

**COUNTRY MUSIC,
A Cesspool of Filth
By Robert W. Reed**

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I started several sermons over the last 29 years in Luke chapter 16, verse 15, but I want to read this one verse just as a springboard to step into our message tonight. Our message is going to be titled "Country Music, a Cesspool of Filth," and I basically have three points. I'm going to speak to you briefly about "The History of Country Music," and then, number two, "The Danger of Country Music," and, number three, "The False Gospel of Country Music."

Now, you're going to be asking, "Why do you want to preach on this? No one in this church listens to country music." There are several reasons because many today believe that country music is an alternative to rock and rap and pop and other types of music, and I want you to see that it's not so that maybe we can be a help to others who believe that country music is okay. And it is still very popular. I'm going to show you in a moment the popularity of country music. You'd think that because of all the other music, country music would be fading by the wayside, but it is not fading away. It is growing in popularity, and I just want to say to you tonight, country music is of the devil. Whether 80 years ago or today, it is of the devil.

The Lord says here in verse 15 of Luke chapter 16:

"And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God."

Father, we thank You tonight for the great privilege You've given us again to assemble together. We ask tonight Your anointing and blessing upon the reading of Scripture. We pray, God, that You again meet with us in a very special way tonight, for it's in Jesus Christ's name we pray.

And you may be seated. Now, this will be number eleven in the music series that we started about three years ago. We've preached a number of different messages. We've dealt with sacred music, psalm singing; we've dealt with congregational singing, acapella singing, classical music, the Beatles, CCM, Southern Gospel, and also our last message I believe that we preached on was titled "Beethoven."

Now, Jesus says here in the latter part of verse 15, *"for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God."* Country music is an abomination in the sight of God in the fact that it is highly esteemed among the world, especially in America. I've got several verses we're going to consider tonight. I've got some quotes here from some of the artists

themselves, and also we're going to be considering just some things about country music — again, the history, the danger, and the false gospel.

I'm going to be reading verses 10 through verse 12 in Ephesians 5 to start with, and then we're going to drop down and read verse 19. Now, many today, even in the religious world, would ask us, "What's wrong with country music?" and that's the wrong question. We need to ask the question, "What is right with country music?" and, of course, when you study it out and consider it, you'll find that there's nothing right about it. I was raised in it, and I know a lot about country music as far as many years ago. I had to do some research on some current authors and artists, and I'll give you a list of just a few names here in a moment. But in Ephesians chapter 5, verse 10, the apostle Paul is saying to the church at Ephesus, ["Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord."](#)

Now, I want you to notice that we're to prove all things by the Word of God, and the Word of God says in verses 11 and 12, ["And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."](#) ¹²[For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret."](#) So we're to test everything by the Word of God. We're to have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness; we're to reprove them, that is, speak out against them. Verse 12 says it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. And then in verse 18 we're told to be filled with the Spirit of God, and verse 19 says, ["Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."](#) These are the types of songs that you and I are to sing. We're to sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.

The History of Country Music

Country music has been around nearly a hundred years in America, and it's very popular, as I said a moment ago, and I'm going to give you some stats on that in just a moment. Now, I've picked out a few names, and some of these names will carry you back 40 and 50 and 60 years, and then some of these names are recent. So I'm just going to give you a list of a few names, and these are just a few out of thousands that are involved in the country music industry. I'm going to give some quotes by just a few people and their music in just a few moments, but you've got people in the last 40, 50, 60 years like Tammy Wynette and Tanya Tucker, Roy Acuff, Lester Flatt, and Earl Scruggs — Some of these names you may have never heard of, but I'll get down to a few that you may have heard of — and Al Dexter, Earnest Tubb, Carl Perkins, Eddy Arnold, Gene Autry, Roy Rogers — Those names ring a bell, don't they? They were country music singers. Elvis Presley also sang country music as well as Gospel and rock. Tennessee Ernie Ford, Conway Twitty, Dale Anderson, George Jones — A lot of these were big stars when I was growing up — Mickey Gilley, Buck Owens, Porter Wagoner, Dolly Parton, Loretta Lynn, and Hank Williams.

Now, if I go on with this, you've got Hank Williams, Jr., today and also Hank Williams, III. You've got groups like Alabama, the Dixie Chicks, Sugarland, Toby Keith, Keith Urban, Taylor Swift, Charlie Daniels, Reba McEntire, Garth Brooks, Faith Hill, Clay Walker, Jeff Bridges, Brad Paisley, Billy Ray Cyrus, of course, Merle Haggard fits a little bit — I don't know if he's still alive, but he would fit back there a few years back — The Judds, George Strait, Trace Adkins, and Ricky Skaggs. And these are just a few of some of the artists we'll just say in the last 50, 60 years.

