



Temptation

... Blessing or cursing?

No one enjoys being tempted. It is hard to deal with. Why would anyone want to be tempted with evil? It seems that all Christians would desire to live life without any temptations - ever! But we don't hear this in the Bible.

Peter wrote: "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:7).

This is something different! Our trials and temptations (if we overcome them) are considered praise and honor and glory unto God. To some this may be hard to grasp, that we should enjoy it when we have the opportunity to defeat Satan's snares, and we should consider ourselves blessed when we suffer for Christ.

The purest gold is the most expensive, isn't it? And how is it made pure? Through fire. Goldsmiths put the gold into the fire several times so that the fire burns away the impurities. This is the same with Christianity: each trial, each choice, each temptation that I endure as a Christian makes me more beautiful in the sight of God!

How do we look at temptations? Do we look at it as another grueling time in our life or an opportunity to bring glory unto God?

- Sean Carratt, Livingston, TN, via *Bulletin Digest*

When you meet temptation, turn to the right.

Jesus - First!

Jesus performed many miracles and proved that He was the Son of God (John 20:30-31). Now, if we believe that Jesus is the Son of God we will put Him first in our lives (Luke 14:26-33; Matt. 6:33). Putting Jesus first in our lives means that He is more important than any material possession, any human relationship, one's own freedom, and even our very life! We must be willing to die in order to be faithful to Him (Acts 21:13; Rev. 2:10; Luke 9:23, 24).

The Bible teaches that we must have an acceptable faith to be pleasing to God. Matthew 8 refers to "great faith" and "little faith". The book of James speaks of "living faith" and "dead faith". Acceptable faith would be described as truly taking God at His Word and then taking action upon that faith. James 1:8 says, "A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways." We can't doubt God's love or His power and have a faith that is pleasing to Him. Have you put your faith to the test lately? **Are you putting the Lord first in your life?**

- Tommy Stacks, Muskogee, OK, via *Bulletin Digest*

Who Is Jesus?

He is our **Savior** (Acts 4:12).

He is our **Sacrifice** (Hebrews 9:28).

He is the **Solid Rock** (1 Peter 2:4).

He is our **Shepherd** (John 10:11).

He is the **Source of Light and Life**

(John 1:9; 11:25).

He is the One you need in your life!

News & Notes

SYMPATHY: To the family of Roger Culler of the Beaver Street congregation in Lisbon, OH. He passed away this past week and is a cousin of Jim Hadley. God bless and comfort this family.

REQUESTS FOR PRAYER: Jenny Rhodes, Connie Hissom (daughter of Marie Jones and sister of Mickie Barrett)

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Donations are needed to buy supplies.

PANTRY: Canned vegetables. Please help restock the pantry.

FOX BIRTHDAY PARTY: This congregation has been asked to sponsor a birthday party at Fox Nursing Home for the residents who have December birthdays. The party will be Thursday, Dec. 13th at 2:30 p.m. Money donations and volunteers are needed to help with the party. See Martha Noland for details.

LADIES WORK DAY: Sat., Dec. 15th, 9:00 a.m. at the Multipurpose Building. This is to prepare and distribute care baskets.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: Check online for information about the congregation, interesting links, articles, Bible Meditations, and our bulletin is available under "Announcements". www.chestercoc.org

CONTINUE TO REMEMBER WITH CARDS AND PRAYER: The following have serious health or physical concerns: Jim Carbone (Helene Wilson's son-in-law), Bette Gentry, Dan Williams (Sharon's husband), Cole Bellon (Michelle Hanlon's nephew).

SICK & SHUT-IN: AT HOME: John Sprout, Geraldine Barrett, Harry Nice, Fred Rayl, Doris Dunham, Don Parsons, Ella Beagle, Diane Robinson, Lloyd & Virginia Ferrell, Bette Gentry, Dan Williams, Lloyd Cowdery, Mabel Sprout, Virginia Rickerd, Fred & Jean Larrimore, Sr., Fred Larrimore, Jr., Cheryl Stackpole. **NURSING HOMES: Fox:** Ray Baker. **Pleasantview N. Retirement & Rehab., Salem:** Ruby Kenney. **Weirton Geriatric Center:** Edna McKittrick, Ila Plum. **Aspen Manor, Wellsburg:** Ione Asher.

Ways to Avoid Misery

- Choose to love - rather than hate.
- Choose to smile - rather than frown.
- Choose to build - rather than destroy.
- Choose to persevere - rather than quit.
- Choose to praise - rather than gossip.
- Choose to heal - rather than wound.
- Choose to give - rather than grasp.
- Choose to act - rather than delay.
- Choose to forgive - rather than curse.
- Choose to pray - rather than despair.