**Uncommon Selfishnes**

By Pastor Ricky Kurth

One day a lawyer was getting out of his *brand new Porsche,* and just as he opened the car door, a big city bus raced by and *ripped off his car door.* When the police arrived, he was screaming, “My Porsche! My Porsche!” Hearing that, the officer just shook his head and said, “You lawyers are all *so* selfish! You’re so worried about your card door that you haven’t even noticed that the bus *also* ripped off *your left arm!”* When the lawyer looked down, and saw that his arm was completely gone, he began to scream, “My Rolex! My Rolex!”

Well, as you know if you ‘ve been with us for these studies in Acts, all of the disciples here at Pentecost *unselfishly* sold all their possessions and shared the proceeds with the poor, and were living with all things in common (Acts 2:44,45; 4:34,35). Chapter 4 ended by giving us the personal example of a man named Barnabas who did this.

But as we come to Chapter 5, we see that it begins with the word “but.” That’s because in Chapter 5, Luke is going to give us the personal example of a married couple who didn’t *want* to share, who decided to be *selfish* instead of living with all things common. You know. They decided to be *uncommonly selfish,* as the title of this article describes. Let’s begin with just the first two verses of our text in Acts 5:1-11:

**“But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession,**

**“And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet” (Acts 5:1,2).**

Now that might *sound* like they were trying to do the right thing. But as we’ve seen in our studies of Acts, they were supposed to bring *all* the money they got from selling their possession to the apostles to share with the poor. We know that’s what *Peter* did, for when a lame man asked him for a handout, he said, “Silver and gold have I *none”* (Acts 3:6). Obviously, Peter had sold his possessions and had given *all* the proceeds to the poor.

And when Ananias and Sapphira *didn’t,* that showed they weren’t saved. We know this because when “a certain ruler” asked the Lord,

**“Good Master, *what shall I do to inherit eternal life?...*Jesus said unto Him…*sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor…”* (Luke 18:18-22).**

So here in Acts 5 the question is, why would this couple try to convince Peter that they were saved?

Well, if you were living back then and you weren’t saved, wouldn’t you try to bluff your way into Peter’s church? I mean, if you saw a bunch of people living *unselfishly* for one another, in perfect harmony, “of one heart and of one soul” (Acts 4:32), wouldn’t you want in on that? I believe Ananias and Sapphira two did.

The problem was, they wanted to have their cake and eat it too! They wanted the benefits of living with all things common, but they didn’t want to meet the requirements. They wanted in on the blessing, but they didn’t want to make the sacrifice that God required to get in on the blessing.

And as we read on, we see that God wasn’t about to let them get away with that kind of incomplete obedience:

**“But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?” (Acts 5:3).**

Now here we learn that the “possession” they sold (v. 1) was *land,* a piece of property. So they had probably come into quite a bit of money, for land was as valuable in those days as it is today.

But here we have to ask: How’d Peter *know* that they hadn’t brought all the proceeds they received from selling that property? I mean, they laid the money at Peter’s feet, just like everyone else was doing (4:35), and they must have said, “This is all we got for it,” for Peter took one look and said, “You’re lying. That’s *not* all you got for it!” So how did he know?

Well, the answer is, Peter was a *prophet,* and the prophets just knew stuff like that! Look what the Lord told the woman at the well:

**“Go, call thy husband…The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband…The woman saith unto him, Sir, *I perceive that* *Thou art a prophet…*The woman then…went her way into the city, and saith to the men, Come, see a man, *which told me all things that ever I did…”* (John 4:16-19,28,29).**

When the Lord could tell the woman her life story, and showed that He knew all her secrets, she knew He was a prophet. And *the way* that she knew that was that *she knew her Bible!* She remembered what happened back in the Old Testament when the king of Syria couldn’t figure out how the Jews knew about every trap that he set for them. He naturally suspected that there was a spy among his advisers. But when he asked them who the mole was, one of the members of his staff replied,

**“None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, *the prophet that is in Israel,* telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber” (II Kings 6:12).**

Elisha knew all the king’s secret plans because he was a prophet. And Peter was a prophet too! Remember, a prophet wasn’t always someone who told the future. The precise definition of a prophet in the Bible was someone who spoke for God—like Peter! *That’s* how he knew that this deceitful couple weren’t sharing the full price they received from the sale of their land.

