

person to be married and to have normal gratification, one can get a tremendous help simply from social contacts with people of the other sex. I believe that it is God's will that we should watch out that we have that. It takes care to some extent of that which has ruined so many ~~ax~~ in the ministry.

After a man has preached a great evangelistic sermon, after he has risen to heights of emotion as he presents the Word of God and has a tremendous influence on people and when he is finished and the people are gone, that is the time when there is a let-down and Satan has been able to grasp many a great Christian worker and to ruin his life by his giving in to the lusts of the flesh.

We should think about it and pray that God will keep the salt from losing its saltiness and keep ourselves like the harmless dove, keep ourselves pure. We can ruin our lives if we become weak or if we are careless in this regard. So the Word of the Lord: "You are the salt of the world, but if the salt has lost its saltiness it is fit for nothing but to be thrown into the ash heap." How many a very effective Christian leader's life has been ruined by error at this point. So we need to think about it and keep our lives on the Lord and plan to keep ourselves so that we will not bring contempt on the Word of God and ruin our effectiveness for Him.

Now the second word which is the same in the NIV, ~~and it is~~ as in the KJV, is "the lust of the eyes." At first sight that is not a very clear term. I think that most interpreters think that it is covetousness. Here again is where a Christian leader can easily come to lose his influence and to become one that is not fit for anything but to be cast away as far as God's work is concerned. A few years ago I learned about a man who was pastor of a fine church, an excellent preacher, a fine able man in presenting the Word of God. There were a number of elderly people in his church who needed help and who had no place to go as they went on in elderly life. This man planned how he could build a retirement home for these people. He built a retirement home right next to the church, and he proved as he got active to have very unusual abilities in planning such a work as this, in establishing it in working out his details. He got this retirement home going and it was very successful .

People came to him from other areas and said, Would you help us to start something like that. He started another one, and started another one, and then his sermons began to be hastily put together. His time was all going into this. His sermons decreased in quality and people began to become critical and began to say that he was making ~~lots of~~ lots of money from these retirement homes he was building and he was not fit to be a minister. There was quite a discussion about that. In the end he went out and left the ministry altogether and established six or eight retirement homes in different places and from what I have been able to hear they are well-administered, their prices are no greater than others--perhaps less than others. Better administered than a great many others. One can easily say that he is doing a good work in that regard.

He was an excellent preacher and I believe God had called him to preach the Word of God. He ~~by his congregation~~ before he allowed himself to be diverted into another line where the love of money may have caused him to depart from the original desires and objectives that he had. Now there were people in the church who criticized him very strongly and felt he had gone entirely after selfish covetousness. I don't know whether that was true or not. There was much in the ~~papa~~ papers about that, and reading it I am not sure. He may have become wicked. He may not have become wicked. He is doing a good work as far as I know. But I believe he has left the work to which God had called him and in which he was so successful.