

A SIN

❖ Avoid temptation

- James calls the one who resists temptation “blessed” (James 1:12 NIV). But he clarifies that temptation does not come from God (James 1:13 NIV), but rather arises from our own evil desires (James 1:14 NIV).
- Paul speaks of a “tempter” (1 Thessalonians 3:5), whom Jesus identified as Satan (Matthew 4:3, 10). He is the one who best knows how to use our weaknesses to lead us into sin. Let us not forget that we are immersed in a cosmic war between Christ and Satan, and that the tempter will do everything possible to turn us away from Christ.
- Samson is a clear example of a person who gives in to temptation by letting himself be carried away by his emotions, even knowing that these went against God's will (Judges 14:1-3; 16:1, 4).
- How to avoid temptation? By seeking God (Mt. 6:33); spending time alone with Him (Mk. 14:38); taking up the shield of faith (Eph. 6:16).

❖ Tips to avoid sin

- Jesus left us clear instructions to avoid sin:
 - (1) Avoid doing things that could lead you to sin.
 - (2) (Mark 9:43; Job 23:12). For example, buying alcohol
 - (3) Avoid going to places where you might sin (Mark 9:45; Job 23:11). For example, going to a nightclub.
 - (4) Avoid watching things that might lead you to sin (Mark 9:47; Job 31:1). For example, watching movies with indecent scenes.

B THE LAW

❖ The Law and Sin

- The relationship of the Law to sin has been misinterpreted by some who think that by keeping the Law they can redeem their sins (Gal. 5:4). This idea has led others to the opposite extreme, namely, that the Law has been abolished.
- The problem has been thinking that the Law is related to salvation, either as a means or as an obstacle to achieving it. But the function of the Law has never been salvific. What, then, is its function?
- The Law reveals sin to us (1 John 3:4). Without the Law we would not know what sin is (Romans 7:7) and, therefore, we would not seek a solution (Galatians 3:24).
- Far from being a burden, the Law is a protective fence that prevents us from suffering the terrible consequences of sin (1 John 5:3; Psalm 1:1-3).

C THE GOSPEL

❖ The Gospel and the Law

- Our salvation (the forgiveness of sins and eternal life) is obtained through the work Jesus did for us on the cross (Galatians 3:13). This compels us to love Jesus for it (1 John 4:9, 19). And we demonstrate this love precisely by keeping his commandments (John 14:15).
- Let's review the relationship between the Law and the Gospel (that is, salvation through the blood of Jesus):
 - (1) The Law defines what sin is
 - (2) When we sin we are condemned to eternal death
 - (3) The Law is incapable of forgiving sin
 - (4) Jesus suffered eternal death to pay for our sins
 - (5) When we accept Jesus' sacrifice, our sins are forgiven
 - (6) Once forgiven, we keep the Law so as not to sin again (1 John 2:1)
- Jesus never intended to abolish the Law, but to confirm it (Mt. 5:17). Both the Law and the Gospel are a reflection of God's very character: love.

❖ Built on the Rock

- Accepting the Gospel involves following a process. The first step is knowledge. We must know that Someone can redeem us (Rom. 10:14).
- But knowledge alone will not save us. Jesus compared those who receive the knowledge of salvation but do not put the principles of the gospel into practice to a person who built on sand “and great was the fall of it” (Matt. 7:26-27).
- Knowledge must be accompanied by concrete actions (Mt. 7:24-25). We are justified apart from the works of the Law (Rom. 3:28), but it is necessary that these works be seen in our lives as a result of our salvation (Mt. 7:18-21).
- When we accept Jesus and live in close relationship with Him, keeping His commandments, we are building on the Rock.