

## **Do Not Learn the Customs of the Heathen – 15 May 05**

- **Joshua Daniel**

Let us turn to Jeremiah 10<sup>th</sup> chapter: Hear you the word which the Lord speaketh unto you, O house of Israel:

2: Thus saith the LORD, learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven: for the heathen are dismayed at them

3: For the customs of the people are vain:

The church if it is the church of Jesus Christ has got to win over the present hurdles of this day. What are they? Immorality, race. You know A pastor of a church said to me, all my elders are practically all my elders have other women. He was a Baptist pastor who told me that. Can you think of that? I am talking about world situation. It may not be a local situation in your case. What is taking place else where will soon take place will soon take place in your local situation. You cannot be isolated today unless a church literally on the war path, it will cease to exist. And you know years ago when I saw the saintly, godly, praying, pensioner's in some of my meetings, most beautiful people. Every noon hour I used to have a prayer meeting in the music institute, down town, right in the heart, more than a month and I would speak a little and open the meeting for prayer and how prayer would flow. And when somebody said to me recently I can't remember where, Oh you can't have any such meetings anymore. There are lot of Hindus and Muslims I suppose in the city council, corporates. Oh my, oh my that makes me sad. We talk of one invasion of the other but we don't talk of the invasion of the darkness, it's no use just isolating this piece of darkness from the other. Now the heathen have brought in their idols and the Muslims have brought in their what do they slay goats on the streets also? I don't know. Anything goes except the preaching of the gospel. Oh my dear friends, listen, it is not enough to be on lookers and spectators. This is a piece of wrestling and I see too much talking. You know wrestlers don't have too much time to talk, they can talk with their muscles. Come one, this is the way to get the fellow on his back. This is the way to apply this particular hold or something. But you have no time to chatter. Ask god to take away the spirit of chattering. That is a work of darkness. I was a chatterbox but when the lord took over that was the end of it. To do business with god.

Now what about these heathen customs? The works of darkness? As you know the modern bible schools have taught, leave the customs of the people alone by what authority did they speak up? Tell the students? Just moral bankruptcy. No guts, no grit,

no spiritual power to tear down the strong holds of the devil. That will never do. The devil is entrenched in those heathen customs whether they come from the jungles of India or jungles of the modern concrete jungles or whether the jungles of Africa or where ever. Almost every region in the world has certain strong holds. An Australian missionary told me this: He said, well, we are working in an area where there is no water and he said when we need water the normal thing we do is to go and ask the water diviners. These water diviners come along and divine you know with the stick or whatever and yet we teach the people that they must not go to their ancestral spirits. You see everybody is afraid of color today. You can't talk to a black man because they will rise and revoke. What do you mean? The law is the law. Apply it. Have some guts about it. Don't allow the streets to become a brothel saying this is their ancient custom and we can't do anything about it. We can't have whole harvest of illegitimate children with a broken down economy. Black man, brown man, red man, blue man, any man, by the law is the knowledge of sin. Give me some of your pulpits; I'll get that abomination off the streets and off the front page. No guts. People who are just bowing in compromise in the pulpit. A pulpit that bows in compromise is of the devil. Go and tell you pastor that. You know folks, god says don't follow the customs of the heathen. That settles the matter and where ever I preach in the world that's how it is god has settled it for me what I should say. See what there is no fight about us. That's the point. Where there is life there is you know your' kicking alive. Where there is no life your placid, you bow, you yield. No, that's not the way to go.

Let us turn to the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter of Mark and the 21<sup>st</sup> verse: For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blaspheme, pride foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

You see my dear folks, one of my neighbors; she was a small missionary to the Caribbean, one of the Islands for a part of her life she used to attend our fasting prayer whenever she could just a neighbor. And this lady used to sometimes greet me hello stranger. You see I was a stranger to my own house you know. Hello stranger! and she told my wife's humpy that bowled me over. You know what she said, I will not believe any living preacher, I was horrified!. What do you mean? Do you know the implications of such a statement? A woman of wide experience had evidently been let down many times. What a state? what a record? As a matter of fact I am a living preacher, am I not? I hope I am not a dead one? Whatever! You know friends, that includes me also in one swipe. I was so shocked when I heard that because I have seen so many godly people, faithful people. Who fear the lord and I have seen them tanned up, my dad for instance,

under all circumstances and pressures. No variableness, No duplicity, no deception, nothing. Straight and clean. Folks, here the lord Jesus Christ is speaking about our hearts. He says out of the hearts proceed evil thoughts. There you are. You know you can engage in the most negative imaginations and today unfortunately most people are under the spell of the flesh. No it can easily happen. What you watch, you cannot even look at some news these days. Don't think you are old enough to be mature. That is a false idea. You are never too old for the devil. The devil will dog you till you get to the grave. Make no mistake. What you watch, you will be. Let your eyes look straight on. What a great prescription for the eyes. Let your eyes looks straight on. Keep your heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life. So my dear people, evil thoughts, how early they come I do not know but children are getting corrupted. You better watch over your children. I know you can't shoo away they evil thoughts like this you know like you shoo away a fly. But you have to surround them with prayer. You know how careful parents are with what they feed their children but they don't seem to be careful at all about what they are feeding their minds. Out of the heart Jesus said proceeds evil thoughts, adulteries. How sad. You know if I had been exposed to this kind of hypocrisy when I was growing up I don't know what would have happen to me. I didn't see hypocrisy; I saw straight living, the fear of god, obedience to god's word. Purity.