

LITTLE FOXES

SINS THAT DESTROY FRUITFUL LIFE

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INTRODUCTION

Jesus said, “I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain,” and “By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.” Hence it is our bounden duty to remove all that destroys our fruitfulness and to practise all that is necessary for fruitful living. This is the purpose of this book.

This book will help to identify and catch the “little foxes” which spoil our vines having tender grapes. Reading it through like an essay will be of little help. Keep you Bible open, turn to references and “meditate.” Allow the Spirit to penetrate into the dark chambers of your life not known to others. Make confession of sins then and there and be cleansed by Christ’s blood. Follow the Scriptural counsel to fence the garden lest these foxes enter again. Watch, you will win!

These notes may be used for personal meditation, group study and preaching. If you write down the references and truths you know besides what is given, under “additional notes,” this book will serve you long in many ways.

There are several other little foxes not names here!

Author

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1

LUST

1. LUST

A. The seriousness/importance

1. A fundamental aspect of sanctification
(1 Thess 4:3-8; Eph 5:3)
2. The 7th & 10th commandments (Ex 20:14,17)
3. The first 4 in the list of fleshly manifestations (gal 5:19)
4. Mentioned in almost all the N.T. Epistles
(Rom 13:12-14; 1 Cor 6:13-20; 2 Cor 12:21;
Gal 5:13-21; Eph 4:17-24; Col 3:1-7; 1 Thess 4:3-7;
2 Tim 2:21,22; 1 Pet 2:9-11; 4:1-3; 2 Pet 2:9,10)
5. Horrible judgment
(Job 25:15-19; Heb 13:4; 2 Pet 2:9,10,13,14,17,18)

B. Some manifestaions

1. Lustful look (Mt 5:28; 2 Pet 2:14a; Job 31:1)
2. Effeminacy and homosexuality (1 Cor 6:9; Rom 1:27)
3. Abuse of body (1 Cor 6:15, 18-20)
4. Flirtation (Prov 30:18,19)
5. Extra-marital relationships
(Ex 20:17; Job 31:9,10; Prov 5:18-20; Mal 2:15)

C. Effects

1. Bondage and leading astray (Prov 5:20-23)
2. Rooting out all increase (Job 31:12)
3. Defilement and darkening of the entire body
(1 Cor 6:18,19; 3:16,17; Mt 6:23)
4. Disruption of Christian fellowship (1 Cor 5:11)

D. Good examples for chastity

1. Joseph (Gen 39:6-12)
2. Job (Job 31:1,9-12)

E. How to overcome

1. Flee! (2 Tim 2:22a; 1 Cor 6:18a; Gen 39:12)
2. Pluck out, cut off! (Referring to persons and places of temptation) (Mt 5:29,30)
3. Don't be idle! (2 Sam 11:1-4)
4. Confess your failure honestly (2 Sam 12:13; Psa 51)
5. Reckon your old man dead and surrender your members to righteousness (Rom 6:11-23)
6. Learn from Christ His purity (Eph 4:19-24)
7. Be filled with the Word of God (Prov 6:23,24; Psa 119:11)
8. Watch and Pray (Mt 26:41)
9. Arrest temptation at temptation's level!
Temptation is not sin (Js 1:14,15; Heb 4:15)

F. Blessings when we overcome

1. God is glorified (1 Pet 2:11,12)
2. We will be glorified with Christ (Col 3:4,5)
3. Great commendation in Heaven (Rev 14:4,5)

Additional notes

2

Idolatry

A. God abhors Idolatry.

1. The first two of the Ten Commandments are against idolatry.
"You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself any carved image" (Ex 20:2-5).
2. God warns His people even against mentioning the names of idols.
"Make no mention of the name of other gods, nor let it be heard from your mouth" (Ex 23:13).
3. The last dated book of the New Testament is John's Epistle and it ends as —
"Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen" (1 John 5:21)

B. Objects of Idolatry

1. Graven images (Isa 44:9-20)
2. Memorial symbols like Cross, etc. (2 Ki 18:4)
3. Sun, Moon and Stars (Dt 4:19)
4. Animals, Birds, etc (Rom 1:23)
5. Devils (Rev 9:20; Mt 4:9,10)
6. Angels (Col 2:18; Rev 22:8,9)
7. Saints (Acts 10:25,26; 14:12-18)

C. Subtle forms of Idolatry for Christians

1. Coveteousness "Coveteousness, which is idolatry" (Col 3:5; Job 31:24-28)

2. Observance of times (Gal 4:8-10)

3. Fellowship with unbelievers.

“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For... what agreement has the temple of God with idols?”
(2 Cor 6:14-18. Also 1 Cor 10:16-21)

D. Examples against Idolatry

1. Elijah — Bold challenge (1 Ki 18:21,26,27)

2. David — Firm confession (Psa 16:4)

3. Daniel & co. — Bold testimony (Dan 3:16-18; 6:7,10)

4. Paul-Stir in his spirit (Acts 17:16)

E. Beware!

1. Idolatry is usually coupled with sexual impurity
(Rom 1:22-25; 1 Cor 10:7; 1 Pet 4:3; Rev 2:14)

2. FLEE FROM IDOLATRY! (1 Cor 10:14)

Additional notes

3

Jealousy

3. JEALOUSY

A. The horribleness of Jealousy

- 1. It is the root of “confusion and every evil work” (Js 3:16)
- 2. It is more cruel than wrath and anger (Prov 27:4)
- 3. It is a fruit of devilish and not divine knowledge (Js 3:14-17)
- 4. It is a work of darkness (Rom 13:13; Gal 5:21)
- 5. It is a sign of carnality (1 Cor 3:3)
- 6. It causes physical sickness (Prov 14:30)
- 7. It hinders spiritual growth (1 Pet 2:1,2)

