

Let The Bible Speak Series

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The High Cost of Low Living

This morning our lesson is based on Proverbs 13:15 that says "good understanding gains favor, but the way of the transgressor is hard." That verse appears strange in the light of what some people think. They seem to believe that 1. the Christian life is too difficult to live. 2. The way is strait and narrow--Mt.7:14-15. 3. Christians must abstain from the works of the flesh--Gal.5:19-21 "Now the works of the flesh are manifest which are these..." and that that robs life of all fun. 4. The Devil convinces many that the joys of an evil life are worth trying. 5. Even some Christians see people in the world enjoying the pleasures of sin, and envy them. But the bible says: Prov. 23:17 "Let not thy heart envy sinners." Prov. 24:1 "Be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them." Prov. 24:19 "Fret not thyself because of evil men, nor be envious of the wicked." 6. Rather than the way of a Christian being hard, the scriptures teach the very opposite, that the way of the transgressor is hard. Jesus said "For my yoke is easy and my burden is light..." Mt.11:28. The Devil has deceived us here--we need to take note and beware. Today I want to notice with you some of the reasons that the way of the transgressor is hard. I. The Very Nature of Sin, Makes the Way of the Transgressor Hard.

a. Sin Grows--It gets worse. It is progressive--it multiplies. Sin may have a small beginning, but it doesn't remain on that level. Sin dictates and the habit fixes both brain and body. b. Sin Deceives--The more you sin, the less you know it. Nothing as alluring as transgression. But it never pays off in the currency it promises. c. Sin Produces Moral Insanity--You will call wrong--right, and right--wrong. Sin will make you as mad as any lunatic ever was. d. Sin Kills--a single sin is enough, one hole--will sink a ship, one lie--will damn you, one drop of poison--will produce death, one bite of a dog--means death e. Sin Marks, Disfigures, and Pollutes the Soul--It identifies you. Every sin leaves a distinct mark--you can read the trail, like the weave in the cloth or paint on an automobile--they can be traced. When you deal in falsehoods you are---branded a liar. When you are Dishonest, you are---branded a cheat. You are marked as surely as cattle, you are branded the property of Hell. f. Sin Leaves You Unclean--Finally you grope in the murkiness, you wallow in the mire, You struggle in the pollution--You choke on the filth. You are never whole again. That is the real picture of what low living is all about.

II. The Results of Low Living Seen In The Lives of Individuals. a. Satan painted an attractive picture to Adam and Eve. Gen.3:5 "Your eyes will be opened and you will be as gods knowing good and evil..." What a tantalizing prospect. And yet, it didn't turn out that way at all. They were driven from the garden and presence of God. Their bodies began to die, Romans 5:12 Are you wiser than they? Consider with whom you are dealing. b. One Cannot Sow to the Flesh Without Reaping Its Harvest of Sorrow and Woe. Prov. 11:3 "The integrity of the upright shall guide them, but the perverseness of the transgressors shall destroy them" v.5 "the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness."

Prov. 11:31 "Behold the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner." c. Low Living shortens ones life Prov.10:27 "The fear of the Lord prolongeth days, but the years of the wicked shall be shortened." 1. Such a life creates enslaving habits--drugs, alcohol, accidents, tobacco etc. Prov. 5:22 "His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the chords of sin." 2Peter 2:19 "While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption." The slave to drink may lose his job, or spend the rest of his life in prison for manslaughter because he took innocent lives while driving under the influence.

2. Immoral conduct leads to disease, sterility, unplanned and unwanted pregnancy, abortion and other sins. III. The Results of Low Living is Seen in The Family Life.

a. The results of sin are seen in David's family. 1. David looks on Bathsheba and commits adultery with her. 2. In an effort to cover up the sin, he has her husband, Uriah, killed. 3. Later Amnon fains sickness and forces his half sister Tamar, committing fornication with her. 4. Absalom, David's son and, Tamar's brother has him Amnon killed. 5. Then Absalom, who becomes a traitor, is killed in battle. 6. The cry of a father whose family has been wrecked by the ravages of sin: "Oh my son Absalom, my son my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, Oh Absalom my son, my son." What sorrow and consequences follow sin. b. Low living has destroyed many families.

