

## Satan Is Alive and Well!

Psalm 119:9-16

### I. INTRODUCTION: I

1. **2** Paul was an imminently commendable and capable gospel preacher:
  - A. It is well-known that he proclaimed the gospel despite many hardships, trials, tribulations and persecutions (2 Cor. 11:22-29).
  - B. Another admirable quality was his spirit of overcoming a deeply engrained false religious training (**Gal. 1:14**: “*And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.*”; cf. Phil. 3:4-11; I can appreciate it, but cannot identify with it as I didn’t experience this in my personal story.).
2. **\*\*** As a gospel preacher, one of Paul’s most admirable traits is found in **Acts 20:26-27**:  
“*Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.*”
  - A. **\*\*** Paul willingly and forcefully preached on any topic that was important to the Lord and the Lord’s people.
  - B. Paul did not hold back anything that God’s people needed to hear; whether it be of a positive or negative nature.
    - (1) As one who’s preached over 40 years I can unequivocally state that it is so very pleasant to preach on things like God’s mercy, grace and love (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8; 1 Jn. 4:8).
    - (2) However, there are many topics the Lord’s people need to hear that are not so pleasant (e.g., sin, apostasy, etc.)
3. **\*\*** Today I will issue fair warning:
  - A. In most regards, this lesson is a “negative” lesson because it is mostly about a sin that is becoming increasingly popular in our culture.
  - B. The lesson is about an issue that is affecting the Lord’s people.
  - C. It is on a subject that is having a great negative influence on our society and is destroying people’s lives; I especially fear for our young people (even those not directly involved!).
4. **3** I’ve intentionally entitled the lesson: **Satan Is Alive and Well!**
  - A. We should all recognize Satan is alive and well (1 Pet. 5:8).
  - B. Paul mentions “*the wiles of the devil*” (Eph. 6:11; explain; Psal. 119:9-16).
  - C. I’m addressing this topic to inform brethren “*lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.*” (2 Cor. 2:11).
  - D. This lesson has material that is disturbing.
    - (1) I’ve done my best to minimize the lurid details, yet still get the message across.
    - (2) So, with fair warning, I am going to address the subject of **pornography**.
5. I hope pornography is not an present and direct problem with you or the members of your immediate family.
  - A. However, I have come to believe it is fast becoming a scourge on our nation and the world.
  - B. Even if you or members of your immediate family do not view pornography; all of us are deeply affected by it.

## II. DISCUSSION:

### I. **4** Extent of the problem:

- A. When I was growing up pornographic material was relatively rare (e.g., *Playboy* magazine, home-made porn movies, etc.).
- B. I will never forget my first visit to an “adult” movie theater.
  - (1) A movie theater in my neighborhood (westside of Indianapolis) switched to an “adult” theater in my early teens.
  - (2) Several friends and me were able to buy a ticket and view a movie there.
  - (3) No intimate sexual scenes were shown; the closest the actors/actresses came to sexual relations were unbuttoning/buttoning shirts/blouses and taking off/on shoes.
  - (4) Nowadays even the tamest of television programs suggest and show much more.
- C. However, with the invention and ubiquitous access to the internet to say the availability and ease of access to pornography has “exploded” may be the understatement of understatements.
- D. **\*\*** Many dismiss porn as no big deal. “Porn is as old as mankind and is merely showing natural human behavior. So, there’s no harm. There are no victims.” **WRONG!**
- E. **\*\*** The following statistics come from *Webroot* (a subsidiary of the on-line security company *Carbonite*).

### **How Much Porn is Accessible Online?**

“The amount of pornographic material available on the web is staggering. ...data repositories tell us, the market for such material is...large.

#### **\*\*Every Second:**

- 28,258 users are watching pornography on the internet.
- \$3,075.64 is being spent on pornography on the internet.
- 372 people are typing the word "adult" into a search engine.

#### **\*\*Every Day:**

- 37 pornographic videos are created in the United States.
- 2.5 billion emails containing porn are sent or received.
- 68 million search queries related to pornography- 25% of total searches- are generated.
- 116,000 queries related to child pornography are received.

### **\*\*How Online Pornography Affects Americans**

- About 200,000 Americans are classified as “porn addicts.”
- 40 million American people regularly visit porn sites.
- 35% of all internet downloads are related to pornography.
- 34% of internet users have experienced unwanted exposure to pornographic content through ads, pop up ads, misdirected links or emails.
- One-third of porn viewers are women.

## **\*\*Family/Marital Pornography Stats**

The negative effects of pornography...can be...harmful to families and marriages.

