

Lesson 139 - Watch Out for Traps - Part 2

1. What do wicked people set to catch the godly? **Jeremiah 5:26, Matthew 22:15**

EGW: The drunkard is capable of better things. God has intrusted to him talents with which he was to glorify God; but his fellow-men have laid a snare for his soul, and built themselves up out of his ruin. They have lived in luxury, while their poor brethren whom they have robbed, lived in poverty and degradation. O, how many pleasure-lovers there are, who spend their thousands of pounds to please and amuse themselves, and to gratify their fancies, while the world is full of distress and poverty! The prophet describes these co-labourers with Satan, who are degrading those whom God is seeking to uplift. He says, "They lay wait, as he that setteth snares; they set a trap, they catch men. As a cage is full of birds, so are their houses full of deceit; therefore they are become great, and waxen rich. They are waxen fat, they shine; yea, they overpass the deeds of the wicked; they judge not the cause, the cause of the fatherless, yet they prosper; and the right of the needy do they not judge." Jeremiah 5:26. {PH141 6.1}

2. Where do human snares and evil devices originate from? **Jeremiah 18:12, Proverbs 19:21**

EGW: How many have a dwarfed religious experience. They do not draw nourishment from Christ. They love the world and the things that the world loves. At times their hearts are touched by the love of Christ, but they are not careful to watch and pray. They do not take the path of self-denial and cross-bearing, and follow in the way which Jesus trod while upon earth. They choose to indulge self, and spend their money for that which is not bread, and their labor for that which satisfieth not. They are like those whom the prophet describes, when he says, "There is no hope: but we will walk after our own devices, and we will every one do the imagination of his evil heart. Therefore thus saith the Lord: Ask ye now among the heathen, who hath heard such things: the virgin of Israel hath done a very horrible thing. Will a man leave the snow of Lebanon which cometh from the rock of the field? or shall the cold flowing waters that come from another place be forsaken? because my people hath forgotten me, they have burned incense to vanity, and they have caused them to stumble in their ways from the ancient paths, to walk in paths, in a way not cast up." Those who allow the cares of this world to crowd out the good seed, become surfeited with this world. The time that they should devote to the service of God, is devoted to the gratification of self. The work of the Lord should be their first anxiety, but Jesus and the souls he died for, are treated as matters of secondary importance. Their love of the world, their desire for riches, their anxiety to meet the world's standard, to follow the fashions of the world, to try every new thing, choke out the world, and it becomes unfruitful. {RH, June 21, 1892 par. 4}

3. What can God do with these evil devices pointing to the fact that we need to keep our eyes off of what the world is plotting, planning, etc.? **Psalms 33:10, Psalms 21:11, Job 5:12**

EGW: The time of God's investigation is at hand. The Most High will come down to see that which the children of men have builded. His sovereign power will be revealed; the works of human pride will be laid low. "The Lord looketh from heaven; He beholdeth all the sons of men. From the place of His habitation He looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth." "The Lord bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: He maketh the devices of the people of none effect. The counsel of the Lord standeth forever, the thoughts of His heart to all generations." Psalm 33:13, 14, 10, 11. {PP 124.3}

4. What is the devil using to cause people to be caught off guard or ensnared regarding the second coming? **Luke 21:34-35** [Comment: It does not only apply to alcohol and drug use but spiritual matters.]

EGW: Cares, riches, pleasures, all are used by Satan in playing the game of life for the human soul. The warning is given, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." 1 John 2:15, 16. He who reads the hearts of men as an open book says, "Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness and cares of this life." Luke 21:34. And the apostle Paul by the Holy Spirit writes, "They that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil; which, while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." 1 Timothy 6:9, 10. {COL 55.2}

5. What will the enemies do to cause fear and a snare to come upon the people? **Lamentations 3:46-47**

EGW: (no comment)

