

## Sin

Context: Ezekial 16

God had spoken life to the little girl, given her everything, fashioned her into a beautiful woman -- and then she prostituted herself, gave all her attention to lovers, gave her love away, fashioned her jewelry into sensual objects, and used her lovely clothing to adorn her prostitution.

God made us for Himself -- to be "with Him." He died under the penalty of our prostitution so He could have us. And, He has come to us and rescued us -- forgiven us -- given us everything again -- and what do we do?

### **We continue to prostitute ourselves.**

We cannot concentrate (we say) when we read the Bible and pray -- but we can when we are looking for pornography on the internet -- or looking at a salacious magazine -- or looking at a R. rated movie -- or when we are trying to look at a scrambled station on TV. We have no trouble at all of concentrating when we hear some sordid gossip about those we dislike.

We say we do not have time for God, or the Bible, or prayer -- but we have lots of time for the internet, for eating, for watching and participating in sports.

We say we do not know how to give ourselves to God in surrender -- but we have no trouble giving ourselves away to fantasy, to lustful thoughts, to a sensual, sinful, illegal involvement with someone beside our spouse. We have no trouble giving ourselves almost totally to wickedness, to criticism, to our hobbies, to our families, to our job.

We say we cannot plan or prioritize our time to have devotions -- but we plan shady business deals with great skill, we plan carefully in busying food, preparing food, and having times when we eat our favorite foods. We make elaborate plans to hide our sins of drinking, dope, prescription drugs, sleeping pills, our pornographic material, and to hid our affairs.

We say we do not have money for a really good Bible, or a concordance, or a Bible encyclopedia or to give to God and His Church. But we have no trouble obligating ourselves to buy a car, or a house at a rate of interest where we may have to pay for it twice or three times its value. We say we cannot pay \$20 for a good commentary on a book of the Bible -- that we would have all the rest of our life and then our children could use it -- and by using the commentary we could be immensely helped in our spiritual life. We cannot bring ourselves to buying that book but we have no trouble whatsoever taking a friend or family to a restaurant where we can indulge our sinful eating habits -- and end up paying double the \$20 dollars. We think nothing about it.

God created us and redeemed out of love -- and has clearly told us in the Bible that He wants our love -- He wants us -- He wants us to freely give ourselves to Him in love -- in loving surrender -- because He is eminently worth loving and through loving Him we will receive fullness of love, joy, peace, power, gifts, fruitfulness and it will all flow through us to other people. God's love and power will flow through us to other people -- and rescue them -- cleanse them -- empower them -- and they will turn and call us blessed. We could have all of that. But what do we do -- we prostitute our love -- we pour our love into our car, our pickup, into our house, into sports, into our sinful fantasy, into romantic novels, into television programs, into illicit and sensual affairs, into being a self-centered, critical, negative, dogmatic, complaining person.

God has set us free from sin, from ourselves, from the world and preeminently from the Devil. And He has made every provision for us so we can easily live in freedom. But, what have we done? We have enslaved ourselves to almost every bad thing that comes along. We are attracted to evil. We find ourselves telling lies, to shifting blame, to rationalizing why we have done a bad thing, we justify our bad behavior, we blame our parents, our spouse, our job, our lack of education, our pastor, our church. We call our blackness white -- while we paint others black. We enslave ourselves to a thing like a car, a truck, a leather jacket, a type of clothing, a way of speaking, a type of haircut. We pride ourselves in our ethnic background -- or if we have none -- we pride ourselves that we have none. We cannot break the habit of television, of food, of fantasy, of sensual behavior, of spending money, of gossip, of laziness, of sleeping too much, of being critical, of being negative -- and all the while we pretend we are fine -- spiritually fine.

God has called us to be His own. He wants us to talk to Him, to live with Him, to receive His love, to be His companion as He is ours -- but what do we do -- we refuse.