

Sunday School Lesson for the Month of July 2016

What the Bible Says About Temptation

(James 1:2-18)

Sunday, July 3, 2016

Most new Christians are shocked that temptations continue to come their way after their conversion experience. Many older and more mature Christians respond in utter disbelief when they fall into some sin to which they thought they were immune. To each of us comes that moment when we must face the fact that no one is beyond the influence of temptation. Once this truth is realized, we are in a position to understand temptation more clearly and to conquer it more effectively.

I. Proper attitude toward temptation.

“When all kinds of trials and temptations crowd into your lives, my brothers, don’t resent them as intruders, but welcome them as friends” (James 1:2 Phillips).

The proper attitude toward temptations is not defeatism; it is not an assumption that you are more sinful than others; rather, it is a realization that temptation is an opportunity for you to demonstrate what being a Christian really means.

Sunday, July 10, 2016

II. Purpose of Temptation (James 1:3-4, 12).

Five purposes of temptation are offered in these verses.

- The first is to test and strengthen your faith [“the trying of your faith,” verse 3]. Temptation is to the Christian what a football game is to the trained athlete – an opportunity to prove his ability (through Christ) to win.
- The second purpose is to increase your endurance [patience – verse 3].
- The third purpose is to mature you [“perfect work,” verse 4].
- The fourth purpose is to develop independence [“wanting nothing” verse 4]. Properly handled, temptation will lessen your dependence on others for moral encouragement.
- The fifth purpose is to bring rewards [verse 12]. The rewards are happiness [blessed] and real life [“the crown of life,” verse 12].

Sunday, July 17, 2016

III. Prayer during temptation (James 1:5-8).

The prayer for knowledge to handle our problems (verse 5) must be offered in absolute faith if we expect to receive anything from the Lord [verses 6-7].

Sunday, July 24, 2016

IV. Perspective that lessen temptation (James 1:9-11).

These verses call attention to a great help in conquering temptation – a proper perspective [sense of values] of the outward, inward, and awareness of the real values in life.

Sunday, July 31, 2016

V. Person responsible for your temptation (James 1:13-18).

God is not the person responsible for your temptation [verse 13]! Rather, he is the one responsible for all the good that comes your way [verse 17]. We are inclined to lay the blame for crimes on everyone except the criminal and sin on everyone except the sinner. The Bible refuses to do this!

You are the person responsible for your temptation [verses 14-15]. True, you cannot keep birds from flying over your head, but you can keep them from building nests in your hair.

Because of your own inward desires, you are responsible [“he is drawn away of his own lust” (verse 14)]. Lust, which is the pull of your lower nature, begins as a fine thread of a spider’s web and if unchecked, becomes as strong as an iron chain. Because you alone can put the sequence of sin into operation, you are responsible [verse 15]. The sequence is thought – deed – penalty/lust – sin – death.

Because you alone can choose your moral patterns, you are responsible. You may choose to live by the standards set forth in God’s word, or you may choose to live by the standards of the world, which I call situation ethics.

The Ten Commandments have not been repealed. Although you may change your standards of morality, you cannot change the results of immorality, for “sin” when it is finished, bringeth forth death (James 1:15).