

# **Closing the Door to Temptation**

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources)

Introduction: Judges 2:1-3

- A. Israel failed to drive out the Canaanites which kept the door opened for future sin, especially idolatry. God tells them because of their failure to drive out the spiritual enemy; He will leave them in place to become a snare for them. God will not protect us from the sources of temptation we choose to leave in place.
  - 1. Christians cannot leave the door of temptation open by electing to hold onto old sources of temptation.
  - 2. Those who flee temptation generally leave a forwarding address.
  - 3. What makes resisting temptation difficult for many people is they don't want to discourage it completely.
- B. Three matters to consider regarding temptation:
  - 1. What temptation does to us,
  - 2. Why we tolerate sources of temptation,
  - 3. And, how we can close the door to temptation.

## **I. WHAT TEMPTATION DOES TO US**

- A. It sets us up for a fall back into sin - Luke 22:55-60
- B. It sets us up for chastening by God - Heb. 12:10-11
- C. It sets us up for 'divided allegiance" (an oxymoron) - James 1:8, 4:8
- D. It prolongs and increases the intensity of the war between our flesh and spirit
  - 1. Gal. 5:16-17
- E. It reminds us we still have desires for the things of the old life - Luke 11:24-26

## **II. WHY WE TOLERATE SOURCES OF TEMPTATION**

- A. We believe God has not fulfilled our needs in all areas of life. We are less content with the all sufficiency of our spiritual blessings - Heb. 13:5
- B. We have a physical body that still desires gratification, even if it comes through sin - Rom. 7:22-23
- C. We believe we can still be considered faithful Christians while keeping open the avenues back into old sins - Num. 32:23 (BBE & NKJV)
- D. We believe we can't break old habits, even with the God's help - 1Kings 12:28
- E. We believe we can control it, and will not allow it to escalate
  - 1. Luke 22:40; Matt. 6:13; Neh. 13:26

## **III. HOW WE CLOSE THE DOOR TO TEMPTATION**

- A. Rom. 13:14 - Make no provision for the flesh
- B. Rom 12:2 - Renew your mind constantly
- C. 1Cor. 10:12 - Learn to identify your weaknesses
- D. Ex. 31:1-11 - Learn to identify your strengths (Bezalel & Aholiab)
- E. Ex. 36:1-3 - Put those strengths to work
  - 1. Being busy in the Lord's service crowds out temptation - Neh. 6:1-3
  - 2. "Some temptations come to the industrious, but all temptations attack the idle." (Charles Spurgeon)

Conclusion: Temptations, when we meet them at first, are like the lion that roared at Samson; but if we overcome them, the next time we see them, we shall find a nest of honey within the lion's carcass.