6. Where are the wicked to be found laying snares? **Jeremiah 5:26**

EGW: There is an alarming condition of things in our churches. Says the Word of God, "Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you. For among My people are found wicked men: they lay in wait, as he that setteth snares; they set a trap, they catch

men. . . the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and My people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?" (Jeremiah 5:25, 26, 31). "They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of My people slightly, saying, Peace, Peace; when there is no peace" (chapter 6:14). "And now, because ye have done all these works, saith the Lord, and I spake unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not; therefore will I do unto this house, which is called by My name, wherein ye trust, and unto the place which I gave to you and your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh, And I will cast you out of My sight, as I have cast out all your brethren" (chapter 7:13-15). God will surely fulfill His word to those who will not hear, will not see, and refuse the light that He sends them. {11MR 287.4}

7. Who is guilty of laying traps, ditches, pits, etc.? **Proverbs 23:27, Revelation 17:5**

EGW: (no comment)

8. With the "woman" representing Babylon or even the antichrist, who escapes her snares and nets? **Ecclesiastes 7:26**

EGW: (no comment)

9. Again, with the "woman" representing Babylon or even the antichrist, who falls for her snares and nets? **Ecclesiastes 7:26, 1 John 3:4**

EGW: A terrible doom awaits the sinner, and therefore it is necessary that we know what sin is, in order that we may escape from its power. John says, "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law; for sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4). Here we have the true definition of sin; it is "the transgression of the law." How often the sinner is urged to leave his sins, and come to Jesus; but has the messenger who would lead him to Christ clearly pointed out the way? Has he clearly pointed out the fact that "sin is the transgression of the law," and that he must repent and forsake the breaking of God's commandments? . . . {FW 117.2}

10. What reason do the wicked have to justify the activity of casting a net to entrap us? **Psalms 35:7**

EGW: (no comment)

11. What can people use to ensnare a neighbor? **Proverbs 29:5**

EGW: (no comment)

12. Who should we avoid, otherwise it may be a snare to our soul? **Proverbs 22:24-25**

EGW: (no comment)

13. What do evil men devour that causes them to be ensnared, which includes the holy Bible? **Proverbs 20:25**

EGW: (no comment)

14. What do the wicked desire? **Proverbs 12:12**

EGW: (no comment)

15. When the lost end up in hell because of the snares they set, what is to blame for their loss? **Psalms 9:16**

EGW: (no comment)

16. Those that dabble with sin, what do they not realize? **End of Proverbs 7:23**

EGW: (no comment)

17. What should we avoid entering into with unbelievers lest it be a snare? **Exodus 34:12, Exodus 23:32-33, 2 Corinthians 6:14**

EGW: The Lord's injunction, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers" (2 Corinthians 6:14), refers not only to the marriage of Christians with the ungodly, but to all alliances in which the parties are brought into intimate association, and in which there is need of harmony in spirit and action. The Lord gave special direction to Israel to keep themselves distinct from idolaters. They were not to intermarry with the heathen nor form any confederacy with them: "Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee: but ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves: for thou shalt worship no other god: for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God" (Exodus 34:12-14). {2SM 121.2}

18. In being delivered from the snares of the fowler (devil), what shall we not receive? **Psalms 91:3, Revelation 16:2**

EGW: Now is the time when we are to confess and forsake our sins, that they may go beforehand to judgment and be blotted out. Now is the time to "cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." It is dangerous to delay this work. Satan is even now seeking by disasters upon sea and land to seal the fate of as many as possible. What is the defense of the people of God at this time?--It is a living connection with heaven. If we would dwell in safety from the noisome pestilence, if we would be preserved from dangers seen and unseen, we must hide in God; we must secure the protecting care of Jesus and holy angels. In these days of peril, the Lord would have us walk before him in humility. Instead of trying to cover our sins, he would have us confess them, as Joshua confessed the sins of ancient Israel. We profess to be the depositaries of God's law. We profess to be building up "the old waste places," and to be raising up "the foundations of many generations." If this great and solemn work has indeed been committed to us, how important that we depart from all iniquity! {RH, November 19, 1908 par. 8}

19. When ensnared and praying to be released, be it from an addiction or something else, what are we relying upon God for? **Psalms 31:4**

EGW: (no comment)

20. Where do our eyes have to be so as to be pulled out of the net? **Psalms 25:15**

EGW: (no comment)