

There Are No Little Sins

No. 196

Introduction.

- I. **A man once led a herd of hogs to the slaughter house** where they were all killed. He was asked how he managed to get the hogs to follow him. The man said, "I carry a basket of beans with me and I drop a few as I go along and the hogs follow the trail of beans, eating their way to the slaughter house."
- II. Satan entices men to sin and eternal death in the same way. He leads men to the eternal slaughter house with a string of beans - the allurements of this world.
- III. Now sin does not have to be a so-called "big" sin to lead us to eternal death.
 - A. There are many people who classify sin as "big" and "little." They condemn some sins and wink at others.
 - B. **God does not, however, classify sin.** To Him every sin is horrible and He warns that every transgression and disobedience will receive a just recompense of reward. (Heb. 2:2).
 - C. I would like for us to study some sins men often classify as "little sins." I have entitled this lesson, "There are no little sins."

There is an old saying that goes like this: "It isn't the mountain ahead that wears you out, it's the grain of sand in your shoe."

Many a man, worried for fear he would not be able to cross a mountain, has had to stop some miles before he crossed the foothills because he had not taken time to clean out his shoes.

That has been the source of failure in many Christian lives. Eager to avoid the big sins, your life may outwardly be one of extreme piety, but if there are hidden imperfections - little pebbles in your shoe - these will cause failure in your Christian life.

- I. **Jumping To Conclusions** - Many people think it is a little sin to jump to conclusions.
 - A. **Some time ago there was a faithful dog**, who was a constant companion of a small child. One day both the child and the dog disappeared. A diligent search by parents, friends, and neighbors proved to be fruitless. The child could not be found. After several hours the dog returned home, but he was covered with blood. The father jumped to the conclusion that the dog had become vicious and killed the child. "The dog must be destroyed," he cried out. So he got a gun and killed the dog. A little later, the child was found in the woods unharmed; nearby was the body of a panther that the dog had killed in his struggle to protect the child.
 - B. So often, as this father, we are guilty of jumping to conclusions.
 1. We take action, or at least express our opinion, before considering all the facts. The result is usually unpleasant and often great damage is done.
 2. We should be cautious about jumping to conclusions. We might be guilty of destroying a person who ought to be praised.
 3. Our conclusions should be tempered with mercy. (Jas. 2:13).

II. **Drive Faster Than The Speed Limit** - Others consider it a little sin to drive faster than the speed limit.

A. Many people confuse the word limit with minimum. They believe when they see “limit” that it really means the minimum speed they should drive. **Example of the 80 mph speed limit in Kansas back in the 60's.**

B **A student, of a Bible institute, was traveling a highway at a terrific rate of speed.** Overtaken by a state trooper, the student was ordered to curb his car. On the student’s vehicle were printed the words, “Jesus Saves!” The officer said to the young man,

“Your wilful violation of the law; your endangering innocent lives, as well as your own, by the illegal and dangerous speed at which you were traveling is greatly at variance with the words printed on your car, and brings no honor to the One of who your motto speaks!”

C. **These words ought to sink into the heart of every Christian.** It is a sin to drive faster than the speed limit. It also jeopardizes our lives and the lives of others and brings dishonor to Christ.

III. **Gluttony** - Others regard gluttony as a little sin.

A. Many people eat excessively as a way of life and think little or nothing about it. They point the finger of condemnation at the immoral person, the drunkard, the smoker, the dope addict and others like them, but they believe that overeating is not a sin or at least not a “big” sin.

B. Overeating is, however, a sin.

1. Gluttony is a sin because it is an **act of selfishness.**

a. The gluttonous person stuffs and lets others go hungry. More than half of the world’s population goes to bed hungry every night and thousands die every day of hunger. The gluttonous person is saying, “I don’t care about their needs.”

b. But the Bible says. (1 Jn. 3:17).

2. Gluttony is a sin because it **destroys the body**, the sacred of the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor. 6:19, 20).

a. Every day thousands of people, including many Christians, die because of overeating and many years of service are lost to God.

b. We are to take care of the Holy Spirit’s temple that we may live long and have more years to save souls and glorify God’s name.

IV. **Foul Speech** - There are many who look upon foul speech as a little sin.

A. They say, “What does it matter if I use foul language? Everyone does it.”

B. There are several things wrong with it.

1. It reveals an **impure heart.** (Matt. 12:34).

2. It is **inconsistent with the Christian’s character.** (Jas. 3:10).

3. Foul language also **destroys one’s influence.**

- a. One time a **Christian lady** persuaded her non-Christian husband to start going to church with her. When he arrived at the church building, he was surprised to meet a fellow-worker that he did not know was a member of the church. The next week he was not at worship services. When he went to work the following morning, the fellow-worker he had seen at church said to him, “Didn’t see you in church yesterday. What was the matter?” He replied, “I’ve been thinking about the way we talk around here at our work, and I don’t believe it does any good to go to church on Sunday, and cuss on Monday like you and I do.”
- b. It was a pity that this careless Christian should set such an example before his fellow-worker! It is the very opposite of the Lord’s teaching. (Matt. 5:16; 1 Cor. 10:32).

