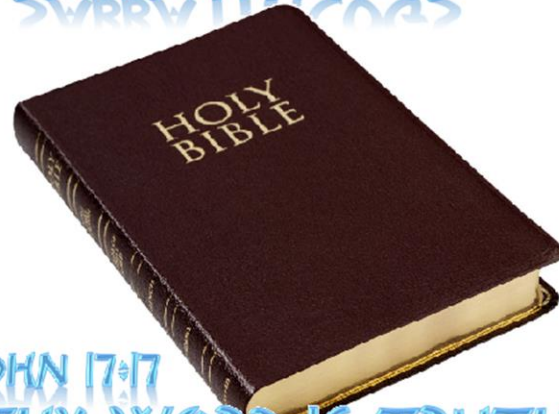
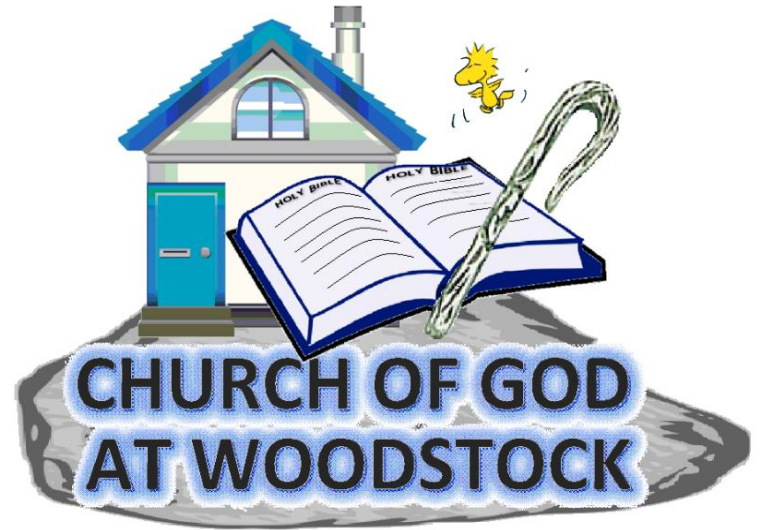


# WELCOME! SABBATH GREETINGS

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JOHN 17:17  
THY WORD IS TRUTH



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EPH 6:17 AND TAKE...THE SWORD OF THE  
SPIRIT WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD





# *Little Foxes That Spoil The Vine PART THREE*



# Little Foxes

Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil  
the vines: for our vines *have* tender grapes.

Song of Solomon 2:15



# Intro:

- God often uses His creatures to teach us lessons:

*Isa. 1:3; Psa. 32:9; Job 12:7*

- Solomon uses “little foxes”:

*Song of Solomon 2:15*

- “little foxes” can spoil our spiritual fruit:

*ref: John. 15:1-8; Gal. 5:22-23; 5:7; 6:1*



# Little Foxes

## Sloth





# Little Foxes: Sloth

**SLOTH**, *noun*

1. Slowness; tardiness I abhor this dilatory *sloth* and tricks of Rome.
2. Disinclination to action or labor; sluggishness; laziness; idleness. They change their course to pleasure, ease and *sloth sloth* like rust, consumes faster than labor wears.
3. An animal, so called from the remarkable slowness of his motions. There are two species of this animal; the ai or three toed *sloth* and the unau or two toed sloth; both found in South America. It is said that its greatest speed seldom exceeds three yard an hour. it feeds on vegetables and ruminates.

**SLOTH**, *verb intransitive* To be idle. [Not in use.]

- 1
  - a : disinclination to action or labor : **INDOLENCE**
  - b : spiritual apathy and inactivity <the deadly sin of *sloth*>

# Little Foxes: Sloth



**Proverbs 6:6-11** Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, *and* gathereth her food in the harvest. How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? *Yet* a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.



# Little Foxes: Sloth

**Proverbs 19:15** Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger.

**Proverbs 18:9** He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.

**Proverbs 21:25-26** The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour. He coveteth greedily all the day long: but the righteous giveth and spareth not.

