

25 07 21

Withdraw – Pt 1 Meaning of withdraw, and from whom?

This is our first study on the topic – “withdraw”. In this teaching we establish three points – (1) withdraw our hand from iniquity, (2) withdraw ourselves from every brother that walks disorderly, and (3) withdraw ourselves from those who are men of corrupt minds.

To assist in our understanding of the word “withdraw: we search the scriptures – and establish that “withdraw” means to–

* come out of – Deut.13: 13 –“Certain men, the children of Belial, are gone out from among you, and have withdrawn the inhabitants of their city...”

* pull out – 1 Sam.14: 19 – “And it came to pass, while Saul talked unto the priest, that the noise that was in the host of the Philistines went on and increased: and Saul said unto the priest, Withdraw thine hand”.

* pull back –Job 9:13– “If God will not withdraw his anger...” and Job 13:21.

* remove/refrain – Ez.18: 8– :He that hath not given forth upon usury, neither hath taken any increase, that hath withdrawn his hand from iniquity, hath executed true judgment between man and man”.

* Take out/hide – Job 33: 17– “That he may withdraw man from his purpose, and hide pride from man”. See also Prov.25: 17.

* Take away – Job 36: 7– “He withdraweth not his eyes from the righteous: but with kings are they on the throne; yea, he doth establish them for ever, and they are exalted”. See also – Ps.74: 11, Ecc.7: 18, & Lam.2: 8.

* to be gone (separate/depart) – Song.5: 6– “I opened to my beloved; but my beloved had withdrawn himself, and was gone: my soul failed when he spake: I sought him, but I could not find him; I called him, but he gave me no answer”.

* go down– Is.60: 20– “Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended”.

* Hide (c.f.Mic.3: 4) – Hos.5: 6– “They shall go with their flocks and with their herds to seek the Lord; but they shall not find him; he hath withdrawn himself from them”.

* Pull back, remove – Joel 2: 10– “The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining”. See also Joel 3: 15.

* Separate by the distance of a stone’s cast (the distance we can throw a stone) – Lk.22: 41– “And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed”.

* abstain from associating with/no fellowship/separate thyself – 2 Thes.3: 6 & 5– “Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us. Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself”.

* have no company with – “If any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him...” (2 Thes 3:14).

Over the course of this teaching we will add the above meanings to our search of the scriptures to establish a more complete understanding of what we are to “withdraw” from, come out from among, or who we are to have no fellowship with. For our teaching today we have searched the scriptures using the word “withdraw”, and in subsequent weeks we will search words that mean “withdraw”, as detailed above.

Our three points established from the scriptures –

1. Withdraw your hand from iniquity

“He that hath not given forth upon usury, neither hath taken any increase, that hath withdrawn his hand from iniquity, hath executed true judgment between man and man” (Ez.18: 8).

2. Withdraw yourselves from every brother that walks disorderly

“Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us. For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you” (2 Thes.3: 6 & 7).

3. Withdraw yourselves from those who are men of corrupt minds

“Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself” (1 Tim.6: 5).

In the context of our verse there is a wider application to “withdraw yourselves”. I.e. it goes beyond just those who are men of corrupt minds, destitute of truth–

Illustration

I will never forget a young single man – self proclaimed pastor, whose name was Peter. He had claimed to reject Roman Catholicism and considered them heretics. But he could not, and would not accept the NZ Protestant’s stand on, and for the English text of the 1611 KJV. I gave him a copy of “Kept Pure” and later he rebuked me for my stand, and later delivered his second rebuke. He then came down to the street work to personally deliver his third and final rebuke – for me believing God’s words are preserved in the 1611 Authorised Bible. He withdraw himself from me.

Question to think about.

- i) Why would we withdraw from every brother that walks disorderly or from those who do not consent to wholesome words?
- ii) How will we know these men that do not consent to wholesome words?

Answer from the scriptures

- i) We withdraw from every brother that walks disorderly and from those who consent not to wholesome words because a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

“A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump” (Gal 5:9). See also 1Cor 5:6.

We are to prefer one another, those who are likeminded – those who fear the Lord, and His word and will withdraw their hand from iniquity and joy in their perverseness, their disorderly behaviour, but joy in wholesome words and regard the word of the Lord. If we do not we will be in the midst of division & confusion.

- ii) We will know these men because they will be–

“...proud, knowing nothing, but dotting about questions and strifes of words, where of cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth...” (1 Tim.6: 4, 5).

If we chose not to withdraw ourselves, then we will be tainted with their perverseness, and there will be divisions as we seek to consent to, and fear God’s pure words and they regard not the word of God. Or our obedience will fall away!