- According to National Coalition for the Protection of Children & Families, 2010, 47% of families in the United States reported that pornography is a problem in their home.
- Pornography use increases the marital infidelity rate by more than 300%.
- 40 percent of people identified as “sex addicts” lose their spouses, 58 percent suffer considerable financial losses, and about 33% lose their jobs.
- 68% of divorce cases involve one party meeting a new paramour over the internet while 56% involve one party having an “obsessive interest” in pornographic websites.

D. **5** The on-line version of *Forbes* magazine featured a story that contained mostly data from just one prominent on-line porn company (*Pornhub*) and noted the following 2017 statistics:

- *Pornhub* averaged 81 million visitors per day (28.5 billion visitors for the year), with 24.7 billion searches performed. (That's 50,000 searches per minute, 800 per second.)
- Globally 4 million porn videos produced annually, totaling 595,492 hours. If you watched them in a continuous fashion it would take 68 years.
- Every five minutes, *Pornhub* transmits more data than the entire contents of the New York Public Library's 50 million books.
- So, what were porn viewers searching for in 2017? According to *Pornhub*, one of the top searches was “Porn for Women.”

2. **6** Effects: (much of this material is taken from the publication *Get the Facts: Brain Heart World: Fight the New Drug*, <https://fightthenewdrug.org/how-porn-affects-the-brain-like-a-drug/>).

A. Pornography is NOT harmless, it is very dangerous for many reasons. I will present only six:

**One very important negative effect of watching porn is that...**

(1) **\*\*** Porn is addictive:

- To your brain, porn has the same effects as drugs.
- Porn hijacks the reward pathway in the brain.
- Just like drugs, you build up a tolerance, so you need more porn for the same effects.
- Withdrawal symptoms can occur when you try and walk away.

(a) Viewing pornography directly affects a person's brain chemistry:

- Triggers the release of “pleasure” biochemicals/hormones,
- Establishes new neural pathways in the brain,
- Continued exposure to porn reinforces/deepens these pathways leading to addiction-like symptoms.

(b) In testimony before the U.S. Senate's Commerce Committee (reported at wirenews.com):

“One expert testified that ‘Pornography addicts have a more difficult time recovering from their addiction than cocaine addicts, since coke users can get the drug out of their system,

but pornographic images stay in the brain forever.’ Further testimony revealed that the sexual arousal caused by porn is much more powerful than addictive drugs since it causes the release of ‘naturally occurring opioids’ and in essence ‘does what heroin can’t do.’ Further expert testimony said porn addiction can lead to ‘compulsive and destructive behaviors centered on pornography’ more powerful than those caused by addictions to gambling or shopping. It’s no wonder one senator called the hearing ‘the most disturbing one I’ve ever seen in the Senate.’ (from article entitled: “Pornography”; in *What Saith the Scriptures*; Vol. 3, No. 27; July 10, 2005; in *Sanilac County News*).

- (c) Even though porn can be “addictive”; I do not mean to suggest that this “addiction” removes responsibility.
- (d) Modern medicine, psychiatry, psychology, etc. has convinced many that people with addictions are somehow not morally accountable for their actions; that they are victims of their addiction.

- (e) We need to tread carefully: When sinful conduct is defined as an addiction it tends to remove accountability for guilt and shame of the compulsive sin. Addicts are not viewed as sinners, but as “victims.” (Recall scientific naturalism denies free-will!)

- (i) At some point, one’s addictive behavior was chosen: Alcohol, drugs, lust, sex, pornography, gambling, lying, etc.

- (ii) Sin becomes addicting (habit-forming) as one lives in sin, walking in its darkness:

**Rom. 6:15-17:** *“What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! 16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?”*

**2 Pet. 2:18-19:** *“For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. 19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.”*

- (iii) Even though sin becomes addicting, it does not negate our culpability; nor God’s ability to help us overcome it!

**Col. 3:6-7:** *“Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, 7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.”*

**Eph. 2:1-3:** *“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.”*

**1 Cor. 6:9-11:** *“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”*

- (f) We must realize that when sin is repeated over and over (regardless of our brain’s biochemistry and what worldly psychologists tell us!); it:

- (i) Sears the conscience (1 Tim. 4:1-2),
- (ii) Hardens the heart (Heb. 3:12-13),
- (iii) Can make repentance “impossible” (Heb. 6:4-6).
- (g) We must be diligent to develop the “*fruit of the Spirit*” in our lives; especially:
  - (i) Self-control (Gal. 5:22-25),
  - (ii) Discipline (1 Cor. 9:24-27).
- (h) If you never start, you won’t have to stop! If you do start, you can break the cycle!
 

