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Sermon Notes

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Neither Enticed Nor Terrified Away from Christ

Hebrews 11:23-26

Satan has a very clever two-step dance to separate us from faithfulness to Christ... first, he will offer us the world's alluring sweetness; then, if that fails, he will bludgeon us with the world's crushing blows. In Hebrews 11:23-26, the author shows how faith overcomes both steps to remain faithful to Christ.

Our context: every day, assaulted by the alluring pleasures of sin... enticed by what Revelation calls "Babylon the Great"... that bewitching powerful concoction of Satan enticing every generation of God's people with its magnetic menu of lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, boastful pride of life

The stuff of this world... glittering... attractive... appealing... desirable... described powerfully in Revelation 18:

Revelation 18:12-13 cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble; ¹³ cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and bodies and souls of men.

Described also in Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* with the title of "Vanity Fair":

Almost five thousand years ago there were pilgrims walking to the Celestial City....: and Beelzebub, Apollyon, and Legion, with their companions, perceiving by the path that the pilgrims made, that their way to the city lay through this town of Vanity, they contrived here to set up a fair; a fair wherein should be sold all sorts of vanity, and that it should last all the year long. Therefore, at this fair are all such merchandise sold as houses, lands, trades, places, honors, preferments, titles, countries, kingdoms, lusts, pleasures; and delights of all sorts, as harlots, wives, husbands, children, masters, servants, lives, blood, bodies, souls, silver, gold, pearls, precious stones, and what not.

And moreover, at this fair there is at all times to be seen jugglings, cheats, games, plays, fools, apes, knaves, and rogues, and that of every kind. Here are to be seen, too, and that for nothing, thefts, murders, adulteries, false-swearers, and that of a blood-red color.

Now, as I said, the way to the Celestial City lies just through this town, where this lusty fair is kept; and he that will go to the city, and yet not go through this town, "must needs go out of the world."

We live today surrounded by our own "Vanity Fair"

In Bunyan's day, a "fair" = "carnival" ... a place where merchants sold their wares, and cheats worked their cons, prostitutes plied their trade, thieves lay in wait just outside the town and robbed country people going to and fro from the Fair

Now... we have the "Mall", where the multicolored posters assault the heart with more and more targeted appeals...

Now we have stores that keep a data base on our spending habits and entice us to buy something similar to what we bought last month

Now... we have the internet, where with a few mouse clicks and a credit card or a "Pay-Pal account, we can have anything that can be sold

Now we have movies and computer games that make us secretly lust for power or conquest.... To be kings and queens of our own domains that we rule with an unbreakable rod of iron

Now we have constant assaults on our hearts with various forms of lust... appealing to our drive for sex or food or comforts or entertainments... making us constantly discontent with the gift of God: SALVATION IN JESUS CHRIST

Now we have a 21st century version of the exact same thing that assaulted Bunyan in the 17th century, that assaulted the Apostle John in the 1st century, and that assaulted Moses fifteen centuries before Christ was born

THE WORLD!!! Filled with idols, singing their enticing siren songs to come and dash on the rocks the ship of our souls... to drown in the waters of pleasure, forgetful of God's warnings

There is only one force in the world strong enough to resist that constant assault... it is FAITH...

FAITH ALONE can cause us to prize our soul's health above the pleasures of the flesh

FAITH ALONE can cause us to prize our unseen heavenly reward above the trinkets of the world

FAITH ALONE can triumph over the craft and subtlety of the Prince of the Power of the Air

As John himself wrote:

1 John 5:4 everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

Context:

Hebrews 11 was written to first century believers in Christ... they were Jews who had made an outward profession of faith in Christ, but who were now being tempted by a constant assault on their lives to forsake Christ and return to a comfortable life in traditional Old Covenant Judaism

The world was coming at the souls of these dear believers with its two-step assault... promising enticing, appealing, worldly advantages if they will turn their backs on Christ... BUT THREATENING VICIOUS PERSECUTION if they don't

It's an old two-step... the velvet bag covering an iron hammer

During the Roman Empire's attack on the church, they frequently used this two-step: 1) offer bribes and inducements to Christians to forsake their faith—positions of power, financial rewards, titles, honors, etc.; 2) threaten torture and death if they refused

Just as Satan sought to bribe Christ in the desert...

Matthew 4:8-10 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

So he tries to bribe Christians with the world today

If that fails, the dragon will roar at them and threaten them with the most horrible deaths... just as Nebuchadnezzar and Pilate did:

Daniel 3:15 if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?"

