

# “Unprofitable!”

Presented by Gregg Harris

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Key Text: 1 Cor. 6:12-20    Key Word: “Unprofitable”

**1 Cor. 6:12-14** All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. 13 Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. 14 And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. 15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” 17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. 18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

# Was Jesus unrealistic concerning our ability to cease from sexual immorality?

**Matt. 5:27-30** “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

- **The answer is “No!” The law is just as demanding as ever.**
- **Jesus is making the Law all the more terrifying? Why?**

***It is to drive us to His gospel where we are “no longer under the law.”***

***Gal. 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.***

# “If God is dead all things are permissible.”

- **In The Brother’s Karamazov, Dostoyevsky’s famously declared: “If God is dead, all things are permissible.”**
- **The rapid erosion of all moral standards in the 20th Century was partly due to this idea that “God is dead.”**
- **But what if only the God of Eternal Judgement and condemnation is gone, having been satisfied by the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus, on the cross, and now only the consequences of one’s sin and the discipline of one’s Heavenly Father remain?**
- **In that case “All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not helpful [expedient, or profitable].” –1 Cor. 6:12**

***For those who are no longer “under the law,” Paul’s argument here is crucial to living a life that pleases our Heavenly Father and avoids the unprofitable consequences God’s loving discipline of our sin.***

# Paul is rebuking their sin while being careful not to put them back under the Law.

**Rom. 10:4** Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

**I Cor. 6:12** “All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not helpful [expedient].”

- **As we saw, the word “helpful” or “expedient” in verse 12 comes from the Greek, *sumpherō*, which means “to make a profit.”**
- **All things are “lawful,” but NOT all things are worth the cost.**
- **God will forgive sexual immorality when we confess it and forsake it, but the cost in our lives will be especially high.**
- **Sexual immorality: 1. Corrupts God’s purpose for us. 2. Harms us. 3. Enslaves us. and 4. Defiles us as the temple of the Holy Spirit.**

*Paul is showing us just how “unprofitable” it is for the believer to engage in any sexual behavior outside of biblical marriage.*

# Let's be clear. God is NOT opposed to sexual intimacy within biblical marriage.

**Proverbs 5:18** 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.

**Song 4:6** How fair and how pleasant you are, O love, with your delights! 7 This stature of yours is like a palm tree, And your breasts like its clusters. 8 I said, "I will go up to the palm tree, I will take hold of its branches." Let now your breasts be like clusters of the vine, The fragrance of your breath like apples, 9 And the roof of your mouth like the best wine.

**Heb. 13:4** Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

***It is only when we drag sexual intimacy outside of the protection of biblical marriage that it becomes so "unprofitable."***

# C. S. Lewis on Sex

“...our warped natures, the devils who tempt us, and all the contemporary propaganda for lust, combine to make us feel that the desires we are resisting are so “natural,” so “healthy,” and so “reasonable,” that it is almost perverse and abnormal to resist them. Poster after poster, film after film, novel after novel, associate the idea of sexual indulgence with the ideas of health, normality, youth, frankness, and good humor. **Now this association is a lie.** Like all powerful lies, it is based on a truth—the truth, acknowledged above, that sex in itself (apart from the excesses and obsessions that have grown up round it) is “normal” and “healthy” and all the rest of it. **The lie consists in the suggestion that any sexual act to which you are tempted at the moment is therefore also healthy and normal.** Now this, on any conceivable view, and quite apart from Christianity, must be nonsense. Surrender to all our desires obviously leads to impotence, disease, jealousies, lies, concealment, and everything that is the reverse of health, good humor, and frankness.”

As we saw, sex does more than merely satisfy a physical appetite. It addresses a deeper yearning.