**Job 31:1-4:** “*I have made a covenant with my eyes; Why then should I look upon a young woman?*” (Matt. 5:28-30)

**Prov. 6:27-28:** “*Can a man take fire to his bosom, And his clothes not be burned? 28 Can one walk on hot coals, And his feet not be seared?*” (cf. Gal. 6:7)

**Prov. 7:24-25:** “*Now therefore, listen to me, my children; Pay attention to the words of my mouth: 25 Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, Do not stray into her paths;*”

**Another very important negative effect of watching porn is that it...**

- (2) **\*\* Decreases sexual satisfaction:**
  - (a) One study found that participants who were exposed to a great deal of porn (They were shown 36 non-violent porn films over six-week period.) “reported less satisfaction with their intimate partners: they were less likely to be pleased with their partner’s physical appearance, affection, and sexual performance.”
  - (b) The study’s authors “concluded that porn consumers eventually compare their spouse with images of porn models.”
  - (c) This should come as no surprise:
    - (i) Pornographic sex is not real (in a sense):
    - (ii) Actors (young, fit, somewhat attractive, etc.),
    - (iii) Special conditions (lighting, make-up, etc.),
    - (iv) Filmed over a series of days or weeks, but edited w/illusion of only one session,
    - (v) Fantasy!
  - (d) This raises the sexual expectations of the viewer that are unreasonable and unreal.
    - (i) A spouse cannot and should not be expected to meet these false expectations.
    - (ii) Leads to frustration, alienation, infidelity, divorce, etc.
 

“Dr. Mary Anne Layden concludes, ‘Having spent so much time in unnatural sexual experiences with paper, celluloid and cyberspace, they seem to find it difficult to have sex with a real human being.’ Pornography, she says, ‘is toxic miseducation about sex and relationships,’ training men and women to expect online “designer sex” in the real world. ...Pornography essentially trains men and women to be consumers, not lovers; to treat sex as a commodity; to think about sex as something on-tap and made-to-order.”
  - (e) God created sex for mankind’s enjoyment and for procreation:
 

**Gen. 1:22:** “*And God blessed them, saying, ‘Be fruitful, and multiply...’*” (KJV)

**Prov. 5:18-23:**

*“Let your fountain be blessed,  
And rejoice with the wife of your youth.  
19 As a loving deer and a graceful doe,  
Let her breasts satisfy you at all times;  
And always be enraptured with her love.  
20 For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman,  
And be embraced in the arms of a seductress?  
21 For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord,  
And He ponders all his paths.  
22 His own iniquities entrap the wicked man,  
And he is caught in the cords of his sin.  
23 He shall die for lack of instruction,  
And in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.”*

**Mal. 2:14-16:** *“Yet she is your companion...And your wife by covenant. And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. 16 ‘For the Lord God of Israel says ‘That He hates divorce...”*

**Heb. 13:4:** *“Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.” (cf. 1 Cor. 7:2-6)*

**1 Cor. 6:18:** *“Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.” (KJV)*

**1 Thess. 4:3-5:** *“For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, 5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;”*

**Another very important negative effect of watching porn is that it produces a...**

(3) **\*\* Disconnect from real relationships:**

- (a) *“...watching pornography is one expression of casual sex, the opportunity to experience sexual pleasure without the bother of marital commitment.”*
- (b) *In the study I just cited, one conclusion was “the more porn someone saw, the more likely they were to prefer sex without emotional involvement. ...more likely to devalue marriage, the idea of having children, and the importance of faithfulness in a relationship. They also showed a greater acceptance of premarital sex.”*
- (c) *“We might say the real problem with pornography isn’t that it shows us too much sex, but that it doesn’t show us enough—it cannot possibly give us an experience of real intimacy. Porn treats sex one-dimensionally, packages it in pixels, and rips it from its relational context. It only titillates us with images of sex but cannot offer the experience of closeness with another person.”*
- (d) *Again, God doesn’t sanction sexual intimacy outside the marriage relationship (Heb. 13:4).*
  - (i) *Sex is only a part of marriage, it is only a part of “the two shall become one flesh” (Matt. 19:5; Eph. 5:33; The bedroom is only a small portion of the love between godly spouses!).*
  - (ii) *Importantly, marriage should be the most supportive and intimate earthly relationship either spouse should experience (Eph. 5:25; Titus 2:4).*

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(4) **7** Lowers our view of women:

- (a) Men and women both bear the “image” of God (Gen. 1:26-27).
- (b) “It is not only men who bear this image, but women as well. In human history the failure to appreciate this fact has led to all manner of abuses to women. And in our increasingly sexualized culture, it is women who are often the most dehumanized as they are constantly rated for the size, shape, and harmony of their body parts. Often pornography, and even mainstream media, portrays women as people who are glad to be used and objectified. It isn’t surprising to find women increasingly devalued in our porn-saturated culture.”
- (c) Men in the study previously mentioned that were most exposed to porn were “far more likely to believe women in society really fit the stereotype of the women they saw in pornographic films. They were more likely to believe all women are really ‘as hysterically euphoric in response to just about any sexual or pseudosexual stimulation, and as eager to accommodate seemingly any and every sexual request’ as the porn girls.”
- (d) This most certainly is a major barrier to healthy relationships between men and women and stable, godly marriages.
- (e) This leads into the next major problem...