John 19:10 "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?"

In the account today, we have Moses and his parents:

Moses was offered great inducements to forsake the people of God and live a life of ease and comfort

Both Moses and his parents before him were threatened with severe punishments by Pharaoh if they did not obey... and both refused to tremble

Third act of the drama of faith

Act I: Faith displayed before the Flood

Act II: Faith displayed through Abraham and the Patriarchs

Act III: Faith displayed through Moses and the Exodus

Hebrews 11:23-26 *By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. ²⁵ He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. ²⁶ He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.*

I. The Faith of Moses' Parents (vs. 23)

Hebrews 11:23-26 *By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.*

A. Long Gap

1. Following the death of Joseph, a long time gap between verse 22 and vs 23
2. Time gap covered by this one verse in God's covenant ceremony with Abraham:

Genesis 15:13 *Then the LORD said to him, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years.*

And this statement:

Exodus 1:8 *Then a new king, who did not know about Joseph, came to power in Egypt.*

3. This king was a TYRANT who oppressed the Jews and subjected them to cruel bondage to satisfy his lust for power and achievement... they were forced to build cities for his glory
4. Four hundred year GAP from verse 22 to vs. 23... yet we should not imagine that there was NO FAITH in all that time...
5. Always only justified BY FAITH... FAITH in the promises of God

6. 200 years in: Some Jews born in slavery would die in slavery too... all they had to live on was the oral record of the promises made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob... passed down by word of mouth from their fathers and grandfathers; that was all they had to sustain them during a long life of bitter slavery

B. Bitter Policy of Egypt toward the Jews

1. The great fear: the astonishing population growth of the Jews

Exodus 1:9-10 "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become much too numerous for us. ¹⁰ Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country."

2. The evil remedy: kill them off by hard labor
3. The remedy did not work

Exodus 1:12-13 But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites ¹³ and worked them ruthlessly.

4. So the even more evil remedy

Exodus 1:15-16 The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, ¹⁶ "When you help the Hebrew women in childbirth and observe them on the delivery stool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live."

5. But even this did not work:

Exodus 1:17 The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live.

6. The final solution

Exodus 1:22 Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live."

C. Who Were Moses' Parents?

1. Names given us in Exodus 6

Levi had a son named Kohath, Kohath had a son named Amram... Amram was Moses' father... so Moses was the fourth generation after Jacob entered Egypt with his twelve sons

Exodus 6:20 Amram married his father's sister Jochebed, who bore him Aaron and Moses. Amram lived 137 years.

2. Living a life of slavery in Egypt... they already had a son, Aaron and a daughter Miriam; Aaron was three years old when Moses was born; so the king's edict was relatively new, since Aaron was evidently not subject to it and Amram and Jochebed had not needed to do anything to save him

D. What Did They Do?

By faith Moses' parents HID HIM FOR THREE MONTHS...

1. The King's edict demanded that they surrender their baby boy to be slaughtered
2. But this godly couple chose instead to defy the King's command
3. Scripture mandates submission to God-ordained authority... Scripture is as far from anarchy as possible...

Romans 13:1-2 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ² Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

4. BUT there are exceptions... whenever the edict of the King contradicts the commands of God, they must obey God and defy the King's edict

Acts 5:29 Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!"

5. Moses' parents somehow kept him hidden from the authorities
6. This was probably very difficult: Jochebed had been pregnant, now she was delivered; was it a boy or a girl?
7. They concealed all news of his birth... and they concealed this little baby
8. They did it by faith, they did it together...
 - a. Notice that faith doesn't despise the MEANS to the end
 - b. They didn't say, "God is helping us, so we don't have to do anything!!"
 - c. Jesus, God's only begotten Son was hunted by Herod's evil soldiers in Bethlehem; Joseph and Mary weren't FEARLESS thinking "God would never let anyone kill His Son!" No, they ran for their lives

Matthew 2:14-15 he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod.