V. **Forsaking The Assembly** - Many people think it is a small thing to forsake the assembly on the Lord’s day.

- A. They say, “What difference does it make if I miss the assembly Sunday morning or Sunday night?”
- B. Their absence may seem like a little thing to them, but in reality it is a very big thing.
 1. It says to God, “I do not care about worshiping you. I would rather do something else.” It shouts to the members, “I do not care about your fellowship. I don’t care if you become discouraged because I am not there.” It shouts to one’s children and others, “I do not care about my influence.”
 2. **One time a mother told her little boy**, “Go say good-bye to your father, then hurry along or you’ll be late for Sunday school.” The boy found his father reading the Sunday paper and said, “Dad, before I go I’d like to ask you one question.” “What’s that, son?” “How old will I have to be before I can stay home on Sunday as you do?” The father was then realizing the terrible influence he was having on his son and quickly replied, “Son, wait a minute—I’m going with you.”
 3. Those who are inclined to look upon missing the assembly as a small thing need to carefully read Hebrews 10:24-27.

VI. **Drinking** - Others regard social drinking as a little sin.

- A. Many are heard to say, “What does it hurt if I take a drink?”
 1. **A man once spilled some acid on his trousers in the shop where he worked.** That night he noticed a tiny red spot on his leg, but he thought nothing about it. Later the spot grew larger. He went to the company doctor, who said it was nothing serious, and who gave him salve to rub on the spot. But it got worse and worse and he was taken to the hospital. He died 5 days later leaving a wife and children without a husband and father.
 2. **Drinking alcohol is like that!** A person begins to drink a little, but his drinking gradually increases until it enslaves him and becomes the master of his life.
- B. **There have many fine men and women who started drinking a little to be sociable.**
 1. They reasoned, “It won’t hurt me,” but as time passed they became enslaved to the drink and it turned their lives and the lives of their loved ones into a living hell.
 2. Strong drink will drive wit out of the head, money out of the pocket, health out of the body, happiness out of the home, salvation out of the soul.

3. One time a man asked **brother Tant** this same question. **“What does it hurt if I take a little drink?”** Brother Tant said, “I suppose it is no more a sin to drink a little than it would be to steal a little, or cuss a little, or lie a little, or whip your wife a little, or even kill a man a little!” I think this was an excellent answer.
4. The man who wants to take a little drink should also **think of the effect his example** will have on others who see him. His ability to take a little and stop does not mean that the boy or girl who imitates him will be so strong. He may cause them to stumble.
 - a. Jesus warned against this. (Lk. 17:1).
 - b. Someone has written these words which I think are worth our careful consideration.

Have You Ever Known

A man to lose his job because he drank too little?

A doctor to tell a patient, “Your chances would be better if you had been a drinker?”

An employer of a man of an important place to say, “Give me a drinker every time?”

A wife to say, “My husband would be the best man in the world if he only drank more?”

A husband to say his wife would be a better mother to his children if she spent more time at the cocktail bar?”

A defendant in court to seek acquittal on the plea, “If I had been drunk I would never have committed this crime?”

An insurance company to offer reduced rates to drinkers?”

A community to lists its taverns, beer parlors, and road houses among its advertising assets?”

A chief of police who advocated more liquor as a means of reducing crime?”

A community that wanted it saloons open election day to secure more honest votes?”

Conclusion.

- I. Beloved scientists tell us that one speck of dust in the control instruments of a giant plane can throw plane off its course. They say lint from a man’s clothing can made a guided missile miss its mark. And our so-called little sins can throw us off the track of righteousness and cause us to lose our souls.
- II. Let’s cleanse our lives of every sin and practice those things which lead to life with God.
- III. **A man who had destroyed his liver with liquor was on his deathbed.** He had never been a religious man and a friend was shocked when he came to visit him. He was propped up in bed reading the Bible. The friend exclaimed, “Billy, what on earth are you doing?” The man replied, “Looking for loopholes.”
 - A. He was trying to find some hope outside of Christ, but there are no loopholes. Jesus is the only way to the Father. Those who want eternal life must put their trust in Christ, turn from their sins and be baptized. (Mk. 16:16).

B. The invitation is now extended. Come to Jesus and let Him give you sweet rest and peace. Come as we stand and sing!