**Proverbs 13:4** The soul of the sluggard desireth, and *hath* nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.<sup>8</sup>





# Little Foxes: Sloth

**Proverbs 26:13-16** The slothful *man* saith, *There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets.* As the door turneth upon his hinges, so *doth* the slothful upon his bed. The slothful hideth his hand in *his* bosom; it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth. The sluggard *is* wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.

# Little Foxes: Sloth

**Proverbs 10:26** As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so *is* the sluggard to them that send him.

**Proverbs 12:24** The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute.

**Proverbs 20:4** The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; *therefore* shall he beg in harvest, and *have* nothing



# Little Foxes: Sloth



**Ecclesiastes 10:18** By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through.

**Proverbs 24:30-34** I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, *and* nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. Then I saw, *and* considered *it* well: **I looked upon *it*, *and* received instruction.** Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come *as* one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.



# Little Foxes: Sloth





# Little Foxes: Sloth





# *Little Foxes: Sloth*





# Little Foxes: Sloth



**2 Thessalonians 3:6-9** Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us. For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; **but wrought with labour and travail night and day**, that we might not be chargeable to any of you: Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.<sup>15</sup>



# *Little Foxes: Sloth*

**2 Thessalonians 3:10-12** For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, **that if any would not work, neither should he eat.** For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, **working not at all, but are busybodies.** Now them that are such **we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.**



# *Little Foxes: Sloth*

Many times the Scriptures exhort us to be a diligent people. For example:

**Hebrews 6:11-12** And we desire that **every one of you do shew the same diligence** to the full assurance of hope unto the end: **That ye be not slothful**, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.





# Little Foxes: Sloth



- **Diligence against sins and for the things of God is our calling: 2 Peter 1:6-11** And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.



# Little Foxes: Sloth

Kill the Sloth-fox

Be Truthful

Act on the Info

Refuse to give up

Find peace

**Revelation 3:15-16** I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.







# Little Foxes

Apathy



# *Little Foxes: Spiritual Apathy*

## **4 warning signs**

- 1. Taking a partner for granted**
- 2. Spending less and less time together**
- 3. Avoiding conflict**
- 4. Loss of physical contact**



# *Little Foxes: Spiritual Apathy*

2 Chronicles 25:2 KJV And he (Amaziah) did *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD, **but not with a perfect heart.**

2 Chronicles 25:2 NKJV And he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, **but not with a loyal heart.**

2 Chronicles 25:2 NASB He did right in the sight of the LORD, **yet not with a whole heart.**

2 Chronicles 25:2 MSG He lived well before GOD, doing the right thing for the most part. **But he wasn't wholeheartedly devoted to God.**



# *Little Foxes: Spiritual Apathy*

**Luke 21:34-36**—Caused by a ‘party’ spirit, drunkenness, and the cares of life. It is like a snare that takes men by surprise. The remedy is a constant state of watchfulness in the Spirit.

**Matthew 24:12**—Because of the high content of sin, love for God becomes cold.

**1 Timothy 3:1-5**—It takes place because of a gradual desensitization encouraged by a self-centered attitude.

**Amos 6:1**—At ease in Zion because of carnal security (v. 1), presumptuous unbelief (v. 2-3), sensual indulgence (v. 4-6), and selfish indifference (v. 6).

**Matthew 22:12**—It causes men to ignore the instructions for preparations for the wedding feast.



# *Little Foxes: Spiritual Apathy*

**Hebrews 2:1-3**—It is not a deliberate turning away but an allowance of various pressures to remove one from service. Pressures such as career, financial, health, church, social, and family responsibilities catch up with us.

**Matthew 25:1-13**—Apathy causes negligence to buy the necessary fuel for the lamp that is needed for the bridegroom's appearance.