Now when Peter asked Ananias why *Satan had filled his heart* to lie, that makes it sound like Ananias was just minding his own business when Satan snuck up behind him and filled his heart and *forced* him to lie. But Peter was holding Ananias responsible for his lie here because he knew that that’s not how it happened. You see, he was one of the ones who heard the Lord say,

**“…from within, *out of the heart of men,* proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, *deceit*, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: *All these evil things come from within…”* (Mark 7:21-23).**

Now I know that comedian Flip Wilson used to joke, “The devil made me do it!” when he’d do something wrong, but the Lord said that sins like that come from within us. Thanks to the fallen sinful nature we all inherited from Adam, we don’t need any help from Satan to sin.

If you think about it, that just makes sense. Satan is not omnipresent like God is. He’s a finite being who can’t be everywhere at once like God can (Ps. 139:7-12). So he can’t possibly be behind every sin that men commit all over the world.

But having said that, there were times when Satan *was* behind the sins of men. Like when the Lord and the twelve had just finished eating the last passover meal together just hours before His death. John tells us,

**“…supper being ended, *the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot,* Simon's son, *to betray Him”* (John 13:2).**

Satan may not be able to be everywhere at once, but when the Lord Jesus Christ was here on earth, you can be sure that he was on Him like white on rice, as they say.

But even with Judas, Satan didn’t overpower his will and *make him* betray the Lord. Judas was just a covetous guy! He *wanted* those 30 pieces of silver that he got Israel’s leaders to promise him for selling out his master (Mt. 26:15). So Satan didn’t have to twist his arm to get him to betray the Lord. He *let* Satan enter into him.

And that’s what happened here with Ananias as well. Now that the Lord had ascended into heaven (Acts 1:9), Satan was hanging around the Lord’s disciples as closely as he monitored the Lord’s comings and goings. And when he saw that Ananias was just as covetous as Judas, he saw his chance to infiltrate the disciples in Peter’s church. That’s why Peter asked him “why” Satan had filled his heart to lie to Peter. He was asking why Ananias *let him.*

Now I know it says that Ananias lied *to the Holy Ghost* (Acts 5:3). But don’t forget that, speaking of the disciples, we read that “they were all *filled with the Holy Ghost”* (Acts 2:4). That means when Ananias lied to *Peter,* he was really lying to *the Spirit of God.*

And as we read on, we see Peter has some follow-up questions for Ananias:

**“Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God” (Acts 5:4).**

Now when it says that Ananias “conceived” that thing in his heart, that’s a word that is usually used to describe what happens when a baby is conceived. As you know, it takes two to conceive a baby. You need a male and a female. And that goes along with how we’ve seen that it took two in order to conceive the lie of Ananias. Satan was there when Ananias was tempted to lie, but Ananias had to let him into his heart. They conceived that sin together.

But that word *conceive* should make you think of what James wrote:

**“A double minded man is unstable in all his ways...the rich…shall pass away…every man is tempted, *when he is drawn away of his own lust,* and enticed. *Then when lust hath conceived*, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, *bringeth forth death”* (James 1:8,10,14,15).**

I think James was actually describing what was going on at Pentecost. I mean, he used the same word *conceive* that Peter used. Then he used some other words that make me think he had the people at Pentecost in mind.

For instance, when he talked about “a double minded man,” doesn’t that sound like Ananias? He wanted to be part of the little flock, but he also wanted to keep part of the money that he was supposed to turn in. That sounds double minded to me!

