

ADDICTIONS, THE CHURCH, AND THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL

FEBRUARY 24, 2018 – Session 1
Delmarva Bible Institute
A Heart of Compassion for Struggling People

STATISTICS FROM US DEPT OF HEALTH/HUMAN SERVICES

Drug Overdose Death Data
Opioids—prescription and illicit—are the main driver of drug overdose deaths. Opioids were involved in 42,249 deaths in 2016, and opioid overdose deaths were five times higher in 2016 than in 1999. (Dept of Health & Human Services, 2016)

Monitoring the Future: 2017 Teen Survey Results on Drug and Alcohol Use and Attitudes

Misuse of all prescription opioids among 12th graders has dropped dramatically in the past 15 years, from 9.6 percent in 2002 to 2.0 percent in 2017 despite high opioid overdose rates among adults. (Dept of Health & Human services, 2016)

DR MARK E. SHAW

"The Surgeon General of the US has released a report on addiction crisis in America. This first ever report on alcohol, drugs, and health by the Surgeon General is the most recent demonstration of our nations rising attention to the problem that we have of addictions to all kinds of substances. According to the report, one in seven Americans will face addiction issues. I would say that number is higher. Seven out of seven Americans face idolatrous desires for things that can cause self-destruction, or what our society has labeled 'addiction issues.'"

How Not To Raise and Addict, Mark E. Shaw, Excerpted from Addiction-Proof Parenting: Biblical Prevention Strategies, 2009, Focus Publishing, Introduction, p.ii.

ADDICTION— What is it?

“Theology makes a difference...Addictions are ultimately a disorder of worship. Will we worship ourselves and our own desires or will we worship the true God?”

Dr. Edward Welch, ADDICTIONS, Preface, xxi.

ADDICTION— What is it?

“What follows will, I hope, seem radical. Rightly understood, Scripture should always seem radical, leaving us amazed and a bit off-balance. But a Christ-centered perspective on addictions should definitely be revolutionary. We are living in a culture where theory and language of addictions are presently controlled by secular categories. Words like disease, treatment, and even addiction convey the idea that these problems have their ultimate cause in the body rather than the soul—a commonly accepted view that is at odds with clear biblical teaching.”

Welch, preface, xvi.

ADDICTION— What is it?

“After years of research, I have come to the conclusion that there is, in fact, a common mechanism underlying many of our emotional struggles and mental illness. Simply put: a stimulus—a place, a thought, a memory, a person—takes hold of our attention and shifts our perception. Once our attention becomes increasingly focused on this stimulus, the way we think and feel, and often what we do, may not be what we consciously want. I have termed this mechanism “capture.””

Dr. David A Kessler, CAPTURE, p7.

ADDICTION— What is it?

“The world seduces us with slavery and calls it freedom. Christ calls us to become his slaves, to take up the easy yoke, which is the only freedom.”

A BETTER FREEDOM, Michael Card, 2000, p.20.

Jeremiah 7:23–26 (ESV)

23 But this command I gave them: ‘Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people. And walk in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you.’ 24 But they did not obey or incline their ear, but walked in their own counsels and the stubbornness of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward. 25 From the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt to this day, I have persistently sent all my servants the prophets to them, day after day. 26 Yet they did not listen to me or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck. They did worse than their fathers.

Jeremiah 8:11 (ESV)

11 They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, ‘Peace, peace,’ when there is no peace.

Jeremiah 8:18-22 (ESV)

*18 My joy is gone; grief is upon me; my heart is sick within me.
19 Behold, the cry of the daughter of my people from the length and breadth of the land: "Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King not in her?"
20 "Why have they provoked me to anger with their carved images and with their foreign idols?" 21 "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." 22 For the wound of the daughter of my people is my heart wounded; I mourn, and dismay has taken hold on me. 23 Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of the daughter of my people not been restored?*

Jeremiah 9:12-24 (ESV)

12 Who is the man so wise that he can understand this? To whom has the mouth of the Lord spoken, that he may declare it? Why is the land ruined and laid waste like a wilderness, so that no one passes through? 13 And the Lord says: "Because they have forsaken my law that I set before them, and have not obeyed my voice or walked in accord with it, 14 but have stubbornly followed their own hearts and have gone after the Baals, as their fathers taught them." 15 Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will feed this people with bitter food, and give them poisonous water to drink. 16 I will scatter them among the nations whom neither they nor their fathers have known, and I will send the sword after them, until I have consumed them." 17 Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Consider, and call for the mourning women to come; send for the skillful women to come; 18 let them make haste and raise a wailing over us, that our eyes may run down with tears and our eyelids flow with water.

