



THE CHALLENGER

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PROCLAIMING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

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The Truth about Temptation

BY THE EDITOR

HOW good the Lord is to reveal the operation of Satan in temptation. Included in His grace is the complete victory over it. We know that three avenues of attack have not changed from the Garden of Eden to today. They are listed for us in I John 2:16: 1) the lust of the flesh, 2) the lust of the eye, and 3) the pride of life. This is what the world around us consists of. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (I John 2:15). When have you heard a sermon on this text? Most of today's preachers shun the biblical subject of worldliness and separation from the world. It is not conducive to bigger crowds and offerings. This text, among others, forever settles the false idea that God loves everybody. (John 3:36; Psalm 5:5; 7:11, 11:5,7) Tell me about His love to the thousands of Israelites He slew in the Old Testament. What about the millions He drowned in the flood? What about the approximate million of those dying at His hand in the wilderness? It took Moses 40 years to bury them. All these were the object of His wrath, not love. *But such a God does not exist. He has changed from the Old Testament to the New. Since when?*

If our temptation comes through these three channels, we must be alert. Notice the action of Eve after being told by God what not to do: "And when the woman SAW that the tree was good for FOOD, that it was pleasant to the EYES, and a tree to be desired to make one WISE, she took of the fruit and did eat, and gave also to her husband and he did eat" (Genesis 3:6). This same approach by Satan was used in Christ's temptation: 1) Turn the stones into bread. (Remember, He had not eaten for the past 40 days and nights.), 2) Cast yourself down from the temple. (What a SIGHT to see His angels take charge of Him.), and 3) All the kingdoms of the world would be given Him. (Pride of possession) "All these will I give you, if you will fall down and worship me" (Matthew 4:9). David followed this same pattern in his sin of adultery. The process began when upon the rooftop he SAW the neighbor lady bathing. Sight is a wonderful possession, but it can ruin us if not being careful.

Time for an Inventory

1. What do you think about, motivated by the world around you?
2. What do you look at and read on the Internet that you would not want anybody to know?
3. What would you like to do if no one would ever find out?
4. What are you looking at on your television that you know is displeasing to God?
5. What kind of pictures do you find pleasure looking at?
6. Do you appreciate satisfaction in people who tell you how great you are?
7. Is your body the greatest possession you have?
8. During the last three days (72 hours), how many of them did you spend in prayer? in reading your Bible?

James 1:14,15 tells us the process of sin: "Every man is tempted when he is drawn away by his own lust and enticed. Then when sinful lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin, and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." Sin is our personal lust going after that which God forbids or directs. Such action is introduced to us by Satan. No action is taken by a human being until it is processed in our mind. Here is the reason God says so much about the mind. Temptation begins when you meditate upon that which is proposed: "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7). Tell me what you think about and I know your spiritual condition. God tells us what to think about: "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, THINK ON THESE THINGS" (Philippians 4:8). If your mind is filled with the clap-trap of this world, you are under the authority of the god of this world, according to the Bible. IF all is filtered through this kind of a mind, we will see the sad actions of a child of the devil. Here is a verse that many miss during their entire lifetime: "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose MIND is stayed on You, because he trusts in You" (Isaiah 26:3).

Two exercises of man does away with all solicitation to sin: "SUBMIT yourselves therefore to God. RESIST the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). God tells us not to sin, but if we do,

(continued on page 2)

Truth about Temptation (continued from page 1)

divine intervention is available: "My little children, these things I write to you, that you sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous" (I John 2:2). John, writing to Christians, states, "If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness" (I John 1:9). In the seventh verse, He again declares cleansing from all sin. All through the New Testament this wording is the same. Many do not believe it. "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (Romans 6:1,2) Spend time reading this chapter. Our identification with Christ on the cross says we died with Him to sin, a fact to be reckoned on (verse 11). The devil is a defeated foe. God help us to live in this glorious reality.

"The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished" (II Peter 2:9). "There has no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able; but will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (I Corinthians 10:13).

Friend, in closing, for victory over temptations, our minds must be kept full of God's Word. Read it! Meditate upon it! Hear sermons filled with it! "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to Your Word. Your Word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against you" (Psalm 119:9,11). To be victimized by temptation, you will, according to the passions of the flesh, look upon that which is sinful, and establish a false image of your importance. A born-again Christian (there is no other kind) has the living Christ within his heart and mind. We are passed from darkness to light, death to life with the Holy Spirit within. We are new creatures in Christ with a passion to do the will of God in obedience. Christ died for sinners of which all are included. His resurrection power in regeneration brings us into a thrilling relationship with Himself. We are now overcomers and victorious over Satan and his power. Let's keep in His Word, for all He desires us to know is in that holy Book.