This is a quote by David Cloud, and I think he's quoting from a particular magazine. It says, *"Country music has hit the big time. It has become the most popular radio format in America reaching 77.3 million adults, almost 40 percent of the adult population every week. Since 1989 country record sales have nearly doubled from 921 million to over 1.758 billion."* That's absolutely amazing. Again, you'd think over the years as new music comes along — the rock and the pop and the rap and all the other stuff — some would fade out, but country music has been here to stay, and it is very popular. Some years ago I was on a mission trip in Monterrey, Mexico, walking through a market, and as we were walking through the market — there were three of us — they started playing "Sweet Home Alabama." I don't know whether they saw our car tag or they just loved the music, but it was in English and they speak Spanish, so maybe it was for our benefit. But wherever you go in the world, you can find country music that has been produced here in America.

Country music began in the southern states around the 1920s and has continually gained popularity ever since. I'm surprised that Yankees will even listen to country music because most of it's about the South and Dixie and things of that nature, so I'm surprised that people in other places even listen to it because sometimes some of the country music is critical of some of the other places around the country and other places in the world. The Grand Ole Opry, Nashville, Tennessee, has been the center of country music for many years.

Now, country music has many names. There are many different styles and artists and so forth. There's a blending together between country and western and hillbilly music, as it was called at one time. It's also called honky-tonk music, and it's got some other names. But, again, it's been around for a long time. And much of country and rock crosses the boundaries with each other. If you've ever listened to any in the past, you know that to be true.

Let me read just a couple of verses from Ephesians chapter 4, and I'm also going to give you chapter 2, verses 1, 2, and 3 if you're taking notes tonight, because this also deals with the sinful nature of man. Now, I want you to notice as we consider this tonight that country music is sinful; it's of the devil, and it appeals to the sinful Adamic nature in man. That's the reason that people like it. You cannot go eat or shop anymore without hearing country or rock and roll music. Just about anywhere you go, any restaurant, any shopping mall, anywhere you go you've got this filth going on. And thank God we don't watch movies, but any movies and even in some Christian

movies we find that they are filled with rock and roll and also country music. The Bible says in verses 17 through verse 19 of Ephesians chapter 4, “This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk” — Notice — “in the vanity of their mind.” Now, notice the description of a lost man or woman in verse 18, “Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: ¹⁹Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness” — that is, looseness — “to work all uncleanness with greediness.” They are past feeling; in other words, they are not responsive to the things of God, the Spirit of God, and the Word of God. We see a description of the lost man and the depraved human nature.

The Danger of Country Music

Turn with me to 1 Corinthians chapter 6. We're going to talk about, number two, “The Danger of Country Music.” It is not a safe alternative to other secular music as many people believe that it is. I've seen many professing Christians — and I use those two words together. Don't know whether they're saved or not — but I've seen many professing Christians who have been ruined through, yes, country music, not rock and roll, not rap, but country music. Two in particular was a preacher's son who was promoted to play this music, and he literally was ruined because of it. Another preacher friend of mine had a young man in his church who was very talented, and the family actually took him around the country to Nashville and different places like that, and it ruined the young boy. I ended up preaching to him in a rescue mission some years after that. So this music is very wicked, and it's destroyed many lives as you're going to see here as we get into this. Again, we're not to take this music lightly. It is not a safe alternative.

Now, I want you to understand that country music is far more than trains and trucks and tractors and mamas and dogs. It's far more than that. Years ago when I grew up around country music, the deception was, well, it speaks of patriotism; it speaks of country; it speaks of God — Oh, it does, and it speaks of faith and it speaks of work and it speaks of life and it speaks of pain and laughter and all these kinds of things. It deals with things in life, and you will find God and the Bible and faith and Jesus filtered all through. Even in country music today you'll find those things in it. But when you sit down, as I have done recently, and analyze the words that are in the songs, the lyrics, you understand a person's belief system. When I stand up and preach to you or we sing, we get an idea about what we believe, do we not? By listening to the words that come out of our mouth, we find out what is in the heart of an individual. So all you have to do is read the words of some of these songs to really know what is in the heart of the individual. And not only are the words important, you've got the beat and the rhythm. That's a factor that must be considered. You've got the movements, the crowds, the fans that follow them, and you've got the artists who have turned into idols. All of these things have to be taken into account.

