

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Corruption

"Corruption is like a ball of snow, once it's set a rolling it must increase." – Charles Caleb Colton

"Our country is now taking so steady a course as to show by what road it will pass to destruction, to wit: by consolidation of power first, and then corruption, its necessary consequence." – Thomas Jefferson

"All institutions are prone to corruption and to the vices of their members." – Morris West

"Still, corruption and oppression are far too common threats to the democratic society." – Anna Lindh

"The worst affected from corruption is the common man." – Kailash Kher

We tend to think of *corruption* when we talk of politicians, or even the election process. Sometimes we use this term to describe our civil government. In reality, the concept is much broader.

The first time we encounter this concept is during the days of Noah. "The earth also was *corrupt* before God, and the earth was filled with violence. So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was *corrupt*; for all flesh had *corrupted* their way on the earth" (Gen. 6:11-12). It is interesting to observe in these two verses that God speaks of corruption three times. All three times it is derived from the primitive root word which means "to decay."

Granted, sometimes in Scripture the word *corruption* is used to refer to the decay of the human body upon death. But there are also times that it is used to show the decay in society of those who would live a corrupt lifestyle. "For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap *corruption*, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life" (Gal. 6:8-9).

To achieve a life that avoids corruption, we must live a godly life. "Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ...But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth" (Col. 3:5,8).

Peter writes of being "partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (2 Pet. 1:3-4). We must fight the temptation of the world so that we do not become "slaves of corruption" (2 Pet. 2:19). Paul also writes of it as being "slaves to sin" (Rom. 6:20).

If we can be enslaved by corruption, then it is something that we need to take seriously. It would be terrible to miss heaven because of it!