



# The quintessential Problem Solver

Part #6 –

They knew not the  
LORD

Paul Idusogie

Senior Pastor, HELON House



# Introduction

## Key Scriptures

- Now the sons of Eli *were* sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD. – 1 Samuel 2:12
- And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*. – Ephesians 5:11
- Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. – 1 Timothy 3:6



# Introduction – Cont'd

## Key Scriptures

- Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure. – 1 Timothy 5:22
- Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some *men* they follow after. – 1 Timothy 5:24
- Likewise also the good works *of some* are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid. – 1 Timothy 5:25
- And others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. – Jude 1:23



# Introduction – Cont'd

**It appears we have lost the referential fear of GOD as a result of sinful excesses presented as acceptable practices. Far too often we paint our excesses with broad strokes on the canvas of life based on how we understand God's Grace. This is absurd!**

Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. - Ecclesiastes 8:11



# Keys

## **They knew not the LORD!**

- They came into office of the priesthood by their father
- They misrepresented GOD
- They perverted and changed the ordinances of GOD
- They placed themselves above the laws of GOD
- They turned the hearts of the sincere seekers
- They longer helped the people see God, but presented and helped themselves



# In this lesson

- The Sons of Belial
- The Son of Blessing
- The Son called Faithful



# The Sons of Belial

*Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD. - 1 Samuel 2:12*

## **Belial**

A masculine noun of unknown origin meaning:

- An expression of the concept of wickedness
- Always used in reference to persons with only two exceptions, once for a disease and once for a nonspecific thing – Ps 41:8, Ps 101:3
- The term is applied to the hard-hearted (Deut 15:9; 1 Samuel 30:22), perjurers (1 Kings 21:3; Prov 19:28), those promoting rebellion against the king's authority (2 Samuel 20:1; 2 Chronicles 13:7)
- Rebellion against God's authority (Deut 13:13)



# The Sons of Belial – Cont'd

The name is not treated as a proper name by the Septuagint translators of the Old Testament, but it appears in its Greek form as a name for the devil in the Dead Sea scrolls and in the New Testament (2 Corinthians 6:15)

Meaning:

- Worthlessness
  - Worthless
  - Good for nothing
  - Unprofitable
  - Base fellow
  - Wicked
- Ruin, destruction, dishonor





# The Sons of Belial – Cont'd

## **They knew not the LORD**

- They were brought into the priesthood by statutory ordinance in the presence of their father
- They had no fear of GOD
- They did not honor His name or His ordinances
- They may have hit all the cylinders of ceremonial or ritual observances, but the scriptures says – They knew not the LORD
- They represented everything GOD to the people
- They had customs that were not Scriptural – 1 Samuel 2:13



# The Sons of Belial – Cont'd

## **They knew not the LORD**

- They were governed by their appetite – Greed! (1 Samuel 2:14)
- They practiced and publicized their corrupt ways throughout Israel
- They profaned the ordinances of God
- They had gone to great lengths of **Profligacy** (A vicious course of life; a state of being abandoned in moral principle and in vice)
- Their **rapacity** (Addictedness to plunder; act or practice of seizing by force; exhorting or exacting by oppressive injustice) had made men abhor sacred rites. (1 Samuel 2:17)



# The Sons of Belial – Cont'd

## **They knew not the LORD**

- They thought other their evil ways (1 Samuel 2:13 – 15)
- It is an awful thing when the inconsistencies of professing Christians cause men to abhor the service of Christ.
- It will go very hard for them at the last
- The Master says it would have been better for a millstone to be hanged about their neck; and one cannot but think that great allowance will be made at the last for those that have fallen over these stumbling blocks



# The Sons of Belial – Cont'd

## **They knew not the LORD**

- Eli was held responsible for the excesses of his sons.
- He was a mild and gentle man, but there are times when mildness and gentleness are out of place.
- We must be stern and strong when the occasion demands
- It is always necessary to be on the alert, lest flabbiness and weakness should pass under the designation of Christian graces
- We believe severer measures might have restrained his sons (1 Samuel 3:13)



# The Sons of Belial – Cont'd

## **They knew not the LORD**

- In the message of judgment pronounced on Eli's boys, Eli was included (1 Samuel 2:27-36)
- He is classed with his sons and reckoned as an accomplice with them in their sin against God. (1 Samuel 2:29-30)
- The judgement will encompass his present house and future generations
- The judgment will begin swiftly! His two sons will die in one day!
- Eli and his sons lived in the Temple, where the burning holiness of God was reflected in every service; but they seem never to have heard the chant of the seraphim, nor to have cried – “Woe is me, for I am undone,” nor to have felt the burning coal on their lips!



# The Sons of Blessing

*But Samuel ministered before the LORD, being a child, girded with a linen ephod. – 1 Samuel 2:18*

*And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the LORD, and also with men. – 1 Samuel 2:26*

## **They knew the LORD**

- What love and prayer Hannah must have wrought into that little coat!
- Every stitch put in with such motherly pride! It was had to give the boy up, but at least she could do something for him. She will have to make them a little bigger every year!
- The little ones almost unconsciously become arrayed in the character that is constantly being shown before their quick and inquisitive eyes.



# The Sons of Blessing – Cont'd

*But Samuel ministered before the LORD, being a child, girded with a linen ephod. – 1 Samuel 2:18*

*And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the LORD, and also with men. – 1 Samuel 2:26*

## **They knew the LORD**

- Amidst the scarcity of the Word of the LORD – There was no open vision (1 Samuel 3:1)
- The LORD reaches out to Samuel amidst the moral decadence (1 Samuel 3:4)



# The Son called Faithful

*And I will raise me up a faithful priest, that shall do according to that which is in mine heart and in my mind: and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before mine anointed for ever. - 1 Samuel 2:35*

- Notice the prediction of the faithful priests
- In its first reference – Samuel may be recognized as one of them
- However, beyond him rises the figure of Another who ever lives to intercede on our behalf, and is expressly designated as “faithful”





# Summary

Do not trifle with the sacred privileges of God's house! They will condemn where they do not uplift!



# Next Week

We will continue next week – Still in the book of 1 Samuel