Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Tom is recovering from outpatient surgery yesterday, Kate is staying with him.
- Laura Matlock has been diagnosed with cancer and will be undergoing treatments in the near future
- Debbie and Rachel will be driving to Arkansas this week.
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines.
- Bible class at Chad and Kass' on evangelism will resume in January

**For prayer requests, call or text**

Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

## Assignments

<b><u>Today</u></b> <b>Bible Study</b> – Ross Ward <b>Song Leader</b> – Chad Mitchell <b>Lord's Table</b> – David Porter <b>Sermon</b> – Ross Ward	<b><u>Wednesday</u></b> <b>Bible Study</b> – Chad Mitchell <b>Song Leader</b> – Chad Mitchell <b>Invitation</b> – Ross Ward
<b><u>Next Sunday</u></b> <b>Bible Study</b> – Ross Ward <b>Song Leader</b> – David Porter <b>Lord's Table</b> – Ben Palmer <b>Sermon</b> – Ross Ward	<b><u>Next Wednesday</u></b> <b>Bible Study</b> – Chad Mitchell <b>Song Leader</b> – David Porter <b>Invitation</b> – TBD

Blackfoot Church of Christ  
370 North Shilling Ave.  
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

### **Meeting Times:**

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM  
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM  
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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