

## The Besetting Sin

### Part 2

#### Introduction.

1. In part 1 we began an examination of Hebrews 12:1-2.

Heb 12:1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Heb 12:2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

2. We discussed many of the strong temptations Satan uses to tempt us as we run the marathon leading to eternal life with God.

a. We also stressed we do not all have the same weaknesses and are not all tempted by the same things, but Satan seeks to attack our weaknesses.

b. We also discussed many things that can hinder us in the Christian race.

3. In this lesson we will emphasize the fact that the Christian life is not a sprint, but it is a marathon race that requires many things including much patience.

4. One of the great besetting sins of all men and of Christians is impatience.

5. As mentioned in lesson 1, it is a sin that is universal or almost universal among Christians.

#### Impatient With God

1. Christians often become **impatient with God**.

a. Some grow impatient about God's promises and **want everything now**.

b. This impatience leads to skepticism and even denial of God when God's promises are not immediately fulfilled to their satisfaction.

c. This was a 1<sup>st</sup> century problem that remains until now in regard to Christ's coming. (2 Pet. 3:1-8).

2 Pet 3:1 This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder,

2 Pet 3:2 that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior {spoken} by your apostles.

2 Pet 3:3 Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with {their} mocking, following after their own lusts,

2 Pet 3:4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For {ever} since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."

2 Pet 3:5 For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God {the} heavens existed long ago and {the} earth was formed out of water and by water,

2 Pet 3:6 through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water.

2 Pet 3:7 But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

2 Pet 3:8 But do not let this one {fact} escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.

- 1) Some Christians were very upset and very impatient that Christ had not come.
- 2) They felt enough time had elapsed for Jesus to have returned.
- 3) It had been more than 30 years since Christ had promised to return and take His followers home to be with God in heaven. (Jn. 14:1-3; Acts 1:11).
- 4) They did not understand the passing of time means nothing to the eternal God. (2 Pet. 3:8)

2 Pet 3:8 But do not let this one {fact} escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.

- 5) They did not understand God wants to give men more time to repent. (2 Pet. 3:9).

2 Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

- 6) They did not understand God wanted people in future generations to be saved.
- 7) They thought God had forgotten or broken His promise.

**c. We can be absolutely certain that God always keep His promises.**

- 1) We can put our absolute trust in all His promises.
- 2) It is impossible for God to lie, and He has the knowledge and power to fulfill His promises.

Heb 6:18 so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.

- 3) God does not always work on our schedule, but we must exercise patience in prayer and daily living.

## **Impatient With Others**

**1. Christians become impatient with others.**

- a. Christians frequently become impatient, irrational and upset when others do not speak and perform as they think they should.

b. This impatience is manifested to some or all of the following.

Spouse	Friends and relatives	Employer or Co-workers
Children	Fellow Christians	Host of others

c. It is sad we want others to be patient with us, but we do not have the same patience with them.

2. Paul exhorted Christians to have patience with others. (Col. 3:12,13; 1 Cor. 13:7).

Col 3:12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

Col 3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

1 Cor 13:7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

### **Impatient With Self**

1. Christians become **impatient with self**.

a. It takes time to grow spiritually just as it takes time to grow physically.

b. We should seek daily to grow in Christian maturity and develop our spiritual talents.

c. It is amazing what we can accomplish if we keep doing our best and exercise patience.

2. It is sad so many give up before they have had the time to grow to their full potential.

### **Impatient With Circumstances**

1. Christians become **impatient with circumstances**.

a. God never promised us a rose garden.

b. Life has its toils, struggles, hardships, illnesses, etc.

c. Hard and unpleasant experiences are a part of the human experience.

d. These things build strength and character.

e. God must, at times, discipline us. (Heb. 12:5-11)

Heb 12:5 and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM;

Heb 12:6 FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES."

Heb 12:7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom {his}

father does not discipline?

Heb 12:8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

Heb 12:9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?

Heb 12:10 For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He {disciplines us} for {our} good, so that we may share His holiness.

Heb 12:11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

d. We often cry out, “Why me Lord?...Why this, Lord?”

1) These questions come from those who are sincere, but who do not understand life’s hardships and struggles develop character.

2) Most Christians eventually realize the blessings of trials and temptations and struggles.

2. Paul had to deal with a thorn in the flesh. (2 Cor. 12:7-10).

2 Cor 12:7 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me--to keep me from exalting myself!

2 Cor 12:8 Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me.

2 Cor 12:9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

2 Cor 12:10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

a. Paul was tormented by his “thorn in the flesh” and he had to learn to accept it.

b. He was frustrated and impatient because of this unknown and unpleasant weakness.

c. God did not think it best for that thorn to be removed from Paul, though he asked the Lord “three times” to remove it.

d. He did not find happiness and contentment until he learned to accept God’s grace and understand the thorn in the flesh was teaching him essential patience.

e. This patience helped develop his character and endurance and would help him better understand and help others who had their own thorn in the flesh.

## **Conclusion.**

1. It is vital that we develop patience with God, others, self and with life’s circumstances.

2. Without patience we will be miserable and unhappy and may lose our souls.

3. We need to follow the example of the apostle Paul. (Phil. 3:13, 14).

Phil 3:13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of {it} yet; but one thing {I do;} forgetting what {lies} behind and reaching forward to what {lies} ahead,

Phil 3:14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

4. May each of us “press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

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