

The Way of the Transgressor is Hard

- I. Introduction
 - a. Proverbs 13:15 - Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard. - KJV
 - b. David and Bathsheba
 - i. 2 Sam. 11:26-27 – David Sins
 - ii. 12:13 – David repents and is forgiven
 - iii. 12:14 – But the consequences still remain
 1. The enemies of the Lord have occasion to blaspheme
 2. The child will die
 3. The sword will not depart from David's house – 12:10
 - c. Was David forgiven? YES
 - d. Even without the guilt of his sin, did he find way of the transgressor to be hard? YES
 - i. If this is a true of a forgiven, submissive, trusting child of God
 - ii. How hard is it for the stiff-necked and rebellious?
- II. KEY THOUGHT: The way of the transgressor is hard
 - a. because of natural cause and effect,
 - b. because God makes it hard, and
 - c. because sin defiles our whole life.
- III. Because of Natural cause and effect
 - a. Every action produces a reaction, and sinful choices have evil consequences
 - i. Sexual immorality – Illegitimate children, disease, broken homes and relationships
 - ii. Drugs, Alcohol, Smoking – Disease, destruction of mind and body, death
 - iii. Sins of the Tongue – Destroyed influence, destroyed friendships, destroyed churches, destroyed souls
 - b. In each of these cases, the bitter fruit follows naturally from the sinful seed that is planted by an unrighteous word or deed.
 - c. Notice that God does not usually protect us from the consequences of these things.
 - i. Why not?
 - ii. We'll look at some of the reasons when we notice our next point
 - iii. That sometimes the natural consequences are not bad enough, and God steps in to make it even harder
- IV. Because God makes it hard
 - a. Haggai 1:5-11 –
 - i. Background of Haggai
 - ii. God was not going to let them be comfortable while they were ignoring His will
 - b. What if God made it easy for us?
 - i. We might not miss the fellowship with God that is lost by sin
 - ii. We may even conclude God is pleased with us in our sins

- iii. We may feel little or no motivation to repent and seek forgiveness
 - c. Why God makes it hard
 - i. To remind us of how horrible sin is – Do you ever hate the devil
 - 1. When my parents divorced
 - 2. When I met a young teenaged girl who had been cutting herself
 - 3. When I see my brother or sister beaten down by the world and paying a heavy price
 - ii. To remind us of our own weakness
 - 1. Jacob – Gen 32:31
 - 2. Paul – 2 Cor. 12:7-10
 - iii. To remind us of God’s love
 - 1. Heb. 12:5-11
 - 2. Rev. 3:19
- V. Because sin defiles our whole life
 - a. Some think they can sin and it won’t affect their family, job, friendships, worship, etc.
 - i. Compartmentalization
 - ii. This is utterly false
 - iii. James 1:8
 - b. Haggai 2:10-14 – “every work of their hand ... is unclean”
 - i. Dishrag
 - ii. Swine Flu
- VI. Conclusion
 - a. The way of the transgressor is hard
 - b. The consequences of sin make life extremely difficult
 - i. It can destroy our lives
 - ii. But there is something worse
 - c. The guilt of sin
 - i. It can and will destroy the soul
 - ii. It is the greater evil
 - iii. When confronted with our own sinfulness, we should be much more concerned with avoiding the guilt of our sin than the consequences of our sin
 - 1. David – Against you only have I sinned – Ps. 51:3-4, 10-13
 - 2. Saul – Honor me in the eyes of the people – 1 Sam. 15:24-31
 - a. 1 Samuel 15:30 Then he said, I have sinned: yet honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God.
 - d. What if a person says, “I’m doing fine. I’m prospering in sin with no ill effects.”?
 - i. I am avoid or dealing with whatever consequences come
 - ii. God is not making it hard for me
 - iii. And my sins aren’t affecting my whole life
 - iv. It’s not hard at all!

- v. ILLUSTRATION: How to kill a wolf
- vi. In our frenzied pursuit of sin and pleasure we can ignore the fact that our soul is being destroyed
- e. Invitation
 - i. When we repent, God will forgive
 - 1. Acts 2:38
 - 2. 1 John 1:9
 - ii. The consequences may remain
 - 1. David's son deposed him from being king – 2 Sam. 15:14-16
 - 2. He was heartlessly cursed and mocked – 2 Sam. 16:5-13
 - iii. But if we trust in the Lord we will be blessed –
 - 1. Psa 3:1-6 – Written while on the run from his own son!
 - iv. Matt. 11:28-30
 - 1. The way of the transgressor is hard
 - 2. The way of Jesus is rest for the soul