

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 287-2187

Visit Our Website at:

MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

May 5, 2019

“Common Mistakes We Make When Tempted Pt.2”

By Brian Meade

We are continuing our study of common mistakes that we can make in the moments of temptation. We may look at these as the pitfalls to successfully enduring temptation; Or they may aptly be named things we do or don't do that, “shoot ourselves in the foot” in a self-inflicted way of handling temptation.

Regardless of how we think of them, I believe we can learn from our mistakes and do better— if we want to.

We make a common mistake, when we....



#3 Believe False Ideas About Temptation.

Many have certain concepts or misconceptions concerning their ability to endure temptation.

The Scriptures teach us that, *“No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.”* (1 Cor. 10:13)

From this reading we understand several lessons concerning the nature of temptation: **A.** The same temptations are common to all of mankind, therefore no one can say they have temptations no one else has. **B.** God is faithful (there for us every time) and will not allow us to be tempted beyond our ability to endure the temptation at hand. **C.** For every temptation there is a way of escape, that God provides, so we can endure the temptation. But some still make the mistake of:

(1) Over-Estimating Temptation's Power.

Some Christians may have the mistaken view that we are weak and completely powerless to stand against temptations to sin, and therefore, we just cannot do any differently. They may say things like, “I just couldn't help myself.” They may also say, “I'm only human.” What they are often doing is rationalizing or justifying themselves in giving in so easily to Satan's desire for them to sin. They will often convince themselves that the devil is just too powerful an enemy, and we don't stand a chance against him.

Now that might seem true, but it isn't what the Bible teaches us. If we notice in 1 Corinthians 10:13, Scripture tells us that *“....God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.”*

What that says to you and I, we have the ability and opportunity to escape every temptation. It is our failure to do this in moments of temptation that leads us to sin. The Scriptures even teach us that we can resist temptation, *“Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”* (James 4:7)

So to believe we can't do something because we lack the ability to do so is erroneous because God expects us to resist the devil. And it would be completely unfair to expect us to do something we can't do. But we can!

(2) Under-Estimating Temptation's Power.

I Corinthians 10:12 shows us the danger of thinking too highly of our ability to deal with temptation, as Paul says, *"Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall."*

Christians who consider themselves 10' tall and bulletproof need to heed the apostle Paul's warning! We should not let over-confidence be our own undoing. To be over-confident in our ability to withstand temptation is just as bad a mistake as being under-confident. Both will hinder us from staying out of sin.

Christians who believe they can handle going to dances or night clubs without it affecting them in the area of lascivious desires need to not under-estimate temptation's power. Christians who believe it's acceptable to watch R-rated movies that have nudity, graphic language, and vulgar talk need to not underestimate temptation's power. Some will even say, "It's just a few scenes of nudity." We need to be careful not to put ourselves in harm's way.

But rather, our prayer needs to be that of the disciples, *'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.'* (Matthew 6:13) If we pray for that, we should align our actions with our prayers to be consistent.

#4 Dwelling Too Long On Temptation.

Another grave mistake is to think intently and let our mind dwell on the temptation at hand. Whether we realize it or not, to linger on and on about the object of our temptation is to give the devil more and greater opportunity to get us to sin. I believe we should know that the longer our mind dwells on the opportunity to sin, the greater the chance will be for us to give in to sin's desire.

The Bible teaches us about two different men who were faced with the temptation to commit fornication and how they dealt with it. The first one is Joseph, the son of Jacob, in Genesis 39:6-13. Here Joseph is faced with his master's wife desiring him to commit sexual immorality with her. He doesn't even give himself time to think about it, he tells her *NO* in his statement in verse 9, *"How then could I do this great evil and sin against God?"*

Joseph was not open to day-dreaming or fantasizing about the temptation at all; because in some respect, that is a taste of the sin that leads us to the very act! But our next example in 2 Samuel 13:1-14 of Amnon, the son of David, shows us just how dwelling on the temptation to commit fornication can ruin us morally and spiritually! This was all because he didn't control himself like Joseph did; and in the end, it cost him his life (2 Samuel 13:32).

#5 Leaving An Opportunity Open To Sin.

In Romans 13:14, Paul tells us, *"But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts."* The Greek word for provision in this text has to do with foresight and thinking ahead. Our English word also bears this out by defining it as: "The action of providing or supplying something for use." (Oxford Dictionary).

We do ourselves a serious injustice when we keep things near to us that should be completely discarded—because they leave an opportunity open to sin. When someone keeps beer or other alcoholic beverages in their homes (usually in the refrigerator or wine cellar), they are making provision to sin. When someone hides the salacious (dirty) magazines of pornography under their bed, they are making provision to sin later on.

The Bible teaches us to *"Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened."* (1 Corinthians 5:7) As you may know, the practice of the Jews was to purge all the leaven from their homes during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. We must do so spiritually.

#6 Playing On The Edge Of Sin.

Sadly, there are Christians who desire to know exactly where the line one must cross before committing sin—just so they move as close to the line as possible. That is a very bad plan! That is a plan that won't keep us pure in heart and motive for what we do.

In Proverbs 6:27-28, the wise man tells us, *"Can a man take fire in his bosom and his clothes not be burned? Or can a man walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched?"* He teaches us that there are consequences for getting something as damaging as fire close to our person. We should not want to play with such fire or get just as close to as we can get without getting burned. Those who do that are playing a dangerous game!

Common sense teaches us to stay just as far away from danger as we can. It seems more than a little foolish to risk our physical life in taking chances, when we really don't have to. It's just me, but I don't want to get out on the very edge of a cliff (like the picture), get as close to a dangerous storm, or get up close and personal with a dangerous animal like a poisonous snake, or a bear, or lion.



The Bible teaches us, *“Thorns and snares are in the way of the perverse; He who guards himself will be far from them.”* (Proverbs 22:5).

In conclusion, let us strive to avoid these common mistakes!

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Martha Norvell (Mississippi Care), June Lawson (Lisa Busby’s Mom), Clois Wright, Debbie Keplinger, Gaddy Hall, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Tammy Kilgore (Jerry’s niece), Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Linda Harris, Karey Trimble. Katie Ward Coburn, Randy Ferrell (was in ICU in Ky), Abigail Poole was sick last week.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Doug George
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: *“Becoming As Little Children”*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Paul Busby
The Book of Acts (Jason Longstreth)
Lesson 8, Page 33, Question #1

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Paul Busby
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Sam Johnson
James 5:16-18
Song Leader: Adam Harris
Lord’s Supper: Brian Meade
Assisting: Lee Busby & Dan Cottrell
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: *“Praying Effectively For Others”*
Closing Prayer: Chris Callahan

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

May 8th:

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Johnson
Ezra, Nehemiah, & Esther (Mike Willis)
Page 28, Question #1
Invitation: Brian Meade
Song Leader: Adam Harris
Closing Prayer: Nathan Meade