

February 27, 2011

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Monday

Psa. 1:1 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

Like the proverbial 'frog in boiling water' sin's deceitfulness entices you at one temperature and then slowly turns up the heat until you are dead. That is why the psalmist pictures the descending peril of sin's lure. First the tragic traveler merely walks in the counsel, intrigued by sin's sounds. Then accustomed to the sounds of sin, he is comfortable standing in its presence. Finally, the barriers of repulsion broken down, he (or she) comfortably sits in the seat unaware he has taken a place in a chair of execution. Don't dabble with sin. Sin is too cunning and we too naive.

Tuesday

Gal. 6:1 ... you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

The 'act of sin' may anger you, but the sinner should elicit compassion from the spiritual man or woman. A sinner is trapped in a net of his or her own weaving, but trapped nonetheless by a sinister and master trapper. Everyone is subject to the dangers of sin and you should never think the dangers of the lure cannot entrap you too. That is why you, a believer, are called to "gently restore" while looking to yourself lest you fall to sin's deceit. Do you understand the difference between the anger at sin and the compassion you should have toward the sinner? Thankfully, this is the attitude of God toward you.

Wednesday

Eph. 2:1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,
Rom. 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but gift of God is eternal life...
James 1:15 ... and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

Dead in trespass! If you really want to know the danger and tragedy of sin don't look at its entrance, but at its exit. The danger of a road cannot be measured by its beginning, but by the sheer cliffs that await the traveler some miles down the highway. Sometimes only small signs warn the traveler of the dangers that lie at the end of the road. Let the sound of God's word ring in your ears: "wages of sin is death;" "sin accomplished brings death;" "you were dead in trespasses and sin."

Thursday

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and **destroy**; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Who is the mastermind of sin? Satan. Convicted as a thief and a liar, his desire is made plain. He comes to steal your hope, kill your witness, and destroy your life. Sadly we have been trained to fear Satan but not so much his devices. When you look at the alluring sin -- and make no mistake sin is alluring -- but when you look upon its allure see the face of the one who sat the platter before you. No, no, don't merely look at the morsels of the banquet -- look at the dirty unwashed hands of the chef! If there is poison on his hands, there is poison in the food!

Friday

2Cor. 13:9 ... this we also pray for, that you be made complete.

Slashed! The crazy man walked into the museum, produced a knife he had hidden in a pocket, and began to slash an irreplaceable masterpiece. When the man was finally restrained, the tragedy was not that a picture had been removed from public display, but that a beloved treasure had been destroyed. The focus of the restoration team was not how they might bring the beloved art back to the gallery's wall, but how to carefully, lovingly, painstakingly mend and heal the broken work. The value of the art is not found in its potential for public display, but is intrinsic in the owner's love for it. This is the call to restore -- not chiefly to 'restore' for display, but 'restore' to wholeness and health.