

Taking Off the Shackles (Sins the Entangle Us)

Hebrews 12:1-2

Introduction:

1. Various translation uses of the word εὐπερίστατος (euperistatos)
 - a. NASB 1995 - entangle
 - b. King James - beset
 - c. The Good News - holds on to us tightly
 - d. ESV - clings so closely
2. The point of the passage is that before we begin running the race we need to get rid of everything that will cling to us and slow us down, or make us give up in exhaustion.
3. Everyone struggles with sin, everyone struggles with temptations (**Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:10; James 1:13-15**)
 - a. The fact that we all struggle with sin does not mean that we should give up, but we should make provisions to finish the race, especially since we know that the end is near (**2 Peter 3:11**)
 - b. What can we do to help us with these sins that cling so tightly to us?

Thesis: We choose to sin (1 John 2:1), and sin is not unique to certain people. However, we can make provisions to help us run the race and remove the besetting sins.

I. Do not become comfortable with sin

- A. Sometimes we become numb to the sins around us that before we realize it, sin has become a part of us. Like when Sodom lived in Lot's family.
 1. **Romans 6:14**
 2. **Psalm 66:18**
 3. **Romans 12:9**
- B. "**There is more evil in the least sin than the greatest calamity.**" A calamity, a certain misery is not necessarily sin. Sin is sin. Treat your sin seriously--it dishonors God; it abuses mercy; it despises grace; it presumes on forgiveness; it defiles worship, service, and fellowship. It stains, and taints, and poisons, and destroys everything good and holy. (Mr. Calamy: Calamy's Farewell Address)
 1. Calamy said that if Hell were on one side and sin on the other, he would choose Hello because God created Hell, but He did not create sin.
 2. The point is that we should never normalize sin. Sin is sin. When we normalize sin it will hinder our race. Eventually the one sin we normalized and accepted with multiply!

II. Make no provision for the flesh

- A. **Romans 13:14** (And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.) (Living Translation)
- B. Change how we think and behave
 1. **Philippians 4:8**
 2. **Proverbs 23:7**
 3. **Matthew 5:29**

III. Thank God for His love and forgiveness

- A. The closer we get to God the more we love Him, the more we love God the less we want to sin. God is light, sin is darkness and the closer we move to the light the further away we get from darkness.
- B. When we fight to keep sin and holiness at the same time we will become extremely frustrated. Thank God for His Son that Jesus died for my sins-He has set me free!

(Romans 7:14-25)

Conclusion:

1. No one should be surprised when he sins.
2. We all struggle with sin.
3. We all have the same advocate and window of escape. (1 John 2:1-2)

References Consulted

- Girdwood, Jim, and Peter Verkruyse. *Hebrews*. Joplin, College Press, 1997, ref.ly/logosres/cpc-heb?ref=Bible.Heb12.1. Accessed 1 Feb. 2020.
- Higginbotham, Steve. *Besetting Sins*. 2019.
- Igniter Media. "Taking off the Shackles - Title Graphics." *Igniter Media*, Igniter Media, 2019, www.ignitermedia.com/products/18692-taking-off-the-shackles. Accessed 2 Feb. 2020.
- Mr., Calamy. "Calamy's Farewell Address." *Notes and Queries*, vol. CLXVI, no. apr14, 14 Apr. 1622, pp. 269–270, [10.1093/nq/clxvi.apr14.269a](https://doi.org/10.1093/nq/clxvi.apr14.269a). Accessed 1 Feb. 2020.
- Robinson, Edward. *Greek and English Lexicon of the New Testament*. Eugene, Oregon, Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2011. Accessed 1 Feb. 2020. εὐπερίστατος (euperistatos).
- Tyndale House Publishers. *Holy Bible: New Living Translation*. Carol Stream, Illinois, Tyndale House Publishers, 2015, ref.ly/logosres/nlt?ref=BibleNLT.Ro13.14&off=71&ctx=e+Lord+Jesus+Christ.+~+And+don%E2%80%99t+let+yours. Accessed 1 Feb. 2020.