

The Danger of Being Sidetracked

by John Hames

The sermon warns against the dangers of being sidetracked by worldly influences and emphasizes the importance of staying true to one's faith.

Scripture: Proverbs 13:20, Matthew 10:37, Luke 14:26, 1 Corinthians 15:33, 2 Corinthians 6:14, Ephesians 5:11

Topics: "Spiritual Warfare", "Faithfulness"

Description

John Hames emphasizes the importance of avoiding fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, highlighting how worldly influences and carnal associates can lead believers astray more than false doctrine. He shares cautionary tales of individuals who allowed loved ones or worldly pleasures to hinder their relationship with God, resulting in tragic consequences. Hames urges his audience to prioritize their commitment to God above all else, even if it means losing friends or facing hardships, emphasizing the eternal significance of staying true to one's faith.

Transcript

"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." (Eph. 5:11)

We frankly admit that error and false doctrine are some of Satan's most successful means of recapturing souls. However, while this is true, it is also equally true that carnal associates and worldly friends have been the cause of more people backsliding and returning to sin and the world than all the erroneous books on earth. Therefore, newly converted souls cannot be too careful at this point. When money, pleasure, strong drink and all other devices fall in the hands of the devil to induce souls to return to the ways of sin, a subtle, sly, attractive human being (especially a woman) hardly ever fails, unless God mightily interposes.

A number of years ago in the midst of a powerful revival the preacher observed a young lady under deep conviction. He was moved by the Spirit to urge her to give her heart to God. He plead with her and urged her not to grieve the Holy Ghost, but she replied, "Not tonight." She went home under deep conviction and told her parents how she felt, and how she had been halting between two opinions; that she never felt such concern for her soul before, and never realized her danger of being lost at any period during her life so much as she realized it that night. Her parents were unsaved and had no concern for her eternal welfare. On asking their opinion regarding her living for Jesus, they said in reply: "You are young and will have plenty of time," so after a struggle with the Spirit of God for several days she yielded to the advice of her parents and sent the Holy Spirit away. Some weeks after the revival closed she was stricken down very ill and in a short time was on the verge of eternity. She tried hard to pray and obtain the favor of God

but He refused to be entreated. She had allowed her loved ones to get between her and the Savior. Hence she went out into the great beyond -- a lost soul.

A young man in the East, some years ago, was wonderfully saved and called to preach the Gospel; but his wife was quite a society belle and a great lover of pleasure, hence, she rudely withstood him for years until finally he decided to renounce all of his religious scruples and join her in the broad way of sin. In a few months he was stricken with a serious illness and was nearing the dreadful gates of death. Before passing away, he cried out in a shrill, fiendish tone: "R____, you have damned me! You have damned me! You have damned me!" and then glided over the "Falls of Eternal Death."

Reader, whatever you do, be true to God and stand by your conviction, no matter if it causes you to lose every friend in the world, sleep in the street, die in the poorhouse and be buried in the potter's field.

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