

It Is A Temptation

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not," Galatians 6:9.

I know that we usually think of temptation as something which tries to lure us into some sinful pleasure, or gain. While this is true, there is another temptation that is just as dangerous to mankind. This temptation is that where a person is discouraged, hurt, and thinks that he can not win or see any progress, he is tempted to give up and quit.

As Paul said in Galatians we should not be weary in well doing, but he knew that sometimes a person would be. That is when there seems to be no good to come out of trying time after time to do that which is right. It happened to those in the bible and it happens to us in this day and time as well. Paul and others preached the gospel and did miracles in the name of the Lord and was rewarded by being beaten and put in prison. Some were even tortured and killed for confessing Jesus as Lord.

Today we may try many times to help someone and get mocked and scorned for our efforts. I have seen it

happen many times through the years at various jobs and places where I have been. Even some of those who say that they are believers may let you down or even join in when you are mocked by the ungodly. It hurts and a person can get to thinking that it is too much to deal with. The temptation then is to stop and seek a more peaceful way. Even the prophet Jeremiah became discouraged and thought of quitting his ministry. "O LORD, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived: thou art stronger than I, and hast prevailed: I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me. For since I spake, I cried out, I cried violence and spoil; because the word of the LORD was made a reproach unto me, and a derision, daily. Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay," **Jeremiah 20:7-9.** Jeremiah was a prophet, but he was also a man. He was tired of the abuse and the opposition of the people that he tried to help.

Even David wanted a time of peace and escape from the foes who wanted to destroy him. *"And I said, Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest. Lo, then would I wander far off, and remain in the wilderness. Selah. I would hasten my escape*

from the windy storm and tempest," Psalms 55:6-8. We can't point the finger at them, and the others, and think that we are better, or stronger, for we are not. I would think that all of us have had times when we were weary of the struggle and wanted to be at rest. We can pray and do our best, but we don't usually see the results that we might expect. The preacher is no different from anyone else and even has more pressure to deal with.

It is difficult to watch some who don't seem to take their service to the Lord seriously. At almost every church isn't there those who come when they take a notion to come and have no problem going somewhere else anytime they want to? Paul spoke about the stress that he had in caring for the church in all the different locations. He wrote, visited, and taught the Word of God to them, trying to help them to grow in the Lord. *"Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches," 2 Corinthians 11:28.* I don't know if he ever thought of giving up as he tried to deal with all the problems. I know that others down through the years have been so discouraged that they have given up. Let us be a helper and encourage each other as we go along through this life. The church is a family and that is what a family does.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of I Samuel intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

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SAMUEL HAS ASSEMBLED ALL THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL AT MIZPEH TO ANNOUNCE THE SELECTION OF A KING...EACH TRIBE IS CALLED FORTH AND, FINALLY, THE TRIBE OF BENJAMIN, NOW...

OF THE TRIBE OF BENJAMIN, LET THE FAMILY OF MATRI STAND FORTH!

AND LET SAUL, THE SON OF KISH STAND FORTH FROM THIS FAMILY!

...SAUL IS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN!

AND SAMUEL ENQUIRES OF THE LORD WHERE SAUL MIGHT BE...

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