

GOODNEWS LETTER

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SENSATIONAL FEELINGS

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places," Ephesians 6:12.

Any part of the body may respond to feelings and sensations.

What we **see, hear, taste, smell** and **touch** - enables the body to perceive the world and move with a **sense** of understanding that produces a **balanced** life, hopefully.

We have all felt the **sensation** of an unexpected change in body temperature when the sprinklers kicked on while walking on some lawn. As the cool water touches the warm body, there is an instant change - from hot to very cool. It causes us to shrink up and run for cover, like we've been hurt, almost.

There are many such **sensations** that just happen. However, a vast majority live for **sensations**, looking for a higher pursuit and greater joy from life. They seek an instant "**rush**" to the body.

This is true, especially for those living in the last two generations. They buy tickets to "**see**" and "**hear**" things that are out of the ordinary which gives them a feeling of excitement; even if it's fake - like WWF Wrestling on TV.

Some never get enough. While, just getting on an airplane gives me a '**rushing sensation**,' that's not good enough for others! They have a need to jump out of perfectly good airplane in order to get a higher rush in life.

But, mankind has always been open to change; looking for it, in most cases, in all the wrong places. But, after all, they deserve it, don't they?

And so, with a dull perception of the world, people desire something to remove their boredom. They want to be provided with more stimuli. In their pursuit of the **THRILL**, they turn to '**substitute sensations**.' To these seekers, the faster the rush, the better.

Drugs are snorted and alcoholic beverages are consumed by people looking for the quick fix in life. Others smoke to get the rush; even, banned substances. And, people become fanatics, using sporting events to substitute their failed desire to be great. Man will drive a long distance and pay lots of money for excitement such as these.

Substitute Sensational Feelings are found at the Tattoo Parlor and joints where piercings attempt to change the looks of the body that was "**created-in-image-of-God.**" Now really, do you think any of these **substitutes** will be in the **New Jerusalem?**

I've never ridden a "**Mechanical Bull**" but I can see where some people might get a rush while straddling the **metal critter**. It may not be the real thing, but you can get the juices flowing and walk away without breaking a couple bones.

In the area of worship, man fares no better. He seeks much more excitement than reading the Bible and Preaching its message. Man likes loud music with a worship leader, now.

But, the word still stands. John 4:23 clearly states to **worship the LORD in Spirit and truth**. Nevertheless, **Substitute Sensations** abound in services that are offered to the LORD. Churches are doing all kinds of things through some **substitute** worship service. Change is, and has been, a comin'.

There's the metal and plastic **Idol Statutes** that people pray through, and to, of course. And, take a look at the modern congregations that work through their **Idol of Activity**. The message now is, **not "Just as I am,"** but 'Go and do.' In these kinds of congregations, preachers call for members to jump higher and run faster and certainly, they promise, God will abundantly bless all.

In this day and age of the **Substitute Church**, serving the Lord is like a man riding a mechanical bull or, think of a man jumping on a **dead horse**, "**beating it for it's worth,**" expecting to get to a place that God will bless him. To these, everything that is done is acceptable service to God.

Riding and beating a dead horse may instill a sense of the real thing, but it's no different than the Mechanical Bull. The ride produces the sure **sensational feeling**; but it'll get you nowhere, **spiritually**. Not now, or when you stand before the Lord. After a long ride of **Sensational Feelings**, in and through substitute services, you'll be in the same place you were before.

The desire for **Sensational Feelings** is not new! It's like the Garden of Eden, all over again. Man is always an easy target for Satan's lie of a different, **not-yet-experienced, sensation**. Rather, than enjoy life as God created, Satan always comes around to **beguile** you by "lifting you up" - the meaning of 'beguile.' "If it feels good, (as is said) do it." Satan will add, "Do it and it'll feel good."

What occurred in the Garden of Eden, reoccurs everyday in the garden of one's life. After (**hearing**) Satan's lie that man could be like God, all of Eve's senses moved harmoniously (**in balance**) toward the forbidden fruit. "**The woman saw (sight) that the tree was good for food (smell?) ... she took (touched) from its fruit and ate**" (**taste**), Genesis 3:6.

Thus, what was supposed to make Adam and Eve wise became the separating factor, causing their death. This death is spiritual and it is eternal and falls upon every person in the world "for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Ro 3:23). Until one trusts and relies on Jesus Christ, he is dead in his trespasses and sins.

Therefore, it still true, man cannot handle the truth; not as long as he is in this body that seeks sensational feelings. Man needs a new birth to reconcile him back to God. For Adam and Eve, it wasn't the tree of knowledge of good and evil that brought their downfall, but their disobedience to God's command "You shall not eat from it or touch it, lest you die" (Gen. 3:3). The sin of disbelief will always cause us to come up short.

What's interesting here is that, before the Fall, Adam's senses were perfect, in every detail. After the Fall, and no longer alive to God, man has become "an enemy of God" "dead in trespasses and sins" (Rom 5:6-10). Without the leadership of the Almighty, man has only his senses to guide him - and, Satan works very well through man's body. He'll have you jumping hoops and, in the name of Jesus.

All of us must take notice, here. Satan is sure to come to our garden party and offer a change that will, no doubt, sound absolutely, positively and unequivocally wonderful. We must stand firm. We can defeat his attempts by quoting **Ephesians 6:12**; for indeed, all of us need to be clothed upon, just as Adam and Eve were. Scripture, like Jesus spoke in Matthew Four will always have us on safe ground. But, we have to know what is written and, we must stand against the fraudulent and cunning methods of Satan - something that Adam and Eve did not do; nor, the majority of worshippers in the world, today.

Satan will show up and attempt to change the meaning of Scripture; even adding to it. "Upon this rock I will build my church" (Mt 16:18) becomes, 'As long as you believe in God, that's all that matters.' What Jesus about His church, "I will be with you until the end of the age," (Mt 28:20) becomes, 'Since the church went into apostasy, start your own group.' Satan is a liar and sinned from the beginning. "The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil," I John 3:8.

Church History declares that, before 1530, there were but two churches with a lineage back to Jerusalem - the place and the beginning of the church. The Baptist did; without ever changing doctrine. And, the Catholics, with ever changing doctrine.

In the finality of it all, what Satan said to Eve remains the test, doesn't it? "You'll not die, but you'll become as God, knowing good from evil." Today, Satan says, "You're like the others and even like God, knowing good from evil." While, the

lie remains the same, God is greater than the lie. "Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you," James 4:7.