

The Seven Deadly Sins – Pride

For the past few lessons we've been studying the sins which are often referred to as the seven deadly sins (lust, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, envy, and pride). We've now study all but the last, pride. If you want to study the others just go back into the archives. I want to once again reiterate that I believe that all sin is deadly, and these sins are not identified in any list in Scripture as being any different from other sin. All sin is transgression of the law, and the wages of sin is death. I think these are interesting, though, for the simple fact that they cover so many of the things that commonly cause people to stray from righteousness.

Today we're going to complete this series by looking at the sin of pride. Let's begin by looking at the common phrase “pride goes before the fall.” This phrase is often attributed to Scripture, but it doesn't appear to appear in Scripture in that exact form. The thought behind it, though, appears in Proverbs 16:18, which says, “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”

If there's any sin which might be thought of as being deadly it could indeed be pride since it goes before destruction. In other words, pride leads to destruction. Furthermore, a haughty spirit, which is pride in action, leads to a fall.

Let's look at another Scripture. Isaiah

- (3) And it shall come to pass in the day that the LORD shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve,
- (4) That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased!
- (5) The LORD hath broken the staff of the wicked, *and* the sceptre of the rulers.
- (6) He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, *and* none hindereth.
- (7) The whole earth is at rest, *and* is quiet: they break forth into singing.
- (8) Yea, the fir trees rejoice at thee, *and* the cedars of Lebanon, *saying*, Since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us.
- (9) Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet *thee* at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, *even* all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations.
- (10) All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us?

- (11) Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, *and* the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee.
- (12) How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!
- (13) For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:
- (14) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.
- (15) Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.
- (16) They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, *and* consider thee, *saying*, *Is* this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;
- (17) *That* made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; *that* opened not the house of his prisoners?
- (18) All the kings of the nations, *even* all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house.
- (19) But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, *and as* the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcase trodden under feet.
- (20) Thou shalt not be joined with them in burial, because thou hast destroyed thy land, *and* slain thy people: the seed of evildoers shall never be renowned.

We see in this Scripture the ultimate destruction of pride. This is, of course, a reference to the pride which caused Lucifer, the highest of the angels, to be cast out of Heaven with one third of the angels of Heaven who followed his prideful rebellion. Pride is among Satan's most lucrative tactics because pride causes mankind to be lifted up against God. Let's look at another Scripture. Genesis 3:1-7 says:

- (1) Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?
- (2) And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:
- (3) But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

- (4) And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:
- (5) For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.
- (6) And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.
- (7) And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

I encourage you to read the rest of Chapter 3, but I wanted to take a moment to see how pride was what started it all with humanity. You see, Satan convinced Eve that she would be like God. In other words, Satan lifted her up in pride against God. This, of course, set in order the line of events that brought death upon all mankind.

There are many examples in the Scripture of how pride brought people down. I'll list just a few. Ahithophel hanged himself because of pride (2 Samuel 17). Naaman didn't want to wash in the Jordan river because of pride (2 Kings 5:11-13). Hezekiah took pride in all the wealth that he had (2 Kings 20, 2 Chronicles 32, Isaiah 39). Uzziah was prideful enough to usurp the authority of the priest (2 Chronicles 26). Haman's pride lifted him up above the Jews, leading to his destruction (Esther). The prince of Tyrus was brought down because of pride (Ezekiel 28). Nebuchadnezzar ate grass with the cows because of his pride (Daniel 4).

Pride, then, truly does lead to destruction. It is often because of pride that people will not humble themselves before God, seek his face, and call upon him repenting of their sins. You see, because of pride people want to think of themselves more highly than they should. People don't want to recognize that all their righteousnesses are as filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). It is this pride which will cause many to suffer eternal destruction in Hell.

In closing today I encourage you to put away your pride. I encourage you to recognize that without Christ you are nothing but a lump of dirt. Humble yourself before God and He will lift you up.

Yours in Christ,

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