And when James says that the rich would “pass away,” that too goes along with what was happening at Pentecost. The only rich people at Pentecost were the ones who *didn’t* sell all they had and share with the poor, the ones who weren’t even *trying* to join Peter’s church.

And that explains what the Lord said in Matthew 19:23,24:

**“Then said Jesus unto His disciples…*It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle,* than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God” (Matthew 19:23,24).**

The only way a rich man could be saved under the kingdom program that God was conducting at Pentecost was to do what the Lord had said to do and sell all your possessions and share the proceeds with the poor. And that’s something that the man to whom the Lord spoke those words didn’t want to hear, as we see in a fuller version of that passage we considered earlier:

**“A certain ruler asked Him…what shall I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said …sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor…*And when he heard this,* he was very sorrowful: *for he was very rich.* And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, He said, *How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!”* (Luke 18:18-24).**

It would seem from these words that this rich ruler didn’t get saved, for after counting the cost (cf. Luke 14:28), he seemed to regard the cost of salvation as one that was higher than he was willing to pay.

But now, here we have a dispensational difference. Rich men can be saved today, in the dispensation of grace, without having to share their riches. Our apostle Paul never tells *us* to sell all to be saved. He tells the rich to “be rich in good works” (I Tim. 6:18), not to give up their riches.

But as we’re about to see, when Ananias let covetousness conceive in his heart, it brought him death, just as James said it would. He ends up *dying* in this passage—and not just physically. We know that he must have also died *eternally,* for he refused to accept God’s terms of salvation.

But before we leave Verse 4, notice that Peter says that Ananias didn’t lie to *men*, he lied to *God.* That’s what happened back in those days while the Bible was still being written. If you lied to the men who represented God, *you lied to God.* It’s kind of like what happened when the Jews murmured against Moses, and he told them,

**“…the LORD heareth your murmurings which ye murmur *against Him:* and what are we? *your murmurings are not against us, but against the LORD”* (Exodus 16:8).**

They had murmured against Moses, but he pointed out that in so doing they were really murmuring against God.

Of course, that’s not true today! If you lie to me, or any other pastor, it’s not the same as lying to God, no matter what some pastors try to tell you. If you think no preacher would ever say something like that, I would suggest that you don’t get out much! There’s all kinds of religious shysters saying goofy things like that in the world.

But now, did you notice that in Verse 3 Peter said that Ananias lied *to the Holy Ghost,* but here in Verse 4 he says that he lied to *God.* You know what that means, don’t you? It means the Holy Spirit is God!

Perhaps you are thinking, “Who doesn’t know that the Holy Spirit is God?” Well, the answer to that question is, *plenty of people.* There are a lot of people who don’t even think He is a person. They think He’s some kind of mysterious force, like “the force” in Star Wars. But you can’t *lie* to a force! You can’t lie to electricity, you can’t lie to magnetism, and you can’t lie to the Holy Spirit either if He’s just a force. But the Bible says that Ananias did!

So you might want to remember these two verses, to help people recognize the personality and deity of the Holy Spirit. If you’re thinking, “Why should I remember them, I’m never going to meet anyone who doesn’t believe the Holy Spirit is God,” that’s probably true—if you never talk to anyone about the Bible. But I guarantee, if you start talking to people about the Bible, you’ll hear all kinds of goofy things! So whether or not it is worth your while to remember verses like this just depends on how much of a soldier of the cross you want to be.

Now as we read on, we see Ananias’ sin bring forth the death that James said it would:

**“And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things” (Acts 5:5).**

Now as you can see, Peter struck Ananias dead. Of course, people get a little uneasy when I insist that that’s what happened here. But you can’t easily read that verse and come to the conclusion that Ananias died of natural causes.

