

“The Five Favorite Sins of the Survivors”
Revelation 9:20-21

Last Sunday: The Sixth Trumpet: Demonic Horses and Man’s Refusal to Repent (Second Woe)

Today: The Five Favorite Sins of the Survivors: Idolatry, Murder, Sorcery, Immorality, and Theft

Two Introductory Questions:

1. Are these five sins really their favorite sins?
2. Could these five sins of the survivors (unrepentant) even play a role in a believer’s life?

Overview of the Five Favorite Sins from the four views:

1. Preterist (**past**): The end of Jerusalem’s fall in AD 70
 - a. These are the sins that the Jews committed up to the fall of Jerusalem on Sept. 8, AD 70: destroying food supplies, cannibalism, executing their own people, etc.
2. Historicist (**timeline**): The Turkish invasion of the West and Constantinople’s fall in 1453
 - a. These are the sins that the Roman Catholic Church committed: killing the Albigensians and Waldensians, the immorality of the popes, selling indulgences.
3. Idealist (**spiritual**): This is a picture of demonic forces unleashed upon the earth.
 - a. These are some of the sins of humanity since our Fall in the Garden.
4. Futurist (**future**): This is an unprecedented time of judgment against unrepentant humanity in a 7-year Tribulation.
 - a. These are the favorite or most common sins of unbelievers at the end of the age.

9:20/ “The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, ***did not*** repent of the works of their hands, nor give up worshipping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk.”

1. Idolatry: εἰδωλολατρία (i-do-lo-la-TREE-ah); from εἶδωλον (i-do-lon)
 - a. **Definition:** “A manufactured representation that usurps the reverence due to the living God ... it involves misplaced affections of the heart, manifesting whenever a created thing is exalted to God’s place” (biblehub).
 - b. Idols may be concrete (Baal, cell phones) or abstract (popularity, comfort).
 - c. Idols may be inherently bad (pornography) or inherently good (marriage, family).
 - d. Are idols demonic? 1 Cor. 10:18-20, “Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer ***to demons*** and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons.”
 - i. G. K. Beale, “What forms of idolatry exist in our society? Gold is not evil in itself, but is if it is worshipped. What about sports? Careers, leisure activities, or the acquiring of money and material possession? What of things clearly evil, such as pornography? How extensive is idolatry in our experience? Is part of the deception that we have restricted ‘***idolatry***’ to the worship of literal idols? Whatever we are committed to ***more than God*** is an idol, including worship of ourselves.”

ii. 1 Jn. 5:21, “Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.”

9:21/ “Nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.”

2. Murder: φόνοϛ (fo-nos), meaning “to slay”

a. Mt. 24:12, “Because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.”

b. 1 Jn. 3:15, “Whoever hates his brother is a *murderer*.”

c. Jas. 4:1-2a, “What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you *murder*. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel.”

3. Sorcery: Φαρμακός (far-ma-kos), meaning a sorcerer using amulets, magic spells, poisons, potions, witchcraft, drugs, or medicine to secure power apart from the Lord

a. Rev. 21:8, “But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, *sorcerers*, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

b. Any dangers in medicine? The Rod of Asclepius

c. Ask yourself, “Am I trusting the medicine more than I am trusting the Lord?”

4. Sexual Immorality: πορνεία (por-NAY-ah), meaning sexual sins of any kind

● Rm. 8:9, “You are *not* in the flesh but in the Spirit.”

● Gal. 5:16, “Walk by the Spirit, and you will *not* gratify the desires of the flesh.”

● Ps. 97:10, “You who love the Lord, hate evil!”

5. Theft: κλέμμα (KLEM-mah), meaning “taking that which belongs to another”

a. Where does the sin of thievery really begin? What is the root under the fruit?