

INTRODUCTION:

- A. In a period of loose and sagging morals, **Satan provides many rationalizations for improper behavior.**
- B. Those who would live faithful Christian lives must **not be ignorant of his devices 2 Cor. 2:11 Lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.**
- C. Wrong is always wrong despite our efforts to excuse our actions.

BODY:

**I. SATAN HAS MANY DEVICES TO DAMN PEOPLE.**

A. Some are **tempted to do what God has told them not to do, Gen. 3:1-5** Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, `You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, `You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

B. **Some are tempted not to do what God has said to do, (Jonah). Jona 1:1-3** Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me." But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.

C. **Some people are tempted with money, 1 Tim. 6:7-10** For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

D. **No one is free from temptation not even Christ, 1 John 2:15-17** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

E. Matt. 4:1-11.

**E. Most are tempted to wait.**

1. The devils had a contest to dam the most souls.
2. Not to believe the Bible, in God, In Christ, last said wait.

**II. SATAN CAN ONLY TEMPT YOU TO SIN, CAN'T MAKE YOU SIN.**

**Both Good News and Bad News!**

**A. We are free moral agents, when we sin it is our fault.**

1. **Steps of sin. James 1:13-17** Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

2. **Sin is only one way out. 1 Cor. 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

3. Sometimes we want not to sin but we fail Matt. 26:41. (Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation the Spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak).

**B. When it comes right down to it we must **make a choice.****

1. **Adam and Eve** made a choice, they left God.

2. **Lot made a choice. Gen. 13:8-13** So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren. Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left." And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar. Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other. Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom. But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the Lor

- a. Did not look down the road far enough.
- b. Did not look to God for help in choosing.

### III. WRONG IS ALWAYS WRONG.

#### A. **Wrong is wrong even if we don't get caught.**

1. **Prov. 15:13** The eyes of the Lord are in every place beholding the evil and the Good.

2. Many Christians are like this with **taxes and the laws of the land. Rom. 13:1-5** Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake.

#### B. **Wrong is wrong even if you do wrong for a good cause.**

1. **The honorable purpose never justifies a dishonorable action.**

2. The end never justifies the means. (Example bombing an abortion clinic.)

3. **Rom. 3:8** And why not say, "Let us do evil that good may come"?--as we are slanderously reported and as some affirm that we say. Their condemnation is just.

4. **This is called situation ethics.**

5. **Jer. 10:23** O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.

6. **1 John 3:4** Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

#### C. **Wrong is wrong even if others are doing worse things.**

1. **We compare ourselves with the Bible not others.**

2. **Prov. 24:9** The thought of foolishness is sin: and the scorner is an abomination to men.

3. **2 Cor. 10:12** For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

#### D. **Wrong is wrong even if it doesn't trouble the conscience.**

1. **If you commit a sin with a good conscience you still sin.**

2. Paul the perfect example of this **Acts 23:1** And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.

**E. Wrong is wrong even if it is commonly acceptable as right.**

1. **Ex. 23:2**, Thou shall not follow a multitude to do evil.
2. **Prov. 4:15** Enter not into the path of the wicked, and do not go in the way of evil men, avoid it turn from it and pass by.
3. **1 Thess. 5:21- 22** Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil.
4. **Just because everyone else is doing something that doesn't make it right.**
5. **Just because a thing is lawful doesn't make it right.**
  - a. **Abortion**- 50 million since 1973
  - b. Some places **prostitution** is lawful
  - c. **Homosexual** marriages
  - d. **No fault –divorce**

**CONCLUSION:**

**A. There is never a right way to do wrong.**

**B. We talked before about making a choice, you must make one now.**