If you don’t think God would ever give power like that to men, I can assure you that it wasn’t the first time. When a wicked king in Israel sent some men to arrest the prophet Elijah, we read,

**“…the king sent unto him a captain of fifty with his fifty. And he went up to him: and…spake unto him, Thou man of God, the king hath said, Come down. And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, If I be a man of God, *then let fire come down from heaven,* and *consume thee and thy fifty.* And there came down fire from heaven, *and consumed him and his fifty”* (II Kings 1:9,10).**

Even Paul had the kind of power needed to inflict physical punishment, as we see when he said to a man,

**“…the hand of the Lord is upon thee, *and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season.* And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; *and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand”* (Acts 13:11).**

So Peter wasn’t the first man with the power to inflict punishment like that, and Paul won’t be the last. Long after you and I are raptured, and the Tribulation begins to unfold, God says,

**“I will give power unto My two witnesses, and they shall prophesy…And if any man will hurt them, *fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies:* and if any man will hurt them, *he must in this manner be killed”* (Revelation 11:3,5).**

But in all this we have yet *another* dispensational difference, for this is something else that is not true of pastors and spiritual leaders today. Some of them claimto have the power to smite you if you disobey them.

Soon after I became a pastor in 1979, a lady named Helen joined our church and learned how to rightly divide the word of truth. When she did, she stopped sending money to a popular televangelist. Soon after, he mailed her a letter saying that something bad would happen to her if she didn’t resume giving to his ministry! I told her that what he was doing was nothing short of *extortion,* and took the letter to our local post office. But the postmaster informed me that there was nothing he could do about such mailings, for they were protected under the freedom of religion. How sad!

I also remember hearing about a Chicago radio personality who went to see a televangelist back in the ‘80s in order to expose him. The televangelist heard about it, and that night announced, “There’s an unbeliever here tonight who has come to cause trouble. He’d better leave, or I’ll ask God to reach down and pinch off his air supply.”

And I’m sure there are worse examples than that. But remember, preachers like that aren’t being unbiblical, they’re being *undispensational.* Those kinds of things go on in the Bible, they just don’t go on today in the dispensation of grace. And if Helen hadn’t learned to rightly divide the Word, she might have been intimidated by that televangelist, as I’m sure millions of others have been down through the ages.

Now after Ananias died, they didn’t just leave his body laying around, as we see as we read on:

**“And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him” (Acts 5:6).**

I like to joke that that’s why God created young men, to do all our heavy lifting for us!

But seriously, if you are a young man, I don’t have to tell you that “the glory of young men is their strength” (Pr. 20:29), and *Christian* young men should *use* their strength to serve the Lord. I’m sure if you ask your pastor for ways that you can use your young strength to assist the ministry of your church, he’ll be able to point you in the right direction. When I was a young Christian, I burned all the old paint off the exterior of our church parsonage and repainted it. I also shoveled snow and used my God-given strength to serve the Lord in other ways.

But now, as you may remember from Verses 1,2, Ananias had a wife who was also in on his conspiracy. As we read on, we see what happened to her:

**“And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.**

**“And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much.**

**“Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out” (Acts 5:7-9).**

Now when it says she *tempted* the Holy Spirit, we use that word to talk about being tempted *to commit a sin.* But that’s not what Sapphira did to the Spirit here. My dictionary says that the word “tempt” can also mean to *provoke,* as it does when the psalmist wrote,

**“…they *tempted* and *provoked* the most high God, and kept not His testimonies… they provoked Him to anger…and…to jealousy *with their graven images”* (Psalm 78:56,58).**

Now the Jews that it’s talking about here knew that the 10 commandments said *not* to make any graven images (Ex. 20:4). So when they made them, they *tempted* God, they *provoked* Him.

You say, “Why would they do that? Did they *purposely* want to make Him mad?” No, they were *testing* Him. That’s *another* meaning of the word “tempt,” as we see when the Lord promises some Tribulation believers,

**“…I…will keep thee from the hour of *temptation*, which shall come upon all the world, to *try* them that dwell upon the earth” (Revelation 3:10).**

That word “try” means to *test,* as when we say that something is “tried and true.” We use that idiom to say that we have *tested* something and found it to be true.

