

The Deceitfulness of Sin

Heb. 3:13; I Tim 2:14

Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. Our text points up the fact that sin is a deceitful thing – Eph. 4:22.
2. Satan, the great deceiver, uses the deceitfulness of sin to ensnare us – I Pet. 5:8; Eph. 6:11; 4:14.
3. We need to study this lesson that we might be on guard.
4. Deceitfulness is: “That which gives a false impression, whether by appearance, statement, or influence” *Vine* --- “Tending to mislead, deceive, or ensnare”.
5. Sin promises the transgressor happiness, only to plunge him in sorrow.
 - (1) Satan says through the foolish woman, “*Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant*” – Prov. 9:17.
 - (2) The next verse: “*But he knoweth not that the dead are there; and that her guests are in the depths of hell*” -- Prov. 9: 18; 7: 24 – 27.
6. SIN promises JOY, but delivers wretchedness, shame, misery, and remorse.
 - (1) David said, “*My sin is ever before me*” – Psa. 51:3.
7. It promises liberty, but binds the sinner with chains of slavery – 2 Pet. 2:19; John 8 :34.
8. It promises light, but submerges the soul in darkness – Rom. 1: 21.

I. SIN IS NOT WHAT IT REPRESENTS ITSELF TO BE

1. Sin assumes false names:
 - (1) Drunkenness (Gal. 5:21); is called ALCOHOLISM and is said to be a disease.
 - (2) Homosexuality (Rom. 1: 26 – 27) is called an “ALTERNATE LIFESTYLE” – Lev. 18:22.
 - (3) A middle aged man lusts after another woman, and steps out on his wife to commit adultery with her, and it is called a “MIDDLE AGE CRISIS”.
 1. David was about 50 or older when he lusted after Bathsheba – 2 Sam. 11: 2 – 5.
 2. What David did the Lord called SIN – 2 Sam. 12:9.
 - (4) Slander is called “OPENNESS AND FREEDOM OF MIND” – I Pet. 2:1.
 - (5) Covetousness is called “PRUDENCE” – Col. 3:5.
 - (6) A man kills and steals and people say “SOCIETY MADE HIM DO IT”.

II. SIN IS DECEITFULNESS BECAUSE OF ITS SEASONAL PLEASURE

1. Heb. 11:25
2. Dancing
3. Petting
4. The viewing of immoral movies
5. Flirtation between married people
6. Fornication and adultery
7. Drinking
8. Drugs
9. The man who is deceived by seasonal pleasure cannot see “*afar off*”—2 Pet. 1:9; Heb. 11: 25 – 26

III. SATAN HAS DECEIVED MANY INTO SIN BY TEACHING THERE IS NO ETERNAL RIGHT AND WRONG.

1. This teaching of Satan goes under many names:
 - (1) New Morality
 - (2) Pragmatism
 - (3) Situation Ethics
 - (4) Catholic Doctrine of "Mental Reservation".
 1. This doctrine declares that under some circumstances it is right to lie.
2. This doctrine of Satan that is taught by his ministers says: "Truth is relative, subject to modification and change.
3. This doctrine teaches "right depends upon the circumstances".
4. Joseph Fletcher is one of Satan's best known teachers along this line:
 - (1) Fletcher says, "The situation follows a moral law or violates it according to love's need" Pg. 26.
 - (2) He says, "For the situationist there are no rules – none at all" , pg. 55.
 - (3) According to the situationist, any act could be right:
 1. Lying.
 2. Premarital sex.
 3. Abortion.
 4. Adultery.
 5. Murder.
 - (4) Fletcher says, "Whether any form of sex is good or evil depends on whether love is fully served" – pg. 139.
 - (5) He says, "But if people do not believe it is wrong to have sex relations outside marriage, it isn't unless they hurt themselves, their partners, or others" – Page 140.

IV. SIN IS DECEITFUL BECAUSE OF THE PROGRESSIVENESS OF SIN

1. The progressiveness of sin in Joseph's brethren – Gen. 37:
 - (1) First they hated him –Gen. 37: 4 – 5, 8.
 - (2) Next they envied him – Gen. 37: 11.
 - (3) Then they conspired to kill him – Gen. 37: 18.
 - (4) They cast him into a pit – Gen. 37: 24.
 - (5) Sold him into slavery – Gen. 37: 28.
 - (6) Deceived their father – Gen. 37:32.
2. In the life of David, we can see the progressiveness of sin:
 - (1) First he was IDLE – 2 Sam. 11:2.
 - (2) Second he LUSTED – 2 Sam. 11:2.
 - (3) Third he committed Fornication or Adultery – 2 Sam. 11: 4.
 - (4) Fourth – Treachery—2 Sam. 11: 6 – ff
 - (5) Fifth – Murder – 2 Sam. 11:15.
3. The steps in Apostasy are progressive – 2 Tim. 4:3 – 4.
 - (1) Will not endure – an attitude.
 - (2) Heaping up of the teachers.
 - (3) Turn away their ears from the truth – will not have it.

- (4) He turned unto fables – GONE.
4. The steps away from the Lord and His church and back into the world are progressive.
- (1) First step: Some new interest or involvement that takes much time and energy.
 - (2) Second step: One begins to think more and more about his new involvement, and less and less about spiritual things.
 - (3) Third step: One doesn't have enough time to pray and study the Bible, or think about spiritual things.
 - (4) Fourth step: The new involvement causes one to start missing some of the services.
 - (5) Fifth step: He loses interest completely and quits. . .

CONCLUSION

- 1. Let us not be overcome by the deceitfulness of sin.
- 2. Won't you obey the gospel NOW?

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