

Introduction

1. The subject here is Temptation
2. A serious evil: Adam, Christ...
3. Temptations show us up for what we really are.

1. TEMPTATION IS A COMMON EXPERIENCE

- 1) There are two kinds of temptation:
 - (i) afflictions: ex. Abraham, Job, Christ...
 - (ii) seductions: ex. Adam, David, Joseph...
- 2) The evil of temptation: to drive into sin:
 - (i) Job's wife, Peter's denials – Impatience, Fear
 - (ii) Disobedience – lured into the trap: Judas
- 3) Compare two forms of pressure:
 - (i) the wind that blows hard + frightens
 - (ii) the alluring sound that offers delight

APPLICATION: The Christian must watch for both

2. THE APOSTLE GIVES HERE EXAMPLES OF IT

- 1) The importance of knowing the Bible well
- 2) Paul here draws out OT examples:
 - (i) Lusting after evil things (v.6)
 - (ii) Corrupt religion: lowering the standard of holiness
 - (iii) Fornication: **Illustration**: the Moabites
 - (iv) Tempting Christ: especially in a hard day
 - (v) Murmuring: the sin of complaining
- 3) The Bible is so vitally necessary as it shows us what to beware of
ILLUSTRATION: "Danger"
APPLICATION: All these temptations are very real

3. THE CHRISTIAN IS PROMISED HELP IN TEMPTATION

- 1) A wonderful promise to god's people:
 - (i) God is faithful: to look after believers
 - (ii) to moderate + soften the temptation
 - (iii) to "make a way to escape"

OBSERVE: The Christian will never be put in to a situation in which he is forced to sin
- 2) This expressed by Isaiah 27:8: "wind"
- 3) Compare the case of godless people:
 - (i) Pharaoh: saw miracles but was hardened
 - (ii) Saul: fell into despair – no light
 - (iii) Judas: no deliverance in his plight

APPLICATION: Christian, this is a great promise

4. THIS TEACHING IS A GREAT HELP TO CHRISTIANS

- 1) God will never place the Christian in a situation in which he can only sin
- 2) In times of difficulty look up to God and wait for Him to help:
 "Wait on the Lord..."
APPLICATION: Never behave recklessly
- 3) When you are as in a prison-house, wait for God to open a door somewhere
ILLUSTRATION: Peter in Acts 12
- 4) Avoid placing yourself in temptations
APPLICATIONS: Remember: "Lead us not..."

CONCLUSION:

1. Rejoice that "God is faithful"
2. Pray for grace to resist evil
3. Sadly, most people do not do so.

PSALM

27: 1 – 5

54: 1 – 7

27: 11 - 14