

“Quietly Holding Fast”

A lot of people are battered and bruised by life. Sometimes it's a result of person's conduct - reaping exactly what we sow - but some things are beyond our control. “What-am-I-going-to-do” thoughts run through your head. Where can you turn? Who is there for you?



“In the bitter waves of woe,
Beaten and tossed about
By the sullen winds that blow
From the desolate shores of
doubt,
Where the anchors that faith
has cast
Are dragging in the gale,
I am quietly holding fast
To the things that cannot fail.”

*“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul,
firm and secure...Jesus who went before us, has
entered on our behalf” (Hebrews 6:19-20).*

*“God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will
I forsake you.’ So we say with confidence ‘The
Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can
man do to me?’ ”... (Hebrews 13:5-6).*

*“...The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of
the ends of the earth. He does not grow faint or
weary; His understanding is unsearchable. He
gives power to the faint, and to him who has no
might He increases strength...They who wait for
the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall
mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run
and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”*

—Bulletin Digest

The Sick:

Tommy Smith, Doug's step-brother, underwent heart bypass surgery last week and is improving.

Katherine See, Stan's mother, recently fell and is suffering with soreness & pain.

Velma Dixon, Debra Luther's great aunt, is gravely ill and is receiving hospice care.

Burton Brown, Bettye's brother, had a recent brain scan which shows the cancer has spread to his brain stem. He is receiving hospice care.

Continue to remember those who are recovering from surgery & illness and who struggle with physical infirmity, including: **Xenna Gooch**, **Katherine See**, **Ronald Miller**, Larry's father, **James Tanksley**, **Pansy Hensley** and **Lucille Hall**, Ethel Wohlrabe's mother.

News & Notes: Group 3 will meet today in the Library after the morning service.

ELDERS: Doug Driver
Johnny Felker
DEACONS: Ralph Brown
Mark Claypool



Service Times

SUNDAY

Bible Study—9:00 am

Worship—9:55 am & 6:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Perry Heights Weekly Bulletin

Perry Heights church of Christ
423 Donelson Pike
Nashville, TN 37214
(615) 883-3118

*“...let us consider how we may encourage one another”
Heb. 10:24*

September 20, 2009

Dealing with Temptation

James 1:13-15 lays out the process of temptation which leads to sin. James gives us some principles to remember when temptation comes our way. When we are enticed to wrong, either by promise of pleasure or gain, we must remember what James said. First, temptation is inevitable (verse 13—“when,” not “if”). Second, temptation (i.e., “the solicitation to do evil”) is never directed by God (verse 13). Third, temptation is an individual matter (verse 14). Sin occurs when we agree to the temptation and get involved with it. Fourth, temptation that leads to sin always follows the same process. There are four steps involved in giving in to temptation: (1) the bait is dropped, (2) our inner desire is attracted to the bait, (3) sin occurs when we yield to temptation, and (4) sin results in tragic consequences. To be aware of these principles from our text is to be armed in the face of struggling with temptation.

Again, it is “when,” not “if,” we are tempted. Temptation is a present reality; it plays no favorites; it knows no barriers. It will do no good to say, “If I isolate myself I can avoid temptations.” Jesus, in the wilderness, was about as isolated as one could get but He was not immune to Satan's solicitation to sin. You cannot run away from temptation, in fact, you should not try to! The task of Christianity is to produce “new creatures” (2 Corinthians 5:17) who can live in the world and not be changed by it. It is not a sin to be tempted and God never makes us feel guilty for living in a world which tempts us.

Temptation is a personal struggle. Different individuals have different struggles. There are things that tempt me that might not tempt you; and there are temptations you struggle with that I do not. I have never struggled with alcohol or drugs (that does not make me righteous nor better than anyone else). You could put the finest whiskey in front of my face or the purest of cocaine under my nose and I would not feel the slightest pull of temptation. There are things that have never tempted me; there are some things that used to tempt me but they don't anymore, because I have overcome them; and there are things that always have tempted me and still do—but they may not be temptations to you at all. I think any

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Preacher's Pen points

Taming the Storms of Life (Temptation)



The Challenges of Temptation (1 Jn. 2:15-16)

The satisfaction of fleshly _____
The attainment of the _____ or the _____
The pride of _____ or _____

Meeting the Challenges of Temptation

We must approach life with spiritual _____.
Keep _____ and praying, that you may not enter into temptation...(Mt. 26:41)
We must keep affirming the necessity of _____ to God.
But He answered and said, "It is _____, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'" (Mt. 4:4)
We must come to terms with the _____ of potential transgression.
How then could I do this _____ evil, and sin against God?" (Gen. 39:9)
We must not allow ourselves to _____ about the benefits of yielding.
"That which proceeds _____ the man, that is what defiles the man. (Mk. 7:20-23)
We must trust in the provision of God's strength through _____.
Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find _____ to help in time of need. (Heb. 4:15-16)
We must honestly weigh what we may _____ against what we may _____.
...but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be _____. (1 Cor. 9:26-27)
We must take comfort in the promise of _____.
... God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of _____ also, that you may be able to endure it. (1 Cor. 10:13)

**If now is your season of temptation, take to heart the message of James 4:7—
"Resist him and he will flee from you." Satan can't camp out at our door step; if we
keep our trust in God, thankfully, this storm too will pass.**

--continued from front page

man who decides to preach (work with a local church; proclaim the gospel publicly) is tempted to pride. I believe it takes just a little bit of presumption and it takes some self-confidence to think that you have a right to stand before a group of people on a regular basis and to think, "I have something to say to you". I think I will have to struggle with that as long as I preach; that is, not to let self-confidence fall over into the area of pride.

How should I deal with that temptation? I could quit preaching—but that is not how the Bible says to handle it. The Bible says to abide or remain under the test but not give in to the enticement to sin.

How do we go about dealing with temptation personally? Let me suggest that we discipline our desires so they do not meet with bait that God would not approve of. What will help us with that ability to discipline our desires? Notice two thoughts in James 1:

--**Deception is the first device of the devil.** The devil does not want us to think about the process of temptation to the point of sin. He wants us to just focus on the temporary pleasure to be gained if we involve ourselves with the bait. There is temporary pleasure in succumbing to temptation—but the lie and deception involves the long term result if we give in. "...and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death" (verse 5). The devil will not tell us that if we consume the bait that we are the ones actually being consumed. That is why I say that deception is the first device of the devil. That suggests a second thought.

--**Perception is the first defense of the Christian.** You cannot defend yourself against an attack if you do not see it coming. But when we understand the process of temptation to sin, we can take steps to disrupt it. We can study James 1:13-15 and say to ourselves, "Where can I break this thing down and keep it from going all the way to death?" I cannot avoid temptation altogether; cannot avoid being confronted by the bait (the devil is too good a fisherman)—but if I can discipline my thoughts, then I will have a better chance of not being lured by the bait. To continue to dwell on the bait is to court disaster! May I suggest that we consider the example of how our Master dealt with temptation in Matthew 4:1-10.

We must do whatever is necessary to keep from dwelling on the bait.