Personal Word

(continued from page 3)

anything about it? WE ARE! Why not get involved in our declaration of God's Word, where the solution to any and all problems are found. God deals with individuals, one at a time — "WHOSOEVER." How many are you reaching for Christ? We would be delighted to become your spokesman for reaching sinners with the story of God's grace.

Sad Days

These are sad days for many people. Those who invested their savings in governmental agencies have lost 50 percent of their retirement savings. A workman, checking my air conditioner, lost \$10,000. He is an ex-marine and just getting married. It was the government who took his money.

I remember as a mere lad my father (a Baptist preacher) telling me of this day coming. Two things motivated his position way back in 1937. It was our national debt and living on credit. What is our hope when we provide billions of dollars to financial institutions who mismanage their finances? The same leaders will handle the money given to them.

The only way to clean out Congressmen who have allowed this economic chaos to exist is by an election. But we vote them back into office because of so many involved in the personal dole. The politicians know the way of securing enough votes to remain in office. It's the fault of the Republicans, the Democrats, and our presidents. It is an established fact that 30 percent of all monies the government handles will be stolen by craft, thieves, and political leaders. And on we will go, hoping our course of action will rectify the problem. Who knows? No one!

God told us not to steal or be covetous. Where does God come into the picture? He is in the center of it all, knowing everything that is going on! By the way, His books are always accurate. His promise of retribution and reward for faithfulness will never be altered.

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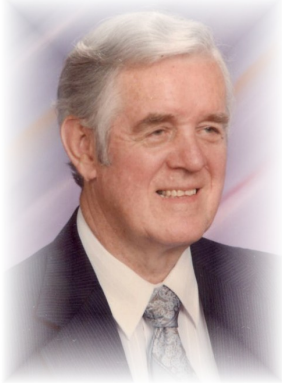
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Personal Word



Precious Memories

Only the Lord knows how I miss my sweetheart who is now in the Lord's presence. Next to Jesus Christ, she was the greatest gift I received from the Lord. Before I met her, I had told the Lord exactly what I was looking for in a pastor's wife. As usual, He did abundantly above that which I could ask for or even imagine. She was the first girl I met who I thought worth going after. Six of us started after her. I had many friends who assisted me in the chase. The Lord gave her to me. I was the only boy friend she ever had.

One day I was thanking her father for providing such a wonderful wife and mother for me.

His reply was, "Dwight, Marian was a gift of God to us. Never did she give us one moment of anxiety or concern. She loved the Lord with all her heart. There was never any resentment or resistance toward her parents." Now you can see why she had no hang-ups, weaknesses or troubles to overcome. She had it all together. Never have I met another person during my lifetime with more poise and confidence in the Lord. My God gave her to me for 62 years of companionship. We had a wonderful trip together. Both of us are looking forward to that reunion in the sky.

What Is Ahead?

I am not going to talk about our nation, for my convictions about that are sad indeed. I am not going to talk about you or me, for I know what is ahead for the children of God, as well as Christ-rejecting sinners. I am talking about our ministry, which is yours as much as it is mine. There would be no HOUR OF GRACE AND POWER independent of you, our prayer partners and financial supporters, for your investment is as important as mine. There are thousands of precious souls who say a big THANK YOU for reaching them with biblical Truth.

In past years our income has been much higher than now. We had a nationwide ministry by TV for about five years. We went around the world by shortwave radio for three years. We sent out more literature back a few years ago. Our CD and cassette mailings are now the greatest in our history. Our web site is one of the best on the Internet, but the response is beyond our knowledge. Today, we have the smoothest office procedure in our history. Our production process is the best ever. We mail our literature, CDs and cassettes in an efficient manner with our wonderful donated labor. Our *Challenger* mailing is much easier now. Formerly, my wife handled the volume of labeling and preparing it for second-class mailing. We now pay to have this done. By the way, our *Challenger* mailing is on the increase. With the efficiency of our present operation, we are prepared for increase in every department. Presently, we are praying for the Lord's direction in the way of increase of our entire volume. *Will this not demand more finances?* If the Lord gives us the increase, we trust Him to care for all needs. Do pray with us. While we sit in our churches, reaching few sinners, this ministry is on the frontline where the sinners are located. Many in our prison ministry are hungry for a real change in their lives. The gospel will produce such!