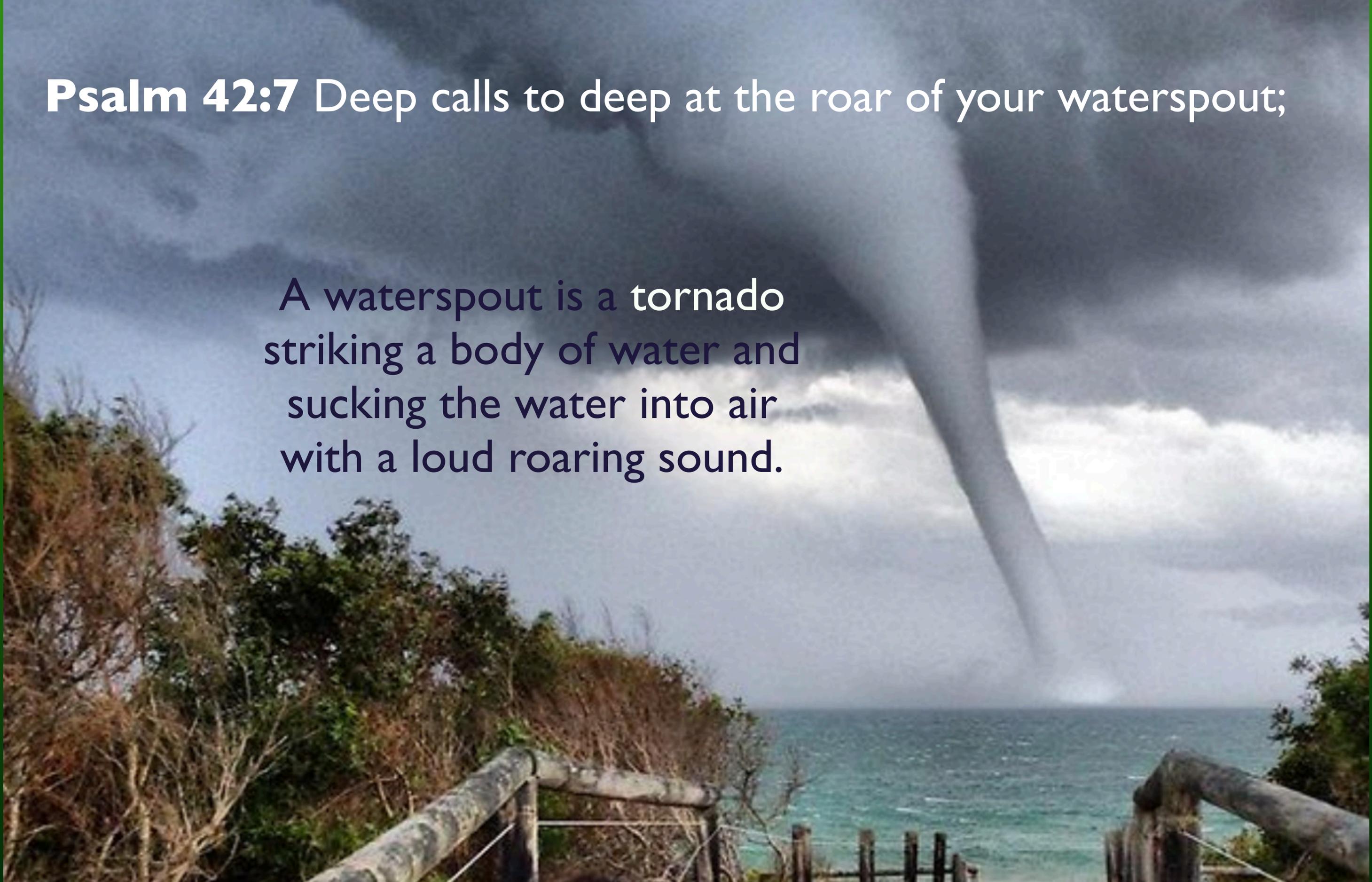
**1 Cor. 6:13** Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. 13 Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

- **The Corinthians were saying that sex is just like eating. It's just a natural appetite, and so there is no moral aspect to it.**
- **Paul says “no,” the body is not for sexual immorality, but for the Lord and the Lord is for the body with something far better.**
- **Fellowship with the Lord provides the deep satisfaction of joy.**

**Psa. 16:9** Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope. 10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. 11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**Psalm 42:7** Deep calls to deep at the roar of your waterspout;

A waterspout is a **tornado** striking a body of water and sucking the water into air with a loud roaring sound.



