

Improper Attachments to Sodom

Genesis 19:12-22

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Introduction:

Last week in our Genesis sermon series, we came to Genesis chapter 19.

- This is the chapter that tells us about the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and about God's mercy to Abraham's nephew Lot who lived in Sodom with his family.

This chapter has great importance for us today...

- This can be seen by the fact that the prophets as well as the Lord Jesus refer to it frequently in scripture to give us warning...
- And its importance can be seen by the fact that we can see our nation becoming more and more like Sodom...
 - while *we*, who know the Lord are, like Lot, *vexed*, but at the same time *allured* by Sodom.

Last week, I showed you what Sodom is in scripture.

- In scripture, Sodom is not only an actual city that was wholly given over to sin and so was destroyed by the direct judgment of God,
 - but that Sodom is also a label—a label that God attaches to nations that have become like Sodom, not only pagan nations, but also nations that identify themselves as God's people.
 - The prophets as well as Jesus describe Israel and cities within her as Sodom.
 - Sodom is really equivalent to *worldly*—addicted to sin in such a way that the people in it follow their sinful desires at all costs (Lord Heart) instead of the Lord.
- And I showed you how it is right for us to be grieved with Sodom and her vile ways, as we are told in 2 Peter 2:7-8 how Lot's righteous soul was grieved by them.
 - We took some time to look at just how vile Sodom is—as seen in Gen 19:
 - in their demands to gang rape the men who visited them...
 - in the fact that all including the young and old joined in this quest...
 - in that they refused to be restrained or even compromise (Lord Heart must be obeyed—my lust must be satisfied at all costs)
 - in that they turned on their neighbour Lot when he tried to restrain them...
 - in that they resorted to violence against him to get what they wanted...
 - in that even their being struck with blindness did not deter them!

Lot's righteous soul was grieved by all this and it was right for him be grieved by Sodom.

- In that, Lot is a good example for us—but as we will see this week, there is also a way in which he is a bad example...
 - Not only was he grieved by Sodom, he was also *attached* to Sodom.
- If that seems strange to you, you are not being honest.
 - You know all too well what it is to be grieved by wickedness and at the same time to find that you are attracted to it—even drawn to it...

- Sometimes, you are drawn to read about some scandal, not just so you can keep informed and pray (and indeed you are grieved), but also because you are enticed.
 - You find in your heart an interest and a kind of attraction to what is going on and you would honestly be a little disappointed if it were not going on.
 - We are, in certain ways, attached to Sodom.
 - That is the raw truth, is it not?

This week, I desire to help you see that foolish attachment to Sodom as we consider the attachment of Lot and his family to Sodom.

Our focus today will be on Genesis 19:12-22, but I will also re-read the first 11 verses for the sake of review...

- In verses 1-11 we see the vileness of Sodom, and Lot's vexation with it...
- In verses 12-22, we see Lot's attachment to Sodom as well as that of his relations.

So give careful attention as I read to you.

- This is God's holy Word.

Genesis 19:1-29: Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw *them*, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. ² And he said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way." And they said, "No, but we will spend the night in the open square." ³ But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate. ⁴ Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. ⁵ And they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them *carnally*." ⁶ So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him, ⁷ and said, "Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly! ⁸ See now, I have two daughters who have not known a man; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof." ⁹ And they said, "Stand back!" Then they said, "This one came in to stay *here*, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with

them." So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door. ¹⁰ But the men reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. ¹¹ And they struck the men who *were* at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they became weary *trying* to find the door. ¹² Then the men said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city—take *them* out of this place! ¹³ For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it." ¹⁴ So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, "Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city!" But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking. ¹⁵ When the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, "Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city." ¹⁶ And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. ¹⁷ So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain.

Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed.”¹⁸ Then Lot said to them, “Please, no, my lords!¹⁹ Indeed now, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have increased your mercy which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die.²⁰ See now, this city is near *enough* to flee to, and it is a little

one; please let me escape there (*is it not a little one?*) and my soul shall live.”²¹ And he said to him, “See, I have favored you concerning this thing also, in that I will not overthrow this city for which you have spoken.²² Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there.” Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

May the LORD bless the reading of His holy word and may He bless us as we seek to understand this passage and how it applies to us.

