***Grace for Lot’s
1/17/2016***

Genesis 19:1-17 The two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed himself with his face to the earth 2 and said, "My lords, please turn aside to your servant's house and spend the night and wash your feet. Then you may rise up early and go on your way." They said, "No; we will spend the night in the town square." 3 But he pressed them strongly; so they turned aside to him and entered his house. And he made them a feast and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.4 But before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young and old, all the people to the last man, surrounded the house. 5 And they called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, that we may know them." 6 Lot went out to the men at the entrance, shut the door after him, 7 and said, "I beg you, my brothers, do not act so wickedly. 8 Behold, I have two daughters who have not known any man. Let me bring them out to you, and do to them as you please. Only do nothing to these men, for they have come under the shelter of my roof." 9 But they said, "Stand back!" And they said, "This fellow came to sojourn, and he has become the judge! Now we will deal worse with you than with them." Then they pressed hard against the man Lot, and drew near to break the door down. 10 But the men reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them and shut the door. 11 And they struck with blindness the men who were at the entrance of the house, both small and great, so that they wore themselves out groping for the door.12 Then the men said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Sons-in-law, sons, daughters, or anyone you have in the city, bring them out of the place. 13 For we are about to destroy this place, because the outcry against its people has become great before the Lord, and the Lord has sent us to destroy it." 14 So Lot went out and said to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, "Up! Get out of this place, for the Lord is about to destroy the city." But he seemed to his sons-in-law to be jesting.15 As morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be swept away in the punishment of the city." 16 But he lingered. So the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the Lord being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. 17 And as they brought them out, one said, "Escape for your life. Do not look back or stop anywhere in the valley. Escape to the hills, lest you be swept away."

Lot’s downfall was not primarily because of the sinful/secular society of Sodom, but because of his own sinful heart…he loved the ‘present world’ & decided to conform to it.

* Lot knows Sodom is vile and wicked but he moved there, perhaps thinking it is not going to affect me, but to PRIMARILY pursue the same goals as the lost people around him. *Gen 19:1-3,* *Mt 6:31-33**,* *1 Tim. 6:9**-10*

He achieved his material, social, & political ambitions by having wrong priorities & compromising spiritually.

* His morals & convictions changed to adapt to the situation & society.
	+ What was formerly wrong was now O.K. to him. *Gen 19:4-8, 30-32*
* Lot’s response was possibly to protect his status, but definitely was a sick, and wrong response and was totally against reason, nature, & love.
	+ Sin does not operate on logical, rational, or loving principles.
* So, worldly & weak in his convictions, then when he speaks out and “gets religion” nobody believes him. *Gen 19:9-14*
	+ It is a strange blend of courage and compromise, with little, or no fruit that is evident in his life.

With all his weakness and faults, the Word proclaims that Lot was righteous. *2 Pet 2:7-8,* *Tit 3:5**,* *I Jn 2:1*

* Lot’s eternal security & ours, rests not on our “performance” but on the finished work of Christ & that can’t be lost.

We must guard against our eternal security becoming a source of laziness or an incentive to sin. *1 Cor 3:15**, Gal 6:8,* *Rom 6:1**;**1 Pet 2:16*

* God spared us from judgment but not from the painful consequences of a compromising life of conformity to the evil world.
	+ Lot tried to have it all but in end he lost everything - possessions, wife, city, dignity & the greatest loss was eternal rewards.
		- *Pursuit of anything other than Jesus for our joy can only end in disappointment.*

We are more like Lot than we care to admit.

* Being influenced by the world more than being an influence on world.
	+ We often willingly put ourselves in questionable and precarious situations.
* Sometimes the Lord forcefully moves us toward His will and away from sin.
	+ Often we resist or become angry with those God uses to bring us out of sin. *Gen 19:15-17*

He does not call us to withdraw from the world, but this is a warning against becoming enmeshed in world.

* Lot’s downfall was not primarily because of sinful/secular society of Sodom, but because of his sinful heart…loved the ‘present world’ & decided to conform to it.

Don’t be one with the world but also don’t flee from it. *Rom 12:2,* *1 Pet 2:11-12**,* *Jn 17:15-1**8 W. H. Griffith Thomas*

* + *W. H. Griffith Thomas, “A ship in the water is perfectly right, but water in the ship would be perfectly wrong. The Christian in the world is right and necessary, but the world in the Christian is wrong and disastrous”.*
* Live in the world without becoming attached/conformed to it by being people of the Word.
	+ Pray for wisdom to know the times & places where going further into a situation is not brave or bold but stupid.
* Be an influencer in midst of our culture not by being conformed to it.
	+ The lost does not need someone just like them to show the way out but someone who is different, someone transformed by Gospel into image of Jesus Christ.