So my point is that country music is very dangerous because it glorifies sin. Please understand that. There is carnality. There is worldliness, cheating, immorality, drunkenness, drugs, nudity, sodomy, covetousness, feminism, smut, jesting — all these things are in the lives and in the songs of country music and country artists. I'm going to give you some examples in just a moment.

People become addicted to country music as they do the rock or rap or anything else because there are unclean spirits that are associated with it. When we come to the issue of divorce alone in our country, country music is one of the major causes of divorce in the United States. Country music and divorce go hand-in-hand. And I'm not talking about just the new country music. You can go all the way back to Hank Williams and Tammy Wynette, Loretta Lynn — all of these. You go all the way back there, and they're singing about cheating and drinking — I mean, 50 and 60 and 70 years ago.

Now, I'm going to be reading here in 1 Corinthians chapter 6, and I want you to also take into account Psalm 119, verse 54. It says [“Thy statutes have been my songs...”](#) Now, what does that mean? What is the writer saying? Well, “my songs” are about truth and righteousness and holiness and God's commandments and God's Word, Amen? That's what the writer is saying. He's saying these are my songs. But what about the songs of the fools? Well, that's what we're talking about tonight, the songs of fools.

Notice with me as we come to verse 9 and verse 10. Verse 9 says, [“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived...”](#) Now, notice that some of the things we're going to read here make up country music. The Bible says here, [“Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, ¹⁰Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”](#) As we look into the godless lives of country music stars and then we read the words of their songs and we listen to the beat of their music, we see that many of them will not get into the Kingdom of God because many of them are adulterers and fornicators and drunks and so forth, and God says they shall not enter into the Kingdom of God.

Now, verse 11 says, [“And such were some of you...”](#) You know, we came out of the world, and we may have fit into some things in these categories at one time, but not anymore. Verse 11 says, [“And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”](#) The apostle Paul is saying, “Here's the way you were; now this is the way you are.” So there's a change through repentance and faith. And then verse 18 says, [“Flee fornication.”](#) Is this not what country music glorifies? Second Corinthians 6:17 says, [“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate.”](#) Well, most of country music, in much of the case, glorifies fornication. Notice what God's Word says in

verses 18 through 20: “Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. ¹⁹What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? ²⁰For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”

Turn to James chapter 4. We're going to read in verse 4 from this particular chapter. I'm just laying a foundation for what are the dangers of country music. I've got a couple of quotes here and I've got one list here. I'm not going to read all this off to you, but this was April 20th, 2008, and it has to do with beer and whiskey songs. This list is actually talking about songs that are titled dealing with beer and dealing with whiskey. Some of the songs are: "Whiskey Won the Battle," "Whiskey Lullaby," "Whiskey Under the Bridge," "Whiskey Do My Talkin'," "Tennessee Whiskey," "Drinkin' Dark Whiskey," "Whiskey Trip," "There's A Place In The Whiskey," Hank Williams, Jr., "Whiskey Bent And Hell Bound," "Whiskey Chasin'," and this thing goes on and on. And then it talks about beer runs, longneck bottles, pop a top and taking off this pain. And if I would mention the names of some of these artists, you would at least recognize some of them because you probably know people who listen to some of this.

And then another article that I picked up in my study for this is written July 8th, 2011, and it says, “*The Boot on-line magazine voted on the top twenty drinking songs. This gives a crystal-clear look at the character of country music and how drinking is glorified.*” Now, listen to this. Here's just a few of them. One is "Whiskey River" by Willie Nelson, 1973, and here's some of the lyrics: “Whiskey River take my mind; Don't let her mem'ry torture me; Whiskey River don't run dry; You're all I've got, take care of me.” Another one by Garth Brooks, 1990, "Friends in Low Places." I happened to hear this song a couple of years ago in a store here in town, and I just stopped and listened to a few words of that. But here's some of the lyrics: “I've got friends in low places where the whiskey drowns and the beer chases my blues away and I'll be okay.” Here's another, 1984, “All My Rowdy Friends” by Hank Williams, Jr: “Do you want a drink? Hey, do you want to party? We cooked the pig in the ground, got some beer on ice, and all my rowdy friends are coming over tonight.”

Here's another one by George Jones and Merle Haggard and Willie Nelson, 1970, titled, "I Gotta Get Drunk," and some of the lyrics are: “There's a lot of doctors tell me that I'd better start slowing it down, but there's more old drunks than there are old doctors, so I guess we better have another round.” And this thing goes on and on, and it's a glorification of drinking and immorality, fornication, and adultery. That's why I titled this second point "The Dangers of Country Music." This is what it's all about. Oh, yeah, they throw mama in there and they throw getting out of prison in there and my pickup truck and, you know, they throw a little Bible in there and a little Jesus in there from time to time, but the bottom line is it glorifies sin, and James 3, verses 9 and 10, say that blessings and cursings should not come out of the same mouth.

