

THE GREAT DESTROYER (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

I. The cause of sin.

- A. Have you ever asked yourself, "What causes me to sin?"
- B. The Bible is very clear as to what causes us to sin: our own lusts (James 1:13-16).
- C. There are things in this world that tempt us and we have a desire for them.
 - 1. What is tempting to you may not bother me.
 - 2. What is tempting to me may not bother you.
- D. These temptations come in three forms (1 John 2:15-16).
- E. The cause is easy to understand if we will be honest with ourselves.
 - 1. We must find those areas of our lives where we are weak.
 - 2. In other words, we must identify the problems in our lives in order to deal with them.
- F. Paul dealt with this idea in Romans 7:15-19.
 - 1. We are in a battle for our souls.
 - 2. Even Paul had to fight this battle with sin.

II. The callouses from sin.

- A. The problem with sin is that it spreads and causes our hearts to harden.
- B. Sin has been well likened to cancer.
 - 1. It kills that area which it affects.
 - 2. It then spreads to other areas to kill them as well until it kills the whole body.
- C. The Hebrews writer warned about the hardening caused by sin (Hebrews 3:13).
 - 1. Sin causes our hearts to be hardened to where the seed of God's word cannot penetrate it.
 - 2. When our hearts are that way, it would be like placing seed on hard-packed earth, where there is no hope of growth.
- D. Paul talked about those who allowed their consciences to be seared.
 - 1. These people taught false doctrines because their hearts could no longer be penetrated by the truth.
 - 2. They had become hard hearted.
- E. John applied this principle to the Pharisees (John 12:40).
- F. The problem with it is it happens over time, so that we don't see it happening all at once, only little by little.
- G. A father told this story after his family visited Niagara Falls. It was spring, and ice was rushing down the river. As I viewed the large blocks of ice flowing toward the falls, I could see that there were carcasses of dead fish embedded in the ice. Gulls by the score were riding down the river feeding on the fish. As they came to the brink of the falls, their wings would go out, and they would escape from the falls. I watched one gull which seemed to delay and wondered when it would leave. It was engrossed in the carcass of a fish, and when it finally came to the brink of the falls, out went its powerful wings. The bird flapped and flapped and even lifted the ice out of

the water, and I thought it would escape. But it had delayed too long so that its claws had frozen into the ice. The weight of the ice was too great, and the gull plunged into the abyss.

- H. Callouses on hands don't happen in one swing of the hammer.
 - 1. It takes repeated swings for it to form on the hand.
 - 2. Sin is the same in that it takes time, but eventually, the callous will come on our hearts.
- I. Not long after a wealthy contractor had finished building the Tombs prison in New York, he was found guilty of forgery and sentenced to several years in the prison he had built! As he was escorted into a cell of his own making, the contractor said, "I never dreamed when I built this prison that I would be an inmate one day."

III. The cost of sin.

- A. James told us the ultimate cost of sin - death.
- B. We don't like to think of sin in terms of costing us our souls.
- C. Sin is the most deadly thing in the world - it kills every time.
- D. The text that was read for us shows the result of sin - we cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven.
- E. Paul gives another list of sins to the Galatians and gives the same cost (Galatians 5:19-21).
- F. Sin has always cost man.
 - 1. It cost Adam and Eve the Garden of Eden.
 - 2. It cost the people of Noah's day their lives.
 - 3. It cost Moses entrance into the promised land.
 - 4. It cost Saul his kingdom and eventually his life.
 - 5. It cost the Israelites their land and resulted in captivity.
 - 6. It cost Ananias and Saphira their lives.
- G. It will cost us our souls.

IV. The cure for sin.

- A. Some people have tried to cure sin by redefining it.
 - 1. Homosexuality is an alternative lifestyle.
 - 2. Drunkenness is a disease.
 - 3. Adultery is finding your true soulmate.
- B. The Bible is eternal and those things that are categorized as sin in it are still sin no matter what we do to the meaning.
- C. There has been and always will be only one cure for sin and that is the blood of Jesus.
 - 1. Saul was told to wash away his sins in baptism (Acts 22:16).
 - 2. The only thing that is mentioned by inspiration that washes away sin is the blood of Jesus (Revelation 1:5).
 - 3. That blood was shed at His death (John 19:34).
 - 4. The only place we come into contact with that death is in baptism (Romans 6:3-4).
- D. We can look high and low but the only cure is obedience to the gospel.
- E. Once our sins are washed away in baptism, we must stay in contact with the blood of Jesus to have those sins washed away that are committed

after baptism.

- F. We do this by being obedient, or walking in the light (1 John 1:7).
- G. No matter what the world says, the blood of Jesus is the only cure and the only access to that blood is through baptism.
- H. If there was a definite cure for cancer would you not take it?
- I. There is only one cure for sin and yet man refuses to take that cure because sin is too much loved by man.