B. Examples of Jealousy

- 1. Jealousy between brothers
 - (a) *“The Lord respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell”* (Gen 4:4,5)
 - (b) *“Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it to his brothers; ... And his brothers envied him”*
(Gen 37:5,11; Acts 7:9)
- 2. Jealousy between sisters “When Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister” (Gen 30:1)
- 3. Jealousy in secular employment
“Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps... So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom”
(Dan 6:3,4)

4. Jealousy in religious circles

- (a) Joshua over Eldad and Medad when they prophesied! (Num 11:26-29)
- (b) Saul over David when God spectacularly used David! (1 Sam 18:6-9)
- (c) John over a demon-driver of “another” group! (Mk 9:38,39; Lk 9:49,50)
- (d) Chief priests over Jesus when He drew the crowds! (Mk 15:10)
- (e) Jews over Paul when their empty traditions were shaken! (Acts 13:44,45)

C. Causes of Jealousy

- 1. Discontentment with God’s allotment and provision to us (Mt 20:11-15)
- 2. Sense of fear and insecurity (1 Sam, 18:8,9; Jn 12:19)
- 3. Failure to realise it matters not WHO does it as long as the victory is to the LORD and the gains to His KINGDOM. (1 Cor 3:5-9; Phil 1:15-18)
- 4. Occupation with subjects of controversy rather than the doctrine of godliness (1 Tim 6:3,4)

D. How to react when we are envied

- 1. Continued submission to the inworking of the Word of God.
Example: Joseph (Psa 105:19; Acts 7:9)
- 2. Patience and total commitment to God the Father.
Examples: Jesus (Mk 15:10; 1 Pet 2:19-23)
Moses (Num 16:1-5, 28-33)

3. Maintenance of honesty and sincerity in all the areas of life.

Example: Daniel (Dan 6:3,4)

E. The Royal Law

“LAW DOES NOT ENVY.” (1 Cor 13:4)

Additional notes

4

Backbiting

(Talebearing, Slander, Etc.)

A. God's commandment in the Law

"You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; I am the Lord" (Lev 19:16)

B. Causes of Backbiting

1. Lack of love (1 Cor 13:6; Gal 5:14,15)
2. Failure to remember that God hears it (Num 12:1,2) and the Holy Spirit is grieved (Eph 4:30,31)

C. Effects of Backbiting

1. It deeply wounds the heart (Prov 18:8)
2. It is the cause for many a strife (Prov 25:23; 26:20)
3. It is a hindrance to personal spiritual growth (1 Pet 2:1,2; Psa 15:1-3) and affects the ministry in the Church (2 Cor 12:20,21)

D. Backbiting and other evils

1. Backbiting and flattery (Prov 20:19)
2. Backbiting and hypocrisy (Psa 41:6; Jer 9:4,8)
3. Backbiting and position-loving (3 Jn 9,10)
4. Backbiting and idling (1 Tim 5:13; 2 Thess 3:11)
5. Backbiting and backsliding (Her 6:27-30)

E. Lessons from an O.T. Example

Read Numbers 12:1-16
Miriam and Aaron backbit Moses!

1. Not Moses, but the LORD heard it (v2)
2. The anger of the Lord was kindled (v9)
3. The glory of God departed (v10)
4. Miriam struck with leprosy-Loss of spiritual sensitiveness! (v10)
5. Miriam shut out — Fellowship broken! (v15)
6. People's journey delayed—Hindrances to progress! (v15)

F. When you want to backbite...

Ask yourself these questions:

- (a) Is it true? (b) Is it needful? (c) Is it kind?

G. When a backbiter comes to you...

Ask him these questions:

- (a) Will it do me any good if you tell me that story?
(b) Will it do you any good to tell it?
(c) Will it do the brother or sister about whom you have come to tell me, any good?

H. When you are backbitten...

- (a) Don't defend! (b) Don't offend! (c) But bless!

I. Severe punishment for backbiting

Psa 50:20,21; 101:5; Prov 6:12-15; Rom 1:30,32; 2:1

J. Some positive counsel

1. Tell your brother's faults to him alone in private (Mt 18:15,16)
2. Confess your faults one to another and pray for one another (Js 4:11; 5:9,16)

3. Think on virtues (Phil 4:8)

K. The Greek word for “devil” is “diabolas” which means SLANDERER!

Additional notes

5

ANGER

A. The Seriousness of Anger

1. It is one of the manifest works of the flesh hindering in inheritance of the Kingdom of God (Gal 5:19-21)
2. It tops the list of the deeds of the “old man” (Col 3:8,9)
3. It is opposed to the working of the righteousness of God (Js 1:20)
4. It grieves the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:30,31)
5. It is cursed (Gen 49:6,7)
6. A-N-G-E-R is just one letter short of D-A-N-G-E-R!

B. Causes of Anger

1. Foolishness in the heart
“Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, for anger rests in the bosom of fools” (Eccl 7:9; Prov 14:17)
2. Pride and Prestige
 Examples: Naaman (2 Ki 5:11,12)
 Jonah (Jon 4:1-4)
3. Jealousy
 Examples: Cain with Abel (Gen 4:5,6)
 Saul with David (1 Sam 18:8,9)
 Ten disciples with the other two (Mt 20:20-24)
4. Lack of Discretion
“The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, and it is to his glory to overlook a transgression” (Prov 19:11).
5. Failure to understand the forgiving love of God on others.