Well, notice as we come to James chapter 4. James 4:4 says, “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.” You cannot have it both ways. It's either one or the other. We're either a friend of God or we're an enemy of God. That's the bottom line. I believe that many artists have sold their soul to the devil in order to get fame and fortune, and not only that, we're going to see that many of the country music stars even promote sodomy and feminism. Loretta Lynn and Reba McEntire both spoke for feminists in the 1960s and '70s many years ago. So we're talking about feminism, sodomy, adultery, drinking, drugs — all of these things — and this is what country music is all about.

I've mentioned this to you before in other sermons. I grew up in eastern Tennessee, and Hee Haw was watched in our home religiously every week, and I'm going to say something about Hee Haw in just a moment. But most Friday and Saturday nights I was at a country music jamboree. My dad played in a band. My brother also played in a band at that time. So we were at these places on a regular basis, and we saw many of the music stars. I mean, some of these places would bring in people from Nashville and other places around the country. They'd have a lot of locals sing, and then they'd have one star to show up because that is what drew the crowds. Several hundred people would come out. So we grew up around this. I'm talking about on a weekly basis. It was in our home. This is what we heard; this is what we saw. So I saw firsthand the immorality, the drunkenness, the wickedness and all of this that's associated with country music. And I remember my dad taking me to at least two drive-in movies. The first one was *Old Yeller*; the second one was *The Life Story of Hank Williams*. That was the second movie that I ever saw — and God help us. But, anyway, that's just the life that we grew up in at that time.

Now, again, you say, “What is the problem with country music?” Well, the biggest problem is you can hear and understand the words. You don't need any backward masking and you don't need a philosopher to sit down and try to figure out what the words mean. I mean, they're still trying to figure out what “Stairway to Heaven” by Led Zeppelin means. People are still trying to figure that thing out. But some of the country music is very easy to figure out, very plain and very simple, and I'll read some words to you in just a moment. The problem with the young people today and the young people's music is the old people and the old people's music. That is the problem. Many of our heroes in our society are music artists, and I'm telling you, country music is not just about life and things country.

Now, notice as we come here to Philippians chapter 4, reading from verse 8. Many of you have put this to memory. Pay attention to this now. It says here in verse 8, “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” You cannot think

on these things and listen to country music. You cannot think on these things and listen to any secular music. It will not work. You cannot mix the two together.

The False Gospel of Country Music

Now, turn with me, please, to Titus chapter 2 reading from verse 11. The third and last point is "The False Gospel of Country Music." We're going to spend the most time on this. You say, "What in the world are you talking about?" I'm talking about the honky-tonk gospel that is presented in country music. And, by the way, I preached a message here a year or two ago titled "Southern Gospel Music." There's little difference between Southern Gospel music and country music. The difference is the words. And this is why the same people can go out to the shows and the jamborees and listen to the country music on Saturday night and then go to church on Sunday morning where the Southern Gospel music is played and feel right at home in either place. Now, listen to me. Many professing Christians have the same religion and the same gospel as the country music stars, and I want you to see that it's not the gospel in the Word of God. Many have the same gospel — a little Jesus and a whole lot of world. That's exactly what it's all about. If you're taking notes tonight, write down Ecclesiastes 7:5. It talks about the songs of fools.

Let me go ahead and just take at least two different examples. I've got several here. Let me take at least two. George Strait in his 2005 album *Somewhere Down in Texas* has a song in it that's titled, "You'll Be There." He speaks of a way of getting into Heaven apart from being born again, asking someone up there to put a good word in for him. Now, you and I know that nobody up there can put a good word in for you. You must be born again, washed in the blood of Jesus Christ through repentance and faith. This song by George Strait is now sung on many Christian radio stations. I'm telling you, that's a false gospel. A lot of things are blended together. There's no separation. And Strait's other songs on this album glorify sexual immorality and mix Jesus together with a little world, a little drinking, a little fornicating, a little adultery, and a little drugs — just mixing all this together. We don't find that in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We don't find that at all.

I mentioned a moment ago that I grew up watching Hee Haw. I didn't know any better. I wasn't saved. Folks in the house weren't saved, so we grew up with these kinds of things. It was a godless weekly TV program. We didn't know that then. We thought it was nice; we thought it was funny; we thought it was very entertaining. And toward the end of every weekly program, guess what they did? All the people gathered around and they sang a good old Gospel hymn. Now, if you've ever watched Hee Haw, you will remember that there are half-naked women in it, I mean, probably three-quarters naked, maybe 90 percent naked and usually sitting or laying in suggestive positions. There are filthy jokes in Hee Haw and men and women always flirting.