Another Bible word for *test* is found in Hebrews 3:9, where the writer says to the Hebrews,

**“…your fathers *tempted* Me, *proved* Me, and saw My works forty years” (Hebrews 3:9).**

As you can see, the word “prove” is yet another word for *test.* They take new cars to places called “proving grounds” to *test* them.

And that’s what those Jews were doing when they made those graven images. They were testing God to see what He would do when they deliberately disobeyed Him.

You know, the way your kids tested you when they deliberately disobeyed you! I know you think they did it just to make you mad, but they were actually *testing* you to see what you’d do when they deliberately disobeyed you. Similarly, did you ever hear someone say they “tempted fate”? That means they did something dangerous to see what “fate” would do about it!

Well, that’s what Sapphira did to the Holy Spirit. She *tempted* Him, she *tested* Him to see if she and her husband could get away with getting the benefits of the little flock without having to make the sacrifice that God required to get in on that blessing.

How’d that work out for her? As we read on, we see that it didn’t end well for her:

**“Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.**

**“And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things” (Acts 5:10,11).**

Now in case you thought that Sapphira’s husband died of natural causes, that perhaps Peter’s indictment wrought such fear in his heart that he suffered a heart attack and died in that manner, I’d say that his wife’s sudden death amounts to too many coincidences. It’s obvious from any natural reading of this passage that the apostle inflicted the death penalty upon them both.

And what we’re seeing in all this is a taste of what life will be like in the kingdom of heaven on earth. We know that God was giving them a taste of the kingdom here, for Hebrews 6:4,5 describes the people at Pentecost as,

**“…those who…*tasted* of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have *tasted*…*the powers of the world to come.”***

“The world to come” here is the kingdom, and one of the “powers” of the world to come is the power to strike men dead.

Now you might be wondering, “Why would anyone need to be stricken dead in the kingdom of heaven?” Well, remember that *believers* in the kingdom won’t be ableto sin, as was true of these saints at Pentecost (I John 3:9; 5:18). But then they will have children, and those kids will grow up and have to believe and be saved like their parents. If they sin *before* they do, they’ll be judged as Ananias and Sapphira.

Now this explains the parable the Lord told in Matthew 13:33:

**“Another parable spake He unto them; *The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven,* which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, *till the whole was leavened”***

In the Bible, *leaven* is a type of *sin.* When a man committed unspeakable fornication in the Corinthian church, Paul warned the Corinthians to put him out of the assembly (I Cor. 5:2,13) for “a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump” (v. 5). When a church countenances that kind of unabashed sinful behavior, it is sure to spread like leaven.

But this parable is one of several that teaches us that there is going to be *sin* in the millennial kingdom, the first thousand years of God’s eternal kingdom. And as we are seeing pictured here in Acts 5, when sin arises, it will be *judged.* That explains the description of the kingdom that the prophet Isaiah gives in Isaiah 65:20-25:

**“There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: *for the child shall die an hundred years old;* but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed….The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw…”**

Now you know that the last part of that prophecy will come to pass in the kingdom, when God will actually change the nature of animals to make them live in peace and harmony. But that means that the first part of that prophecy will *also* come to pass in the kingdom. If anyone dies at 100 years of age, he will be considered a “child,” for he *could* have lived many more years. In the millennial kingdom, God is going to restore the kind of longevity that men enjoyed in the early chapters of Genesis, when Methuselah lived to be 969 years of age.

