

FOUR WAYS SIN FOOLS US

Hebrews 3: 12 – 13

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INTRODUCTION

1. In our text, the Christian is warned about being deceived by SIN.
2. Christians are told some things they need to do to keep from being deceived by sin so they won't fall away.
3. There are FIVE important facts in verse 12:
 - a. It is *possible* to fall away from the living God.
 - b. This disaster is due to an *unbelieving heart*.
 - c. An unbelieving heart is *evil*.
 - d. *God is a living person*.
 - e. There are adequate grounds upon which a Christian *may avoid falling away*.
4. In Verse 13 he set forth one of the grounds that keeps us from falling away:
 - a. *"But exhort one another daily"*
 - b. Christians are to exhort one another daily to be faithful.
 - i. Christians in the home relationship.
 - ii. Christians who work together.
 - iii. Christians can call one another on the phone.
5. Christians must take heed and exhort one another because of the deceitfulness of sin:
 - a. Sin promises happiness and brings great sorrow – Gen. 4:13.
 - b. Sin promises joy and delivers wretchedness, shame, misery, and remorse.
 - c. Sin promises liberty but binds the sinner with chains of slavery – 2 Pet. 2:19.
 - d. Sin promises to be "nothing", but it is of eternal consequence – I Cor. 6: 8 – 10.
6. Sin is deceitful because it wears *a mask*; it appears to be Something it is NOT.
7. Let us now look at FOUR ways SIN deceives and fools us:

I. SIN WEARS THE MASK OF A SERVANT

- a. Men look at a life of sin and believe they can make it their Servant.
- b. Men and women take up the habit of strong drink, believing they can make such a habit their Servant to bring them more *happiness*.
 - i. They think they will have more fun.
 - ii. They think they will forget their troubles.
 - iii. They think it will help them "brace up".
 - iv. They think it will make them more successful in life.
- c. When people begin to drink, they find that alcohol is a depressant and not a stimulant, and is a deterrent to every normal bodily function.
 - i. It dulls the intelligence.
 - ii. It relaxes self-control.
 - iii. It slows reaction.
 - iv. It impairs judgment.
 - v. It interferes with reasoning.
 - vi. It is habit-forming.

- vii. It destroys strength of Character.
 - d. They find they have become a Servant to this SIN – John 8: 34; Rom. 6:16.
 - e. The sin of strong drink has become their Master and robs them of their job, their home, their money, their health, their will to live, and of God.
 - f. It has robbed them of this life, and of *the life to come* – Gal. 5: 19- 21.
 - g. The same is true of Drugs. . .
 - h. It is true of ANY SIN.
- II. SIN WEARS THE MASK OF BEING ATTRACTIVE AND ADVANTAGEOUS**
- a. Sin promises what it cannot give.
 - b. The Serpent put a deceptive mask on sin for Eve to see – Gen. 3: 1 – 6; I Tim. 2:14.
 - i. But to her and Adam’s sorrow, she found that sin was only wearing the mask of being attractive and advantageous – Gen. 3: 16 – 24.
 - c. To Ananias and Sapphira, lying looked attractive and advantageous – Acts 5: 1-11.
 - d. The Devil makes the sin of Adultery look attractive and advantageous:
 - i. Prov. 7: 6 – 27
 - ii. Prov. 6: 24 – 35
 - e. The Devil makes Petting and Kissing look attractive and advantageous to young people:
 - i. This stirs up the passion of the body and leads to fornication—I Cor. 6:18.
- III. SIN WEARS THE MASK OF BEING “RIGHT”**
- a. Prov. 16:25 *“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man but the end thereof are the ways of death”*.
 - b. It is easy to think one is in the way of life when he is in *the way of death*.
 - c. Many think they are saved by “faith only” – James 2:24.
 - d. Many think they are saved without being baptized for the remission of sins – Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16.
 - e. Many think they are saved *out of the church* – Acts 2:47.
 - f. Many members of the church think they are saved when they are “lukewarm” – Rev. 3: 14 – 17.
- IV. SIN WEARS THE MASK OF REAPING WHAT IT DOES NOT SOW.**
- a. Sin wears the mask of promising to reap a harvest of happiness, joy, and peace from the sowing of the seed of SIN.
 - b. The Bible teaches we will reap what we sow – Gal. 6: 7 – 8.
 - c. The fruit that comes from sowing the seed of Sin is degradation, misery, fear, frustration, unhappiness, loss of fellowship with God.
 - d. In the world to come – eternal separation from God—Gal. 5: 19 – 21; 2 Thess. 1: 8 – 9.
 - e. Jesus sets forth the law of “reaping what we sow” in Matt. 7: 1 – 5.
 - f. He states it in Luke 6:38.
 - g. Paul states it in 2 Cor. 9:6.
 - h. The writer of Ecclesiastes states it in Eccl. 11:1 – *“Cast thy bread upon the waters; for thou shalt find it after many days”*.
- V. CONCLUSION**