

May 31 - 70 P.M. WXRI
July 25 - 71 P.M. WXRI -

WHAT IS MY FAVORITE SIN

Proverbs 6:16-19

INTRODUCTION: *f. Ice Cream - Desert.*

I want you to ask yourself the question - what is my favorite sin?

Lady Duncan was heiress. And Sir Walter was her physician during a serious illness and she informed him, that if she recovered, she would immediately take a husband. May I ask, said Sir Walter, who the lucky man is to be. She told him to go home, open the Bible, 2 Sam. 12:7. He did. And he read "thou art the man".

A lady wrote "Dear Abby" - what makes a Pastor think he can stand in the Pulpit and insult a member of his parrish week after week and get away with it. I have sat there fighting back the tears while he has aimed his remarks directly to me and to me alone. He has done everything except mention my name. I am getting tired of this. What do you suggest?

Signed - Insulted. Abby's reply - "Dear Insulted" - There is an old saying - if the shoe fits wear it. Too many shoes fit - perhaps, you should do a little soul searching. That is what this sermon is intended. And I don't want you to sleep through it like the man who always slept in church. One morning the Pastor, speaking on love, took his text - "an angel came down from Heaven and heaped live coals on the altar". The sleepy member thought he remembered the text. At home, a friend met him and asked what were the words of the text. Oh yes, I remember he replied, "a live Injun came down from Fair Haven, grabbed a colt by the tail, and jerked him out the halter."

Now it is a great satisfaction to many people even in the church to think that Satan does not exist. Wherever man is, there you will find evil.

Dag Hammarskjold said in a book - the most damaging sins is day dreaming. Whatever may be the truth, it is this. That all of us are sinners. All sin

is self-centeredness. The central letter of the word sin is "i". That makes the message of the Bible - Rom. 3:23 personal. Substitute the word "i" and say (I have sinned and come short of the Glory of God.) Solomon gives us a catalog of sins. You might detect your favorite sin in this group. God hates sin. He hates every sin. He can never be reconciled to it. But it seems there are some sins that God hates because they are mentioned here.

First, (proud eyes.) This is conceitedness, of ourselves, and contempt for others. Pride is the first favorite sin. Because it is at the bottom of much sin and gives rise to it. Lofty eyes. Self valuation.

Second, (a lying tongue.) And this has become a universal favorite. Nothing seems to be sacred. No one gives reverence to truth. Or feel that conversation must be spoken in truth.

Third, (cruelty.) People who use their hands for violence. And they are violent in thought and in the use of the powers they have.

Fourth, (malicious heart.) This is the workshop of thought. Now the imagination becomes the workshop of the Devil.

Fifth, (greediness.) Lose no time - impatient. Anxious to sin, and to carry bad news.

Sixth, (breather of lies.) Namely the false witness. The man who lies or gives the false witness about his neighbor or about someone else.

Seventh, (a mischief maker.) This is a favorite sin. The man here is said to be the instigator of quarrels between brethren. This one is quick to stir up discord among brethren and he delights in it. This may be your favorite sin.

There are quite a few in the church who ride this hobby horse. They do not like to see the church and the brethren in love and at peace. But they do love to see discord.

Eighth, (cynicism). The word cynic comes from the Greek word for dog and means to snarl or growl or bark. There are those who give evidence of this. They scoff at God, they sneer at morality, and religion suffers from this. Because there are those who have this as a favorite sin. Let us eat, drink, and be merry - for tomorrow we'll die. They have a distorted view of God.

Ninth (rebellion). This is alarming today. People who finally say "no" to God either by word or conduct. Some of them profess religion. They shout, they teach, and they live and die - and say they are going to Heaven. But it is not true. God hates rebellion. It is of witchcraft. I Sam. 15:23.

Tenth, (hatred). Many thousands of people in the churches have cherished feelings of ill will against this or that and have had it for years. A little feeling of dislike. It may be against somebody, something somebody has said, and of course - they may speak to the party, even shake hands with them. They might even smile but deep down in their heart, there is a cold spot. A little bitter feeling. And that old feeling is down in their heart. Now this kind of a person lives sometimes and mixes with the church people, and still feels that they are great Christians. So when they die, they will go straight to Heaven. But alas, the Scripture says, I John 3:15 - whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer. And ye know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. Now this may be your favorite sin and you may wake up in Hell, with the fearful and the unbeliever.

Eleventh, inordinate affections. Now this is a favorite sin that is carried on by church people today. It is unlawful. Men and women in love with somebody else's wife or husband - but lost all affection for their commands. And here is a burning desire like a forest for someone else.

Twelfth, idolatrous love. There are people who have this as a favorite. They love some earthly object, more than they do God. There is something they can visibly see and touch.

Thirteen, covetousness. Greed, money-loving spirit. Eagerness for gain. Hording up. Never satisfied. Always hungry for something else. Now this is a favorite.