Example: The elder brother (Lk 15:27,28)

C. Examples of Punishment for Anger

- 1. Moses
Entrance into Canaan refused (Num 20:10-12)
- 2. King Uzziah Struck with leprosy (2 Chron 26:17-20)

D. If you get angry...

- 1. Hold it not for long!
“Be angry, and do not sin. Do not let the sun go down
or your wrath.” (Eph 4:26)
- 2. Remember even God’s righteous anger is very
temporary!
“His anger is but for a moment.” (Psa 30:5)
“Nor will I always be angry” (Isa 57:16)
- 3. Restitute the matter with the person concerned
immediately, if it is without a reasonable cause
(Mt 5:21-24)

E. A golden rule

*Be swift to hear,
Slow to speak,
Slow to wrath!* (Js 1:19)

Additional notes

6

BITTERNESS

A. The Law

“You shall not hate your brother in your heart”
(Lev 19:17a)

B. Origin of Bitterness

Hell! (Js 3:14,15)

C. Effects of Bitterness

- 1. It grieves the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:30,31)
- 2. It lets us not enjoy the blessedness of eternal life today
(1 Jn 3:15)
- 3. It incapacitates us to love God (1 Jn 4:20)
- 4. It shuts us up in darkness though we claim walking in
light (1 Jn 2:9)
- 5. It defiles also the other members in the Body of Christ
(Heb 12:14,15)

D. Examples of Bitterness Punished

- 1. Bitterness among brothers when God honours the
efforts of one over the other: Cain — Abel (Gen 4:5-7)
- 2. Bitterness among brothers over God’s choice of one or
a few with a special grace: Joseph’s brothers — Joseph
(Gen 37:4; 42:21,22)
- 3. Bitterness against a fellow-worker who is more liked
and appaluded by people than oneself: Saul-David
(1 Sam 18:8-10)
- 4. Bitterness against a servant of God who speaks the
truth and does not try to please you: Ahab-Micaiah
(1 Ki 22:7,8, 34-38)
- 5. Bitterness against God’s people: Haman-Jews
(Esth 5:9; 7:9,10)

E. Where Bitterness is most Harmful

1. Family life

“Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them” (Col 3:19)

2. Church life

“Let all bitterness... be put away from you with all malice. And be kind to one another” (Eph 4:31,32)

F. How to overcome Bitterness

1. Meditate how God loved you in Christ though He could not tolerate the stink of your sin

(Hab 1:13; Eph 4:31,32)

2. Begin to pray that God may bless those with whom you are bitter

(Mt 5:44)

3. Reconcile as quickly as possible-even before the sun goes down!

(Mt 5:23-25; Eph 4:26)

G. Follow the Example of Christ!

(Lk 22:51; 23:33,34)

Additional notes

7

JUDGING

A. The Evil of judging others

1. Those who judge others are generally hypocrites themselves and they have a beam in their own eyes!

(Mt 7:3-5)

2. When we judge our brother, we actually speak evil of the Law itself and judge it!

(Js 4:11)

3. If we are not merciful to others, we will face a judgment without mercy and we will be utterly consumed!

(Mt 7:1,2; Js 2:13; Isa 29:21)

B. Why we should not judge others

1. We judge by what we hear and see but God alone knows the heart.

“He (Christ) shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears” (Isa 11:3)

“You judge according to the flesh” (Jn 8:15; 7:24)

2. By nature we are not patient in judging others (Jn 7:51)

3. The time of judgment has not yet come.

“Judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes”

(1 Cor 4:5)

4. When we judge others, we actually condemn ourselves!

(Rom 2:1)

5. It is the LORD who will judge His people!

(Dt 32:36; Psa 50:4-6; 135:14; Heb 10:30)

C. God challenges those who judge others

1. “You are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge”

(Rom 2:1)

2. "Who are you to judge another?" (Js 4:12)

D. Positive counsel

- 1. Forgive! (Lk 6:37)
- 2. Receive the weak in faith, but not to judge his doubtful thoughts (Rom 14:1-4)
- 3. Restore the fallen with meekness (Gal 6:1)
- 4. Avoid judging others on minor doctrinal issues (Col 2:16; Jn 7:22-24)
- 5. Imitate the mercy and love of God (Lk 6:36,37; 1 Pet 4:8)
- 6. Judge yourself! (1 Cor 11:31)

E. A final word

WE SHALL ALL STAND BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST. THEREFORE LET US NOT JUDGE ONE ANOTHER ANYMORE! (Rom 14:10,13)

Additional notes

8 ADDICTION

A. The Bible speaks against addiction to...

- 1. Foods (Not the necessary food)
 - "Do not mix with gluttonous eaters of meat"* (Prov 23:20,21)
 - "Put a knife to your throat if you are a man given to appetite"* (Prov 23:1-3)
 - "All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them"* (1 Cor 6:12,13)
- 2. Physical comforts
 - "I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound"* (Phil 4:11,12)
- 3. Prosperity and Material enjoyment
 - "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord"*
 - "Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?"* (Job 1:21; 2:10)
 - "Those who use this world, as not misusing it. For the form of this world is passing away... the time is short"* (1 Cor 7:31,29)
- 4. Sleep
 - "Do not love sleep, lest you come to poverty;... A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest; So your poverty will come like a prowler"* (Prov 20:13; 24:33,34)

5. Drinks, Drugs

“Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long at the wine, Those who go in search of mixed wine”
(Prov 23:29,30).

6. Pastimes (music, TV, novels, comics, etc.)

“Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure... and indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun”
(Eccl 2:10,11).

