

TEMPTATION AND ITS TANTALIZER

By Pastor Greg Hooker

We live in a world littered with temptation. From the time we raise from our beds in the morning, to the time we close our eye lids at night, temptation follows us like a ravenous dog. It begs on every corner, silently lying in the shadows ready to pounce, and tirelessly soliciting our attention.

The master of enticement, Satan, introduced temptation to Adam and Eve. From that moment forward, Satan and his sidekicks have been badgering mankind trying to get them to deviate from walking with God and living His principles.

The Encarta Dictionary defines 'temptation' as, "a desire or craving for something, especially something considered wrong". Temptations come in a vast array of forms, for example: the temptation to be unfaithful, lie, steal, cheat on ones taxes, say unkind words and extract personal revenge. Moreover, there is the temptation to gluttony, eating too much chocolate cake or May Field ice cream (guilty), to indulge in sinful and destructive pleasures – the list is endless. Satan is a chief at what he does. He has all types of lures in his diabolical tackle box and knows just how and when to use them.

That being said, let us be aware that temptation in and of itself is not a sin. Our Lord Himself was tempted in all points like we are, yet he did not sin. He did not succumb to the inducements of the Devil. Rather, he met temptation with the power of prayer, the strength of the Spirit and the arsenal of God's Word. Three times he said, "*it is written*" (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10).

So the next time temptation knocks at our doors; just remember, Satan is the prompter, and the only way to combat his promptings is like Jesus did in the wilderness – the privilege of prayer, the power of the Spirit and the promise of God's Word.

Dear Lord, please help us say no to temptation when it slithers into our lives. Give us the strength and fortitude to rely upon your Word as the Spirit speaks to our hearts. Satan will do everything in his power to separate us from doing that which is right, so "lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the power, glory and honor forever".