Fourteen, two-coat religion. I put this in simple language. For I think there are some who have one suit they wear in private and another suit they wear in public. They are one thing at home and another thing abroad. They have two forms of speech. Nice and mild, around the church. But you get them out behind your back and they are like crabs. I guess this favorite sin would be called the hypocrite. Joy of the hypocrite is but for a moment - Job. 25 says. They manifest more than they really are in their hearts. They pretend to be but they are just acting. They have joined the church but they really are no witness, of the Spirit, that they are saved or were saved. They know what the world needs. But what they do does not live up to what they say. Some hold prominent positions in the church. The backslider in heart may walk before the world as a holy man. He lives on a good name - human praise. He loves position and he has a stereo type of religion - one sided. He has the same testimony that he started out with. The same size. He has never grown in grace. And you cannot get under conviction because he knows it all. And he preaches to himself that he is a saint, and is pious. He begs no one's pardon - never

confesses his faults - shrinks his duty - lives an uneasy life. Rev. 21.
All liars shall have their part in the lake of fire and brimstone.

Fifteen, (dealing with other people's sins.) This is a favorite. Always reminding the other fellow of his faults. Here's the person who has a hasty temper and you always remind him of his problem. Here is someone who has committed a sin and is sensitive about it - and you never fail the opportunity to bring that up so you can sting that person with it. Someone else breaks the moral law and this makes us feel so good.

Sixteen, (rock music and drugs.) This may be a favorite. Since the Beetles and The Rolling Stones have pushed "pot" in their music. Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Heart Club Band. They've sent out songs about drug experiences. Such as God-like statue. In the eyes of many of the young people, this has become a favorite. Sgt. Pepper sold over 2 1/2 million copies in the first three months. Time Magazine, 1967, September. This is drenched in drugs. So the editor of a London music magazine puts it. Ringo Starr, "I get high with a little help from my friends". In another song, "Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds", the title spells out (- L. S. D.) They admit that they take drugs. John Lemmon - if people can't face up to the fact of other people being naked, or smoking "Pot" or whatever they want to do - then we are never going to get anywhere. Now this is the favorite of some. Recently Anita Bryant was asked what she thought of this Rock Music. The lyrics preach nothing but sex, revolution, and a disrespect for God.

Seventeen, (prostitution of education.) This today, the scheme or system of teaching that belittles God, discredits the Bible and is an enemy of the cross of Christ. The aim and the noble purposes of education are being prostituted before our eyes. And some of this anti-Christian poison is in the text-

...the delight in saving the cry of

the hour is liberty. And we are all headed the same way. The important thing is to have a good time now, how ever you get it. The classrooms were provided by the taxpayers' money. The cornerstone was the Bible. Now we hear the Bible as a book of lies. That there is nothing wrong with a man or a woman living as they please. They paganize the youth. Don't talk to them about sin because there is no sin. And this deep seeded disease, they have thrown over-board. And they look upon the church as a comedy with little respect for it as an institution. Even treason is taught.

Now the condition of some of you is like that of the Irishman. He came to this country to get work. He was informed that if he failed to get to work at 7 o'clock in the morning, he would lose his job. One morning he over-slept. In his excitement and hast, he got his trousers on wrong side before. He did not notice his mistake until he reached the top of the ladder with a load of brick. As he lifted the brick to the workman on the wall, the wall broke and the brick fell all over him. He began brushing himself off and he discovered his condition. A fellow workman leaned over the wall and asked, Pat, are you hurt? No, said Pat, but I am awfully twisted.

Now, the idea I trust is making sense. What is my favorite sin.

2. The Tonic Or Cure

We need to find something for our unstableness, our spiritually sick soul, the fears we have. We want to get something that will help. Some of us have been chronic. And this sin has worked upon us. And we need to regain - to be re-established. And I think I can suggest some things that will help each person.

First, face to face with the fact that God loves you. That he is interested in your welfare. That he is interested, that you would glorify him on this earth.

The Devil makes people believe that God doesn't care. And that he will not bless them. God is willing, to give us his gift, and his love is ready to help.

Second, we must use the medium of faith. Every soul must come this way. Man went away from God in the beginning through selfishness and unbelief. The way of turn - self-denial and simple faith. It is impossible for God to help a soul who does not believe and trust. Heb. 11:6. Faith restores.

You may be mixed up in your experience - seeking God to give you some great vision. Or a revelation. Or an out-pouring of his spirit. And then you may say, I will never doubt again. Faith will help cure this. You are not to walk by feeling.

What you need to do is to obey the simple promises. John 6:37. I John 1:9. Mal. 3:7. And believe that Jesus does now, this evening, save or cleanse from all sin. Take one of his promises. Stick with it a solid week and the witness will come to you as clear as mid-day.

