



Lewiston Church of Christ

December 3, 2017

Weekly Services

Sunday Morning

Bible Study 9:45 AM

Worship 10:45 AM

Sunday Evening 6:00 PM

Wed Bible Study 7:00 P

MINISTER

Joel Solliday: 208-743-2711

ELDERS

Doyle Dawes: 208-836-5718

Cal Groen: 208-602-8165

Randy Thornton: 208-758-3289

DEACONS

Mark Whittaker-Outreach

Tom Hill-Finance

Rick Richardson-Education

AREAS OF SERVICE

Joe & Carrie Bieren – Fellowship

Music Ministry – Ron Roberson

Cody & Doyle Dawes- Grounds

Ken Vogtman – Building

Custodian – Jennifer Hill

Technology – Eric Kjorness

Technology – Cody Dawes

Secretary – Renee' Hill

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A Serious Problem

"I can resist everything except temptation."
Oscar Wilde (1854-1900), Irish poet

Oscar Wilde was quite witty. However, his life illustrates, to me, that wit and wisdom are not always on the same page. So let's turn the page to a much wiser author:

"Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is. After all, you find out the strength of the German army by fighting against it, not by giving in." (C.S. Lewis (1898-1963), Mere Christianity)

I usually don't like Nazi analogies but this one works. They turned out to be far deadlier than expected early on. Likewise, temptation is far deadlier (ultimately) than the Nazis ever were.

Satan would be pleased as punch if we ignored the problem of temptation. So, just like Jesus, we must deal with it head on. Satan repeatedly tempted Jesus in the desert and did not give up after he failed. The Bible says, "When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time." (Luke 4:13). Satan is persistent and if he actually thought he had a chance to seduce Jesus, we know he will not miss a chance to seduce us. We are at war!

Jesus saw temptation as a serious problem. He warned us about believers who joyfully receive the word of God but then fall away during temptation. He compared their hearts to rootless "rocky soil" (Luke 8:13). This problem calls for prayer Jesus taught His disciples to pray thusly: "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." (Matthew 6:13). Finally, in the Garden of Gethsemane with His own death close at hand, Jesus implored His disciples to "watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." (Matthew 26:4).

If Jesus took temptation seriously, we can do no less.

Joel Solliday