



The Full Gospel Church

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FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE

This past week we celebrated Independence Day where Americans celebrated the signing of the Declaration of Independence. It is true that the citizens of the United States have tremendous freedoms, but with freedom comes responsibility. On June 26, 2007 the [Washington Post](#) reported that a Washington D.C. administrative law judge, Roy Pearson sued his neighborhood dry cleaners for \$54 million over a pair of lost pants. The court case has been going on for two years and the cleaners have amassed legal costs in excess of \$100,000.¹

Though Judge Roy Pearson had the right to sue, he did not behave responsibly. He behaved in a greedy, stingy manner where he was attempting to soak the local cleaners for everything that they have. His actions are described in the Bible concerning the wicked mindset of the last days!

Romans 1:18-32

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

20 For the invisible things of him from the

creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

28 And even as they did not like to retain

¹ <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/06/25/AR2007062500443.html>

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God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;
29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,
30 Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,
31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:
32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

This describes the behavior and actions of an administrative law judge. He thought that he was wise and became vain in his imaginations. He imagined himself becoming a multimillionaire through his own wickedness and knowledge of the law. He thought himself to be wise and deceitful, devising a scheme to extrapolate as much as he can from the "poor, stupid Koreans"! His worldly wisdom deceived him. He thought that he was better than the proprietors of the local cleaners.

Many have been totally deceived by Satan. They see a chance to get gain and do not realize that they are sliding down a very slippery slope that leads eventually to their demise. Satan's deceptions are extremely strong! Many Christians find themselves falling under the wicked power of Satan and his deceptions. Many famous preachers have fallen from Satan's deceptions. Look at Jimmy Swaggart and Jim Baker. Both were deceived by the arch deceiver and fell from grace into

perdition.

As Christians we need to be extremely cautious to what messages we listen to. If we place too much credence to the messages of Satan, we will eventually fall! When we listen to the messages of our heart and flesh, we are doing exactly what Satan wants. When we listen to messages of greed and maliciousness, we are listening to Satan's message. These temptations are strong and utterly deceptive. Satan leads us by very tiny steps until he has us living in degradation and sin. Look at how Satan tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 3:1-7

1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?
2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:
3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.
4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:
5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.
6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.
7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

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Look at how Satan lead Eve step by tiny step until she ate of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. This is the same way he always leads us down the path of sin. First he asks us about the sin, questioning what the Bible says about something. Notice how Eve misquoted God's commandment. Now Satan had Eve right where he wanted her. He was able to show Eve that she would not die by touching and holding the fruit. It was a very easy step to go from picking and holding the fruit of the tree of Knowledge to actually taking a bite of the forbidden fruit.

Satan still uses the same technique to lead the Christian down the road of sin and destruction.

This is why the Christian needs to be careful to what messages he is listening to. If you are constantly hearing messages of the flesh telling you that going this far is not sin, then you need to pray and ask the Lord Jesus Christ to give you strength to combat this wicked deception.

Zephaniah 2:1-3

1 Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired;

2 Before the decree bring forth, before the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the LORD come upon you, before the day of the LORD's anger come upon you.

3 Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD's anger.

Without seeking the Lord's protection you will fall into the depths of sin. You do not have the strength to stand up and resist the devil on your own. You need the power of the Lord

Jesus Christ to be able to resist the devil and cause him to flee from you. Only through the power of the Holy Ghost can you stand up and resist the wicked temptation of the great deceiver. Seek the Lord while it is still day! Seek the Lord while there is still time! Satan is desperately using everything at his disposal to make you fall! There is only one way that we can combat Satan. We need to have the whole armor of God.

Ephesians 6:10-18

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

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Sunday Morning Worship 12:00 Noon
Sunday Evening 6:30 PM
Wednesday Evening 7:30 PM

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