

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

Volume 11

December 4, 2022

Number 49

THE PROGRESSIVENESS OF SIN

John Edwards

Psalm 1:1 shows the progressiveness of sin: *“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.”* Sin has always been progressive; proceeding in steps; continuing steadily by increments.

EVE SAW, DESIRED, TOOK, AND ATE. The first transgression shows the progressiveness of sin as Genesis 3:6 says, *“And when the woman **saw** that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be **desired** to make one wise, she **took** of the fruit thereof, and did **eat**, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”*

ACHAN SAW, COVETED, AND TOOK. When the Lord’s people went to take the city of Jericho, the Lord warned, *“keep yourselves from the accursed thing”* (Josh. 6:18), but Achan *“took of the accursed thing”* (Josh. 7:1). Just what led to this man’s sin? Achan answers: *“When I **saw** among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I **coveted** them, and **took** them;*

and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it” (Josh. 7:21).

DAVID AROSE, WALKED, SAW, INQUIRED, SENT, TOOK, AND LAY. Read 2 Samuel 11:1-4 and watch David’s sin with Bathsheba unfold: *“And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David **arose** from off his bed, and **walked** upon the roof of the king’s house: and from the roof he **saw** a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon. And David sent and **inquired** after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? And David **sent** messengers, and **took** her; and she came in unto him, and he **lay** with her...”* Did you observe the verbs expressing sin in progress?

Awareness of the progressiveness of sin should cause us to beware of where our thoughts, words, and actions are taking us. Sin will always take us farther than we want to go!

SOME THINGS TO KEEP YOURSELF FROM

John Edwards

When taking Jericho, the Lord told Israel, *“keep yourselves from the accursed*

thing” (Josh. 6:18). Achan *“took of the accursed thing”* (Josh. 7:1) and *“all Israel stoned him with stones”* (Josh. 7:25). This shows that when the Lord says *“keep yourselves”* from a thing, we had best stay away from it! This article points out some things the Lord says stay away from.

THE PATH OF THE WICKED. There are two paths: the path of the wicked and the path of the just (Prov. 4:18-19). Proverbs 4:14-15 teaches, *“Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away.”* Solomon advised, *“My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not...My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path...”* (Prov. 1:10-18).

FALSE TEACHERS. Paul admonished saints at Rome, *“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them”* (Rom. 16:17). Failure to keep yourself from false teachers, but to enter into fellowship with such, is to become *“partaker of his evil deeds”* (2 Jn. 9-11). To be a partaker is to be just as guilty!

FOOLISH QUESTIONS. Preacher training taught Timothy and Titus: *“But foolish and unlearned questions avoid,*

knowing that they do gender strifes” (2 Tim. 2:23). “But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain” (Titus 3:9). Paul gave these two young preachers two reasons to keep from such: They gender strifes and they are unprofitable and vain. There are some things we just don’t know and “the secret things belong unto the Lord” (Dt. 29:29).

FLESHLY LUSTS. 1 Peter 2:11 says, “Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.” Young Timothy was taught, “Flee also youthful lusts...” (2 Tim. 2:22). There are lusts peculiar to young people and such lusts must not be satisfied. The real danger of not keeping yourself from fleshly lusts is lust conceived. James said, “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death” (Jas. 1:14-15). “But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts

thereof” (Rom. 13:14).

“ABIDE IN ME”

John Edwards

The abiding chapter of the Bible, John 15, finds Jesus teaching: “Abide in me, and I in you....” (v. 4). This study calls to our attention three things associated with this abiding:

FRUIT-BEARING. The Lord said, “....As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me” (v. 4). As Christians, we are married to Christ, “that we should bring forth fruit unto God” (Rom. 7:4). If there’s no fruit on your branch, it may just be that you have become disconnected from the Vine!

PRAYERS ANSWERED. God answers prayers conditionally. One condition of acceptable prayer is abiding in the Lord as the Lord said, “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you” (v. 7). Suppose one doesn’t abide in the Lord? Then, the Lord won’t

hear that individual’s prayers!

THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST. To abide in Christ is to abide in the doctrine or teaching of Christ. John wrote, “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son” (2 Jn. 9). There are those who claim to abide in Christ, but have left the doctrine of Christ. Impossible! The moment you leave the doctrine of Christ, you have quit abiding in Christ.

The consequence of not abiding in Christ is seen in the withered branch of John 15:6, “If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.” This would be a good time to check to see that you’re abiding in Jesus. “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?” (2 Cor. 13:5).

ARE YOU HAPPY?

The Terre Haute **SPEAKER** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

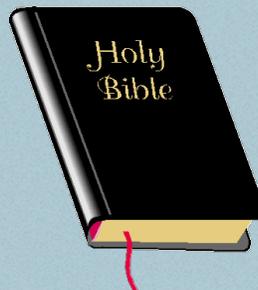
Assembling At:

4017 E Margaret DR
Terre Haute, IN 47803
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,
West on Margaret DR 1 mile]

Assembling Times:

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Come be with us!



We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.

We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.

We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.

www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com