

Three Things Sin Will Do

Heb. 3:13

I. Introduction:

1. Sin is a terrible thing! Isa. 59:2; Rom. 6:23; 1 Jn. 4:10
2. The writer of Hebrews warns about the deceitfulness of sin: *“But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin”* (Heb. 3:13).
3. Involvement in sin not only deceives its victims, but also hardens their heart (cf. 1 Tim. 4:2).
 - A. Think of the alcoholic—there had to be the FIRST drink. Think of the drug addict—there had to be the FIRST “joint.” Think of the chronic gambler—there had to be the FIRST bet! Think of the adulterer—there had to be the FIRST lustful “look”!
 - B. All victims of such sins were deceived and then hardened by it. Ask them, and if they’re honest, they’ll admit they gave no thought to the consequences of their actions (Gen. 3:1-23).
 - C. What will sin do? Sin will do 3 things; it will...

II. Discussion:

1. **Takes You Farther Than You Wanted To Go.** The first drink, the first “high” on drugs, the first bet, or the first lustful look is as far as many planned to go. But all who end up as alcoholics, drug addicts, compulsive/chronic gamblers, or serial adulterers had to take that FIRST step. Furthermore, involvement in one sin, more often than not, leads to involvement in other sins. They come as a “package deal.” Remember David in 2 Sam. 11 & 12:

“David remained in Jerusalem” (11:1)→David looked, *“the women was very beautiful to behold”* (11:2; Matt. 5:28)→David then inquired (11:3)→*“then David sent messengers, and took her”* (11:4)→*“and he lay with her”* (11:4)→*“the woman conceived”* (11:5)→David seeks to deceive Uriah (11:6-8)→David seeks to deceive Uriah by getting him drunk (11:12-13)→David orders Joab to *“Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die”* (11:15)→Uriah dies (11:17)→David “rationalizes” Uriah’s death (11:25)→David marries Bathsheba (11:27)→David is angered at his own sin (12:5)

The alcoholic not only drinks, but he often beats his wife, he may lose his job, neglect his children, get in a car accident and kill someone; the drug addict or chronic gambler steals to support their habits; the adulterer lies and deceives to hide his/her secret life.

2. **Keeps You Longer Than You Wanted To Stay.** Those who fall victim to sin are blinded by the pleasure of the first drink, the pleasure of the first high or the first winning bet, or the pleasure of the first affair (Heb. 11:25). It gives them so much pleasure the first time that they are sucked into going after it again and again. Many think, “just one more time won’t hurt, I’ll quit tomorrow.” As Mark Twain famously said, “Giving up smoking is the easiest thing in the world. I know because I’ve done it thousands of times.” The alcoholic only intended to drink alcohol to be sociable, or the drug addict only intended to smoke marijuana to be accepted into the “in crowd”, or the chronic gambler only planned to place a bet just “once in a while.” But, soon they found themselves entangled and overcome by it:

Rom. 6:16: *Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?*

2 Pet. 2:20: *For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.*

2 Tim. 3:13: *But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.*

Sin always entangles and entraps! Remember David! Rom. 13:14

3. **Costs You More Than You Wanted To Pay.** Many never consider the consequences of their sinful actions. How many alcoholics planned on killing an innocent person with their car? How many drug addicts planned on contracting AIDS or stealing to support their habit? How many gamblers planned on draining their bank account? How many adulterers planned on ruining their marriage and alienating their children? Did any of them consider the physical pain, mental suffering, wrecked marriages, neglected children, broken homes, and lives destroyed by their participation in sin? Most importantly, how many considered the fact their souls are at stake? (Matt. 16:26; Acts 5:1-10). Remember David! When he took that first lustful look did it ever occur to him the great price he and his family would pay?!

Consequences of David's sin: 1) *"Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife." 11 Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. 12 For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.'" (12:10-12); 2) "the child also who is born to you shall surely die" (12:14), and 3) "by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme."*

III. Conclusion:

1. Some think "this can't happen to me, I'm a good Christian and I don't take part in such!" 1 Cor. 10:12: *"...let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."*
 - A. But what about Christians who smoke, social drink, play the lottery or look at pornographic material? Matt. 5:28
 - B. Those who dress immodestly not giving a thought that they can cause someone else to lust?
 - C. Or, those who compromise with religious error? (cf. Gal. 5:19-21)
 - D. Those apathetic toward those in need? 1 Jn. 3:17; Matt. 25:46
2. Can these take you farther than you wanted or intended to go? Can they keep you longer than you wanted to stay? Can they cost you more than you wanted to pay? YES!
3. And, most importantly they can cost you your soul! Matt. 16:26
 - A. Remember: *"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. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night"* (Psa. 1:1-2).
 - B. Therefore, *"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"* (Prov. 4:14-15).
 - C. *"Be not deceived"* (1 Cor. 6:9-10), *"the wages of sin is death"* (Rom. 6:23).
 - D. Are you being deceived by sin? Our desire is the same as God's, that *"all men...be saved and...come to the knowledge of the truth."* (1 Tim. 2:4)