Jeremiah 9:12-24 (ESV)

19 For a sound of wailing is heard from Zion: "How we are ruined! We are utterly shamed, because we have left the land, because they have cast down our dwellings." 20 Hear, O women, the word of the Lord, and let your ear receive the word of his mouth; teach to your daughters a lament, and each to her neighbor a dirge. 21 For death has come up into our windows; it has entered our palaces, cutting off the children from the streets and the young men from the squares. 22 Speak: "Thus declares the Lord, "The dead bodies of men shall fall like dung upon the open field, like sheaves after the reaper, and none shall gather them." 23 Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, 24 but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord."

Luke 4:16-21 (ESV)

¹⁶And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, ¹⁸"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." ²⁰And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." (quoted from Isaiah 61.1ff)

Luke 5:31-32 (ESV)

³¹And Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ³²I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

Luke 7:11-15 (ESV)

¹¹Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. ¹²As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. ¹³And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." ¹⁴Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." ¹⁵And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother."

Luke 19:1-10 (ESV)

1 He entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. 3 And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. 4 So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. 5 And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." 6 So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. 7 And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." 8 And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." 9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Matthew 11:25-30 (ESV)

25 At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; 26 yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. 27 All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. 28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

THIS MORNING...

- I want to call us to these things—
- There is trouble in America today when it comes to our desires, our cravings, our addictions, our worship of Almighty God. Do you see it? What are you doing about it in your own heart?
- In your view of addiction, are you 'healing the wounds of the people lightly?' "Peace, peace when there is no peace?"
WE KNOW PEACE. ARE WE SPEAKING PEACE WHERE THERE IS NO PEACE? JESUS IS THAT PEACE!
- Hope has come. Jesus is compassionate. He has come to seek and to save the lost. Is this YOUR way of thinking today?

Colossians 3:12-13 (ESV)

¹² *Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.*

ADDICTIONS, THE CHURCH, AND THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL

FEBRUARY 24, 2018 – Session 3
Delmarva Bible Institute
Dealing with Addictions as a Family

AS WE BEGIN...

- When someone is caught in the clutches of sin, of addiction as we read earlier today they are walking down a road that leads to death and destruction. BUT...
- ...it not only affects them, it affect those of us who are living with them, trying to help them, trying to support, encourage, and challenge them to turn from their sin. THIS IS HARD!!!

2 Timothy 2:23–26 (ESV)

23 Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. 24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

Ephesians 4:11-16 (ESV)

¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Jude 20-23 (ESV)

²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. ²² And have mercy on those who doubt; ²³ save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

As families of loved ones, how are we to respond to those who have been captured by their evil desires?

Understand Addictive Thinking

(Dr. Mark Shaw, How Not to Raise an Addict).

Five Thought Patterns of control in an addict's/idolater's mind

1. Mentality of Entitlement

THE LITTLE ONE THEN BELIEVES THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE EVERYTHING THEY WANT, THAT THEY BELIEVE THEY NEED FOR THEIR HAPPINESS.

2. Mentality of Consumerism

THE LITTLE ONE BELIEVES THAT WHAT HE RECEIVES IS PRIMARILY FOR HIM TO USE.O USE.

Understand Addictive Thinking

(Dr. Mark Shaw, How Not to Raise an Addict).

Five Thought Patterns of control in an addict's/idolater's mind

3. The mentality of victimization

THE LITTLE ONE IS BEING TREATED 'UNFAIRLY' AND IS NOT RECEIVING FROM OTHERS WHAT HE TRULY 'NEEDS.'

4. The mentality of perishing

THE LITTLE ONE, NOW THAT HE IS NOT ABLE TO HELP HIMSELF, AND NO ONE IS HELPING HIM TO MEET HIS DESIRES/NEEDS, BECOMES SELF-FOCUSED, SELF-DESTRUCTIVE, SELF-PITYING.

Understand Addictive Thinking

(Dr. Mark Shaw, How Not to Raise an Addict).

Five Thought Patterns of control in an addict's/idolater's mind

5. The mentality of rebelliousness

THE LITTLE ONE, SEEING OTHERS AROUND HIM WHO SHOULD BE GIVING HIM WHAT HE WANTS NOT GIVING HIM THOSE THINGS, DECIDES THAT HE NO LONGER HAS TO FOLLOW THEM, LISTEN TO THEM, OBEY THEM. NOW HE IS ABOUT DOING WHAT HE WANTS WHEN HE WANTS TO DO IT FOR HIS OWN PLEASURE.

Responding in Love
(Dr. Edward Welch, ADDICTIONS)

SPEAKING TRUTH

Interventions

RESPECTING

Made in the Image of God

LISTENING

Quick to listen, not assuming

INVITING

Welcoming

Sharing your testimony of idolatrous living

Galatians 6:1–3 (ESV)

¹Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. ²Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.