You can see how hard it was for Lot and his relations to leave Sodom...

- Surely the Holy Spirit has given us this account about Lot’s attachment to Sodom that He might oppose the same kind of attachment in our hearts.
 - The whole Bible is full of warnings to us about this—we are admonished to fight the good of faith—to wage war against the world, the flesh, and the devil.
 - If you are a Christian, you know about this battle that rages inside of you.
 - Jesus tells us to watch and pray...
 - The danger is very real.

So let us begin by looking at

I. The allure of Sodom

- How is it that such wickedness is attractive to us as God’s people?
 - Of course it is because of remaining corruption that is in every believer...
 - I trust that you know that until we get to heaven we will fight with remaining corruption—
 - But my question here is, what is it that makes Sodom attractive to us?
- A. Sodom is filled with people who are reaching for beautiful things with passion!
 - You will say, “What, looking to gang rape upright men who happen to visit their city is reaching for beautiful things?”
 - Yes, in a way it is...in a way...let me explain...
 - 1. Think about what Sodom wants...What do they really want?
 - They want *dominion*—the dominion that we lost in the fall.
 - You know that when the Lord created us, He gave us dominion so that we were masters in the earth!
 - We were able to use the earth and the things in the earth that were delightful.
 - God was so good to us...
 - He packed the earth full of all sorts of good things...
 - things that go far beyond what we need for survival!

2. Let's just review what we learned when we studied about creation earlier in Genesis...
 - a. He gave us relationship—relationships are beautiful in a world without sin.
 - He made Adam first, and then declared that it was not good for him to be alone.
 - And it wasn't—imagine what it would have been like if there were no other people to share the world with!
 - So God made woman—out of rib from Adam—and brought her to him.
 - And He instituted marriage—along with its intimacy and its sharing and its companionship—
 - They were able to enjoy things together and to discover things together and to make things for each other...
 - Yes, we could build beautiful dwelling places and fill them with furnishings...
 - Make tools and modes of transportation and interesting things like cell phones and computers...
 - And they were able to bring forth children who would just add to the blessing of it all with more fellowship...
 - And He gave them language so that they could share the world...
 - With the ability to put words together, to express love, to talk about God and His attributes, promises, and works...
 - They had the ability to do poetry and the potential to write and to communicate through the arts.
 - b. And besides that,
 - God filled the earth with all sorts of good things—
 - He gave us food that goes way beyond what we need to live—a great variety of foods—herbs and spices—fruits and vegetables...
 - and knowledge to grow them and to prepare them...
 - and all of them uncorrupted before the fall!
 - There was this crazy extravagance!
 - And He filled the earth with all sorts of beautiful things...
 - The whole animal kingdom, the trees, the mountains, the oceans...
 - There is the feel of soft fur and of a warm bath...
 - There are flowers and even the very fact that there are colours and the ability to see them...
 - And there are sounds and the ability to make music...
 - And the human voice with its beauty, and the human body with its beauty!
 - And God filled the earth with all sorts of interesting things—things for us to explore, to discover, to examine...
 - The whole universe with all its galaxies, the microscopic world with all of its intricacies and design, the animal kingdom and all of that...

TRANS> How good God was to us at creation!

- And we were the masters of all of these things!

3. And I am telling you that Sodom is appealing because Sodom is filled with people who are passionately pursuing these good things—and getting them!

a. Of course there is a problem in that the human race rejected God’s authority when we fell and He has cursed the earth and taken away our dominion.

- Now we have sickness, death, broken homes, storms, poverty, rust, and all sorts of other impediments to exercising the dominion that He gave us at the start.

➤ That is a problem...

b. But we can still pursue dominion and that is what the people of Sodom are doing—very passionately.

- They want beautiful things. They love beautiful things in all their fullness—as they were before the curse.

- They want more out of relationships, more out of sex, more out of possessions, more out of food and drink, more out of experiences, more out of science, more out of music, more out of art and movies and technology!

- And Sodom often makes great strides in attaining these things!

- Sodom was a virtual paradise—

- Lot went there to start with because it was such a prosperous place.

- He had great riches, and he could enjoy all that they had to offer.

- We will look at this more in a moment...

B. But what is the error of Sodom?

1. The error of Sodom is that they refuse to accept the limitations that the LORD our Maker has placed on us since the fall.