**Hebrews 4:1-2**—A loss of fear causes spiritual apathy to settle in.

**1 Corinthians 3:1-2**—Apathy stifles spiritual growth and maturity.

**Hebrews 5:11**—Apathy causes a spiritual sluggishness to develop.

**Luke 18:9-14**—It causes self-deception about the true spiritual condition.

**2 Timothy 4:3-4**—It causes us not to want to hear sound teaching and doctrine.



# *Little Foxes: Spiritual Apathy*

**Exodus 16:4-5** Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate **every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.** And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare *that* which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.

# *Little Foxes: Spiritual Apathy*

**Exodus 16:16-21** This *is* the thing which the LORD hath commanded, Gather of it every man according to his eating, an omer for every man, *according to* the number of your persons; take ye every man for *them* which *are* in his tents. And the children of Israel did so, and gathered, some more, some less. And when they did mete *it* with an omer, he that gathered much had nothing over, and he that gathered little had no lack; they gathered every man according to his eating. And Moses said, **Let no man leave of it till the morning.** Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto Moses; but some of them left of it until the morning, and it bred worms, and stank: and Moses was wroth with them. **And they gathered it every morning, every man** according to his eating: and when the sun waxed hot, it melted.



# *Little Foxes: Spiritual Apathy*

**Exodus 16:22-26** And it came to pass, *that* on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for one *man*: and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. And he said unto them, This *is that* which the LORD hath said, To morrow *is* the rest of the holy sabbath unto the LORD: bake *that* which ye will bake *to day*, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning. And they laid it up till the morning, as Moses bade: and it did not stink, neither was there any worm therein. And Moses said, Eat that to day; for to day *is* a sabbath unto the LORD: to day ye shall not find it in the field. Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, *which is* the sabbath, in it there shall be none.

# *Little Foxes: Spiritual Apathy*

**Psalm 68:19** Blessed *be* the Lord, who **daily** loadeth us *with benefits*, even the God of our salvation. Selah.

**Luke 9:23** And he said to *them* all, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross **daily**, and follow me.

**Acts 17:11** These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures **daily**, whether those things were so.

**Acts 5:42** And **daily** in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

**Psalm 61:8** So will I sing praise unto thy name for ever, that I may **daily** perform my vows.



# *Little Foxes: Spiritual Apathy*

**Hebrews 3:13** But exhort one another **daily**, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

**2 Corinthians 11:28** Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me **daily**, the care of all the churches.

**Hebrews 13:15** By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God **continually**, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.

**Hebrews 3:12-15** Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another **daily**, while it is called **To day**; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; While it is said, **To day** if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.



# *Little Foxes: Spiritual Apathy & Sloth*

- How do we deal with “*little foxes*” ?
- Can only be done with honest self-examination.

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?



## TWO-FUR



# Little Foxes That Spoil The Vine

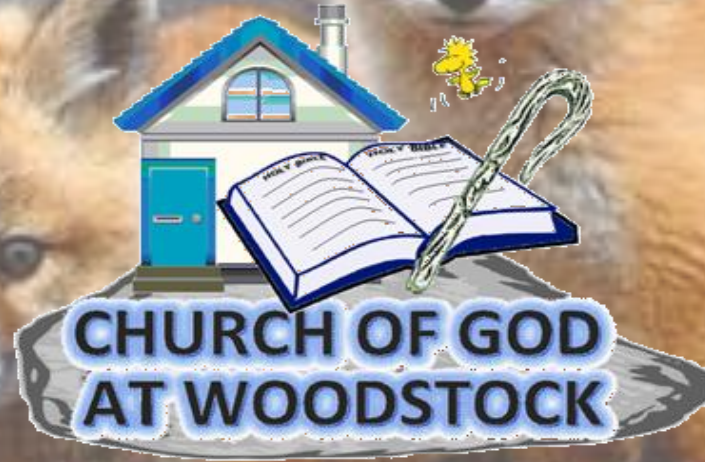
## Part Three

# THANK YOU!

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