9. Their faith conquered their CARNAL FEAR... faith regulated their feelings... driving away anxiety and allowing them the day by day courage they needed to defy the King's command
10. NOTE: "FOR THREE MONTHS..." they hid this newborn baby
 - a. Hard to imagine how difficult this was
 - b. The perseverance in faith... day after day after day... conquering their fears, caring for the needs of a newborn without allowing his presence to be heard or observed
 - c. They had to be constantly vigilant

Illus. Corrie Ten Boom and "Hiding Place"... same kind of thing... trusting in God to protect the Jews they were hiding in their house from the Nazi Secret Police and from neighbors who would turn them in to protect their own interests

So also Moses' parents hid their newborn baby from the blood-thirsty government

E. Reasons for their Actions

1. "By faith..." SO faith was active among God's people before the Exodus
 - a. They trusted in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
 - b. These were merely stories handed down from their parents... but they believed those stories

Romans 10:17 Faith comes by hearing...

- c. The evidence of their eyes was that God had ABANDONED them in Egypt... but this godly couple trusted in God, an invisible God, and believed the words spoken about Him

2. The text says MORE:

Hebrews 11:23 By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

- a. What does this mean, "THEY SAW HE WAS NO ORDINARY CHILD"???
 - b. Literally Greek word means "beautiful" or "noble"... as in "good breeding", as though there were something extraordinary about this baby

- c. Stephen says he was “beautiful BEFORE GOD”
- d. John Calvin says there may have been some kind of mark on him, showing his uniqueness, a promise of the glorious future God had for him... perhaps like Stephen himself looked different

Acts 6:15 All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

- e. Since his parents saw this by faith, it could be that God revealed to his parents that he would be the deliverer who would lead his people out of bondage in Egypt!!!
 - f. Amram and Jochebed believed God concerning this child and risked their lives for him
3. **“NOT AFRAID of the King’s edict”**: their faith in God drove away their fear
- a. They were willing to face arrest, torture and death at the hands of Pharaoh rather than disobey God
 - b. Like the Hebrew midwives, these two parents feared God more than they feared man!!
 - c. Their faith gave them an amazing courage in the face of terrible consequences

Illus: Read the history of the church and you will see a noble heritage of martyrs and missionaries, leaders and evangelists who conquered their fears by their faith

Raymond Lull: 13th century missionary to the Muslim Saracens during the age of the Crusades; felt called by God to go to Tunis and witness to the Muslims, and almost certainly be killed; he packed all his things, put them on a dock in Genoa, Italy, all his friends and family came with tears to see him off; he was suddenly overcome by terror, and at the last moment, decided not to go!! His fears got the best of him! But God worked in him by faith and he immediately boarded the next ship for Tunis and courageously faced his fear of torture and death

- F. Summary: Faith Enabled Moses’ Parents to Conquer their Fear of the King, their fear of arrest, torture and death, to serve God’s purpose in their generation
- 1. Outcome was famous: when they could hide him no longer, they set him adrift on the Nile River in a basket made of reeds; he was found by Pharaoh’s daughter as she was bathing in the Nile, and was rescued; Pharaoh’s daughter was attracted to the child... the child’s sister (Miriam) offered to get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the child; this was accepted, and Jochebed was enabled to nurse him and care for him openly for a little while longer

2. At the right time, Pharaoh's daughter took Moses in and raised him up in Pharaoh's household
3. Stephen tells us the outcome of all that:

Acts 7:22 Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action.

4. God in this way SHAPED and PREPARED Moses for his role
 - a. I believe Moses received a DOUBLE EDUCATION
 - b. In Pharaoh's house, learning all the ways of the Egyptians... trained in speech, leadership, science, etc. Useful for shaping a nation in the wilderness... but also learning the decadent ways of a tyrant nation building great cities on the backs of slaves
 - c. Secondly, an education in the word of God through ongoing contact with Jochebed... learning the promises of God so that, when the time came, Moses could display the same faith they did!!!

II. By Faith Moses Refused Egypt's Alluring Sins (vs. 24-25)

Hebrews 11:24-25 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. ²⁵ He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.

A. By Faith, Moses...

1. The author's purpose: to show that Moses also displayed the SAME FAITH that the author wants them to display
2. To some degree, faith in Jesus is being pitted AGAINST faith in Moses (or the Mosaic Covenant)
3. The author has already shown that Moses was FAITHFUL as a SERVANT in God's house
4. Here, he goes beyond to show Moses as an example of the life of faith he wants them to show
5. Moses grew beyond his life as an Egyptian prince to embrace a life of hardship and suffering; now the author to the Hebrews wants his readers to grow beyond their lives as Jewish adherents of Moses to embrace a life of suffering in Christ

B. When He Had Grown Up

1. Able to make his own decisions... Stephen tells us he was about forty years old
2. Had received all the education of Egypt... trained in the wisdom of the Egyptian scholars, learning the worldview of Pharaoh's household
3. A life of luxury and ease, of comfort and of pleasure, of power and of potential
4. The world on a silver platter
5. BUT also he knew he was a Hebrew! Perhaps there was an ongoing connection with Amram and Jochebed; perhaps he learned who he was another way
6. In any case, the key moment came one fateful day:

Exodus 2:11-12 One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people.