B. How to have victory over addiction

1. Be alert at the first stages.

“Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly; at the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper”
(Prov 23:31,31)

2. Call unto the LORD for true deliverance, if hooked.

“The Lord is near to all who call upon Him... He also will hear their cry and save them”
(Psa 145:18,19)

“If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed”
(Jn 8:36)

3. The Lord cannot help you without YOUR cooperation (desire, determination, deliberation).

I can do all things “through Christ” who strengthens me
(Phil 4:13)

“The Lord is withyou while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you”
(2 Chron 15:2)

C. The best antidote for addiction

“Love the Lord your God with ALL your HEART, with ALL your SOULD, with ALL your MIND and with ALL your STRENGTH”
(Mk 12:30)

Additional notes

9 SELFISHNESS

A. The First in the list of last day signs

"In the last days perilous times will come. For men will be lovers of themselves ..." (2 Tim 3:1,2)

B. Consequences of selfishness

- 1. Fruitlessness and loss of life
"He who loves his life will lose it" (Jn 12:24,25)
- 2. Denial of God's love (1 Jn 3:16,17)
- 3. Curse of people
"The people will curse him who withholds grain" (Prov 11:26)
- 4. Hell fire
"Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire... for I was hungry and you gave Me no food" (Mt 25:41-46)

C. Areas of Selfishness

- 1. Material things (1 Jn 3:17)
- 2. Relationship between mature and immature believers (Ezek 34:18-22; Rom 15:1)
- 3. Shepherding the flock of God (Isa 56:11)
- 4. Manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor 14:12-19)
- 5. Spiritual aspirations (Mk 10:35-37)
- 6. Religious exercises like fasting (Zech 7:4-6)

D. Importance of Selflessness

- 1. The Second great commandment like the First, and the summary of all law.
"You shall love your neighbour as yourself" (Mt 22:39; Rom 13:9; Gal 5:14; Js 2:8)

2. The basic condition for discipleship
"... let him deny himself ..." (Lk 9:23)

3. A must for peaceful relationship among brothers (Gen 13:8,9)

E. Examples for Selflessness

- 1. Moses (Ex 32:32)
- 2. Samuel and Job (1 Sam 12:23; Job 42:10)
- 3. Jesus the Good Shepherd (Jn 10:11; 2 Cor 8:9)
- 4. The Early Church (Acts 4:32)
- 5. Paul the Apostle (1 Cor 10:33; 2 Cor 12:15; Rom 9:3)
- 6. Timothy (Phil 2:19-22)
- 7. Priscilla and Aquila (Rom 16:3,4)

F. Selflessness is the mind of Christ.

"Look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others"
"Let THIS MIND be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil 2:4,5)

Additional notes

10 WORLDLINES

A. Pure Religion

“Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this ... to keep oneself unspotted from the world”

(Js 1:27)

B. Awfulness of Worldliness

1. It is spiritual adultery (Js 4:4)
2. It is enmity against God (Js 4:4)
3. It manifest as lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and pride of life (1 Jn 2:16)
4. It leads to poverty (Prov 21:17)
5. If is vanity (Eccl 2:3-11)
6. It is wickedness (1 Jn 5:19)
7. It chokes the Word of God in our hearts and leaves us unfruitful (Lk 8:14)
8. It is the greatest hindrance to discipleship (Mt 6:24,25; Lk 14:26,27)
9. It will be punished on the last day (Js 5:1-3,5)
10. It is death (1 Tim 5:6)

C. Examples of Unworldliness

1. Jesus Christ (Jn 14:30; 17:16)
2. Moses (Heb 11:26)
3. Heroes of Faith (Heb 11:32,38)
4. Paul (Gal 6:14)

D. Opposers of Worldliness

1. Love of God (1 Jn 2:15)
2. Cross of Christ (Phil 3:18,19)
3. Holy Spirit (Js 4:4,5; Jn 14:17)
4. Word of God (Jn 17:14)

E. How to overcome Worldliness

1. Be transformed by the renewing of mind (Rom 12:2)
2. Realize the time is short and the world is passing away (1 Cor 7:29-31)
3. Set your affection on things Above (Col 3:1-3)
4. Remember constantly your Heavenly citizenship (Phil 3:19,20)
5. Be filled with a spirit of praise and worship of God (Mt 4:8-11)
6. Keep looking for the Return of Christ, and the New Heaven and New Earth (Phil 3:19,20; 2 Pet 3:13)

F. A heavy price to pay

The world will hate you! (Jn 15:19)

Recommended Reading

1. “Love not the World” by Watchman Nee
2. “True Discipleship” by William Macdonald

Additional notes

11 COMPROMISE

A. Do not compromise!

1. With sin:
 “Resist to bloodshed, striving against sin” (Heb 12:4)
2. With the way of the world:
 “Do not be conformed to this world” (Rom 12:2)
3. In proclaiming the Gospel:
 “We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:17-20)

B. Good Examples

1. Worship
 Moses-Pharaoh (Ex 5:3; 7:16; 8:25-28; 10:11, 24-27)
 Read also Heb 11:24-27
2. Chastity
 Joseph-Potiphar’s wife (Gen 39:11-13)
3. God’s work
 Nehemiah — his opposers (Neh 6:1-4)
4. Sanctity
 Daniel & Co-Nebuchadnezzar (Dan 3:1-8)
5. Faith and Devotion
 Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah-Nebuchadnezzar (Dan 3:16-18)
6. Faith and Devotion
 Women of old (Beh 11:35)
7. Jesus Christ
 - (a) With the devil (Mt 4:8-10)
 - (b) With Pilate (Jn 19:10,11)

8. Doctrine
 Paul— King Agrippa (Acts 26:20-29)
 — False teachers (Gal 2:4,5)

9. Truth
 Apostles (2 Cor 13:6,8)

C. Some causes of Compromise

1. Following the majority
 “You shall not follow a crowd to do evil” (Ex 23:2)
2. Fear of men
 Example: Peter (Gen 2:11-13)
3. Following the unbelievers (Rom 3:3,4)
4. Friendship of the world (Js 4:4; 1 Jn 2:15)

D. A good slogan

“I CANNOT COME DOWN!” (Neh 6:3)’

Additional notes

A. Definition of Hypocrisy

1. Difference between Thoughts and Words

“Hypocrites!... These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honour Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me” (Mt 15:7,8)

2. Difference between Words and Deeds

“Whatever they (Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites) tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do” (Mt 23:2,3)

B. Causes of Hypocrisy

1. Self-justification and fault-finding (Mt 7:4,5; Lk 6:42)
2. Love of public applause (Mt 23:27,28)
3. Covetousness (Ezek 33:31; Mt 6:24)
4. Stress on minor details rather than the fundamentals (Mt 23:23,24)
5. Undue emphasis on the external things rather than the inward life (Mt 23:25,26)

