

RIGHTEOUS LOT

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We could easily focus our time and attention on the fact that it was Lot's choice to dwell in the cities of the plain and how he pitched his tent even as far as Sodom, and that the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD (Genesis 13:12-13). We could talk about how he chose to keep himself and his family there for many years, and how eventually Lot rose to a position of honor and authority as he was one that sat in the gate of Sodom (Genesis 19:1). And of course, we could emphasize everything and everyone that he ended up losing for his initial bad decision to live in Sodom.

However, I would like to focus our attention on what the apostle Peter had to say about him. The Holy Spirit through Peter describes Lot to us as being "righteous" three times. That reveals to us that in spite of living in such darkness and wickedness for a lengthy period of time, he continued to live in a righteous manner. Furthermore, although he had dwelt among them for many years, he had not become desensitized to what was wrong and sinful. His conscience was still very much sensitive to evil. In fact, he was "oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked" and he "tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds." And evidently Lot had not remained silent about the sin he witnessed for the men of Sodom accused him saying, "This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge" (Genesis 19:9). If Lot "keeps acting as a judge" that tells us that there were numerous occasions when he boldly spoke up to address and condemn their lawless deeds.

What about us brethren? Have we grown too accustomed to the filthy conduct and lawless deeds of the world around us that it no longer distresses and torments us like it once did? Do we still "abhor what is evil" and "cling to what is good" (Romans 12:9)? Are we "blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world" (Philippians 2:15), or have we ourselves conformed to this world (Romans 12:2) where we are no longer salt or lights (Matt. 5:13-16)? Do we speak up boldly and reprove sin like Lot or remain silent? The apostle Paul instructs saints: "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Ephesians 5:11). Brethren, are we ashamed of Jesus Christ and His words in this adulterous and sinful generation (Mark 8:38), and therefore we keep to ourselves instead of confessing Him before men (Matt. 10:32-33)? As we continue to also live in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, let us hear and heed the Lord's message to Paul. "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you" (Acts 19:9-10). Let us strive to live godly in an ungodly world, all the while calling sinful men to repentance and salvation in Christ Jesus.