Now, I'm going to give you a quote from another author. Listen to this carefully. He said, *"Reprobate Playboy magazine founder Hugh Hefner even made guest appearances on the show."* I don't ever remember that. I wouldn't have known him anyway. He said, *"The producers of Hee Haw were godless heathens who exploited Christianity to boost their ratings and corrupted society. To no surprise, some of the women who posed on Hee Haw have been featured in Playboy magazine."* All that was blended together. We didn't know that. See, we grew up as pagans and heathens. We just thought it was entertainment. That's what's wrong with the world today.

Now, I'm going to give you a couple other verses to go with this because we're going to be talking about the grace of God. Jude 3 talks about ungodly men turning the grace of God into lasciviousness, that is, looseness. And then in 1 John 2:4 — Listen to this — it says, *"He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."* I didn't say that. God, through the Holy Spirit, said that. If any man says he knows Jesus Christ and keepeth not His commandments, he is a liar, and the truth is not in him. Now, we didn't make that up. We probably never would have put that in the Bible, but God said it, so those who claim to know Jesus Christ and keep not His commandments, trying to walk and follow Him, they are liars and the truth of God is not in them, the Holy Spirit is not in them. Now, that's important.

I'm going to be reading from verse 11 in Titus chapter 2. I want you to see that the grace of God by which we're saved teaches us about holiness and separation. But let me just say this before I read. I know of many who go to Branson, Missouri. I've never been there, but I've been to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, many times. These are where a lot of those country music shows are. If you ever go through any of these cities, you'll see the advertisements on the buildings and all these kinds of things; and people go there and listen to this garbage, and then many of them will go into their church the next day and hear a very similar beat and rhythm except a lot of Jesus thrown into it. We've seen this and we know Christians who have recommended to us even since we've lived here, "You need to go to this show in Branson. You need to go to this one here in Pigeon Forge. These are the places you need to go. Great entertainment." Somebody gave us a video one time of one of these shows, and it was just as wicked as it could be — sinful.

Verse 11 of Titus chapter 2 says, *"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men."* Isn't that wonderful? Aren't you glad for the grace of God? But the rest of the chapter goes on to say, ¹²*"Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; ¹³Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; ¹⁴Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. ¹⁵These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee."* The same grace that saves us will teach us about holiness and separation; can I get an Amen?

Turn to Romans chapter 6. I'm going to be reading here, and I'm also going to give you a few other verses. One is 2 Timothy 3:5, speaking of the last days, and it says, *"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof"* — How many of you know what the last words of that verse says? — *"from such turn away."* There are many who will have a form of godliness but they'll deny the power thereof. The verse says, *"from such turn away."* Ezekiel 22 and verse 26 says that Israel, God's people, put no difference between the holy and the profane, and in verse 30, God said He was looking for a man to stand in the gap and could not find one. In 1 Kings 18 and verse 21, when Israel was in apostasy, Elijah came to them and he said, *"How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word."* These were not a people that said they didn't believe anymore in Jehovah God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They believed in God, but they also had a mixture of Baal worship. They blended the two together. And this is why I say that country music is preaching a false gospel.

Dolly Parton said in an interview, *"Everybody thinks of God as a different thing. To me, God is that greater, higher energy, that greater, wiser wisdom. It is that thing in us that we all have to draw from. I've always trusted in God and trusted myself, which to me are intertwined. I'm a creative person, and what gifts I have come from the divine place that I try to tap into. So who have I got to be afraid of?"* Let me tell you something tonight. God is not a "thing" in all of us. God is a Person Who is only in those who have been born again and washed in the blood of Jesus Christ and repented of sin. This sounds like Oprah's gospel.

Let me read in Romans chapter 6 because this is going to tie in very well. I'll ask you to read the entire chapter later this week and consider the context, but verse 17 says, *"But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have"* — what's the next word? — *"obeyed..."* Obeying the Gospel is mentioned several times. It's mentioned in Hebrews; it's mentioned in the book of Acts; it's mentioned in Romans 1, Romans chapter 16 and other places. A person cannot be saved unless they obey the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Verse 17 goes on to say, *"but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you,"* verse 18, *"Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."* Now, the chapter says a whole lot more than that. I just wanted to read those two verses. Many of the country music stars say they got saved, but they still play their wicked music of the past and make money off of it, and many of them go into bars and places and play music, and they just add a little Jesus and a little Bible occasionally to soothe the conscience of the supposed Christians that would be listening to them. Many of the country music artists, especially 20, 30, 40, and 50 years ago, grew up in church and know the language of Christianity — many of them do — but they're not saved. I'm telling you, they're not saved.