Third, you must learn to forgive yourself for past failures, past mistakes. Or grievous things, that have been committed before God or man. Now if they have been repented of, and you have done all in your power to make things right, by faith you have put them under the blood. Forever dismiss them from your mind. This is difficult for those who have made blunders or failures. You can easily forgive a brother, or a sister, or a friend for a fault or an injury - you can forgive an enemy. You must forgive yourself. There are some who think about

these things that they have done. Make your steps toward God. Get a good experience. The Devil will send ghosts of those past sins to annoy you. But turn your mind away - God has forgiven you. When the enemy brings these things into your mind, don't accept them, throw them off.

Fourth, avoid all willful transgressions - the things that you know that are wrong. The sin that you know - that God has revealed to you. Some of these favorite sins that we have been mentioning. Don't try to justify yourself. And don't try to go on in these in the light that you now have. All of your knowledge should be surrendered to God. You want to avoid Hell. Defy the Devil.

Fifth, learn to detect the voice of God. Now this is helpful. Discover God's voice from that of the Devil. How many poor souls are tormented by the enemy on non-essential things and none Scriptural suggestions. The Devil makes you believe you have to do this or that - or you must go here or you must go there. Be sure to find God's will.

Notice this, the enemy leads first. He suggests some unreasonable inconvenient things. Especially if you are back-slidden. And secondly, his leading always demands haste. He doesn't want you to delay a moment.

Now God's leading may be put to a test. First, they will harmonize with the plain teaching of the Bible. Prove them by the Scriptures.

2 - The Holy Spirit will reveal his blessed will and make it clear to the mind. So there will be no doubt about it.

3 - God's leadings harmonize with common sense. He doesn't ask you to ignore your reason, or judgement, or to close your eyes. He impresses you.

~~Fourth~~ Fourth, God's leadings will bear the counsel of Christian brethren. Solomon says, in a multitude of counselors there is safety. Whenever an impression is present - to rush on and doesn't give you time to pray or to talk with outstanding Christian friends about it - you can put that down - it is of the Devil.

Now you will not have to take an over dose as proof to get to the bottom of your favorite sin. But you will grow up in grace and receive stronger food as time goes along - like a baby. You feed it on oatmeal and then it is not long before he can eat corn beef, and cabbage, and cornbread. Now a weaker stomach will not support that.

~~Sixth~~ Fifth, you need to have patience with yourself. You must bear in mind that you want a good experience and don't become impatient. Take time, like a child, to grow up. A child may plant a garden today and tomorrow, he may go out todig up the seed to see whether or not it is growing.

~~Seventh~~ Sixth, do not measure your experience by that of others. I mean by that, you can never be anyone but yourself and God does not ask you to be like someone else. If so, there would have been a lot of folks who are designed alike. But everyone is to be himself in Jesus Christ. Quite often the Devil will point out somebody and say, now, you aren't saved. You can't pray. You can't testify. Now so and so maybe have been a Christian for 5, 10, 20, 40 years. You must walk with God and look ahead to eternity to keep on going. And live one day at a time yielded to God and he will finished that work.

Now the enemy will always come in and try to get you back on your favorite sin. And throw down everything that is going on that is good. And you have to hold on, With more love and with more power. No matter how high a man may climb

a pole, he has to first start from the bottom. And except he goes through that bottom experience, he will not get to the top. So it is in the Spiritual world - he must first crawl before he walks. And you can't lean on your feelings. You must believe what God says to you. Mark 11:24.

Oh struggling soul, God cares for thee.

Though Devils say he don't.

Thy dearest friends from thee may flee.

But God your father, won't.

Psalm. 27:10.

Thy name is ever before him - engraved upon his hand. Though Hell may strive thy hope to dim. His power will make you stand. Isa. 49:16.

Now cease thy fear and doubtings and quick thyself forgive, and daily keep believeing, for tis by faith you live. Gal. 2:20.

Ask yourself the question - what is my favorite sin. Gossip, lying, jealousy. God loves you inspite of your sins. God commended his love to us that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Rom. 5:8. Isa. 53:5. John 3:16.

Remember, you can be saved even though you have sinned. Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I Tim. 1:15. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved. Acts 16:31.

You can be saved now - tonight - this hour, even thou you have sinned and even though you have toyed with some favorite sin. Perhaps some sin that I have not even mentioned. Seek ye the Lord and yet while he may be found.

Call ye upon Him while he is near. Isa. 55:6. Today, if ye will hear his voice, harden not your heart. Heb. 3:15. Now is the accepted time, behold, now is the day of salvation. 2 Cor. 6:2.

The choice is yours. See, I have set before thee - this day. Life and good. And death and evil. Therefore chose life - he, God, is life. Deut. 30:15, 19, 20.

How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation. Heb. 2:3

- 1- God Loves You
- 2, Simple Faith Believe This.
3. Break with The Past - Forgive yourself.
4. Avoid Willful Transgressions
5. Listen for God's Voice
6. Don't measure your experience by others.