1. Homes have been turned into card party's, dance halls, and beer gardens. Immodesty and loose living have caused many to reap what they have sown. 2. An absence of bible reading, church attendance, and Godly examples have led many down the road to destruction. 3. Divorce, family conflict, emotional distress, haunting memories brought on by immoral conduct remind us of the high cost of low living.

IV. The Results of Low Living Is Seen in City Life. a. Sodom and Gomorrah were wicked cities. In these cities there was a lack of social justice, they were reveling in the indulgence of all kinds of vice openly, they was a preoccupation with things of the secular world and an inordinate obsession with sex. 1. The city's sexual depravity, provided the basic reason for its utter destruction. 2. God rained down fire and brimstone on the cities removing them from the face of the earth. 3. The lesson: "when a city becomes given over wholly to iniquity, that city forfeits its right to exist, because its very existence inevitably spreads this moral pollution to all neighboring peoples and even those of the regions beyond. There is no limit to the infection of concentrated vice. Therefore, there is but one step for Absolute justice to take, that is, to destroy utterly."

4. A high price for low living, indeed. b. Jerusalem was destroyed because of unbelief, disobedience, idolatry, and the rejection of Jesus. (Such sins carry a very high price tag.)

1. Josephus reports: Jerusalem was taken by Roman armies under Titus in 70AD. The city was so utterly destroyed that nothing was left to indicate that it had ever been inhabited. When the soldiers entered the city they slew everyone they found, burnt houses, and all who fled into them. Whole families were found dead from the famine. The whole city ran with blood, many things burning were actually extinguished by running blood. One million, one hundred thousand perished. In adjacent provinces an additional 250,000. Many were whipped, tortured, then crucified. One woman found eating the flesh of her roasted baby. 97,000 were taken captive. The horrible history of a

city that rejected God. 2. What about the great cities of today. What destruction awaits all them? Can we continue in sin and expect God to spare us? Surely not. V. High Cost of Low Living is Seen in National Life. a. Israel, God's chosen people. Romans 3:1-2 "What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? Much in every way. Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God." Romans 11:20-21 "Well said, Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either." Psa. 9:17 "The wicked shall be turned into hell and all nations that forget God."

b. There is a long list of both cities and nations that have met the fate all will meet who forget God and disobey his Word. Babylon--Media and Persia--Greece--Rome--and many others. No nation or city can long stand in the presence of God, and continue in sin.

c. What of America? Graft, greed, murder, sexual perversion, divorce, drinking, drugs, foul language, crime etc. are all tearing down our nation. The State of Nevada leads even France in salacious literature and vulgar pictures. There is a high price to be paid for such behavior. Ungodly living is not cheap. God has ordained that "the way of the transgressor is hard," for a reason. We should thank Him for this. Those who cannot be reached by instruction of the word, often learn the hard way, and come to their senses before it is too late. Prov.22:5 "Thorns and snares are in the way of the (perverse). Hosea 2:6 "Therefore, behold, I will hedge up thy way with thorns and make a will, that she shall not find her paths." Ladies and gentlemen this is serious business. America cannot continue to follow the path she now follows without consequences. There is a price to pay. A God to meet and an judgment to face. We may bury our faces in the slime and filth of your time and think God has forgotten, but he hasn't. it is not wonder that our problems abound, that we are losing our young, and that we fight battles that never should have been fought all because of our sin, neglect, and outright rebellion against the God who made us. There is a high price to pay for sin. Low living carries its own reward, its own heartache, and dismay. We should never forget that "whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap." The way of the transgressor is heard, whether we want to believe it or not, that's the way it is. Low living carries a very high price tag. Are you willing to pay the price?