Now, I'm going to be reading in Exodus chapter 32, and that's where we're going to close tonight. But before I read in our last passage this evening, I want to go through a list of things

with you, and I want you to think about this. One singer in a song titled "Old Enough to Know Better" says, "If you don't mind, I guess I'll stay here and drink. I'm old enough to know better, but I'm still too young to care." Now, I just want you to listen to some of the words in some of these songs — and, again, it's about drinking; it's about rebellion and those kinds of things. You see, if you want to know what somebody believes, listen to their words; look at their music and their lifestyle and you can find out. Let's go all the way back to the '40s and early '50s with Hank Williams, Sr. He died January 1st, 1953. He even wrote a song that Christians sing today, "I Saw the Light." Many Christians sing that today, and some of them sing it in honor of him. He died in the back seat of his car on the way to Ohio to perform. Alcohol, morphine, and pain drugs were a part of his life even the night he died. Divorce. He was fired at The Grand Ole Opry due to frequent drunkenness. He wrote a song titled, "Ramblin' Man." I heard it many times years ago. And when I think of a rambling man, I think of Cain in Genesis chapter 4. Cain was a rambling man. He went out from the presence of God. And in the older songs especially, they had to put God in this thing. Here's what he said in this song. You've got to remember that he and his wife separated and all these kinds of things. He said that he's a ramblin' man. He'd hear the sound of that train and wanted to leave. Didn't stay at home. In the song he said, "I'm a ramblin' man; That's the way the Lord made me; God meant this for me, and when I die, God called home a ramblin' man." Now, that's a lie. God didn't make anybody a rambling man. That's a lie of the devil, and a rambling man is not going to be called home to Heaven because he's in rebellion against God.

Hank Williams, Jr., his son, gives you his belief system in his ungodly music. I don't suggest you do this. I did this for the research, but I don't suggest this. Who wants to read about whiskey and drinking and stuff like that? But that's what his music speaks of — whiskey and smoking and fornication and cursing and speaks of being hell bound. And in one song he says, "If heaven ain't a lot like Dixie, I don't wanna go; If heaven ain't a lot like Dixie, I'd just as soon stay home; I was one of the chosen few to be born in Alabam; I'm just alike my daddy's son; I'm proud of who I am; I went through a lot of good women," etc., etc., etc. Well, I want to tell you something, Hank. Heaven is nothing like Dixie. It doesn't even resemble it in any way, and the chances are he will not have to worry about going to Heaven if he continues in this kind of life. He's gone through at least four divorces, maybe five.

Then Hank Williams, III, a country punk rock singer. His life is completely filled with drugs and alcohol and divorce also. Now, think about the legacy, the legacy of over a half a century of Hank Williams, Sr. — divorce, drugs, alcohol, rebellion — and it's intensified with Hank Williams, Jr. — more divorce, more drugs, and more rebellion. Then you come to the grandson. He has a filthy mouth, a wicked heart, and ungodly music with much cursing in his performances. You see, the legacy has been handed down over a half century — divorce, alcohol, drugs and immorality

— and it just intensified from one generation to the next. Don't we see something like that in the Bible that tells us that's the way it's going to be?

A group called The Kendalls sing a song that says "Heaven's Just a Sin Away," speaking of immorality. George Jones is considered the father of country music. He also recorded Gospel songs. Here they are: 1959, "Country Church Times"; "Homecoming in Heaven," 1962; "We Have to Sing About Jesus," 1972; "The Gospel Way," 1974; "The Gospel Collection," 2003. Then he's got a song titled "Honky-tonk Myself to Death"; "Biggest Hits," Tammy Wynette and George Jones; "God's Gonna Get You for That," 1975 — just a wicked song, a hellish song. Do you see the reason I call this third point "The False Gospel of Country Music"? Do you see what they're doing? They're blending everything together. They're blending the world and Christianity together, and I'm saying that's not true Christianity.

Tammy Wynette sang a song years ago, "Stand By Your Man." That was in 1968. She went through five husbands in her lifetime. She abandoned her second husband to run off with country singer George Jones. I'm quoting now: *"He was a drunkard. Tammy also had a well-publicized relationship with actor Burt Reynolds in the 1970s. Her fourth marriage lasted only six weeks. George Jones himself has gone through four wives."* I guess that song should have been titled "Stand By Your Men." Wicked stuff. Is this what we want our children to listen to? Is this what we want to influence us?