C. Areas of Hypocrisy

1. In spiritual worship (Mt 15:7-9)
2. In social relationships (Jer 9:8)
3. In religious exercises — Almsgiving, Praying, Fasting (Mt 6:2,5,16; Zech 7:5,6)
4. In confession and preaching (Tit 1:16; Rom 2:21-23; Psa 50:16; Mic 3:11)
5. In listening to God’s Word (Ezek 33:31,32)

D. Fruits of Hypocrisy

1. Perishing hopes (Job 8:13-15)
2. Temporary joy (Job 20:4-9)
3. Stunted spiritual growth (1 Pet 2:1,2)
4. Divine “WOE!” (Mt 23:13,14,15,23,25,27,29,33; 24:51)

E. How to get over Hypocrisy

1. Realise God’s omniscience (Psa 139)
2. Fear God (2 Cor 5:10-12)
3. Seek purity from Above (Js 3:17).

Additional notes

13 BACKSLIDING

A. Causes of Backsliding

1. Superficial conversion expecting “a bed of roses”
(Mt 13:20,21)
2. Failure to watch and pray (Mt 26:40,41, 69-73)
3. Failure to be continually filled with the Spirit and the Scripture (Lk 11:24-26; Eph 5:18; Col 3:16)
4. Bad company (Num 11:4,5; Lk 22:54-57; 1 Cor 15:33)
5. Unholy alliance in marriage (1 Ki 11:1-4; 2 Cor 6:14)
6. Neglect of fellowship of God’s children
(Heb 3:13; Eccl 4:9-12)
7. Lack of spiritual leadership (Ex 32:1)
8. Material-mindedness
(2 Tim 4:10; 1 Tim 6:10; Dt 8:10-14; Jer 49:4)
9. Blaming God for the temptations (Js 1:13-16)
10. Self-confidence (Mt 26:31-35, 69-73; Prov 14:14)
11. Dependence on works rather than grace
(Gal 3:3-6; 5:4-7)
12. Pride of spiritual attainments (Prov 16:18; 1 Cor 10:12)
13. Assumption of leadership without maturity (1 Tim 3:6)
14. Failure to embrace the teachings of Jesus
(Jn 6:60, 66-69)
15. False doctrines (Gal 1:6-9; 1 Tim 4:1; 2 Pet 3:15-17)
16. Failure to exercise to maintain a good conscience
(1 Tim 1:19; Acts 24:16)
17. Busy religious activities without a heart-devotion
(Rev 2:1-4)

18. Thinking too much of the Evil One
(Jn 10:28,29; 1 Jn 4:4)
19. Looking at the problems rather than the Lord
(Mt 14:28-30; Heb 12:2)
20. Failure to praise God and wait for His counsel
(Psa 106:13,14)
21. Lack of patience in awaiting the fulfilment of God’s promises
(Heb 10:35-39)
22. No aim at perfection (Heb 6:1-6)

B. Seriousness of Backsliding

1. God’s anger (Heb 10:38; Jude 6)
2. Dishonour on Christ and His blood (Heb 6:6; 10:29)
3. Leading to the total rejection of the birthright in God’s Kingdom (Heb 12:16)

C. Healing from Backsliding

1. The backslider must humble himself (2 Chron 7:14; 12:12; Lk 15:17-19,21) and repent honestly
(Ezek 18:31,32)
2. Soulwinners should endeavour to restore the backslider gently (Gal 6:1,2; Js 5:19,20) with real soul travail (Gal 4:19; Lam 2:11).
3. God employs chastisement to restore His backslidden children (Heb 12:5-13; Hos 14:4)

D. Antidote for Backsliding

Embracing God’s love revealed in Christ

(Rom 8:35-39)

E. A promise

“HE IS ABLE TO KEEP YOU FROM STUMBLING”
(Jude 24,25)

Additional notes

14 REBELLION

A. God hates Rebellion

“For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry” (1 Sam 15:23)

B. Examples of Rebellion and Pubishment

- 1. Lucifer against God (Isa 14:13-15)
- 2. Man against his Maker (Isa 45:9)
- 3. People of Israel against the Holy Spirit (Isa 63:10)
- 4. Korah, Dathan and Abiram against Moses and Aaron (Num 16)
- 5. Absalom against King David (2 Sam 15:1-13; 18:6-9)
- 6. Diotrephes against the apostles (3 Jn 9,10)
- 7. A son against his parents (Dt 21:18-21)

C. Call to Submission and Examples

- 1. To God (Js 4:7; 1 Pet 5:6)
 - Examples: Christ to the Father (Phil 2:6-8)
 - Angels to Christ (1 Pet 3:22)
- 2. To Elders in the Church
 - (Heb 13:17; 1 Pet 5:5; 1 Cor 16:16)
 - Example: Timothy to Paul (1 Tim 1:2a; 2 Tim 1:1-4)
- 3. To Rulers (Rom 13:1-7; Tit 3:1; 1 Pet 2:13-18)
 - Example: Daniel to king Darius (Dan 6:22)
- 5. Children to Parents (Eph 6:1-3; Heb 12:9)
 - Example: Boy Jesus to mary and Joseph (Lk 2:51)
- 6. One to another
 - Example: Paul and Philemon (Philem 1,2,8,9,20,21)

D. Antidotes for Rebellion

- 1. Towards God:
Remember God’s mercy on you in the past (isa 63:9,10).
Realise all things work together for your good
(Rom 8:28)
- 2. Towards authority:
Realise all authority is ordained by God and none but
of Him (Rom 13:1)
- 3. Towards one another:
Realise we are all members of ONE Body and a member
does not lose anything by submitting to other members
(1 Cor 12:21,25,27)

E. Blessings of Submission

- 1. God will exalt you! (1 Pet 5:6; Js 4:10; Phil 2:8-11)
- 2. You will be healed and your prayers answered! (Js 5:16)
- 3. The more you submit to God the greater will be the
authority you can exercise over the Devil (Js 4:7)

F. A Blessed Promise

“I (God) dwell with him who has a contrite and humble
spirit” (Isa 57:15)

Additional notes

15 DISORDERLINESS

(Irregularity, Indiscipline, Confusion, etc.)