- By imposing the curse on us, He has severely crippled our dominion in the earth.

- It is proper for us to accept this with humility, but Sodom won’t do that.

a. But wait, what do I mean, to accept the limitations with humility?

- I mean that we must not try to get more out of the good things of this world than God has permitted us to have now that we are fallen.

- I do not mean that we are to just accept poverty and sickness without looking for ways to alleviate them—ways to improve things...

- I don’t mean that we should eat nothing but dry bread.

- No no, it is right for us to pursue the good things of this world, for God has given us all things richly to enjoy.

- But what we must not do is set aside God’s law in our zeal to have what this world offers!

- And you see, that is what Sodom does!

b. Think about it—

1) They want more dominion in enjoying riches, so what do they do?

- They start cheating people to get ahead...
 - They start oppressing people who work for them...taking advantage of them—getting them to work for unfair wages...
 - Or if they are the ones working, getting pay for work they only pretended to do.
 - They start disregarding how their quests affect future generations—
 - in our society, we have even started the practice of borrowing from future generations—we vote for leaders that run up a huge debt our children will have to pay—and then in self-righteousness, we accuse third world countries for oppressing their workers (which of course they do...but we are worse).
 - And of course, in the quest of Sodom to get things, if the Sabbath gets in their way, they completely ignore it.
- But let me tell you—the beautiful houses and the vacations and the jewels and cars that they acquire in this way are very attractive!
 - And that is why we kind of want to overlook the fact that God’s law was rejected to acquire all this stuff...
 - Because we want the stuff too—and it makes it not seem as bad to get it in the wrong way.

➤ Let’s take another example—

2) The pursuit of dominion in sexual relations!

- The whole world struggles with a dissatisfaction with sex in this fallen world—we love it, but we want more out of it.
- a) That is always one of the biggest pursuits of Sodom—they want more out of sexual relations!
 - So they break out of the boundaries of marriage and pursue sex everywhere they can...
 - First, they go for pre-marital sex, then for serial marriages (you know, divorcing one to get another), then for adulterous affairs...
 - And this is still not enough, so they go for homosexual relationships, bestiality, sex with children...
 - Anything for satisfaction...anything to satisfy Lord Heart!
- b) There are two ways they pursue sexual dominion...
 - Some want to attain it by being attractive so that lots of people (or at least some people) fawn over them...
 - They want to take dominion by enticing others—so they expose their bodies with immodesty, they acquire a seductive look, they learn seductive speech...
 - Those want this often give themselves over to fantasies as well—with pornography—because then they can be the hero that is fawned over...at least in their dreams or for pay.

- Others want to attain sexual dominion by force—they want to conquer and show power over others sexually...
 - These are like the men at Sodom who wanted to rape the visitors that came to their city...
 - These are the ones who will molest children—for them, it is not attracting others for admiration, but conquering them.
- Of course there is often an overlap, but you get the idea.
 - They want more than they are getting within lawful marriage, so they resort to seduction and/or violence.
- c) But you see, for all the perverseness, there is an attractiveness about seeing those in Sodom feasting on sexual pleasures...
 - Even though their enjoyment never seems to last, there is a certain appeal to seeing them feast.
 - Even though we know that the only way to truly find pleasure in the good things of this life is to receive them with thanksgiving to God...and that otherwise we are left unsatisfied and grasping for more...
 - Even though we know that the lives of Sodom are not really all that great—and that they can't even really enjoy what they have because they are always wanting more...
 - We can still be wrongly attracted to their lifestyle that pursues the good things of this life.
- I could illustrate more good things that Sodom pursues in the wrong way, but let me move on to another point...
- 2. Sodom also goes to great lengths to eliminate anything that interferes with their quest for the good life...
 - a. Consider these ways:
 - 1) If a pregnancy is going to interfere, eliminate the child!
 - 2) If children interfere, abandon them.
 - 3) If poverty is interfering, steal or cheat.
 - 4) If truth interferes, tell lies.
 - 5) If other people interfere, then resort to gossip and slander—or murder to bring them down!
 - 6) If sorrows or lack of success interfere, drown them with drunkenness or drugs (prescription or otherwise).
 - b. How could such things be attractive to us as believers?
 - It is not so much the means that are attractive—
 - but the attractive thing is a lifestyle in which you let nothing stand in the way of the good things that you want!
 - Sodom is all about passionately pursuing the good life and letting nothing stand in your way to get it.
 - Believers are tempted to admire that boldness, even though they are grieved by it. They are tempted to imitate it.

