

## CONDITIONING OURSELVES TO SIN

Bob Duncan

Alexander Pope (1688-1744) wrote:

*"Vice is a monster of so frightful mien,  
As to be hated needs but to be seen;  
Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face,  
We first endure, then pity, then embrace."*

It is a fact that sin often gains gradual acceptance in the hearts and lives of those who are not vigilant. Many years ago I heard the late beloved N. B. Hardeman preach a sermon on sin. He quoted the first verse of Psalm 1: "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." He then made the observation that this passage points up the progressive nature of sin: "walketh ... standeth ... sitteth." He illustrated it by saying a young man may have heard of the gambling dens of a large city. He finds himself in the city, and his curiosity leads him to walk back and forth in front of one of those places to see what it looks like. He is soon emboldened to stop and stand in front of the door so as to be able to get a better look. Having stood there for a while, he finds the courage to go inside and sit down so he might participate.

As a rule, we do not jump off into sin at once; sin is too repulsive for us to be able to do so. But we drift into sin little by little, so that none of our departures from the straight and narrow are so great as to be noticeable. If we are not extremely careful, we will in time come to embrace that which we once despised as an ugly monster.

This is the very thing that has happened in our society. There was a time not too far distant when divorce was a shameful thing, when abortion was illegal, when fornication and adultery were not even spoken of in polite company, and when homosexuality was practically unheard of and certainly not advertised. Not all of these things are considered to be perfectly acceptable by a large segment of our society. It did not get that way all at once. In the language of Pope, we familiarized ourselves with these things we had properly hated, we decided to endure them, we pitied them, then embraced them.

Is this not also the very thing that has happened in the church with such moral issues as social drinking, dancing, and wearing immodest apparel? There was a time when everyone, both in and out of the church, understood clearly That Christian people did not engage in these things. The change did not take place all at once, but gradually. The fact these departures from right living took place little by little, so that they were hardly noticeable, does not mean they are any less sin. Remember! God's word is the standard by which we will be judged.

- *The Beacon*, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL -

## SIN

*Enters quietly, moves slowly,  
Consumes totally, destroys completely!  
It Will take you farther than you want to go,  
Keep you longer than you want to stay,  
And Cost you more than you want to pay.*

*'Tis one thing to be tempted, another to fall. - Shakespeare*

## News & Notes

**SYMPATHY:** To Carol Stillwell at the recent passing of her sister, Virginia Rickerd. Virginia was a member here several years ago.

**CARE & SHARE BEARS:** Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. All ladies are invited to participate.

**MECHANICAL PENCIL DRIVE:** Through August 6th for school kids. Place in the box in the foyer or give money to Rico to purchase them in bulk at a better price.

**FRIDAY NIGHT SONG SERVICES:** Aug. 4th, 7:00 p.m. at Weirton Heights.

Aug. 18th, 7:00 p.m. at WV School of Preaching in Moundsville.

**N. CENTRAL OHIO BIBLE LECTURES:** Lorain, OH, Aug. 6-9. Theme: *The Resurrection Revealed*. Multiple Speakers. Call Bob Eddy at 440-233-5489 or 440-477-1049.

**PANTRY:** Instant potatoes.

**REMEMBER WITH PRAYER & CARDS:** Eva Sharp (Elaine McClung's mother), 1790 Monumental Road, Rivesville, WV 26588. Ruth Wright (Sharon Williams' sister), 1211 Mound St., Salem, OH 44460. Margie Chisler (Peggy Williams' sister), 1596 Daybrook Road, Fairview, WV 26570.

**SICK & SHUT-IN:** Bill Robinson, Pat Allison, Blondenia Orr, Betty Henthorne, Doris Dunham, Lewis Call (Cindy Miskimen's dad), Tom Wells (ex-husband of Claudette Miller). **LIFELINE, WINTERSVILLE, OH:** Jim Smith. **FOX NURSING HOME:** Mary Nelson. **CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller, Jim Mick. **CALCUTTA HEALTH CARE:** Ella Beagle. **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl.

## ALL ABOUT JESUS

This brief outline doesn't actually tell all about Jesus, but uses the concept of *all* in thinking of what Jesus did and does.

**Jesus left it all** (Philippians 2:5-8). As one who gave up the glories of heaven, He became our example of the attitude of humility and selflessness.

**Jesus paid it all** (Hebrews 10:10). With His once-for-all sacrifice, He became our redeemer.

**Jesus gives it all** (Philippians 4:19; Romans 8:32). Every past activity of Christ's (as in #1 and #2) has present meaning, and He continues to be active as God gives us all we need in Him. He is our supplier.

*His past, not mine,  
determines the present.*

*His present, not mine,  
Guarantees the future.*

- J. Randall Matheny, (*House to House*) -

## The Whole Bible In 25 Minutes

The Bible can be put into three headings:

**God is the former** (Genesis 1-2). "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Genesis 2:7). Since God created us, we are accountable to Him. If we never acknowledge the creation, we will never see that we are sinners in need of a Savior.

**Satan is the deformer** (Genesis 3:1-7). Called the "hinge of the Bible," this passage is crucial. If it were not in the Bible, the whole book would be changed. We finish chapter 2 with heavenly bliss in the garden, but verse 8 shows the creatures hiding in shame. What happened? Sin changes everything.

**Jesus Christ is the transformer** (Genesis 3:15). From Genesis 3:8, God is beginning to redeem His people through the coming seed of woman. "Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2)

- Author Unknown, (*House to House*)