

Consider this warning: "be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1Peter 5:8). Will you let him destroy your life (John 10:10) or will you turn to the Savior who can rescue you from the bondage of sin?

God's way of Salvation

The question of being right with God is not "Am I living a good enough life?" Nor is it the statement "I'm doing the best I can". Salvation is not gained by what WE do for God, rather it is a free gift based on the FINISHED WORK of Jesus Christ! (Eph. 2:8,9) Religion is MAN'S effort to please God. Becoming a Christian is believing that GOD has already done all that needs to be done for me to be saved. Many religious people on judgment day will discover to their utter despair that "religion" will not allow them into the presence of God in heaven (Matt. 7:21-23).

The vital question is "Are your sins forgiven?" All men are sinners by NATURE and by action. (Rom. 3:23; 5:12; Eph. 2:1-3) We don't become sinners when we sin; we sin because we ARE sinners. Our very NATURE towards God is corrupt (Is. 53:6; Rom. 9:10- 13). Because we are sinners we experience death (Rom. 6:23). Death is not only physical (separation of the soul from the body), but also spiritual (separation of the soul eternally from God) (2Cor. 5; Gen. 3). Man's only hope of being reconciled to God is through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ (2Cor. 5:17-19). Through Christ's death, burial, and resurrection He paid the penalty for man's sin and made it possible for believers to be freed from the bondage and condemnation of sin (1Cor. 15:1-7; 1Pet. 2:24). Forgiveness is possible through His shed blood (I Peter 1:18,19) by TOTALLY trusting Jesus as your Saviour as your ONLY hope of being made right with God; you can be saved from the condemnation you justly deserved (John 1:12; 3:16; Acts 4:12; 16:31).

The CORNERSTONE

BIBLICAL ANSWERS TO CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

DRUG ABUSE



Cornerstone Booklets

PO BOX 52
GREENWICH, NJ 08323

The Drug Abuse Problem

The misuse of drugs has become one of the most serious national and international problems of our time. Drug use is no longer limited to the "hippie users" of the '60s. Today's drug user is the typical middle-class American. Whether through legal prescriptions or through the underground drug deals, many have become chemically dependent to make it through the day. The recent deaths of popular athletes and rock stars have brought to the public's attention that America has a drug problem. We praise God that our president is taking steps of action to try to correct this weakness in our nation. This booklet offers biblical answers that can help drug users find the only truth that can set them free from the bondage of drug use and its destruction.

The Guilt of Life

Guilt is to the soul what poison is to the body! Guilt is a result of sin. All men are sinners (Romans 3:23) and therefore all men experience guilt (Romans 2:15). Just as Adam and Eve tried to cover up their guilt before God (Genesis 3:7,8), so the drug user is doing the same today. Rock music and drugs are man's attempt to so preoccupy the mind that he doesn't have to face up to the reality of his guilt before God and future judgment (Revelation 20:11-15). It is significant that the Greek word for "witchcraft" (Galatians 5:20) is "pharmakia." We get our English word pharmacy from it. Drugs, rock-n-roll and the occult (worship of Satan) are all a result of man's rebellion towards God. God's remedy for guilt is given in Proverbs 28:13. Each person must confess his sin and guilt before God. Once true confession is admitted, God offers pardon and forgiveness through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ (1John 5:10; Eph. 1:7).

Boredom of Life

As America has increased in her prosperity so has her drug use increased. It is no coincidence that many drug users have everything materially they could ever want. Why then turn to drugs? Because true joy, happiness, and purpose of life can only be found through a personal relationship to Jesus Christ (John 14:6; Luke 12:15). Drugs offer a temporary "pleasure" or "high" that afterward leaves the user with great depression and boredom (Hebrews 11:25; Prov. 14:12). The only permanent solution to this vicious cycle of death and destruction is through the salvation of Jesus Christ (Romans 6:23).

Jesus came that men might have life and that they might have it more abundantly (John 10:10). Jesus said that it is the truth of God's word that truly sets men free (John 8:32) and allows them to experience the joy of living that can never be taken away (Psalm 16:11).

Pressures of Life

One of the greatest deceptions of Satan is to make you think that your problems are greater than others. No one else is going through what you're going through. After all the pressures you experience, you "deserve a break today." No one can blame you if you turn to drugs to try to cope! This kind of petty party thinking is a lie of Hell, and only leads a person away from God (Ps. 37:1,7,8; Proverbs 14:12). The Bible says that the pressures of life are "common to man" (1Cor. 10:13). This means that no person has it any worse than another. No matter what the specifics of your pressures, all of our problems can be traced to the three root problems. We are all battling the world, the flesh, and the devil (Eph. 2:1-5; 1John 2:15-17). God has promised He will never allow any pressure in our life that is too much for us to handle (1Cor. 10:13). Through the Lord Jesus Christ we can confidently face our problems and in the midst of the storms of life find God's peace (Phil. 4:5-7,13).

Responsibilities of Life

Another of Satan's deceptions is to convince you to blame other people, your consequences, or even God for your behavior (James 1:13-17; Prov. 19:3). He always offers a rationalization for your wrong behavior (Prov. 21:2). He convinces you that you can even blame your addiction. You just can't help yourself any longer! The drug is to blame, not yourself. Again, these are all lies of hell! Through Jesus Christ the power of Satan can be broken (1Cor. 6:9-11). But a man must first humble himself and admit his responsibility for his sin (Prov. 28:13; 1John 1:1-10). On judgment day men will be "without excuse" before God (Romans 1:20; 2:14-16). Every person is responsible for their own behavior (James 1:14,15). The person who humbles himself and trusts in Jesus Christ can be freed from the power and bondage of sin (Romans 8:2).