

IS IT TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE

Part 5
Ed Smithson

Doctrine is important, however it is odious to some. It should not be, for it gives us structure and by observing doctrine, leads us in the right way. Consequently it should be taught and taught again and again. Remember what the Israelites were told? “Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul; and ye shall bind them for a sign upon your hand, and they shall be for frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children, talking of them, when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt write them upon the door-posts of thy house, and upon thy gates; that your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which Jehovah sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of the heavens above the earth.” (Deut. 11:18-21)

For too long now our people have not been taught enough of doctrine to be able to make a good argument for it. For instance, how long has it been since you have seen genuine repentance? In reading again the Old Testament I have been struck by how quickly God was willing to forgive those who genuinely repented. And was just as quick to exact retribution on those who needed it.

From the time John the immerser and Jesus appeared on the scene repentance was the thrust of their preaching. From the beginning the burden of their preaching was, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Mat. 3:2; 4:17) In fact the Bible says you shall repent or perish. (Luke 13:3)

To repent means, “To feel pain, sorrow or regret for something done or spoken; as, to repent that we have lost much time in idleness or sensual pleasure; to repent that we have injured or wounded the feelings of a friend. A person repents only of what he himself has done or said.” (F.B. Myers)

Too many times we see people just going to the front and making a statement as a statement of fact, no pain or sorrow or regret is shown. In time past people who were convicted of their sin were demonstrative in their conduct, showing they really understood they were lost and undone. Not so much today!
(More next time.)

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Second, sin is progressive. The hardening of one's heart is not an instantaneous event. Rather, by deceptive progression one becomes increasingly desensitized to sin.

We must be ever vigilant to guard against the insidious progression of sin, “But exhort one another daily, lest any of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin” (Heb. 3:13). Moreover, those who have been deceived and captivated by sin desire to sin more and more.

Finally, sin is possessive. Sin will make you its slave, for “you are that one's slave whom you obey, whether of sin unto death or obedience unto righteousness” (Rom. 6:16). Peter spoke of those in error who promise liberty while they themselves are slaves of corruption (2 Pet. 2:19). And Paul spoke to Timothy of those under the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will (2 Tim. 2:26).

The effects of sin are far greater than most are willing to consider. The greatest of these is the damnation of the soul, “for the wages of sin is death.” While fools mock at sin (Pro. 14:9), the wise will fear the Lord and depart from evil in understanding (Job 28:28).

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church of Christ at Alisal

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*The only thing
missing is you...*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. (John 1:1-5)

MEETING UPON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK

Listen on AM Radio 880 KKMC in Salinas, California
2nd Friday of each month @ 1:30 pm

Bible Classes..... 9:00 A.M.
Assemblies..... 10:00 A.M. & 5:00 P.M.

<http://churchofchristalisal.com/>

WEDNESDAY

Bible Class, Singing, & Prayer..... 6:30 P.M.

Welcome

Good Morning Brothers and Sisters!



This Week's Sermon's

A.M. - Mothers in the Bible

P.M. - Worship - Prayer



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The Effects of Sin

Todd Clippard

“Sin will take you further than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.”

This adage is true wherever and in whomever sin may found, be it an individual, a family, a nation, or the church. In considering sin's effect on the individual, family, and nation, I can think of no better example than that of the life of David.

The best known of David's downfalls begins in 2 Samuel 11. In the opening lines of this chapter, we see a progression of errors leading to sin, being further exacerbated by a refusal to properly acknowledge and deal with said sin.

David's troubles began with a seemingly harmless misstep. 2 Samuel 11 begins with a simple declaration that the time of war was at hand, but David sent Joab with the army and remained behind in Jerusalem. David's negligence to lead his army led to idleness of mind, wherein the devil set up shop to bring David down to perdition.

Passing an evening in idleness, David gazed down upon a beautiful woman bathing on a rooftop. Inquiring as to her identity, David was told that she was the wife of Uriah, one of his 37 mighty men (2 Sam. 23:39). Being enticed and unrestrained in his lust, the king commanded her to be brought to him, and he lay with her (11:4). But adultery was not the only thing conceived by his lust, as Bathsheba later sent word to David that she was with child.

Rebellious children reject God's counsel and devise plans that they might add sin to sin (Isa 30:1), and so it was with David. After two failed attempts to hide his transgression, David sent Uriah back to battle with his own death warrant in his hand. After David murdered Uriah by the hands of the Lord's enemies, he took Bathsheba into his own house and she became his wife, “But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord” (12:27). David would soon understand the words of Moses, “you have sinned against the Lord, and be sure your sin will find you out” (Num. 32:23).

Enter God's man Nathan, who, with a lion's courage, rebuked the king and brought him to repentance. Nathan's parable of the rich man's despicable and degenerate deed against the poor man aroused David's righteous indignation, as he declared, “The man who has done this deserves to die!” (2 Sam. 12: 1-5). Then came Nathan's stinging rebuke, “You are the man!” From there, Nathan detailed God's escape the snare

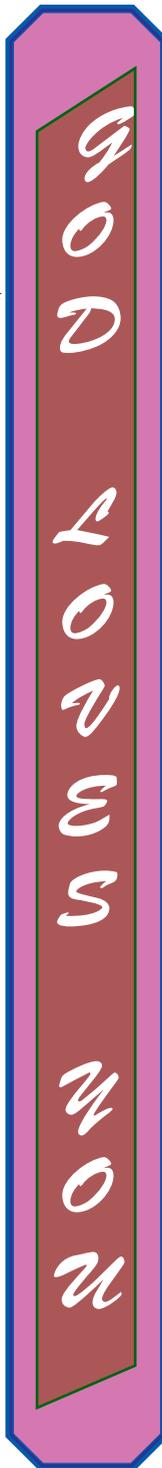
of the devil (2 Tim. 2:26) by coming to a knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4). Let us press forward (Phil. 3:12-14) and lay aside every sin, which clings so closely (Heb. 12:1). Without such we cannot see the Lord! goodness to David, saying that if what he had received thus far was insufficient, God would have given him more.

From that time on, David's family was cursed as: 1) the sword would never depart from his house, 2) adversity would come from within his own family, and 3) despite David's repentance and confession, the child born to him by Bathsheba would die (12:10-14). For the rest of his life, his man after God's own heart would never escape the consequences of his sin. David's family was in disarray to the day of his death (1 Kings 1-2). Here we see the vivid truth of David's lament in Psalm 51, “For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me” (v 3). David's sin was a perpetual blight on his life and that of his family.

How many times has this scenario played out before us? How many men and women have destroyed themselves and their families because of the passing pleasures of sin (Heb. 11:25)? God's word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Ps. 119:105). But light does more than simply show us the way; it also illuminates potential dangers that threaten our journey. Speaking of Israel's sins and the associated consequences, Paul wrote, Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the end of the ages have come (1 Cor. 10:11). The Bible details many of sin's dangerous effects.

First, sin is deceptive. Paul warned Timothy “evil men and seducers will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived (2 Tim. 3:13). Thinking of the deception of sin, I cannot help but think of how Satan deceived Eve in the garden. This brought disastrous consequences upon both Adam and Eve, some of which remain with us even to this day (cf. Gen 3:16-19).

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Announcements

1. Brother Charles will be giving the invitation this Wednesday evening.
2. Romans Class this coming Wednesday evening. Chapter 2 part 3.
3. A big thank you for all those who came to the building clean-up yesterday.

~ On the Prayer list

All those who may be away this weekend- for spiritual growth and good health.

David Ryal - preacher at Morro Bay for recovery from his Liver/Kidney transplant operation.

Have a blessed week!