

DEATH IN THE POT

Text: 2 Kings 4:38-40

INTRO: Poison is like leaven—it only takes a small amount to influence the whole bulk. Matt. 13:33; Gal. 5:9. Let us note some things that Christians must be careful about.

I. EVIL ASSOCIATIONS.

1 Cor 15:33, Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

2 Cor 6:14-16, Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God.

II. WORLDLINESS—Letting the world set our priorities, our standards, our values.

1 John 2:15-17, Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Luke 8:14, And the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

III. INDIFFERENCE.

Rev 3:15-16, I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

Matt. 12:30

Matt 24:12-13, And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

IV. HYPOCRISY.

1 Tim. 4:1-2

James 3:16-18, For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

V. SOCIAL DRINKING & OTHER FORMS OF DRUG ABUSE.

1 Peter 4:1-3, Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles--when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

Cox Springs, TX, September 3, 1967

Springhill, LA, July 23, 1972

La Porte, TX, May 14, 1978

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, July 18, 2004