Rodney Atkins sings a song titled "15 Minutes." He boasts of sin, and he says, "I gave up smoking, women, and drinking last night, and it was the worst fifteen minutes of my life. That's right. Never again." This stuff is praising the things out of hell.

Willie Nelson released a gay country song titled "Cowboys are Frequently Secretly Fond of Each Other," and in this he's speaking of homosexuality. *"I suspected that all along,"* he said in a statement, *"and the timing is ripe for it to come out. I'm just opening the door."* He also has an album titled *Gospel Favorites*. He's promoting sodomy, and we know what God says about sodomy. He's promoting sodomy and drunkenness and wickedness, but he's got an album titled *Gospel Favorites* in which he sings "Family Bible" and "Kneel at the Feet of Jesus." Now, why do they do this? Because they know that these things will sell. You take Jesus and put this worldly beat behind it, there are stupid, ignorant Christians — if you can call them Christians — who will buy this stuff and bring it into their homes, and once it's in their home, after a while it will eventually get into the church so they can be entertained in the church just like they are in the bar rooms and the shows on Saturday nights.

Here's another quote. It says, *"His music has been featured in the vile homosexual TV series 'Brokeback Mountain.'"* That's Willie Nelson. Oh, he's supposed to be a good ole country boy. He's supposed to be a good ole boy, you know. Faith Hill was featured in Playboy. Her music speaks of fornication and adultery, and she appeared in a bikini in the November 2008 *Shape*

magazine. Clay Aiken is homosexual, and at the same time he says that he's a very religious person. Toby Keith in the song "God Love Her" speaks of a rebellious preacher's daughter 17 years of age who runs away with him, and in the song he says, "Just a girl born in Dixie, washed in the blood and raised on the banks of the Mississippi mud. She was baptized in dirty water." This is the filth and trash and garbage in the country music. In his album titled *White Trash With Money*, he speaks of drinking, adultery, lust, and there's one song that he sings titled, "Get Drunk and Be Somebody."

Reba McEntire on homosexuality said, *"I just try not to judge. Don't judge me and I won't judge you."* See, that's what the world says. I'm quoting again: *"And that's what it says in the Bible."* See, she's quoting the Bible. And she said, *"Don't judge. Keep an open mind. That would be my choice. I have gay friends. I have a lot of straight friends. I don't judge them. I take them for what they are. They're my friends, and I can't defend my feelings for them other than I like 'em."* That was taken out of TheBoot.com August 19, 2009.

Eric Church, a well-known country music star today, has got a song titled "Sinners Like Me," and in this song he's basically saying that he comes from a long line of sinners, speaking of his grandfather and his father and him and his brother, and he speaks of drinking beer at 15 years of age in this song. He speaks of him and his brother sitting on his grandfather's headstone with a fifth of Jack Daniel's and then — now, listen to this — in this same song bragging about coming from a long line of sinners. Then toward the end of this song, he speaks of Jesus in Heaven, and I'm going to quote him. He says, "On the day I die I know where I'm going to go; Me and Jesus got that part worked out; I'll wait at the gates til his face I see, and stand in a long line of sinners like me." See how this has blended together the false gospel of country music? This stuff is wicked.

Conway Twitty sings of infidelity, songs like "I See the Want To in Your Eyes," and I'm not even going to mention the rest of them. One writer said that Conway Twitty must have had a PhD in adultery. He was a dirty old man. And he sang songs also with Loretta Lynn many years ago.

Taylor Swift is very popular, and her videos are very sensual. She dresses like a whore. She's probably one of the most famous ones in the country music now. And she was on the Ellen show. Degeneres or some said "Degenerate" is her last name. I don't know. But, anyway, in November 2008 Taylor Swift spoke of Ellen's good character, and Ellen is a sodomite. You do know that, don't you? And Ellen said Swift is a good role model. Taylor Swift hardly wears any clothes singing this wicked, wicked music.

