

Temptation

I. Discussion of Temptation

Gn.3:1-6, enemy

- 12 – God’s fault?
- “Where was God when...?”
 - Ro.5:1-4, *glory in tribulations*
 - Ro.8:35, *tribulation...*
 - Ro.12:12, *patient in tribulation*

1 Chron.21:1

- Appears patriotic (protect people)
- Wrong motive
- Allowed pride to overcome him
- Lack of discernment: did not see clearly till damage was done
- Mistrust / pride cost him far more than enemy he feared...his own worst enemy

Job 1:6-9...12, 'satan'

- Enemy is up to no good
- Would gladly crush best man on earth
- Would lie to destroy him
- Would never admit wrong
- Would enlist every ally to destroy Job
- His terrorism not only destroys a godly man, but would put fear and distrust in others who would follow Job's example

Zech.3:1-2

¹ Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him.

² And the LORD said to Satan, “The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?”

- Satan’s purpose: oppose people of God
- Glad when Nebuchadnezzar came...
- Throws wrench into redemptive plan...

Mt.4:1-11

- Satan goes for the jugular
- Satan enjoyed a perfect record
- If he can lead Son of God into sin...
- Satan lost all – defeated enemy

Col.2:13-15

- Law of Moses made sinners
- Lord wiped away this law
- Lord's death disarmed satan, cancelled sinner's debt, gave victory...

Enemy Environment

- Mt.6:13, Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one
- Disciples stayed the course when with Jesus; when He was taken, they fell
- We draw strength from one another
 - Lk.22:32, when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren

Enemy
Environment
Enticement

- Ja.1:14, what turns a trial into temptation?
 - *Drawn away*: to lure with desire
 - Fishing metaphor
 - Trial becomes temptation when lust enters – snared with our own bait
 - *Own desires*. “Why did you do that??”
 - *Enticed*. Lure, catch, trap... Gn.3

Not even satan's suggestions pose danger
unless we make them our own

Enemy
Environment
Enticement

- 1 Jn.2:15-17
 - In John, world generally signifies the world in rebellion against God
 - Worldliness
 - It's our choice

Enemy
Environment
Enticement
Endurance

- Rv.2:9... 13... 24
 - God does not remove satan or change the world, or the flesh
 - Temptation –
 - Tests our love and loyalty... Job 42
 - Trials make us stronger. Job; Joseph
 - Trust leads us to rely on His strength

Enemy
Environment
Enticement
Endurance

- 2 Co.12:7-9
 - Know the enemy
 - Wiles – deception

I. Disclosure of Temptation

II. Deliverance from Temptation

God is good

- Pagans did not worship good gods, but arbitrary, capricious fake gods who encouraged depravity and produced fear
- Ps.34:8, Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him

A hard concept for people to grasp

- **Gn.3:1-2, denied God's goodness**
 - 1: test to see if she knew what God said
 - 4-5: child not allowed to do as he desires; accuses parents of hating him...
 - Devil: "If God were good He would let you have this good fruit..." V.6
 - Devil tells same ole lies...
 1. Drunk
 2. Immoral
 3. Christian – Mt.6:25, 31, 34

I. Disclosure of Temptation

II. Deliverance from Temptation

III. Defeat of Temptation

We are responsible for our behavior

- Church: “Why don’t ‘they’ do something”
- Gn.3:11-12
 - Adam blamed God
 - Woman blamed serpent
 - Lord penalized each
 - » We are responsible for choices

“What about heredity / environment?”
(Are we under their power?)

- **Melchizedek, Gn.14**
 - Abraham was not only righteous man in Canaan
- **Abraham, Josh.24**
 - Abraham was surrounded by idols...
- **Cornelius, Ac.10**
 - Could have blamed soldiers for sinful life...

People blame society / parents / God for evil...

No one wants responsibility for own sins

- Lk.15, young man improved condition only when he admitted what he was (12, 19)
- Alcoholic: “if you _____ you would drink too”
- Nazis: “if you lived in Germany...”
- 1 Co.6 –
 - 9: sin inflicts eternal consequences
 - 10-11: there is a way out

We can win over sin...

...by taking the exit that God provides

1 Co.10:13 – our trials are not unique

- Common to man
- Way of escape
- Proof: two 'losers' – Paul illustrates with . . .
 1. Israel –
 - a. Circumstances could not be different
 - b. Temptations were the same
 2. Corinth – Paul promises success in Sin City ... *If* they take the warning seriously