

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Review Republican
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SIN FEELS GOOD FOR AWHILE, BUT THEN IT SHOWS ITS UGLY HEAD

Paul Harvey tells how an Eskimo kills a wolf. He coats his knife blade with blood and lets it freeze. Then he adds another coat of blood and then another. As each coat freezes he adds another smear of blood until the blade is hidden deep within a substantial thickness of frozen blood.

Then he buries the knife – blade up – in the frozen tundra. The wolf catches the scent of fresh blood and begins to lick it. He licks it more and more feverishly until the blade is bare. Then he keeps on licking harder and harder. Because of the cold he never notices the pain of the blade on his tongue. His craving for the taste of blood is so great that he does not realize his thirst is being satisfied by his own blood. He licks the blade till he bleeds to death, swallowing his own life.

That is the way the devil works on us. He gives us a taste of sin, knowing we will crave more. We go deeper and deeper in satisfying our desires. We never notice the blade inside until it is too late. Only when we are dying do we realize we have swallowed our own life in sin.

Hebrews 11:23-28 (NASB)

23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's edict. 24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; 25 choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin; 26 considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward. 27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen. 28 By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkling of the blood, so that he who destroyed the first-born might not touch them.

Sin is a word that most folks don't want to talk about. What is sin? Why can't we just do our own thing? Everyone else is doing it, why can't I? The list goes on and on and on.

If you really want to know what sin is look at the middle letter of the word. When we let self (I) rule and disregard God and His commandment to love Him and one another we easily slip away from God and His direction book called the Bible. If you haven't read this book you might want to take a look at it. Most folks own more than one copy of the Bible, but are they reading it on a daily basis? If you want to hear the voice of God in your life this is the best place to read and listen.

Whatever sin you might be struggling with in your life God has a way to deliver you from it. All sin seems to start out small and gets bigger and bigger as we practice it. At first we think we can practice sin and walk away. But as we practice sin we get more and more pleasure from it until it has such a hold on us we can't let go. Remember the story of the wolf?

He let his senses drive him to his own death. We humans seem to let our feelings and our senses take control of our lives to our own failure. Without the compass of the Bible we have no sense of what is right or wrong. You can be sure the world has lost the concept of right and wrong. Without God's guidebook we are easily distracted from living in harmony with God and each other.

It takes faith and the ability to make good decisions to overcome sin and the lure of the same.

Moses' parents feared God rather than Pharaoh and saved Moses' life. Or was it God that saved Moses' life because of the faith and the action of Moses' folks?

As Moses grew up he displayed these same qualities in his own life. He had it made as far as society could see. Yet he chooses a different path. Why: because he chooses to stand in faith with God's people. He did not let the training he received in Pharaoh's house distract him from the ways of God. That takes faith and determination to carry off. He chooses suffering with God's people over the pleasures of sin. He was a wise young man. How did he know to make the right decision? Remember this: his mother was his Nanny. She influenced his life for God and righteousness.

Verse 26 is very interesting, isn't it? What did Moses know about Jesus? As a young Hebrew man he knew of the coming Messiah (this is what Christ means) and the blessed hope of the kingdom of God that would be establish at his return to our planet. Knowing this he made the decision to follow Messiah instead of the world. He didn't let the world draw him away from God. That was a wise decision.

Did you notice in today's text the connection between faith and the lack of fear? When we put our trust in the living God and His Son, Christ Jesus the Lord

we need not fear man and his systems. This life is not easy for the child of God but the rewards are great. It involves obedience to God and His written Word. It involves the acceptance of Jesus as your Lord and Savior. Remember, he is more than a Savior. He is also to be Lord of your life. That means we put him in charge and follow his lead.

So What Shall We Do?

Moses told his people to put blood on the doorpost and lintel of their homes so they would be saved from the death angel. This represents the blood of Jesus that was shed for our sins. Just like that wolf man is being drawn to their eternal death by practicing sin. When we obey God's instructions we receive salvation from our sins and the promise of eternal life in the coming Kingdom of God. Have you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Are you living for him and prepared for that Kingdom? Put your faith and trust in Jesus while you still have time. Resist the world and the sin it is pushing, and put your life in the hands of Him who loves and offers you hope and salvation.

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