



Beacon Baptist Church

“Where the sufficiency of the Word is declared”

Temptation: Take Heed Lest You Fall

“He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.” (Proverbs 28:13)

No matter how great your character may be, you can fall! Augustine prayed, “Lord, deliver me from my worst enemy, that wicked man—myself.” David, the one whom God said was a man after His own heart, slid down the slippery slope to sin’s harvest. He LINGERED in the wrong place and LUSTED after something forbidden—another man’s wife. We are told to “flee youthful lusts which war against the soul.” It is a matter of choosing to separate ourselves from the source of temptation. David LET DOWN his guard instead of taking the way of escape that God clearly promises to provide (1 Cor. 10:13). Once he committed the sin of adultery, he LIED. He betrayed Bathsheba’s honorable husband in order to cover his own sin! In doing so, he LOST what was really important. His fellowship with God and with others was harmed and could only be restored by asking for forgiveness, and displaying a *pattern of doing right*. Yet David LIVED with his sin for nearly a year before Nathan the prophet confronted him. Nathan told him about a rich man killing his servant’s only lamb to feed his guests. Enraged, David said that the man would pay four-fold. Nathan replied, “*Thou art the man!*” David’s own pronouncement of punishment came true. He got a “LICKING” from God. “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.” (Gal.6:7) Four of his own sons died (the baby, Amnon, Absalom and Adonijah). David could have avoided intense grief if only he had guarded his heart in the time of temptation!

Praise God, the account of David does not end in defeat. His response to Nathan’s rebuke was almost like someone lancing a boil. Repentance poured forth from a heart that was polluted by sin and broken by truth. Although godly sorrow involves regret, it does not stop there. It presses the heart to seek repentance that leads to salvation for the rebellious and the merely religious. Godly sorrow will also lead to restoration for those genuine Christians who have grown cold, or who have become captive to sin in their lives. **A Christian cannot reject sinful practices without recognizing them as sin against God, repenting of them and returning from them.** Godly sorrow cries out like David, “Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight” (Psa. 51:4). Godly sorrow will also seek to correct offenses against others so that fellowship *with* God and worship *of* God will not be hindered (Matt. 5:23-24). Yet wrongs against others seem as nothing when compared to the offense that our sins are to God Who is holy. Like David, those believers who see their sin as an offense against God will be made sorry *after a godly manner*. They will want to repent and will labor to reform their lives through the power of the Holy Spirit for the glory of God.

Commentators state that Psalm 32 follows Psalm 51 historically. It records the praise and instruction of a man forgiven of the grievous sins of adultery and murder. Like David, we can rejoice that, “though our sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool” because “if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (Isaiah 1:18; 1 John 1:9).

To think that you may be beyond hope, wrongfully places limits upon God’s grace [Acts 8:3; 26:10-11; Galatians 1:13; 1Timothy 1:12-14 with Acts 9]