# I. Sexual immorality corrupts God's purpose for our creation and salvation.

**1 Cor. 6:14** And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.

- **This body is the same body that will be transformed to be like His glorious body in the resurrection because we are united with Him.**

**1 Cor. 6:15** Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not!

- **When we commit sexual immorality we join Christ, and with Him the entire body of Christ, to our immoral sexual partner in ways that corrupt God's holy purpose in creating us and saving us.**

**1 Cor. 6:16** Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." **17** But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

***So, sexual immorality corrupts the purpose of God in our salvation.***

## 2. Sexual immorality harms us.

**1 Cor. 6:12-14** All things are lawful for me, but all things are not **helpful**.

**1 Cor. 6:18** Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.

**Proverbs 5:11** 8 ...do not go near the door of her house,... 10 Lest aliens be filled with your wealth, and your labors go to the house of a foreigner; and you mourn at last, when your flesh and your body are consumed,

**Proverbs 6:26** For by means of a harlot a man is reduced to a crust of bread; and an adulteress will prey upon his precious life.

**Proverbs 6:32** Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; He who does so destroys his own soul. 33 Wounds and dishonor he will get, and his reproach will not be wiped away.

***Even though everything is “lawful” now that we are no longer under the law of Moses, many things are NOT “profitable” in fulfilling God’s purpose for saving us. Therefore, like Joseph, “flee sexual immorality!”***

# 3. Sexual immorality enslaves us.

**1 Cor. 6:12-14b** ...I will not be brought under the power of any.

**1 Cor. 6:18b** ...Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.

**Rom. 1:18** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, ...24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, ...and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

- **What Paul is describing here may be the addictive aspect of thrill seeking sexual immorality. We can become hooked on our own hormones and endorphins, like a heroin addict or an alcoholic.**

***Again, even though everything is “lawful” now that we are no longer under the law of Moses, sin is clearly NOT “profitable” in fulfilling God’s purposes for saving us. Therefore, “flee sexual immorality!”***

# 4. Sexual immorality defiles the temple.

**1 Cor. 6:19** Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, ...

**John 2:19** Jesus answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” 20 Then the Jews said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?” 21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body.

● **Wherever God resides, that is His “temple.”**

**John 14:17** the Spirit of truth ... dwells with you and will be in you.

**1 Cor. 3:16** Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells within you? ...

***And so, even though everything is “lawful,” now that we are no longer under the law of Moses, sexual sin is NOT “profitable” in fulfilling God’s purposes for saving us. Therefore, “flee sexual immorality!”***

# Flee Sexual immorality because you no longer own your own body.

**1 Cor. 6:19b** ...and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

- **Christ's payment does not only reveal how much you are worth to God, but also of how expensive it was to pay for your sins.**

**1 Pet. 1:17** And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

***Now that Christ's payment has been made for you, you no longer own a body with which to continue sinning. Therefore, use your body only to participate in the glorious display of God's goodness, wisdom and love.***

# There are benefits to fleeing this sin.

**2Tim. 2:20** But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. 21 Therefore if anyone **cleanses himself** from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

- **Once we are adopted into God's "Great Household," we will still have to choose whether or not we will use our liberty to "cleanse ourselves" of all that is "unprofitable."**
- **We are all intended to be "a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work."**

***Though "cleansing ourselves" adds nothing to our justification before God in the Courtroom Scene, it is an important part of growing up to maturity in the Family-Room Scene.***

# **And so, again, I plead with you:**

**2Cor. 13:5** Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.

- **Look closely at yourself to see if Christ is truly in you by faith through the Holy Spirit.**
- **Look for evidence of God's convicting grace in you.**
- **Repent of any and every sin you become aware of.**
- **Obey Paul's command to "flee sexual immorality."**
- **Let the Holy Spirit in you draw you closer to Jesus.**

***As "deep calls unto deep" enter into knowing and being known by the One Who has created you and redeemed you.***

# Let Us Respond to God!

**Heb. 3:15** “Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts...”

- **Let your Elders play their proper part in your Christian life.**

**James 5:13** Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. **14** Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. **15** And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. **16** Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

***Let us pray for one another, and pray with one another in response to the prompting of the Holy Spirit through God's Word.***