

## **Kill the Spider** **By Kent Heaton**

“For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. For observe this very thing that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter” (2Cor. 7:10-11).

A man continually sought help to rededicate his life and always prayed the same prayer, “Lord, take the cobwebs out of my life.” His preacher had heard this prayer more times than he cared to remember. Finally, when the man uttered that prayer into the ear of his preacher, the preacher responded with a prayer of his own, “Lord, kill the spider.”

The challenge of sin is recognizing the need to remove temptation and change the behavior. Repentance is not just saying, “I’m sorry” but actively trying to find ways to take away the source of the problem. Godly sorrow brings about repentance because it is a deep emotional reaction to what ungodliness does to the character and conduct of the individual. If the spider is not killed the cobwebs will continue.

There are some challenges in life that will always be present. Paul had a thorn in the flesh that was not removed but he learned how to deal with it. Godly sorrow produces a mind that continually works to lessen the impact of the spider’s web on life with greater victory each day. But this takes effort. It is easy to assume our nature allows us to have a bad temper but as people of God seeking repentance we learn to control and subdue that anger. Lust can be controlled when measured by the grace of God. Lips that lie, gossip, slander, and use foul language can be stopped when the spider is killed. Repentance demands it.

A contrast of attitude and behavior comes with godly sorrow when we clear ourselves of the influences of ungodliness. We are deeply sorry for our actions and we show in our lives the indignation we have to what we have done. Our attitude is one of fear and passionate desire to sin less. Godliness produces a zeal of righteousness to cleanse our minds of all those spiders that infect us. Let us be great spider killers today! Repentance was perhaps best defined by a small girl: It’s to be sorry enough to quit. (C. H. Kilmer, *The New Illustrator*, 1945)

### **Warning: Nuclear Meltdown**

“To whom shall I speak and give warning that they may hear? Indeed their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot give heed. Behold, the word of the LORD is a reproach to them; they have no delight in it” (Jer. 6:10).

The Winter 1991 issue of the University of Pacific Review offers a chilling description of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster: “There were two electrical engineers in the control room that night, and the best thing that could be said for what they were doing is they were ‘playing around’ with the machine. They were performing what the Soviets later described as an unauthorized experiment. They were trying to see how long a turbine would ‘free wheel’ when they took the power off it.”

“Now, taking the power off that kind of a nuclear reactor is a difficult, dangerous thing to do, because these reactors are very unstable in their lower ranges. In order to get the reactor down to that kind of power, where they could perform the test they were interested in performing, they had to override manually six separate computer-driven alarm systems.”

“One by one the computers would come up and say, ‘Stop! Dangerous! Go no further!’ And one by one, rather than shutting off the experiment, they shut off the alarms and kept going. You know the results: nuclear fallout that was recorded all around the world, from the largest industrial accident ever to occur in the world.”

The instructions and warnings in the Scriptures are just as clear, and if we ignore them, we do so to our own destruction and, tragically, to the destruction of all those influenced by us.

### **Getting Older**

When Ty Cobb was 70, a reporter asked him, "What do you think you'd hit if you were playing these days?"

Cobb, who was a life-time .367 hitter, said, "About .290, maybe .300."

The reporter said, "That's because of the travel, the night games, the artificial turf, and all the new pitches like the slider, right?"

"No," said Cobb, "it's because I'm 70."

Whether we are looking forward to it or not, we're all getting older. Truth is, old age frightens most of us. I think Jonathan Swift was right when he said, "Every man desires to live long, but no man wants to be old." Old age should be something looked upon with honor and respect. The Jews were commanded, "You shall rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man..." (Lev. 19:32).

But we live in a society where youth is glorified, and age is something you cover, make-over, or deny. The talents and skills of the elderly, acquired over a lifetime, are often ignored. Perhaps, a sense of not feeling of value to others leads to questions of value in the sight of God. Even David expressed his fear when he prayed to God, "Do not cast me off in the time of old age; Do not forsake me when my strength fails" (Psalm 71:9).

Fortunately, we know that God will not forsake us then, or at any other time in our lives. Though we may not be able to do at 70 what we could do at 35, there is much to be offered, both to God and others, in our "golden years." May God help us to appreciate and respect those who are our elders.

### **A Moments Wisdom**

--Life is 10% of what happens to you and 90% of how you react to it.

--If you really want to do something, you'll find a way. If you don't, you'll find an excuse.

--Never do something permanently foolish just because you are temporarily upset.

--You can learn great things from your mistakes when you aren't busy denying them.

--When you stop chasing the wrong things you give the right things a chance to catch you.

--You will never become who you want to be if you keep blaming everyone else for who you are now.

--People are more what they hide than what they show.

--Sometimes people don't notice the things others do for them until they stop doing them.

--Love and appreciate your parents. We are often so busy growing up; we forget they are also growing old.

--When you're up, your friends know who you are. When you're down, you know who your friends are.

--Many people are so poor because the only thing they have is money.

--You don't drown by falling in the water. You drown by staying there.

--If you tell the truth, it becomes a part of your past. If you lie, it becomes a part of your future.

--You can't start the next chapter of your life if you keep re-reading your last one.

--People do what seems easy and convenient, not what is best for them.

--When values are clear, decisions are easy.

--Hope is NOT a strategy.