TRANS> So I hope that helps you see how Sodom can be alluring to us as believers.

- We are grieved, but we also kind of enjoy watching them—with some admiration.
 - And then we start to embrace a few of their ways...that is the great danger for us!
- So let's look at the example of this that is given to us in Genesis 19...

II. Let's look at how Lot, though grieved with Sodom, was also sinfully attached to Sodom.

A. When the angels first tell Lot that Sodom is going to be destroyed because of its wickedness, Lot responds appropriately.

1. The message of the angels is one that ought to make anyone spring to action to get out at once!
 - In verses 12-13, they say: **Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city—take them out of this place!** ¹³ **For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it.**
 - This is a terrifying message, and Lot is very privileged to be warned so he can get out before the destruction comes!
 - a. You see what Lot does—it is a brave thing and a good thing...
 - He goes at once to warn his sons-in-law.
 - It appears that they were only betrothed to his daughters at this time as Lot's daughters were still living at home.
 - But consider what Lot does here...
 - He goes out in the night, even though his neighbours were enraged with him, to warn his sons-in-law...
 - He takes the message of the angels seriously.
 - b. But his sons-in-law don't take it seriously at all.
 - They had likely lived in Sodom all their life.
 - They had enjoyed the advantages of the place—the fertility of the land...
 - Day after day the sun had risen on the place and there had been few droughts or disturbances of any kind.
 - Why did their father-in-law give credence to these strange visitors who had come?
 - Surely tomorrow would be like today.
 - The whole encounter is summarised for us in verse 14:
 - **So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, “Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city!” But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.**
2. These sons in law of Lot exhibit an attitude that is so typical of the people of our own city...
 - Even though there is wickedness all around us,
 - And even though God has warned us in His word that He judges such sin,
 - There is this tendency to suppose that God will never disturb us...
 - There is this notion that He does not care about such things...
 - That He would never judge us—not now or in the future.

- They could not accept the message of judgment when they were surrounded by such beauty—such prosperity!
 - They had no regard for God so as to reverence Him or to tremble at His word.
- Don't you see this today—even in the church?
 - Increasingly, the way of Sodom is rubbing off on us so that we deny that God is a God of judgment.
 - Hell? Surely a loving God like our God would never send anyone to Hell!
 - That can't be what it means!

TRANS> Now it seems that the attitude of Lot's sons-in-law rubs off on him.

- He loses his sense of urgency...
 - He believes it, but he does not feel the urgency he should have felt!

B. You can see that Lot is way too attached to Sodom!

1. First, you can see this from the fact that the angels apparently have to get him out of bed!
 - Verse 15 says, **When the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, "Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city."**
 - Lot was up late, and he wants to sleep—even though he had been told that judgment is going to fall on his city—
 - This was no time for sleeping in!
 - Sodom rubs off on us—it makes us suppose that judgment is always far away and it makes us lazy about being sure that we are ready...
 - We sleep in instead of seeking God in prayer and in His word...
 - Literally, we sleep in instead of getting up to pray before work!
 - We skip church services and make our diversions or our tiredness a priority over against the pursuit of God's grace.
2. And then even after he had been aroused from sleep, we see that Lot is very reluctant to leave.
 - a. He had wrongly gone to Sodom many years before because it was a place where the prosperity he already had could be increased even more!
 - You will remember that he and his uncle Abraham had so many possessions that there was not room enough in the land to support them if they stayed together, being sojourners who did not possess their own land.
 - Lot should have done whatever he had to do that he might stay with his uncle Abraham because Abraham was a man to whom God was speaking and making promises!
 - Lot should have cherished this more than all the riches in the world, but foolishly, he forsook Abraham and moved to Sodom.
 - b. And there is little doubt that Sodom had not disappointed him when it came to amassing more of the good things of this life!
 - And now he was being told to leave all of this...

