

VISION FOR THE WORD OF GOD:
GENESIS 18-19

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Verses 18: 1-15, The Importance of Hospitality

Lesson from Walmart

We do not know to whom we are being kind

What goes around comes around, if not to us then perhaps to our children and grandchildren

Is anything to wonderful for the Lord?

Verse 16, The Long Arm of God's Judgment When There is No Repentance

Judgment is slow but sure because God is merciful (Psalm 103: 8-9)

Do not overlook the word of God and early warning signs, Genesis 13: 8-13

Avoidance never corrects evil; wrong and aberrant behavior must be confronted

Do not overlook early messages from God that reflect God's disfavor, Genesis 14: 1-11

Warning to America

Racism is America's Sodom and Gomorrah's Sin

Early divisions regarding slavery

Civil War

Rutherford B. Hayes and the Compromise of 1877

The Civil Rights Movement of 1950's and 1960's

The Present Civil War

Verses 18: 16-33, Basis of Intercessor

Power of Relationships

Significance of Reputation

Intercession is about mercy for sinner; not trying to justify or excuse or legalize sin

Believer must often walk the tension between legality and morality

Each believer must decide where he or she draws the line

How much is enough?

At some point every tub has to stand on its own bottom

Verses 19: 1-11, Lessons from Sodom and Gomorrah

Sexual Depravity

Unnatural affection: That which goes against God's order

Our feelings do not determine right behavior; God's word does

Power, capacity and maturity to do something does not give us the right to do something that is against divine order or the word of God

Neither do our anger, hurt or pain

God's word has both promises and prohibitions; pleasure as well as punishment

Abusive behavior

From the men of Sodom and Gomorrah

From Lot

Rescue of angels

Two wrongs never make a right Righteousness never needs to be defended by abusive and unjust behavior or behavior that defies the spirit of the word of God

Verses 19: 12-29, We Can Put Ourselves in Danger: The Case of Lot

Be careful about the company we keep, Genesis 13:12

We share in the misfortunes that come to the company we keep, Genesis 14: 11-12

Lot living among Sodomites, Genesis 19: 1-2

When we hang out with trash, we expose our loved ones to trash

Where were Lot's son-in-law when he offered his daughters to the mob

We expose ourselves to dangers when we delay

We must be careful about spending too much time looking back

Purpose of history is to provide a bridge not a bench

In our church, in our families, on our jobs, and with our finances are we building bridges or benches. We are either a bridge or a bench

From Star Wars Episode 7, "What you are looking for is ahead of you not behind you."

Abraham saw the smoke from Sodom and Gomorrah:

When we belong to God there really are some battles we do not have to fight

Verses 19: 30-33, The Tragedy of Lot

Lot is example of a person who did not appreciate generosity and favor

Lot is example of a person who did not respect age and seniority

Lot is example of a person who thought only about himself and the moment

Lot is example of a person who associated with the wrong companions

Lot is example of a person who failed to heed the warning signs regarding the wicked

Lot is example of a person who cast his lot with the wrong crowd and became abusive

Lot is example of a person who exposed his loved ones to the wrong influences

Lot is example of a person who reaped the disrespect he had shown his daughters

The Enduring Message of the Gospel: Even though we all make some of Lot's mistakes and bad choices, in Christ Jesus our Lord we can have a different ending and destiny. We can move from the cave to the church, from disgrace to dignity, from fleeing to faith, and from hiding to heaven.