

Beware!

1 Corinthians 10:12

I. The Meaning of Beware

- A. To be on one's guard, to be on the lookout, to be prepared for action.
- B. Three Greek words used throughout the New Testament:
 - 1. **Blepo**: (Beware) – to be ready to learn about future dangers or needs, with the implication of preparedness to respond appropriately.
 - 2. **Prosecho**: (Beware) – to be in a continuous state of readiness to learn of any future danger, need, or error, and to respond appropriately.
 - 3. **Phulasso** (Beware) – (idiom 'guard a guarding') to be on one's guard against some eventuality.

II. Beware of...

- A. Covetousness (Lk. 12:15)
 - 1. Covetousness is not just a sin of the rich.
 - 2. Covetousness is particularly deplorable to God (Rom. 1:28-32; Eph. 5:3; Col. 3:5)
- B. Hypocrisy (Lk. 12:1)
 - 1. Strong's Greek Dictionary = acting under a feigned part, i.e. (figuratively) deceit ("hypocrisy")!--condemnation, dissimulation, hypocrisy.
 - 2. Christ gives a chilling example of how He views hypocrites (Mt. 23:27-28)
 - 3. Hypocrisy is often a sin brought about by our tongue (1 Pet. 2:1)
 - 4. Hypocrisy is associated with condemnation (Mt. 24:45-51; Js. 5:12)
- C. Man's Philosophy (Col. 2:8)
 - 1. Philosophy/Philosopher: {**Philo** = Friend or Fond} {**Sophos** = wise or knowledge} "Friend of Knowledge or Fond of Wisdom"
 - 2. All Christians should be friends of knowledge and fond of wisdom, but their knowledge and wisdom must be from God's word, for man's philosophy is not sufficient (Isa. 55:7-9)
 - 3. When mankind acts according to human philosophy, it leads to sin and destruction (Jg. 21:25)
- D. Liberty (1 Cor. 8:9)
 - 1. Unlike most other things we are told to beware of, a liberty is not a sin.
 - 2. The inability to foresee the need to make personal sacrifice, and the stubbornness and arrogance that refuses to sacrifice, will cause division, which we must beware of (Gal. 5:13-15)
- E. False Teachers (Mt. 7:15; Php. 3:2)

1. The unchecked false teacher will quickly draw away several hearts (Peter in regards to circumcision Gal. 2, and Paul's warning to Timothy 2 Tim. 3:1-6) and the sins of the evil person will soon devastate and entire congregation as leaven leavens an entire loaf (1 Cor. 5:6)
2. All things should be compared to the Word of God, and no man should be trusted on his merit alone (Acts 17:10-11; Gal. 1:6-9; Rom. 16:17)
3. If we do not have the foresight and preparedness to watch for and refute false teachers, we could easily lose our reward and our souls (2 Pet. 3:13-18)

III. Conclusion

- A. Sin is all around us. Though we might think we are strong, we must beware, or else we might fall.
- B. It will take vigilance and preparation to be able to avoid the sins Satan will tempt us with (1 Pet. 5:8)
- C. If we fail to watch, if we fail to beware, we will fall prey to sin. Falling prey to sin we easily grow tolerant in our sin, and spiritually we fall asleep (Rev. 16:15)

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