- And you see that verse 16 tells us that he was lingering—so much so that the angels had to take him by the hand and lead him out of the city!
 - Verse 16: **And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife’s hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city.**
- c. Lingering at a time like this seems so foolish to us...
 - And of course it was utterly foolish...
 - But are we really all that different?
 - There was no sign of danger yet—and Lot had a lot to take with him.
 - What about you, dear believer! Are you that different?
 - You know that God’s judgment is coming...
 - You know that, but what it is in your life that you keep holding on to in Sodom?
 - What sins do you have that are hindering you—holding you back because they are attached to the desires of your heart?
 - Why won’t you let go of it?
 - How is that you are lingering instead of getting on with what the LORD has called you to do?
 - The admonition of the angel to Lot is for you also!
 - **So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, “Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed.”**
 - But you see, we are like Lot and we presume to say,
 - “Oh, but God is merciful—He will not destroy us!”
 - “We are His people and we have Christ!”
 - How can you be so sure that you have Christ?
 - Christ washes the people who come to Him from their sins—not only from guilt, but also from rebellion...
 - If you are continuing in your rebellion, what makes you so sure that you have this Saviour?
 - John says that we assure our hearts before Him by keeping His commandments...
 - And James says that friendship with the world is enmity with God—it shows that you hate God.
 - What makes you so sure that you have the Saviour if you will not forsake the world to follow Him?
 - Jesus said that if you want to be His disciple, you must deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Him.
 - This is very important—let’s think about it a little more...
 - Lot’s sons-in-law supposed they were in no danger, but it was not true!
 - They thought it was fine for them to go on ignoring God’s call in their lives...

- And Lot's wife...she thought she was in no danger...we are told later on in this passage that she ignored the warning not look behind and was turned into a pillar of salt!
 - She did not think the LORD would destroy her, but He did.
 - Was she a believer?
 - She was with Lot—she came out of the city...
 - But she did not take God seriously at His word.
 - She could not leave Sodom, it seems.
 - Her heart was still there.
 - It is possible that God took her life to chasten her, but that her soul was saved from the final judgment.
 - We do not have any way of knowing, but what we do have is a warning from Jesus to remember Lot's wife when God's call comes to us.
 - Let us remember her then and stop looking back with longing on Sodom when we are called to follow Christ out of Sodom!
- But now let's continue looking at Lot and his attachment to Sodom...
- We know that Lot was a righteous man—a true believer—because the apostle Peter tells us that he was...
 - But we see further evidence that he is too attached to Sodom...
 - Not only did he fail to get out of bed, not only did he linger and have to be dragged out and repeatedly admonished...
3. He also begins to negotiate with the Lord for a little piece of Sodom's comforts.
- a. He has become a delicate man in Sodom, and he does not wish to go to the mountains where he cannot purchase the comforts of life...
 - And so he objects to the angels' instructions...
 - **Gen 19:18-20: Then Lot said to them, "Please, no, my lords! ¹⁹ Indeed now, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have increased your mercy which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die. ²⁰ See now, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one; please let me escape there (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live."**
 - Lot thought it would be okay because it was not Sodom, it was just a little one—Zoar...
 - The name of the town was changed to Zoar in commemoration of this—that it was just a little one—that is what Zoar means...
 - We are told that it was called that for this reason in verse 22...
 - b. "Just a little one!" This is so typical, isn't it?
 - We want to hold to just a bit of what the LORD has told us forsake...
 - We want to negotiate...
 - Remember our recent illustration about soccer?
 - But LORD, I know it is the Lord's Day, but this is the championship game.

- We are always wanting to set aside what God says for *just a little one*...
 - But Lord, I cannot tithe now—we have kids in school...
 - But Lord, I know we are supposed to wait until we get married—but surely you understand...
 - But Lord, I know this movie has some skin in it, but everyone has been talking about how good it is and you know how much I like movies.
 - But Lord...
 - *What is the Zoar that you are clinging to?*
- c. The LORD indeed grants Lot permission to go to Zoar, but not without consequences.
 - He sometimes gives us the desires of our hearts, as He did for Israel in the wilderness when He gave them quail...
 - but sadly there are consequences for our Zoars.
 - Psalm 106:15 says of Israel's demand for meat in the wilderness: **He gave them their request, but sent leanness into their soul.**
 - We shall see in future sermons that his attachments to Sodom cost him dearly.
 - He ends up losing his family to Sodom...and in fact his riches too!

