

News

Thomas Hockaday continues to take therapy at home following his knee surgery and he is discouraged from getting out while he is taking home therapy. He is making good progress—**Eula Owsley** passed away a week ago last Monday in Houston and her funeral service was conducted a week ago yesterday here in Mt. Pleasant. She was a member of Southside since Southside began in 1952 until she moved to Houston 7 years ago to be near her son, Jimmy. We continue to express our sympathy to Jimmy and family—**Dorothy Reynolds** was (continued on page 3)

ELDERS:

Bob Arnold 563-2977
Leon Goff 572-6809
Kendall Johnson 572-9306

DEACONS:

Ricky Davis 572-9428
Ken Ferguson 572-4135
Pat Marshall 572-9347

SERVICES:

Sunday

Bible Study 9:45 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Class 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

PREACHERS:

Jared Rogers 682-300-3602
Leon Goff 572-6809

ASSIGNMENTS FOR: December 11, 2016

Serving The Lord's Supper Sunday Morning

Scripture: Randy Blackmon

Phil Brown **Zach Willeford**
Colton Fulmer **Enoch Waldrep**

Sunday Evening

Phil Brown **Zach Willeford**

PRAYERS

Sun. AM—**Ken Ferguson** (Opening)
—**Richard Tapparo** (Closing)
PM—**Alec Capel** (Opening)
—**Bob Arnold** (Closing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—**Kendall Johnson**
P.M.—**Kenneth Amerson**
(call **Pat Marshall** if unable to serve)

Think It Over—If you were to die today...Where would you spend eternity? To all who love God, and to those who do not, but should, to all who are weary and heavy laden; to all who are lonely and sad; to all who sin and need a Savior, and to whosoever will come a hearty welcome is extended.

Southside
Church of Christ
P.O. Box 242
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Southside Church of Christ

Bulletin

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Number 49

Have I Sinned or Just Been Tempted?

By *Reagan McClenny*

What is temptation? What is sin and when does it occur? At some point every person who is trying to do right and follow the will of God has asked these questions. More specifically we might ask, "Have I sinned by having a desire to sin?" James 1 addresses these issues in a way that is both theologically and practically helpful to the one striving to do right and avoid sin.

James 1:12-17 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. (13) Let no man say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. (14) But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. (15) Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. (16) Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. (17) Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

God only gives us good gifts in this life (v17). God never tries to get us to do wrong (v13), and we would be deceived if we were to think so (v16). God never puts anything before us to induce us to evil. Instead, He gives us an opportunity to do right, and thus grow (**James 1:2-4**) and receive the reward (v12). He always warns us, with our best interest in mind, to avoid sin. However, we have the power of free will—of choice—and the

devil uses this as an opportunity to try and get us to sin. In a single word, he “TEMPTS” us.

James gives us a good idea of what this temptation includes. Every temptation must include two elements: 1. A Lure/Bait, and 2. Personal Desire.

The bait or lure is the enticement to sin, the opportunity that is placed in front of us to sin. This enticement is always from Satan.

Opportunity or bait alone does not mean we are tempted, however. There must also be our own desire for the bait. Obviously, not everyone has a strong desire for every bait. If there is no desire, then it is not a temptation (v14). What might be a temptation for me, might not be for you! I know of a brother who once owned a slaughterhouse and said to a visiting preacher, “I have a big temptation to get a big cup and drink that blood!” That’s **NOT** a temptation for me—but it is for him, because he has that personal desire!

Take the sins listed in **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**, for an example: **“Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, (10) nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. (11) And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”** Are some of those sins carnally/physically appealing to you? Are others carnally/physically revolting? Some would be “tempting,” but

others would not! Yet, these were the former sins of the Christians in Corinth!

So temptation is the bait, the enticement to evil, plus desire on our part. But to this point, **no sin has taken place.** We still have the opportunity to resist the temptation—to turn away from the bait! If we do, then we do not sin.

If we take the bait, we are trapped and sin. As James describes it, the desire “conceives” and “gives birth to sin.” (v15)

Think of sin as a literal trap beside a literal path (the straight and narrow way of life). There is a warning sign (from God) that tells us not to go into the trap, lest we die, but instead to stay on the path. As you walk, there the trap is on the side of the path. Inside the trap is the bait (placed there by the devil). Imagine it is literal food. If you are not hungry, then the bait does not tempt you much at all—but if you are hungry, even starving, then your desire plus the lure/bait means you are tempted. Yet, you still have a choice. You can choose to stay on the path, but if you choose to go after the bait then you will be entrapped and sin. This is how Jesus “**in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin**” (Hebrews 4:15).

Matthew 4:1-4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. (2) And after fasting forty days and forty night, he was hungry. (3) And the tempter came and said to him, If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” (4) But he answered, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Why does the text say, “**He was hungry**” (v2) after fasting in the wilderness forty days? Because there would be no **TEMPTATION** to turn stones into bread if he had just eaten a meal!

Where this becomes tricky is with sins of the thoughts, but I believe the same principles apply. Here is a biblical example: **Matthew 5:27-28** “**You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ (28) But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.**”

In our society, both men and women are often faced with temptation regarding lust. An attractive woman (who is not your wife) might cross before your eyes at Wal-Mart or the grocery store. This woman might be immodestly dressed to accentuate certain parts of her body. You were not seeking to look at her, and innocently saw her through no fault of your own. Satan uses this opportunity as bait, as an enticement to sin. If you have the natural desire to look (and some may not), then it becomes temptation. However, you can look away and not think in such a manner as to lust. If you are enticed (trapped), you look with intent to lust—and it becomes sin.

Verse 28 says, “**Everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent.**” This describes a person who is turning his thought to something, rather than **away** from it. That’s where the sin takes place. It is not something that happens accidentally. We may not have set out to do it, but when the bait is placed before us we give in to the desire rather than resisting it. We allow it to conceive and give birth to sin (**James 1:15**).

Thankfully, even in those moments where we give in to sin, all is not lost! This sin (in the Christian) does not bring INSTANT death. We can get rid of the newly-born sin before “**it is fully grown**” bringing “**forth death**” (**James 1:15**). How? **1 John 1:7-9** “**But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (8) If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**”

—*Good News*

Sunday Evening Time Change

The elders have decided to change our Sunday evening meeting time from 6:00 to 5:00, starting today, **December 4**.

NEWS (continued from back) having back trouble Wednesday night and was not in our service—**Pat Farish**, former preacher at Southside, had knee surgery at Baylor Hospital in Dallas last Tuesday. He is to remain in the hospital for several days—Remember **Willie Don Davis, Ron Traugher, Judy Hinson, William White, Catherine Moss, David Chapman, Kris Ferguson, Jr., Relda Marshall, Pat Brown, Deborah Brown, Tammy Willeford**—Remember our **Shut-ins: James Johnson, Maurine Lee, Wanda Sikes, Vivian Stroman and Lelda Thompson**.