Temptation …. The Sin Battle
Romans 6:6-7; James 1:26; Matthew 6:22; Ephesians 4:17-19; Ephesians 2:10

Sermon Outline

   1. We have come to a full knowledge, understanding and complete realization
      because the Holy Spirit now lives in us as we walk in the newness of life (Romans
      6:4).
   2. Our sin nature, inherited from Adam was crucified.
   3. Our salvation causes the sinful body to no longer function in the same manner. It
      is no longer relevant or a force in our earthly existence.
   4. Because we are a new creation we are no longer in bondage to the influences of
      sin nature. We now have the inner power to overcome the power effects of the
      body that once influenced us to sin. This led to the war between the flesh and the
      Spirit (Romans 7:14-25; Galatians 5:16-19).
   5. Once and for all, because of Christ death, there is no inner life that leads to sin.
      We no longer depend on the law to live right in the eyes of God. Our
      righteousness is now through faith in Christ.
   6. We are in a set state or condition of having a restored relationship with God. As a
      result, we are in the right standing in our relationship with God so that we are
      declared righteous. Since we are in a right standing with God we are not in
      bondage to sin.

   1. From a root signifying “penetration, sharpness,” singleness of motive – the eyes of the
      heart are a means of knowledge.
   2. It is likened to an eye because it is a light that show the body which way to turn.
   3. Light – To make to see – it means brightness – it is the possibility of grasping and hence
      of mastering the world – light is associated with life the possibility of full life – the light
      of knowledge is described as leading to self-understanding in the world.
   4. Evil, bad – An active form of evil, vile – has a stronger meaning - only this word is used
      of Satan and might be translated “the malignant one.” It represents a person who
      personifies evil. A person who directs their eyes towards evil.
   5. Whole – Complete, undivided, intact – expresses totality – only the man who serves God
      in this totality can render true service (Matt. 6:24).
   6. We must have the capacity to receive it — light that reaches the mind.
   7. Darkness – Could mean spiritual darkness, imply ignorance or error - serving evil
      spirits.
   8. Keeping our lives clear preserves the heart – surrounded by hypocrites like the
      Pharisees.
   9. If our eye is bad darkness becomes our master.
1. **The Battle … Tongue Control Preserves Lives (James 1:26; 3:5-9; Proverbs 18:21):**

   1. If we are constantly having the opinion that we are righteous, because we are careful to do the divinely prescribed duties of outward service (our devotion based on our religious beliefs), then there are some things we must continuously practice.
   2. We have to make it a habit to hold what we say in check (like tying down the tongue or like when someone bridles a horse and the tongue just keeps moving). This is if we are not willing to let our conversation be seasoned with salt (Colossians 4:6) with no lying (Ephesians 4:25), unwholesome (Ephesians 4:29) or filthiness (Ephesians 5:4) proceeding from our months.
   3. If we say we are righteous but do not bridle our tongue then we mislead ourselves in regard to the truth. The deception encompasses all of our desires and mental capacities thus affecting our entire life. We must lead the ‘inner springs of our personal life.’
   4. Outward devotion to religious standards does not produce inner change so our religious practices are empty in the eyes of God. It is therefore unprofitable and useless. ‘It is like building houses on sand, chasing the wind, shooting at stars, pursuing one’s own shadow.’

2. **The Battle … The Mind Can Empower Us or Destroy Us (Ephesians 4:17-19; Romans 12:2):**

   1. Paul could not continuously keep his silence. He had to continuously say what he needed to say.
   2. Paul had to continuously seriously declare what he had personal knowledge of.
   3. What Paul was about to say was said under the authority and power of Christ so that it dominated the everyday life of a believer. This is essential because God wants to have a relationship with us.
   4. We must no longer continuously conduct our everyday lives in the same manner as those who do not know Christ.
   5. We must not live purposeless and meaningless lives because we focus on information that is false.
   6. If we live meaninglessly, we will be in a set state of not being able to move around the obstacles of life. So we will continuously live a life filled with trouble and anxiety.
   7. A darkened understanding leads the believer to not reason correctly Biblically. There is no anointed insight into the scriptures that leads to true knowledge which in turns affects how the believer lives. ‘This is a call for the readers to be alert and ready in their whole spiritual and mental attitude.’
   8. The believer is alienated (not living like a citizen; Ephesians 2:19) from the privilege of experiencing the highest and life that God has to offer that already exist inside the believer (Ephesians 4:16-19).
   9. Because darkness leads to a life excluded from the influence of the Holy Spirit the believer continuously lives the state of an unsaved person (Acts 17:30; Eph. 4:18, v.17). This leads to the need of repentance.
This is because their entire inner life including their mental and emotional state is dull of spiritual perception because it is in a state of being unwilling to learn. This causes the believer to become stubborn.

10. The having become callous - A believer whose life is excluded from the life of God, whose is ignorant and whose heart is heart becomes loses the capacity to feel shame for living a life outside the will of God and does not care if this brings them no honor.

11. These carnal believers put themselves in a position to ‘an insolent disregard for decency’ such as an uncontrolled tongue, sexual debauchery and much evil and pervasive behavior (1 Corinthians 3:1).

12. The carnal believers, who just because of a decision to live in the futility of their minds, engage in evil doctrine, sexual impurity and every kind of filthy behavior.

13. A spirit driven mind empowers the believer to deal with all of life’s issues (Ephesians 1:15-19).

3. Grace, God’s Powerful Agent to Overcoming Temptation (vs. 10):

1. We are continually being worked on by God (Philippians 1:6).
2. We are being modified by God (Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:13).
3. The word “workmanship” (poiēma), used only here and in Romans 1:20 (where the NIV renders it “what has been made”) denotes a work of art or a masterpiece. It differs from human “works” (ergōn) in Ephesians 2:9. Believers are God’s workmanship because they have been created (a work only God can do) in Christ Jesus (cf. “in Christ Jesus” in vv. 6–7). The purpose of this creation is that believers will do good works. God’s workmanship is not achieved by good works, but it is to result in good works (cf. Titus 2:14; 3:8). ¹¹¹
4. When we renew our minds God does the transforming (Romans 12:2).
5. We once for all have been regenerated into something we never were.
6. Our new life came from nothing because we were dead in sin (2:1; Colossians 1:15). Used among the Greeks to mean the founding of a place.
7. This new life could only be experienced in Christ who is the Word.
8. The Holy Spirit who regenerates us into a new creation leads us to live in Christ.
9. Good - Dative, plural, neuter, predicative adjective – To do things that please God and becomes of benefit to others.
10. This is a person who has intrinsic (a person’s essential nature; their constitution) goodness in their hearts.
11. The whole the Christian life is the working out of their salvation which is ruled and energized by faith. It is not accomplished by a single act but by an accumulated labor and continued work (Philippians 2:12).
12. Energized by the Holy Spirit we can please God.

12. **Prepared before hand** – God went ahead of us and prepared the work we must do *(spiritual gifts; 4:1-7; 1 Peter 4:10)*.

13. **We would walk** – The work we would do must, once and for all, become a life-style pattern.

14. **We would walk** – The believer must walk in the newness of life.

15. **We would walk** – The believer’s new life is empowered to become a way of life.