

HEALING STREAM MINISTRIES presents the full strength
THREE ANGELS' MESSAGES AS GOD'S MEDICINE
with enough power to...

- **cleanse from all sin**
 - **set us free from all bondage**
 - **break all the power of the enemy over us**
 - **restore us to total spiritual health**
 - **develop immunity to all last-day deceptions**
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#72 – Babylon: Addiction, Adultery, and Idolatry

As we probe deeply in the mines of God's word, we will discover that there is so much more to the three angels' messages than we ever have thought. In addition to the historical/prophetic applications of these messages, we will also in Revelation 14:6-12 find some crucial experiential applications that we often tend to overlook.

The Book of Revelation describes Babylon as a harlot who has given ALL nations to drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication (Revelation 14:8). If all nations have drunk of Babylon's wine, would it not be foolish to exempt ourselves from any possible personal applications of this text merely on the basis of our doctrinal knowledge?

1. **Babylon is a harlot.** A harlot is someone who looks for love in all the wrong places, or, she entices others to find love in all the wrong places, and this is spiritual adultery.
Question: Where and how do we try to fill our 'love cups' from other sources than our God?
2. **Babylon is also guilty of idolatry.** Idolatry occurs when we seek to find substitutes for our Creator God because we do not believe He is sufficient for all our needs. The problem does not lie with God for He has in His Word and through creation provided ample evidence that He is sufficient to meet all our needs as we trust in His name. The problem is one of unbelief. The danger of idolatry occurs not so much in the object of idolatry, but more in the mindset of the idolaters who in their minds create designer deities (the breaking of the 2nd commandment). Such false gods cannot deliver, and in the Book of Revelation chapter 18 you will see the clash and consequent demise of various idolatries (commerce, materialism, military power, and amusements) all self-destruct and disintegrate. The idolaters all lament their passing, but yet they will not come to Jesus Christ

for salvation. The problem is not so much that God's mercy has reached its limits, but the hardness of hearts of the lost makes repentance impossible.

Question: What is our pet idol, the substance, activity, or relationship on which we depend for self-worth and personal significance, and without which life would perhaps become painful if not unbearable?

3. **Both idolatry and adultery carry with them the trait of addiction.**

Addiction, according to a recent textbook definition, is a "pathological relationship to any substance, activity or person for the purpose of escaping or dulling pain, and which has life-damaging consequences." When counseling those in marital infidelity, counselors and pastors will often testify to the addictive nature of such relationships in that the guilty parties (a) are unable to see the damaging results of their courses of action (they are literally blind), and (b) even if they see it they are often unwilling and even unable to stop the relationships – even when confronted with Biblical truth. (Calling sin by its right name does not always work!) The addictive nature of idolatry is such that idolaters are unable to see the wrongness of their idolatry, and they are unable to break free without God's intervention.

Question: Can you think of any addictive sins (non-alcoholic relationships or activities) in your life to which you in perpetual bondage?

What is Jesus' cure for the "wine of Babylon" which at its core is the bondage and captivity of sin, the addiction of both spiritual adultery and idolatry? In Luke 4, while visiting His hometown synagogue, Jesus announced that He, the Messiah, has the cure. *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent me to bind heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind..."* (Luke 4:18,19).

According to Isaiah 53 Jesus died not only for our sins, but He also on the cross carried our griefs and sorrows. When Jesus heals broken hearts through the gospel, and the pain of past woundedness and traumas disappears, He also restores our sensory capacity to see, hear, and feel. This is why John Newton in his hymn *Amazing Grace* could write, *"I once was blind but now I see"* as a testimony of his own conversion experience.

Do you want to break the addictiveness of the "wine of Babylon" in your own life? Perhaps you have discovered that correct doctrinal knowl-

edge may only have brought you limited relief up to this time. Then come to Jesus who said, “*If anyone comes to me, out of his innermost beings will flow rivers of living water*” (John 7:37-39). Let the “fullness” of His love (Ephesians 3:19,20) so fill your needs, that it will also take away Satan’s lie that you can make your life work without God in it.

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The Undiluted Three Angels Messages
– *God’s Medicine for Your Life Today*

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