Dolly Parton has been around the country music industry for over 40 years. In one video she's dressed in white and she sings "He is Risen," and in another video, she's dressed in red like a prostitute and she sings, "House of the Rising Sun," a song about prostitution. Do you see this

mingling together? You know, God is that "thing" inside of her, you see. She played a whore in the movie, "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" and played the part very well, and most of the time she dresses like a whore even today. Her album called *Backwoods Barbie* contains the song "Jesus & Gravity" along with the songs about drinking and adultery, and her album *Halos and Horns* covers the Led Zeppelin's occult song, "Stairway to Heaven." Robert Page even said and considered this a very spiritual song. Dolly Parton loves it and sings it. She also performed the John Lennon song "Imagine" on her 2005 album called *Those Were the Days*, and unless you've been a Christian in church most of your life, you've heard the lyrics of the song. Some of the lyrics in that song say "Can you image if there's no heaven and no religion and no hell." That was John Lennon's philosophy. Dolly Parton loves this song and sings it, but she said, "I know Jesus and I know God. He's that thing inside of me." Her album *Something Special* has a song titled "Speaking of the Devil," which makes light of the Bible and Christianity. Here's some of her words in the song: "He's got a way of walking; he's got a way of talking, a way to fascinate me all the time, and he's got a way with women." This is Dolly Parton.

Dollywood — and I've been there and repented of it — promotes herself and country music mixed with Gospel music. Her picture is posted everywhere dressed immorally. She supports sodomy, along with the Dixie Chicks and others, and she said, "*God isn't the monster in the sky that I grew up with*" — that is, the Church of God — and she says here, "*He's a feeling within you.*" This is The Parade, November 2nd, 1980. I'll tell you again, God is not "a feeling within you." God is a Person, the Creator of Heaven and earth, the Redeemer of mankind. Dolly Parton appeared on the cover of Playboy magazine in the October 1978 issue wearing a Playboy bunny outfit complete with ears, and she received an Oscar nomination for "Travelin' Thru," a song written and sung for Transamerica. We're talking about wickedness. We're talking about rebellion.

The country band Big & Rich is a mixture of that which is hellish, and even "Amazing Grace" is mentioned here. But they sing this: "Yeah, I know I'm a sinner, but I've got faith; My good side is what He's going to see; When I'm standing at them pearly gates, He'll have nothing but mercy for me." And the last song on this album they sing, "You Shook Me All Night Long" by rock and roll band AC/DC.

Johnny Cash said he got saved, but his 1994 album *American Recordings* contains the song "Thirteen" written by a band that are Satanists, and on the album of this Satanist band, the logo is a picture of a demon strangling the Lord Jesus Christ while blood is coming out of His eyes, and Johnny Cash wanted to sing their song and put it in his album *American Recordings*. He's singing and promoting satanic songs, and he said this: "*This is what I always wanted to do, and I was able to do it with Rick.*" I guess that's his producer. "*I think I'm more proud of it than anything I've ever done in my life. I don't think I ever worked so well with a producer in my entire life.*" And Johnny Cash also appeared in December 1996 on a Billy Graham Christmas special.

Now, I could go on and on, but I'm going to stop here tonight. I just read you what these country singers believe in their heart because it was spoken with their mouth. What is in the heart comes out of the mouth, and all we've got to do is look at their lifestyle, all we've got to do is listen to their words and look at their songs and the rhythm and the beat and the crowd that follows it, that's all we've got to do to know that it's rebellion and it's wicked and it's out of hell. No Christian has any right in the eyes of God Almighty to listen to this garbage — none whatsoever.

God hates country music. He hates the country music industry. It's the devil's music. And what does Nashville have to do with the New Jerusalem; Amen? First Thessalonians 5:22 says, [“Abstain from all appearance of evil.”](#) I'm saying that country music is wicked. And, you know, you've got the older folks today — I guess I can throw myself into that category — that say, "I just don't understand what's wrong with the young people and their music and all this rock and this rap and all this." Well, the older folks laid the foundation for it by listening to this wicked country music. They laid the foundation for what we see today.

Notice with me as we come to Exodus chapter 32. I'm reading one verse and we're going to close. This is when Moses came down off of the mount with the Ten Commandments. Israel is in rebellion. They're dancing; they're playing music; they're singing and they're naked as in verse 25, and they had made a golden calf. They're worshipping idols, and this is where Moses breaks the Ten Commandments. Verse 26 says, [“Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD'S side?”](#) Underline those two words the LORD'S side. Moses said, [“Who is on the LORD'S side?” let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him,”](#) and there was a great slaughter that took place there.

Do you know what we need to ask people today? We need to ask them, "Who is on the Lord's side?" You can't be on both sides. You can't straddle the fence. That's why I called point number three "The False Gospel of Country Music." You can't have them both. You can have one or the other. You can have Jesus Christ and His music and His holiness and His righteousness through His blood and through repentance, you can either have that or you can have this other without Jesus Christ. You can't have them both, and this is the message we need to give to the older folks or any of the younger folks today who are following country music and think, "Well, this is safe, this is innocent, and I can follow this and still love Jesus and love the Bible and go to church." No way. Absolutely not. You cannot have them both. We will stop right here.
