

**“The Truth As We Know It”
The Deceitfulness of Sin**

4/19/15

Today I want to talk about one of the greatest issues that we can address, and that is the deceitfulness of sin. In Heb 3:12-13 we read, "Take heed, brethren, lest haply there shall be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief, in falling away from the living God: but exhort one another day by day, so long as it is called To-day; lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin:"

The devil, our enemy, always makes sin look so attractive! I love to fish with a hook and bait! Fishing is one of the simplest way to describe what happens to us in a temptation to sin. We try to deceive the fish into believing that we have something very good that they want, but in fact, we intend to trap them! We enjoy their fight to escape, and try again when they do, but we are there to bring them to our table! That is exactly what the devil does to us. We read in 1Pe 5:8, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour:" James tells us that the devil uses our own lusts or desires to draw us into the trap that leads to death. In Jas 1:14-15 we read, "Every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it brings forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death."

Sin always begins with something we want. Generally it is not wrong within itself. Sin is generally the misuse of something good. Whether it is the abuse of alcohol, drugs, sex, or the need for money. Paul tells us in Rom 14:14 that nothing is sin of itself and we read, "I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself:.."

Sin is fun for a little while, but very destructive in the end. In Heb 11:24-26 we read, "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for

he had respect unto the recompense of the reward."

There is a powerful adage that tell the truth about sin in very simple terms. **"Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, cost you more than you want to pay."**

The devil's argument that just one won't hurt you might be true within itself, but once we have experienced it, it is very difficult to not do it the second, third, or the forth time and so on.

Thank God, Jesus forgives us of all our sins, casting them into the sea never to be remembered again. It does not matter where we have been or what we have done, He stands ready to forgive us. But the deeper into a sinful life we have fallen, the more difficult it is to recover even though Jesus forgives us. In Heb 7:25 we read, "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever lives to make intercession for them."

There are serious consequences when we disobey God's word and commit sin. The story of David & Bathsheba portrays this fact in a very dramatic way. David had been elevated from a shepherd boy to be the King of Israel. He was an outstanding military hero, having killed Goliath as a youth, and lead the Israeli army to many outstanding victories. Now he was King of Israel and probably felt invincible. Though he had several wives to choose from, he lusted after another man's wife. His friend Uriah's wife, Bathsheba. We all know the story, but it does us well in telling it again. After he committed adultery with her, she was pregnant with his child! The trap is set! Now he had to commit more sin to cover the first sin! So he lies to Uriah to no avail, because Uriah was an honorable soldier. So he commits another sin and has Uriah murdered. He seems to have his sin covered up pretty good, but nothing escapes God! In Pro 28:13 we read, "He that covers his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesses and forsakes them shall have mercy. And in verse 26 we read, "He that trusts in his own heart is a fool; But whoso walks wisely, he shall be delivered."

God sent His Prophet Nathan to David with the awful news! In 2 Sam

12:10-12 we read, "Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. Thus says the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of your own house, and I will take thy wives before your eyes, and give them unto thy neighbor, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun." Nathan said, "God will forgive you, but the consequences of your sin will follow you all of your life." A part of these consequences is the unbelievers having an excuse to blaspheme. 2 Sam 12:14 tells us, "Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme," That is always the case. When a Christian sins, sinners take his or her sin as an excuse to deny God.

So David lost his first son by Bathsheba. Before it was over, David's son, Amnon, had raped his daughter, Tamar. Another son, Absalom, had killed Amnon, and had to hide out from his father David. Then Absalom tries to take the kingdom away from David and starts a revolution to overthrow King David. In the process, King David's wives are raped in public by Absalom and his soldiers. Finally his son, Absalom, was also killed.

David never imagined that his moment of indiscretion would lead to so much trouble, but sin has great deception. Even though God will forgive us if we repent as David did, the consequences are still there. The seed we sow will surely come up and bear fruit. Often God will punish us with what seems double what we did. In Jer 16:18 we read, "I will recompense their iniquity and their sin double, because they have polluted my land with the carcasses of their detestable things, and have filled mine inheritance with their abominations." King David should have followed his own advise! He said in Psa 119:11, "Thy word have I hid in my heart, That I might not sin against thee." Powerful advice that we should all follow!

We can read King David's prayer of repentance in Psalms 51. a portion of that prayer is, "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving kindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out

my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that you might be justified when you speak, and be clear when you judge."

And in verse 9-12, "Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit."

All of us fall short on occasion, even after we are saved! But we need to heed the instruction in 1 John 2:1-2 where we read, "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

The Bible teaches that God gives us a time to repent. If we do something stupid and commit sin, if we repent right away and ask God's forgiveness, He will forgive us and no-one else need ever know of our shame. but if we continue in our sin it will bring forth death as James says. "Then when lust hath conceived, it brings forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death." Pretty soon our sin will be know by all our neighbors.

We all need to remember the admonition from Jesus when He says in John 10:10 "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

Listen again next week. I plan to address American's National sin in next weeks broadcast.

This we do know, The Bible is God's Word, God's word is true, Jesus Christ is God's son, Jesus died to save us from our sin,

Without Jesus we are eternally lost. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we might be saved. Atheism is a temporary condition, for every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord! Jesus stands ready to save you now, Will you call on Him today?

Until next week, God bless.