

Compromise with Sin

Devotional for October 2, 2020

By Major Brian Coles

Chuck Swindoll tells the story of how years ago, a small northern Pennsylvania community began construction of a city hall and fire station.

When completed, all the townsfolk were proud of their new buildings.

Not too many weeks after moving into the buildings, however, several doors failed to shut completely, and a few windows wouldn't slide open easily.

As time passed, large cracks began to appear in the walls. Within months the front door couldn't be locked since the foundation had shifted. Then the roof began to leak.

Eventually, this building that had been a source of great civic pride had to be condemned.

An investigation later revealed that deep mine blasting, a few kilometres away, caused underground shock waves which weakened the earth beneath the buildings foundation resulting in its self-destruction.

So it is with compromise in life. I'm not talking about those times of give and take that are necessary for living in harmony with one another.

Without healthy kinds of compromise, people and nations could never find grounds for peaceful coexistence.

What I'm talking about is compromising with sin. When we compromise with sin, slowly, almost imperceptibly, one rationalization leads to another, which triggers a series of damaging changes in a life that was once strong and stable.

That seems to be the concern of the psalmist as he composes his first Psalm which encourages us to resist the temptation to compromise with sin.

And it is here we see evidence of a battle all of us are engaged in: the battle against compromise.

The first word of the psalm is "blessed." In Hebrew, this word "blessed" refers to a person who is happy many times over.

And what causes such happiness is this persons uncompromising walk with God.

This person does not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand in the pathway that sinners take, or sit in the company of mockers.

In other words, they do not imitate those who live ungodly lives, or follow the path sinners take, or take up permanent residence with those who continually mock God.

To put it another way, the opening of this psalm assures us that we will be happy many times over if we do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand in the pathway that sinners take, or sit in the company of mockers.

In other words, we will be blessed if we do not compromise.

In contrast to this kind of compromise, the blessed person delights him or herself with God and his Word.

To stay clear of compromise with sin and evil, God and his word gives us a right sense of direction for living.

Those who delight in God and his Word meditate on it, the psalmist tells us. To meditate upon God and his Word means to ponder, to think about him and his word day and night.

To recap, v.1 gives us a promises of happiness – “blessed is the one...” V.2 gives us a means for experiencing happiness – by meditating on God and his Word.

And v.3 declares the end result - you will be like a tree planted by flowing streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither – whatever they do prospers.

Here in v.3, we discover 4 tree-like characteristics of a godly life.

1st, you are planted and rooted, stable and strong.

2nd, you are fruitful. Looking into the New Testament, we discover that we can produce the fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

3rd, you are undeterred. Even during days of difficulty, you remain undeterred; determined to follow God and his Word.

And 4th, you will be prosperous, fulfilling the plans God has designed for your life.

And so I would encourage you today to maintain an uncompromising walk with the Lord knowing that as you delight yourself in him and his Word, and continue to grow into a stable, strong spiritual tree, you will experience his happiness in your life many times over.