- a. Moses CLEARLY identified with the Jews at this point
- b. Before he even went out on this journey, he had already made up his mind
- c. One verse in Exodus 2 TWICE calls the Jews "HIS PEOPLE"
- d. The Egyptian tyrants were not his people... the Jews were his people
- e. This decision he came to by faith

C. Refused to be Known as the Son of Pharaoh's Daughter

1. Refused = a conscious choice
2. He denied his own title as a Prince of Egypt!!
3. He turned his back on all the power and pleasure and prestige and ease
4. True faith ultimately RENOUNCES the world, all its comforts and pleasures
SINS
5. Jesus; clarion call:

Matthew 16:24-26 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?"

6. And again:

John 12:25 The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

7. This was a fateful step for this godly man, Moses... to burn his bridges

Illus. In February of 1519, Hernan Cortez landed near the Yucatan peninsula, and founded the city of Vera Cruz. He had over 500 soldiers and 20 horses, and intended to conquer the mighty Aztec empire. But in order to ensure the full dedication of his men, he burned his eleven ships. As the men stood there on the shore watching the ships burn, they realized there was no turning back... it was conquer or perish!

So it was with Moses at that moment:

Exodus 2:12 He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

The die had been cast! Moses was casting his lot with his own people, even though it meant suffering and even death

8. It is the same step the Author to the Hebrews wants his reader to take

Hebrews 13:12-14 Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. ¹³ Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. ¹⁴ For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

9. It is the same step each of us must take as well

Galatians 6:14 May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

10. Of course, in turning his back on Egypt, he would be hurting some people in Pharaoh's household who had been very kind to him

a. Perhaps his adopted mother, Pharaoh's daughter, would be deeply hurt

b. But faith sees beyond any human allegiance ultimately to God alone

Luke 14:26-27 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters-- yes, even his own life-- he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

D. Faith NOT Carnal Reason!!

1. It was by FAITH that Moses made his choice

2. The voice of carnal reason sounds like this: “Why not retain your place in Pharaoh’s court and use your great influence to help the Jews? After all, didn’t God use Joseph in that exact same way? Joseph was the second highest ruler in all the land and used his position of influence to save his people from that famine. Why not do the same yourself???”
3. Carnal reason is very persuasive!!! It can speak these kinds of SMOOTH WORDS... but God had a different plan for Moses than He did for Joseph

Thomas Manton: [on Joseph vs. Moses] “To remain in an idolatrous court of a pagan [king] is one thing; but to remain in a persecuting court where he must be the accessory to their persecutions is another thing.”

4. But it was by faith that Moses made a fateful choice to refuse to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter

E. Moses’ Fateful CHOICE

Hebrews 11:25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.

1. It was a choice... Moses made an ACT OF THE WILL
2. But before the choice came faith... trusting in God
3. There was attraction and repulsion to this choice
4. But faith had reversed the normal order
 - a. Pleasure vs. pain... usually the choice is obvious
 - b. But Moses’ faith enabled him to see much deeper: the pleasure of sin is ultimately POISONOUS
5. Why “pleasures of sin”... what was SINFUL about life at Pharaoh’s court?
 - a. Well, inevitably people who live a life of conspicuous luxury like these Egyptians do, do so by immoral choices... like slavery itself
 - b. AND such people are restlessly seeking more and more pleasures... they don’t work hard in the fields and earn the bread they eat... so they are restlessly seeking more and more sensory input... living for pleasures
 - c. They become immoral... eating too much, indulging in sexual immorality, orgies, gluttony, cruelty
6. This pleasures are TEMPORARY... “fleeting”... “for a short time”
 - a. They do not satisfy

- b. The people become restless, roaming through the world like a demon yearning for some rest
- c. And their own consciences accuse them... but they still have a CONTINUAL LUST FOR MORE
- d. The judgment of God is looming, and like the devil, they become enraged

Revelation 12:12 He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short."

