

KINDS OF SIN – BESETTING SINS

Hebrews 12:1

INTRODUCTION

- A. In our lessons we will observe some general classifications of sins and the various kinds of sin mentioned in God's Word.
- B. Last time we used Psalm 19:12-14 where David mentions four different kinds of sin: secret sins, presumptuous sins, sins of the heart, and sins of the tongue.
- C. Tonight we will discuss "Besetting Sins" from Hebrews 12:1.

DISCUSSION

I. WHAT IS A BESETTING SIN?

- A. "...easily beset" - εὐπερίστατος (LN 37.6) (BAGD p. 324): 'easily ensnaring, obstructing, constricting' [BAGD]...It means 'which easily surrounds' as a garment [Alf, EGT, My, NCBC], which winds around and hinders [Blm, NCBC], clinging closely [Hwt, ICC]. The prefix εὐ- 'well' is intensive [ICC]. It is that which easily encircles or entangles, like a loose flowing robe.
- B. Runners in the ancient Olympics would lay aside even their inner garments so as not to be impeded.
- C. Here the Holy Spirit pleads for Christians to lay aside every hindrance in living the Christian life, especially those sins which, like inner garments, cling so closely to us.
- D. Therefore, besetting sins are those sins which hinderingly cling so close to us and are so easily committed.

II. WHAT IS THE PARTICULAR BESETTING SIN OF THE TEXTS?

- A. By reading Hebrews 11 in conjunction with Hebrews 12:1, it can be easily seen that unbelief was the particular besetting sin of the text.
- B. It is still the root (major) besetting sin of man. Hebrews 3:12.
- C. Why do we fail to give liberally unless we do not really – deep down within – believe Romans 12:8 ("...giveth...with liberality...") and Luke 6:38?
 - 1. Strong's G572 ἀπλότης [*haplotēs* /hap·lot·ace/] "1 singleness, simplicity, sincerity, mental honesty. 1A the virtue of one who is free from pretence and hypocrisy. 2 not self seeking, openness of heart manifesting itself by generosity."
- D. Will a sincere man refuse to be baptized according to the New Testament – not traditions of man – if he really believes? Mark 16:16.

E. REMEMBER: ACTION IS BASED ON FAITH!

III. BIBLICAL CHARACTERS HAD BESETTING SINS.

- A. Peter – Matthew 26:33-75 – was beset with the sin of indecisiveness.
- B. Moses – Numbers 20:7-13 – was beset with impatience.
- C. James and John – sons of thunder – Luke 9:51-56 – were beset by impatient severity.
- D. Simon the sorcerer – Acts 8:18-21 – was beset by covetousness (greed).

IV. WHAT ARE SOME AREAS FROM WHICH ARISES BESETTING SIN?

- A. Besetting sins may be those to which we are drawn due to our temperament. Such sins as pride, laziness, avarice, skepticism, vacillation, stubbornness, and such like may arise from this area.
- B. Besetting sins may be those in which we indulged before obeying the gospel. Maybe it is the sin of gambling, cursing, non-attendance, cheating, lying and deceiving.
- C. Besetting sins may be those to which we are exposed by our profession.

- D. Besetting sins may be those to which we are particularly vulnerable due to a weakness. Non-smoker has to fight unless he or she reverts back to his harmful habit (drugs, alcohol, one who steals, etc.)
- E. Besetting sins may be those to which we are particularly attached due to the influence of our rearing.
- V. WHAT IS YOUR BESETTING SIN? 2 Corinthians 13:5.
 - A. Is it some HABIT: gambling, drinking, smoking, cursing, immorality, etc?
 - B. Is it some ATTITUDE: judging, over-tolerance, covetousness, envy, jealousy, ingratitude, prejudice, insincerity, etc?
 - C. Is it some SIN OF THE TONGUE: gossip, faultfinding, criticism, cursing, jesting, slang, murmuring, lying, filthy speech, boasting, etc?
 - D. Is it some MISPLACED AFFECTION: money, kin, preeminence, pleasure, etc?
 - E. Is it some SIN OF THE FLESH: gluttony, drunkenness, fornication, adultery, homosexuality, petting, revealing, etc?
 - F. Is it some OTHER SIN: Procrastination, laziness, losing your temper, stealing, worry, etc?
- VI. BESETTING SINS CAN BE AGGRAVATED.
 - A. By reverting to former associates (gambling friends, for example), exposure to former surroundings (bars, for example).
 - B. God's exhortation is to "flee." 2 Timothy 2:2.
 - C. We are to avoid temptation. Matthew 6:13.
- VII. BESETTING SINS CAN BE OVERCOME.
 - A. 1 Corinthians 10:13; Philippians 4:13; 1 John 1:8-10.
 - B. Those who have overcome:
 - 1. Corinthians – 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.
 - 2. Colossians – Colossians 3:5-7.
 - 3. Paul – 1 Corinthians 9:27.

CONCLUSION

- A. Besetting sins are those sins which hinderingly cling so close to us and are so easily committed.
- B. Sin separates us from God. Isaiah 59:1-2; 1 Peter 3:12.
- C. Obey the gospel.