A. The Character of God

“God is a God not of disorder but of harmony”
(1 Cor 14:33 Moff.)

B. The Divine Rule

“Let all things be done decently and in order”
(1 Cor 14:40)

C. Orderliness or Regularity required in...

1. PRAYER

(a) David
“In the morning I will direct my prayer to you”
(Psa 5:3)

(b) Daniel
“He knelt down on his knees three times that day,
and pryaed and gave thanks” (Dan 6:10)

(c) Peter & John
“Peter and John went up together to the temple at
the hour of prayer” (Acts 3:1)

2. STUDY

“Give attention to reading” (1 Tim 4:13)

3. GIVING

“On the first day fot eh week let each of you lay
something aside...” (1 Cor 16:2)

4. THE HOME

Example: Teh role of a woman (Prov 31:10-31)

a. Early rising
“She also rises while it is yet night,
and provides food for her household,
and a portion for her maid servants” (v15)

b. Diligent work

*“She stretches out her hands to the distaff,
and her hand holds the spindle”* (v19)

c. Decent dress

“Strength and honour are her clothing” (v 25)

d. Carefulness, no laziness

*“She watches over the ways of her household, and does
not eat the bread of idleness”* (v27)

5. BUSINESS / WORK

*“Do you see a man who excels in his work?
He will stand before kings;
He will not stand before unknown men”* (Prov 22:29)

D. Punctuality is an expression of Orderliness

E. Seriousness of Disorderliness

*“We command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord
Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who
walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which
he received from us. For you yourselves know how you
ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among
you”* (2 Thess 3:6,7)

Additional notes

16 FOOLISHNESS

A. The worst kind of foolishness

Denying or doubting the existence of God in thought or
word or deed (Psa 14:1-3; 53:1-3)

B. A fool is public life

1. He listens not to counsel; he thinks he is always right!
(Prov 12:15)
2. He opens all his mind!
(Prov 29:11)
3. He speaks a lot!
“A fool multiplies words” (Eccl 10:14; Prov 10:19; 17:28)
4. He is a master boaster!
(Prov 30:32)
5. He enjoys slandering!
(Prov 10:18)

C. Foolishness in spiritual life

1. Covering of sin (Psa 38:4,5; 69:5)
2. Mocking at sin, i.e. speaking light of it (Prov 14:9)
3. More talking and less listening while in the presence of
God (Eccl 5:1-3)
4. Trusting one’s own heart as against trusting the Lord
(Prov 28:25,26)
5. Trying to please the Lord by works and legalism
rather than by faith and grace (Gal 3:1,3)
6. Charging God at times of adversity (Job 1:22; 2:10)
7. Boasting of worldly wisdom (1 Cor 3:18-21)
8. Emphasizing traditions over the truth of God’s Word
(Mt 23:17-22; Lk 11:38-40)

- 9. Hearing the Word but no doing it (Mt 7:26)
- 10. Laying up treasure for oneself and not richly investing in God's cause (Lk 12:20,21)
- 11. Questioning the promise of Resurrection (1 Cor 15:35,36)
- 12. Slackness in preparing for Christ's Second Coming (Mt 25:1-13)

D. Read the entire book of Proverbs to understand the difference between wisdom and foolishness from God's viewpoint.

Additional notes

17 RIVALRY

A. Lucifer is the author of Rivalry

“O Lucifer, you have said in your heart: I will ascend into heaven,... I will be like the most High!”
(Isa 14:12-14)

B. Good examples to follow

1. David & Jonathan
“Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armour, even to his sword and his bow and his belt”
(1 Sam 18:1-4).

2. Jesus & John the Baptist
“Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, He left Judaea and departed again to Galilee”
(Jn 4:1-3; Lk 3:15,16).

3. Paul
“I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man's foundation”
(Rom 15:20)

C. How to avoid Rivalry

- 1. Realize that a man can receive nothing, unless it has been given him from Heaven (Jn 3:27)
- 2. Don't think more highly of yourself than you ought to think (Rom 12:3)
- 3. Remain in that calling in which you are called (1 Cor 7:20)
- 4. Don't cross your boundaries set by God or exceed the measure appointed by Him (2 Cor 10:13-16)

- Realize we are all labourers of the same God in the same harvest (1 Cor 3:5-10)
- It matters not who pounds the paddy provided it becomes rice! Be happy as long as Christ is preached! (Phil 1:15-18)

D. Discipline of God's Army

*“They run like mighty men,
they climb the wall likemen of war;
everyone marches in formation,
and they do not break ranks.
They do not push one another;
everyone marches in his own column.
The Lord gives voice before His army,
for His camp is very great!” (Joel 2:7-11)*

Additional notes

18 SLOTHFULNESS

A. Awfulness of Slothfulness

- It is equivalent to wickedness before God.
“You wicked and lazy servant!” (Mt 25:26)
- It is suicide
“The desire of the slothful kills him” (Prov 21:25).
- It is condemned by the Apostles as disorderly walk.
“There are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all” (2 Thess 3:6-12).