**Another very important negative effect of watching porn is that porn...**

(5) **\*\*** Desensitizes us to cruelty:

- (a) You probably recall the story of Tamar and Amnon (David’s children)(2 Sam. 13; relate story; esp. Amnon’s rape and rejection of Tamar).
- (b) This “story...shows the insidious nature of lust. True love leads us to serve one another as human beings created in God’s image. Lust leads us to use one another, to see others as expendable. ...a mind that only sees women as objects of lust, can also easily be numbed to cruelty towards women.”
- (c) In the study I’ve been citing, a steady diet of porn led (esp. men) to believe that bizarre and sometimes dangerous sexual activities were the norm and commonly preferred by all women. When, in fact, they are not. And, “Watching pornography also conditioned participants to trivialize rape.”
- (d) This was found to even be the case when the porn was relatively “non-violent” in nature.
- (e) “Unfortunately, aggression is common in pornography today. A 2000 study discovered the presence of violence in 42% of online pornography.”
- (f) This is particularly alarming when one considers that “By the age of 18 ... 39% of boys and 23% of girls have seen acts of sex involving bondage online. ...About 90% of scenes contained at least one act of aggression.”
- (g) “Routinely, pornography depicts acts of aggression, cruelty, and degradation, and teaches viewers that women enjoy these acts.”
- (h) The generation of our children, grandchildren, etc. are part of gigantic (and terrible!) social experiment.

- (i) Just imagine what the exposure of so many young people will produce as they become older and marry, etc.
- (ii) Recall ancient Israel: **Hos. 8:7**: “*They sow the wind, And reap the whirlwind.*”
- (i) I’m convinced there is a direct relationship between porn and the high murder rate of young women by men.
  - (i) If you follow the news, you see reports of these crimes on a regular basis.
  - (ii) A young lady goes for a jog in the park, or walks her dog, and a total stranger snatches her up, sexual assaults her and then murders her.
- (j) I don’t have empirical data, but it certainly seems obvious to me. Ditto for the relationship between porn and the explosion of sexual perversions in our society (e.g., homosexuality, transgender, pedophilia, etc.).
  - (i) Porn creates unrealistic expectations, esp. in men (e.g., male domination).
  - (ii) Men then objectivize women; think all women want to engage in such casual and degrading sexual activities.
  - (iii) When women (for obvious reasons) don’t respond, bad things will happen.

**Another very important negative effect of watching porn is that porn...**

(6) **\*\* Helps support criminal activity:**

- (a) “The modern-day slave trade (and there is one) is fueled by pornography. Over two-thirds of all calls to the *National Human Trafficking Resource Center* involve sex trafficking—an estimated 21 million victims worldwide—with 49 percent of all trafficking victims and 70 percent of underage trafficking victims reporting that pornography was made of them while they were enslaved.”
- (b) If one is a porn user, he/she needs to think that when they view porn they are contributing to these awful, ungodly things.
- (c) Christians must not participate in anything even close to evil!

**1 Thess. 5:21-22:** “*Test all things; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil.*”

**2 Cor. 6:16-7:1:** “*For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said:*

*‘I will dwell in them  
And walk among them.  
I will be their God,  
And they shall be My people.’*

*17 Therefore*

*‘Come out from among them  
And be separate, says the LORD.  
Do not touch what is unclean,  
And I will receive you.’*

*18 ‘I will be a Father to you,  
And you shall be My sons and daughters,  
Says the LORD Almighty.’*

*7 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”*



### III. CONCLUSION: 8

1. Satan is alive and well!

A. Rampant pornography is here to stay.

B. Our society has sown to the wind and will reap the whirlwind.

C. We can only imagine the bitter harvest that awaits us!

2. Overcoming addiction to sin is found only in Jesus Christ:

**1 Jn. 4:4:** “*You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*” (cf. Phil. 4:13; Eph. 3:20; Heb.4:12).

3. Change your heart (repent)...change your behavior:

**Jas. 4:4, 7-10:** “*Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ...7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.*” (cf. 1 Jn. 2:15-17).

4. Invitation

—Portions of this sermon were adapted from a sermon (*Addicted to Sin*) by Joe R. Price.

### REFERENCES:

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