- 7. Moses turned his back on that and fled the City of Destruction... he fled the coming wrath of God

F. Faith Sees the Temporary AS Temporary, and the Eternal AS Eternal

- 1. The world and its pleasures are temporary

1 Corinthians 7:31 For this world in its present form is passing away.

1 John 2:16-17 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.¹⁷ The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

- 2. The coming Kingdom of Christ is eternal
- 3. Moses by faith looked AHEAD to the coming Kingdom of Christ

III. By Faith Moses Chose Suffering (vs. 25)

Hebrews 11:25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.

A. The Satanic Two-Step

- 1. If we reject the crown the world offers us for forsaking Christ, the world will begin to SMACK us
- 2. So, Moses chose not PLEASURE but PAIN
- 3. Mere neutrality was not an option... he couldn't stay out of the war
- 4. He had to be willing to SUFFER WITH THE PEOPLE OF GOD

B. It is God's Way as Well: the Way to Heaven is HARD

Paul and Barnabas went back to all the churches they had planted in Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening and them and encouraging them to remain true to their faith in Christ:

Acts 14:22 *"We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.*

C. How Moses Chose Mistreatment

Exodus 2:11-12 *One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. ¹² Glancing this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.*

1. Moses was forty years old... he'd known of the mistreatment of slaves for all his life
2. But now, by faith, he was identifying with them in their suffering
3. At the first moment that Moses saw this hard labor, and the brutality of the Egyptian slavedriver beating a Hebrew, his lot in life was set
4. He would RATHER suffer with them then live a life of ease as an Egyptian prince
5. His action of killing an Egyptian was clearly premeditated and a foretaste of what would happen in large numbers during the Exodus
6. BUT it may not have been done in faith itself... the murder was done after he "glanced this way and that"
7. The next day when what he'd done was obviously known to his own people, Moses was AFRAID and FLED Egypt

D. How Much Mistreatment Moses Had

1. From then on, Moses lived a life of much greater suffering than he would have had if he'd not cast his lot in with them
2. First, he lived the life of a FUGITIVE from justice... fleeing immediately from the comforts of Pharaoh's court to become a WANTED MAN, a HUNTED MAN... Pharaoh tried to KILL Moses for what he'd done... any favor he had at court was forever gone
3. Secondly, he lived the life of a REFUGEE, leaving his home country to exist in the desert of Midian
4. Thirdly, he lived the life of an ALIEN in a foreign land... taken in hospitality in the tents of Jethro, accepting his generosity; eventually marrying one of his daughters and settling down as a stranger in a foreign country... their first son, Moses named "Gershom"

Exodus 2:22 "I have become an alien in a foreign land."

5. Thus began the life of suffering that Moses chose rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time

E. Moses' Estimation: It is a FAR GREATER MISERY to live in sin than to suffer with God's people

IV. By Faith Moses Looked Ahead to Christ (vs. 26)

V. By Faith Moses Looked Ahead to His Reward (vs. 26)

Hebrews 11:26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

VI. Application

A. Come to Christ

1. As we shall see next week, Moses did it all because he was looking AHEAD to Christ by faith
2. Now, in the 21st century, we do it all because we look BACK to Christ by faith
3. Trust in His shed blood for the forgiveness of your sins!!

B. Beware of Satan's Two-Step Attack: Enticed by Pleasure, Threatened by Pain

1. First the velvet, then the hammer
2. Satan offers you comforts and ease and pleasure if you will just BEHAVE YOURSELF and not make waves against his dark kingdom
3. The bigger threat you are to him, the more inducements Satan will offer you
4. To Christ, he offered ALL THE KINGDOM S OF THE WORLD and their splendor
5. He will offer you far less... but still he will seek to allure you with the enticing siren song of the world
6. He will call to your heart with lusts and comforts and advancement in the company or friendships with ungodly but influential companions... kids at school will be your friend if you will just cast in your lot with them and do the bad things they do; men in the company hierarchy will love you if you will laugh at their off-color jokes and drink with them after hours at the bars

7. If you refuse to fit in, Satan will **THROW THE WORLD AT YOU**... a different kind of persecution... rejection, shunning, left behind at promotion time, insults, etc.
- C. Strengthen your Faith: Only Faith Can Resist this Two-Step
 - D. Fear God More Than you Fear Man
 - E. Be Willing to Burn Your Bridges
 - F. Watch out for Carnal Reason... telling you you can make little compromises to do a greater good
 - G. Next Week: Learn to look to Christ by faith and ahead to your reward by faith