

*The Attractiveness of Temptation*

*There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.*

*Proverbs 14:12*

Have you ever heard of the Sundew flower? It is a very attractive, colorful flower found in the bush country of Australia. The name comes from tiny drops on the leaves that look like dew and glisten in the sun. While the blossoms of the plant are harmless, the leaves are deadly. What appears to be dew drops is actually a sticky substance so that when an insect lands on a leaf, it cannot get free. As the insect struggles to free itself, the vibration causes the leaf to close around it. What appeared to be harmless and even life sustaining since insects need water, is actually deadly.

This is a good illustration to help us understand the attractiveness of temptation. Creatures live according to instinct. In the case of the insect and the Sundew, instinct did not work. We have a great advantage over the creatures of the earth in that we can think and reason. With this ability, why is it we fall into the trap of temptation? Instead of using our minds, we do as the Proverb above states. Being very objective, it is baffling how people that have the ability to see the consequences of sin, can walk right into a temptation. Yet we have all done this. Too often people turn to answers the world gives to solve problems that come from the world. This is like the blind leading the blind or letting the fox guard the hen house. What seems right is not always right. What is termed conventional wisdom or common sense is so often opposed to what the Lord gives us in scripture. Jesus teaches us to love and pray for our enemies, turn the other cheek, go the second mile and not take revenge, while the world teaches “Don’t get mad, get even.” People refuse to take responsibility for their actions, finding it easier to blame others than to examine ones’ self. Almost every step of the way, what the world teaches is in opposition to what the Lord expects.

Falling into this trap is nothing new. The Lord told the man and woman not to eat of the Tree of Knowledge or they would die. They ate of it anyway, choosing to fall for the deception of Satan rather than the truth of God. It is no different today. Satan is the deceiver and his tactics have not changed since this first temptation. It seems like after thousands of years we would learn our lesson. Death is still the consequence of sin. The only way the insect can be saved from the Sundew plant is if someone sets it free. Christ sets us free from the result of sin. In Romans 6:1-4 Paul tells us we died to sin at baptism and now live a new life. Now that is a glorious death! Temptation is attractive. Otherwise it would not be a temptation. Let us not live as a mindless insect, but as one who has insight from the Lord.