

Temptation

Lesson 1

I. In Baptism we publicly identified with Jesus and will therefore like Him be assaulted without mercy.

A. Through regeneration we are delivered from Satan's dominion over us.

Acts 26:18 'to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

B. Through identification with Jesus His adversary becomes our adversary.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

II. In the Christian life we will be like Jesus was, sovereignly taken to our wilderness.

A. God sovereignly orders the circumstances of our temptation.

B. God however, does not entice one to sin.

James 1:12-15 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. 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.

C. God will at times order circumstances for us to strengthen our endurance.

1. When it happens watch and pray.

2. When it happens hold firm, trust the Lord and become strong.

1 Corinthians 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.

III. In temptation we must remember Jesus was tempted and never sinned so temptation for us is not sin.

A. To mistake temptation for sin will develop false guilt.

B. To see temptation as sin is to misunderstand life.

IV. In the extended season of Jesus' temptation the Father was not displeased with Him and will not be with us.

A. In fact the Father had just proclaimed His satisfaction of his son.
CF Mark 1:11

B. In fact, Scripture has clearly proclaimed God's pleasure in us.
CF Eph 1:3-14

V. In Satan's assault Jesus leaned in the word of God and so must we.

Matt 4:1-11

A. The word is the Spirit's sword.

Ephesians 6:10-18 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

B. The word is Jesus Christ.

1. He made the world by His word.

Psalms 33:6-9 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deep in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.

2. He defeats his last enemies by His word.

Revelation 19:14-15 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations, and he shall rule them with a rod of iron; and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

3. He is the word incarnate.

John 1:1-3, 14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

VI. In Christ's weakest moments he made no excuse because of kind, intensity or duration and neither can we.

A. Temptation comes in various kinds, intensity and duration.

B. Resist at all times and situations.

1. Satan fled when He was withstood unbreakable.

Matthew 4:11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

Luke 4:13 Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.

2. Satan will flee when we resist him unbreakable.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves, therefore, to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.