WHY CHRISTIANS BECOME ENTANGLED AND OVERCOME BY THE WORLD

II Pet. 2: 20 - 22

INTRODUCTION:
1. Our text is talking about a Christian becoming entangled and overcome by the world.
2. There are many warnings about this happening to Christians.
   (1) I Cor. 10:12
   (2) Heb. 3: 12 -13
   (3) James 5: 19 - 20
3. Somebody has said that 50% of new converts drop out every 7 years -- the dropout figure may be even higher in some places.
4. Why do men and women depart from God and dropout of service to Him?
5. Let us study some reasons why men and women quit serving God and become entangled again in the world.

I. HOW DO CHRISTIANS BECOME ENTANGLED IN THIS WORLD?

1. By forming the WRONG RELATIONSHIPS -- II Cor. 6: 14 - 17
   (1) BUSINESS CONNECTIONS
      i. Some form business connections that are hurtful to spiritual growth.
      ii. In some business connections, one must miss many services of the church.
      iii. A Christians may be associated with one who does not deal justly with customers -- this has its effect on the Christian.
   (2) WORLDLY FRIENDS -- I Cor. 15:33
      i. Many Christians need to get some new friends

2. By MARRIAGE
   (1) Marrying an unbeliever who cares nothing for the Lord's church can have a bad effect on one's spirituality.
   (2) Marrying a very worldly person who has many worldly friends.
   (3) Marrying people who have no right to marry -- Matt. 19: 9
   (4) Bad marriages generally are disastrous to life, happiness, and salvation.
   (5) Bad marriages bring grief of mind to parents -- Gen. 26: 35; 27: 46
      i. Esau married Hittite women -- no doubt they were immoral in conduct and they worshipped idols.

3. By having ITCHING EARS AND LONGING FOR TEACHING THAT GRATIFIES and pleases the carnal nature.
4. By failing to control one's PASSIONS

(1) David failed to control his passion and he lusted after another man's wife, and committed adultery with her -- II Sam. 11: 2 - 4

(2) The Law said, "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife"...Ex. 20:17

(3) The brother at Corinth had failed to control his passion, and he was committing fornication with his father's wife -- I Cor. 5: 1 - 5

(4) Paul warned -- I Thess. 4: 3 - 6

(5) Jesus warns -- Matt. 5:28

(6) Paul said he had his body under control -- I Cor. 9:27

5. GREED causes some to become entangled and overcome by the world.

(1) Ananias and Sapphira had the problem of greed -- Acts 5: 1 - 11

(2) Jesus said the "deceitfulness of riches" would cause some to become unfruitful -- Matt. 13:22

(3) Paul warns about greed in I Tim. 6: 9 - 10

(4) Jesus warns -- Matt. 6:24


(1) Many Christians become involved in the world because they want to be popular.
   i. They dress immodest to be popular.
   ii. They dance to be popular.
   iii. They drink socially to be popular.
   iv. Young people pet to be popular.
   v. Some use drugs to be popular.

7. By FALSE TEACHING

(1) I Tim. 4: 1 - 4

(2) Acts 20: 28 - 31

(3) Gal. 5: 1 - 4

(4) Examples today:
   i. Institutionalism
   ii. Individualism
iii. Calvinism

iv. False teaching on divorce

8. By FAILING TO "COUNT THE COST"
   (1) Jesus taught we must count the cost -- Lk. 14: 25 - 33
   (2) Many fail when they see what the cost is -- they are not willing to pay the price -- Lk. 9:23

9. By FAILING TO DEVELOP as Christians
   (1) Failure to study -- Heb. 5: 12 - 14
   (2) Failure to grow -- I Pet. 2:2; II Pet. 1: 5 - 11; Gal. 5: 22 - 23

10. By HAVING THE WRONG ASSOCIATIONS IN THE CHURCH -- they associate with members who:
   (1) Murmur -- I Cor. 10:10; Phil. 2:14
   (2) Are Carnal -- I Cor. 3: 1 -3
   (3) Self-ambitious -- Gal. 5:20
   (4) Worldly -- I John 2: 15 - 17
   (5) Members who are bitter -- Heb. 12: 15

II. HOW TO ESCAPE BECOMING ENTANGLED BY THE WORLD

1. Study the Word, and know the Truth -- II Tim. 2:15; John 8:32

2. By Watching -- Matt. 25: 13

3. By Praying -- I Thess. 5:17

4. By correcting our sins when we commit them -- Acts 8:22; I John 1: 9

5. By always being involved in the Lord's Work -- I Cor. 15:58

6. By developing a strong relationship with God and Christ
   (1) By daily Bible Study -- II Tim. 2:15
   (2) By daily Prayer -- Lk. 18:1
   (3) By daily Denying Self -- Lk. 9: 23
   (4) By learning to Trust in God for our daily needs -- Matt. 6: 11; 6:25 - 34
   (5) By faithful attendance to the services of the church -- Heb. 10:25

CONCLUSION

1. I hope this lesson will help us all to be stronger and help keep us from being entangled and overcome by the world.

2. Are you here and have been overcome? Won't you correct your life? Are you here and not a Christian?

   ~ Donald Townsley (Hebron Lane 1986; River Bend 1997)