Notice that Isaiah predicted that the sinner would be “accursed.” What’s that mean? Well, look what Zechariah says about the curse in the kingdom. It’s a long quotation, but it would be well worth your while to pay attention to every detail. The prophet has been receiving visions of the kingdom in the previous chapters, and wrote,

**“Then I turned, and lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold *a flying roll*. And he said unto me, What seest thou? And I answered, I see a flying roll; the length thereof is twenty cubits, and the breadth thereof ten cubits. Then said he unto me, This is *the curse* that goeth forth over the face of the whole earth: for every one that *stealeth* shall be cut off as on this side according to it; and every one that *sweareth* shall be cut off as on that side according to it. I will bring it forth, saith the LORD of hosts, and it shall enter into the house of the thief, and into the house of him that sweareth falsely by My name: and it shall remain in the midst of his house, and shall consume it with the timber thereof and the stones thereof” (Zechariah 5:1-4).**

You may be thinking, “What in the world is that?” Well, that “roll” wasn’t a Pillsbury crescent roll. That word “roll” is what we call a *scroll,* as we see when we read about something that will happen in the Tribulation:

**“And the heaven departed as a *scroll* when it is *rolled* together…” (Revelation 6:14).**

And what that flying roll will be is a huge flying copy of the 10 commandments! If you’re wondering how I know that, did you notice that it has writing on both sides? Doesn’t that remind you of Exodus 32:15, when

**“Moses…went down from the mount, and the two tables of the testimony were in his hand: *the tables were written on both their sides*; on the one side and on the other were they written.”**

Now you know why God wrote the 10 commandments on both sides of the tablets, don’t you? It wasn’t just because He didn’t want to waste space by leaving the other side blank. It was so no one could *add* to His commandments, something the Pharisees grew fond of doing many centuries later, and men *still* enjoy doing in our own day. Religious leaders excel at making people conform to rules and standards that go beyond what God says in His Word. It’s called *legalism,* and it is found in countless churches that name the name of Christ.

To prevent anyone from adding to His Word in Moses’ day, God wrote on both sides of the 10 commandments. This reminds me of how my mother taught me to write a check by writing out the amount and then making a line through the rest of the space allotted for the amount. When I asked her why, she explained it was to keep people from adding to the amount of the check! If you fill in the amount and then end with a line across the remainder of the allotted space, and someone adds to the amount you specify, the line you draw will appear to be crossing out whatever additional amount that some dishonest person might try to add. And God had the same thing in mind in writing the 10 commandments on both sides of the tablet.

But do you know what one version of the 10 commandments says?

**“Ye shall not *steal*, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another. And ye shall not *swear by My name falsely,* neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the Lord. Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour, neither rob him…” (Leviticus 19:11-13).**

One side of those commandments said not to swear by taking the Lord’s name in vain, while the other side said not to steal. Doesn’t that sound like the flying roll? One side of that roll is said to curse those who swear, while the other side is said to curse those who steal.

Add it all up, and what we’re learning is that in the millennial kingdom there is going to be huge copies of the 10 commandments flying around, as large as the banners that small planes often pull to advertise things, only these rolls will be advertising the 10 commandments. And not just advertising them! These rolls will *curse* and *judge* any who dare *break* the commandments. If you steal in that day, you die. If you sear by taking God’s name in vain, you die. It will be as simple as that.

That’s part of what will make the kingdom to be heaven on earth! For believers, anyway. For unbelievers, not so much. And in that day, men of God will also have the ability to inflict judgment on sinners, as we are seeing pictured here in Acts 5. I tell you, that first thousand years of God’s eternal kingdom is going to be a wild and wooly time!

But in closing, we talked about how the devil dogged the steps of the Lord Jesus Christ when He was here among us, and then took up after His disciples after He ascended into heaven. But where do you think you can find him today, in the dispensation of grace? Hanging around believers, of course—especially grace believers who know Paul’s gospel! Maybe not him personally, but he has a lot of demons! There’s no evidence in Paul’s epistles that you have a guardian angel, but you just might have your own personal devil!

If you think that’s a good reason to study God’s Word, *you’re right.* If you think that’s a good reason to attend a sound grace church to hear God’s Word proclaimed rightly divided, you’re right about that as well. There’s simply no way to learn to wield “the shield of faith” (Eph. 6:18), or don any of the other pieces of spiritual armor that God supplies to protect us from the wicked one, without letting His rightly divided Word find deep roots in the soil of your heart, and letting it become part of the very fabric of your life.