Two Great Lessons

It is still shocking to me the lack of interest most people possess for genuine Bible study. Our correspondence course consists of nine lessons and each reach far beyond the ABCs of salvation. What do you know about *adoption, justification, and sanctification?* The two great lessons are *FAITH* and *PRAYER*. If you will let them,

these two lessons can revolutionize your entire Christian life. Never have you run across such clarity, challenge, and comprehension. With an open heart and mind, and depending upon the Holy Spirit for understanding, a new day can dawn in your life, resulting from your study of these two lessons. They are available only to those taking the entire course. Write: Bible Study Course, PO Box 372744, Satellite Beach, FL 32937. There is no cost, obligation or solicitation.

Today's Trouble

In these dismal days, our ministry offers the lasting hope and comfort that is revealed in God's Word. Our goal is to help people look beyond this present doom and gloom, focusing upon the altogether lovely One, Jesus Christ. We desire to bring our biblical ministry to as large an audience as possible. For God's glory, we want to take advantage of every possible means to reach people with His eternal Truth. The world of mass media communications is so fluid, we must be able to adapt to changes that can open up our teaching to new audiences. Thus, our strong and effective web site. We must never miss an opportunity to feed hungry hearts with the meat of God's Word. Thus, the reason for our monthly paper being on our web site, plus my Personal Pen letters, and some 80 printed messages that can be read or downloaded into your home or office. In your own ministry, you can distribute them to others. You can hear many of our messages through this modern miracle on our web site. The real secret to reaching more people is not only what we do, but what God's people do with that which we provide. Give our cassettes or CDs to other people. Come, friend, join our team, roll up your sleeves, and work with us.

If you are not on the Internet, find someone who is and have them to show you our web site. Spend time to read every bit of it. You will better understand our outreach and learn exactly what to pray for. Are you excited about our country's economic problems? What about its moral deterioration? Are you doing

(continued page 3)

MONTHLY, we send thousands of printed Bible messages to individual inmates in over 500 prisons. Bulk copies of this publication also reach

ARE YOU AWARE?

them. Many inmates receive their own addressed copy. Regularly, we mail cassettes and CDs to those requesting them. Audio messages can be heard on our web site. Our biblical messages can be read and downloaded. Our Bible course goes out in all directions. All these items are available also to non-prisoners, mailed without cost, obligation, or solicitation.

From Box 400

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for all you do. The publications that you make available to prisoners are very uplifting. I have recently been saved and now attend church and sing in the choir. Yet, I realize I have a long way to go and a lot to learn. I pray for you and your ministry. – Caroline

I have enjoyed The Challenger for many years of imprisonment. It has touched my life and helped me to keep my faith when I have needed it most. I pray that your word goes out to many more people and that it will work for them as it has for me. Thank you for making my prison term an easier period. May God bless you and your workers. – TX

Thank you for sending the newsletters and cassettes. Your ministry is impacting a lot of folks who would not otherwise hear the gospel. I wish to encourage you to keep on planting and watering; our Lord will do the growing. Enclosed please find a small contribution. May our Lord continue to bless you. – Miami

Thank you for the Bible study on "Repentance." Please send another book. – AZ

I often think of you and pray for you and your ministry. God bless you forever more! I am moving in the Lord down the straight and narrow path. Thank you for all your prayers and for being an immovable object for the Lord. I would not trade the chastening, rebuking, affliction, correction, patience and long-suffering of God in my behalf. The Spirit that lives within me won't give up on me for nothing. I am glad I have had your stern teaching as part of my foundation in Christ. Thanks for being a friend. I love you like family. – an inmate (CA)

I would like all the information you have available on giving your life to Christ. Thank you. – a lady prisoner

God bless you all who are associated with The Hour of Grace and Power! I am a certificate recipient for your Bible Study Course. As promised, I continually pray for you. I will never forget the love and time you spent to assist me in my scriptural growth and development. May God's light continue to shine on you. I began a new job last week, so I hope to send your ministry a financial gift. God has blessed me through you. – VA

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We have discontinued our radio ministry, but we continue full speed in our other outlets. You can hear our messages by cassette or CDs; let us know of your interest. Five couples volunteer their time and energy in this ministry. We pay no salaries, which means your gifts go 100 percent to reach thousands weekly by literature, cassettes, Bible studies, and on our website. We welcome your participation.

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thehourofgraceandpower.org

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"Be you steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. . . You know your labor is not in vain in the Lord" | Corinthians 15:58

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