B. Effects of Slothfulness

- It gives room for temptation.
Example: David (2 Sam 11:1,2)
- It leads to poverty, both spiritual and material
(Prov 6:9-11; 18:9; 19:15; 20:4)
- It causes decay of possessions (Eccl 10:18)
- It leads to slavery (Prov 12:24)
- It leads to hell-fire (Mt 25:26-40)
- It causes failure to receive the blessings promised by the Lord (Heb 6:12)
- It causes failure to possess new frontiers for the Lord (Judg 18:9)

C. Some practical manifestations

- Lame excuses
The slothful man says, *“There is a lion outside!”*
(Prov 22:13)
- Over-sleep
“Slothfulness casts one into a deep sleep”
(Prov 19:15; 6:9)

3. Wasting time and Procrastination

"You who sleep.. the time ... the days" (Eph 5:14-16)

D. Some saintly sayings

- 1. An idle mind is the devil's workshop!
- 2. The idler does not waste time; he merely wastes himself!
- 3. He that rises late must trot all day!

E. A therapy for Slothfulness

"Go to the ant!" (Prov 6:6-9).

F. A promise

*"Awake you who sleep,
arise from the dead,
and CHRIST WILL GIVE YOU LIGHT!"* (Eph 5:14).

Additional notes

19 SORROW

A. Possible causes of Sorrow

- 1. Disobedience to God (Gen 3:16,17)
- 2. Wickedness
"Many sorrows to the wicked" (Psa 32:10)
- 3. Godlessness
"to the sinner ... travail" (Eccl 2:26)
- 4. Idol-worship (Psa 16:4)
- 5. Drunkenness and Revellings (Prov 23:29,30)
- 6. Self-efforts, excluding God
"labour ... stay awake ... rise up ... sit up ... to eat the bread of sorrows" (Psa 127:1,2)
- 7. Love of and trust in riches
"Love of moeny ... pierced with many sorrows"
(1 Tim 6:10; Eccl 5:12)

B. Results of Sorrow

- 1. The spirit is broken (Prov 15:13)
- 2. The Word is choked and rendered fruitless (Mt 13:22)
- 3. The preparation for the Second Coming is disturbed (Lk 21:34)

C. Way of deliverance

- 1. Honest acknowledgement and confession sin (Psa 38:17,18)
- 2. Trusting in the mercy of God (Psa 13:2,5,6)
- 3. Embracing the Word of God (Psa 119:92, 143)

D. Positive steps to a Joyful Life

- 1. Give supreme priority to the things concerning the Kingdom of God (Mt 6:31-33)
- 2. Be filled with and stay full of the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:52; Psa 36:8; 46:4)
- 3. Take everything to God in prayer (Phil 4:6; Js 5:13; 1 Pet 5:7)
- 4. Rejoice in His presence with praise and worship (Job 1:21; Psa 16:11; 30:11,12; Isa 61:3).
- 5. Make positive confessions of victory, strength, protection, etc! (Psa 18:2-6; Rev 12:11).

E. A doxology

“Blessed be the God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the FAther of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God”
(2 Cor 1:3,4)

Additional notes

20 IGNORANCE

A. Causes of Ignorance

- 1. Neglect of the Word of God (Isa 8:20; 1 Cor 14:36-38)
- 2. Mere academic interest in the study of the Scriptures without seekign the enlightenment of the Spirit (1 Cor 2:9-14; Psa 119:18)
- 3. Failure to study ALL the Scriptures but dwelling on a few favourite passages only (2 Tim 3:16,17; Mt 23:23)
- 4. Boasting of worldly wisdom (1 Co4 2:4-8)
- 5. Neglecting the corporate life in the Body of Christ (1 Cor 12:8,27,28; 14:3,31)
- 6. Despising the ministers of the Church (Eph 4:11-15)
- 7. Hardness of heart (Eph 4:18)

B. What we should not be ignorant of

- 1. God’s covenant with Israel (Rom 11:25-27)
- 2. Old Testament examples (1 Cor 10:1,6; 2 Pet 3:5,6)
- 3. The devices of Satan (2 Cor 2:11)
- 4. Spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12:1)
- 5. God’s missionary movements (Rom 1:12,13; 2 Cor 1:8; Jn 4:35)
- 6. The soon-return of Christ (2 Pet 3:8,9)
- 7. Hope of resurrectin of the dead (1 Thess 4:13,14)

C. Results of Ignorance

- 1. Idolatry (Acts 17:16,23,24)

2. Self-righteousness as against submission to God's righteousness (Rom 10:3)
3. Life of sin and shame as against the life from God (Eph 4:18,19; 1 Pet 1:14)
4. Rejection of the Lordship of Christ (Acts 3:17; 1 Cor 2:8)
5. Persecution of the children of God (Acts 7:57-60; Lk 23:34)
6. Indifference to missionary-evangelism (Jn 4:35; Rom 10:14,15)

D. God's command

"The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent!" (Acts 17:30)

Additional notes

21 **PATIALITY**

A. Partiality is Sin

"If you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors" (Js 2:9)

B. Partiality condemned

1. Rich and poor (Js 2:1-5)
2. Strong and weak (Jer 9:23; 1 Cor 1:26-31)
3. Educated and uneducated (Jer 9:23; 1 Cor 1:26-31)
4. Great and small (Dt 1:17)
5. Masters and servants (Eph 6:9; Col 3:11c)
6. Man and Woman (Gal 3:20)
7. Adult and child (Mt 18:10)
8. High caste and low caste, so called (Rom 10:12; Col 3:11)
9. In obedience to Scripture commandments (Mal 2:9; Mt 23:23; 2 Tim 3:16)
10. In administration and church discipline (1 Tim 5:19-21)

C. Examples of partiality and its effects

1. Family of Jacob
"When Joseph's brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him" (Gen 37:3,4)
2. Church at Jerusalem
"There arose a murmuring against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution" (Acts 6:1)

D. How to overcome partiality

1. Obey the Royal law.

“If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself” you do well; but if you show partiality ...” (Js 2:8,9)

2. Realise only God can exalt a person.

The answer of Jesus to the mother of the sons of Zebedee when she requested His right and left hand seats for her sons (Mt 20:20-23)

3. Seek the wisdom from above.

“The wisdom that is from above is ... without partiality” (Js 3:17; 1:5)

E. The character of God

“There is no partiality with the Lord our God!”
(2 Chr 19:7; Acts 10:34; 1 Pet 1:17).

