

The Danger of Today's Spiritual Wilderness

When God first created human beings He placed them in a garden, their lives were surrounded and dominated by the rest of God's created world.

Animals, trees, plants were created by God to be our teachers, physical examples to illustrate spiritual principles.

When we are taught to ignore the lessons that God's creation can teach us it brings on us God's anger.

Romans 1:18-20 [NIV] *"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."*

Satan has used godless people to blind us to the wise instruction God's creation can bring us in two major ways.

Evolution tries to explain all that is around us without a Creator God, thus blinding us to ever learning from such a creation.

Cities and towns take us out of the God created environment and surround us with man-made objects, again blinding us to any lessons that God's creation can teach us.

Every farmer and gardener knows what happens to our field or garden when we neglect cultivating and preserving our plot of land; it will revert to a wilderness.

The bias of physical creation is towards the wilderness, never towards the fruitful field.

To any alert Christian this fact of God's physical creation is a parable and object lesson for our spiritual life.

We cannot escape this physical and spiritual law that all things remain a wilderness or revert to a wilderness after a period cultivation comes to an end.

What is true of the field is also true of our Christian life.

The moral bent of this godless society is towards evil not godliness.

If we neglect our spiritual cultivation then this society's influence will encroach into our lives.

Each new Christian needs to learn this lesson as soon as possible after conversion and each long-standing Christian needs to be reminded of it constantly.

The truth is that no spiritual experience can exempt us from temptation to sin and each temptation is the effort of the wilderness of evil to encroach upon our sin-freed life.

A purified heart is obnoxious to Satan and all of his domain and they will not rest until they have won back what they have lost through the Holy Spirit's cultivation of our lives.

Such neglect on our part will cause all the hoped-for spiritual fruits in our lives to be lost in this world's wilderness.

Only watchfulness and constant prayer, study and communion with the Holy Spirit can preserve the spiritual fruits won for us through the power of God's Grace.

A neglected heart and mind will soon be overrun with worldly thoughts.

A neglected spiritual life will soon be returning to the world's moral chaos.

A congregation of Christians will soon be overtaken, unsuspectedly, by the creeping, corrupting wilderness when its members neglect prayer and study and begin to trust in their own strength instead of the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit in their midst.

God will not bring new lamb-like converts to a church field that is **not** well cultivated through study and prayer and where there is a lack of spiritual fruits.

The Good Shepherd will not give His lambs into the care of those whose lives are being encroached on by a moral wilderness.

Lambs must be shepherded or they will die. The field in which they graze must be well cultivated or they will get lost in the wilderness.

Our spiritual gains must be under constant cultivation by watchful prayer and study or they too will fall victim to the moral wilderness of this present society.