

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1John. 2:15-17**.
- B. There are two spiritual roads that one may choose from to travel in this life. They cannot travel both at the same time.
- C. One road leads to eternal life, while the other road leads to eternal death (Mt. 7:13-14).
- D. A life of sin leads to destruction because of the futility of sin.

I. THE AVENUES OF TEMPTATION AND SIN.

- A. When Satan tempted both Eve and Christ, he used the same three vices (1Jn. 2:15-17). They are:
 - 1. The lust of the flesh.
 - 2. The lust of the eye.
 - 3. The pride of life.
- B. When Eve heard the temptations she yielded and committed sin (Gen. 3:6):
 - 1. The fruit was good to eat (the lust of the flesh).
 - 2. The fruit was beautiful to see (the lust of the eye).
 - 3. To be like God, knowing good and evil (the pride of life).
- C. When Jesus heard the temptations, He did not sin (Mt. 4:1-11):
 - 1. He was hungry, but made no bread (the lust of the flesh).
 - 2. Satan offered Him the kingdoms of the world (lust of the eye)
 - 3. Leaping unharmed from the pinnacle of the temple (the pride of life).
- D. Whenever we are tempted to do sin, Satan uses these three vices.
- E. God always provides a way of escape, therefore, are we going the way of Eve or the way of Christ? (1Cor. 10:13).

II. THOSE WHO HAVE YIELDED TO TEMPTATION.

- A. The rich man of Lk. 16, and the rich farmer of Lk. 12 tried to satisfy the lust of the flesh, but lost their souls in the process (Lk. 12:16-21; 16:19).
- B. Solomon withheld nothing from his eyes to try and satisfy the lust of the eye, but concluded that it was futile (Eccl. 2:3-11; 12:13 (esp. 2:10).
- C. Naaman wanted to be healed of leprosy, but have it done his (the pride of life) way (2Kgs. 5:1-14; esp. v11-12)
- D. Other examples could be sighted, but these should be sufficient to show that Satan's ways are futile in trying to satisfy the soul of man.

III. SOME NEW TESTAMENT WARNINGS FOR US.

- A. Having seen that the lusts of the flesh and eye, and the pride of life are futile in producing a happy, satisfied life; let us heed the further warnings against them.
- B. The soul and body are important (but not to lust of the flesh):
 - 1. Fear him who can destroy the body (Mt. 10:28).
 - 2. We are to honor God with our bodies (1Cor. 6:18-20).
 - 3. We should keep our bodies healthy and pure (2Cor. 7:1).
- C. Material possessions will not last (we are not to lust with the eyes):
 - 1. The present heaven and earth will pass away (Mt. 24:35; 2Pet. 3:10).
 - 2. Things which are seen are temporary (2Cor. 4:18).
 - 3. Our lust for worldly things will pass away (1Jn. 2:17).
- D. We are to glorify God and not self (which is the pride of life):
 - 1. God opposes the proud (1Pet. 5:3).

2. We are to work to give glory to God (Mt. 5:16).
 3. Our works should show our faith, not ourselves (Jas. 2:18).
- E. Again, we reach Solomon's conclusion (Eccl. 12:13).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Romans 6:23 says that the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life. Sin is a futile way of life.
- B. Of the two paths in Matthew 7, let's strive to pick the strait and narrow. The way is wide and futile that leads to death.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.