Additional notes

22 PROCRASTINATION

A. Why we should not procrastinate

- 1. Indefiniteness of tomorrow (Prov 27:1; Eccl 3:22; 6:12; 8:7; 10:14)
- 2. Brevity of life (Js 4:14; Job 7:6; 1 Chron 29:15)
- 3. Imminency of Christ’s Return (Heb 10:37; Mt 24:48-51)
- 4. The world is getting no better (Eccl 9:12; Am 6:3; Jn 9:4)

B. In what?

- 1. Remembering the Creator and seeking Him (Eccl 12:1,7; Psa 32:6; 69:13)
- 2. Personal Salvation (2 Cor 6:2)
Examples: Athenians (Acts 17:32)
Felix (Acts 24:25)
- 3. Baptism (Acts 22:16; 16:33)
- 4. Separation from the world’s evil system (Gen 19:15,16)
- 5. Fulfilling the vows to God (Eccl 5:4)
- 6. Offering to God (Ex 22:29)
- 7. Helping the saints in need (2 Cor 8:10,11)
- 8. Helping the poor (Prov 3:27,28; Js 4:14,17)
- 9. Payment of wages (Lev 19:13)
- 10. Proclamation of the Gospel and harvest of souls (2 Ki 7:9; Eccl 11:1,2; Jn 4:35,36)
- 11. Response to God’s call to the ministry (Mt 8:21,22)
- 12. Deeds to glorify God (Jer 13:16)

C. An important N.T. passage

Hebrews 3:7-19

TODAY ... Harden not! (vv7,8)

TODAY ... Exhort! (v13)

TODAY... Believe! (vv15,19)

D. Warnings

1. Cessation of the Spirit’s striving

“My Spirit shall not strive with man forever” (Gen 6:3)

2. Sudden destruction

“He who is often reproved, and hardens his neck, will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy”
(Prov 29:1)

3. Wasting the grace of God

“Receive not the grace of God in vain. FOR He says: ... Behold, NOW is the accepted time; behold, NOW is the day of salvation”
(2 Cor 6:1,2)

Additional notes

24 SELF-EXAMINATION

A. Be reconciled! (Mt 5:23,24)

1. Do I get angry?
2. Do I insult others?
3. Do I despise anyone because I think he lacks intelligence?
4. Do I use unkind words or abuse others?
5. Do I call someone a fool because I think I am wise?
(Mt 5:22)
6. Have I hurt anyone?
7. Do I backbite?
8. Do I scandalize?
(Eph 4:31)
9. Have I stolen anyone?
10. Have I illegally taken anything from my office or workspot?
(Ezek 33:15)

B. Love your enemies! (Mt 5:44)

1. Have I forgiven everyone or do I hold grudge in my heart against someone?
(Mt 6:14,15)
2. Do I bless those who curse me or do I curse them back?
3. Do I do good to those who hate me or do I avoid them?
4. Do I love them who do not agree with my views?
(Mt 5:46,47)
5. Do I pray for those who speak ill of me?
6. With what spirit do I pray for my persecutors?
(Mt 5:44)

7. Do I have the spirit of vengeance?
8. Do I defend? (Mt 5:38,39)
9. Do I secretly rejoice when my enemy falls?
10. What is my attitude towards my quarrelsome neighbour when he is defeated?
11. Am I jealous over my classmate who scores higher marks than me and my colleague who is promoted? (Prov 14:30)

C. Be humble! (Mt 5:3)

1. Do I always want to be a leader and never a follower?
2. Do I always want others to serve me when I am never willing to serve others?
3. Do I want to be preferred to others and feel hurt when not so? (Lk 22:24-27)
4. Do I think I am better than others? (Phil 2:3)
5. Am I humble like Jesus, or proud?
6. Do I think that my position is self-attained?
7. Do I just appreciation for what I do?
8. Do I seek reputation and popularity? (Phil 2:5-8)
9. Do I fail to honour others? (Rom 12:10)
10. Am I proud of my education, possessions, personality, denomination and so-called caste?
11. Is there any job which I think is below my dignity to do? (Js 4:6)

D. Judge not! (Mt 7:1)

1. Do I judge others?
2. Do I unlovingly criticize anyone?

3. Am I a fault-finder?
4. Do I have the better-than-you attitude? (Mt 7:1-4).
5. Do I practise what I preach?
6. Do I do to others what I would like them do to me?
7. Am I a hypocrite? (Mt b7:5,12; Rom 2:1-5)
8. Do I fail to understand the weak in faith and support them? (Rom 14:1; 15:1).

E. Speak the truth! (Mt 5:37)

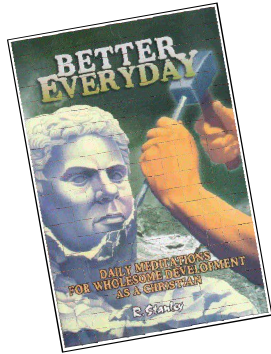
1. Do I lie?
2. Do I exaggerate?
3. Do I twist stories to entertain others? (Mt 5:37)
4. Do I pray what I do not mean?
5. Do I say the Lord's prayer without forgiving others, thus telling a lie even while praying? (Mt 6:12)
6. When I say "Hallelujah" or "Praise the Lord," do I mean it?

F. Flee youthful lusts! (2 Tim 2:22)

1. Do I look at the opposite sex with lustful eyes? (Mt 5:28)
2. Do I covet neighbour's wife? (Ex 20:17)
3. Do I have impure habits?
4. Do I abuse sex? (1 Cor 6:9)

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psa 139:23,24)

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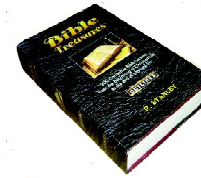
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