TRANS> Dear child of God, it is no good to indulge an attachment Sodom!

- We will look at the consequences of attachment to Sodom in a future sermon...but today I have sought to expose that we have such attachments!

III. So now I want to close with a consideration of what you ought to do about these attachments to Sodom.

A. First of all, admit that you have such attachments!

1. Don't deceive yourself—even though you are vexed by Sodom, there is a certain allurement to the idea of setting aside God's will to pursue to the world!
2. Ask God to show you the wicked way that is in you and to help you confess it and forsake it.
 - What are you holding on to that you need to let go of?
 - What are you yearning for in Sodom that you need to turn away from—that you know God will not endorse?
 - What is the Zoar that you are asking God to endorse?

B. Secondly, get to Jesus Christ as your Redeemer!

1. I have been presenting Him to you a lot lately as the one who washes away our sin—
 - I want to be sure you understand what He does when he washes away our sin and I want to be sure that you are looking to Him to do it.
2. So what are the two ways He washes us when we come to Him to save us?
 - a. First, He washes away our guilt—so that we can be pardoned for having attachments to Sodom when we repent and leave Sodom...

- b. Second, He washes away our rebellion so that we can repent and leave Sodom—we come to Him to be baptised by the Holy Spirit...
 - And the Spirit enables to will and to do what pleases God.
 - Do not be reluctant to come to Him for this!
 - Those who want to hold on to Sodom do not want to come to be cleansed from Sodom or Zoar—because they want Sodom!!
 - Come to this Saviour and you will be forgiven and you will be able to turn from your attachments to Sodom.
- C. Thirdly, learn to be truly thankful for the good things of this life!
1. I mean that!
 - God in His goodness filled the earth with good things and we should receive them with thanksgiving!
 - We must not go the way of the false teachers who say that the good things of this life are evil!
 - No, God loads us with these things every day—and we ought to enjoy them and be full of thanksgiving for them!
 2. There are two ways to be ungrateful...
 - One is to reject the things as evil...
 - That is what monks and nuns have often done and what lots of church people have done—but that is not right...
 - God has given us all things richly to enjoy
 - You are ungrateful if you call His gifts evil...that is the first way to be ungrateful...
 - The other way is to be like Sodom and demand more and more of these things and more and more out of these things so that we are never satisfied...
 - So that we break God's law to get more of them.
 - So that even while we might be enjoying something, we are already thinking about how we want more of it...
 - That is what leads to additions you know—you want more, so you are never satisfied with what God has put into the thing...
 - You want more pleasure, more perfection, more escape, more comfort, more excitement, more...dominion!

TRANS> And it is true, we do not presently have the fullness of pleasure from God's good gifts because we are fallen...

- D. And that is the fourth thing...accept the fact that God has restricted our pleasure because of the fall.
1. It is a mercy that we have any pleasure at all in anything—God has been very kind to us to leave us with so many good things in this world...
 - But accept the fact that you will not get perfect pleasure out of them.
 - Not in this fallen world—
 - There will be defects and disappointments and times when the things you want are not available to you—at least not lawfully...

2. Do not resent that so that you start admiring Sodom and the way they break out of the limitations that God has placed on us...
 - If you do that, you will be less able to enjoy the good things that God has given you than if you had received them with thanksgiving from God's hand!
- E. And remember (this is the fifth thing), God is going to restore paradise to us in Jesus Christ.
 1. Instead of yearning for Sodom, yearn for heaven where you will enjoy pleasures forever more from your loving Father!
 2. The best part of all—the source of our true happiness (both now and in eternity) is in knowing Him and living in His world according to His commandments!
 - It is in knowing Him as your saviour and redeemer in this fallen world.
 - It is in living in the hope of seeing Him and having every blessing restored to you in glory.
 - That is what real living is all about!
 - Set your affection on the glory to come.
 - Set your affection on Christ your redeemer!

Conclusion: Why should you hold on to Sodom which God is going to destroy?

- Instead, cling to Jesus Christ who lives forever under the full blessing of God!
- That is where you find abundant life!
 - Sodom is death.
 - Jesus is eternal life.