

ENDURING TEMPTATION (3)

Overcoming Sin & Temptation (6)

The Third Temptation: You Shall Worship The Lord Only

I. Introduction

- A. These lessons should hopefully encourage us as we see that God expects us to be able to resist temptation.
- B. Jesus' example should give us the most encouragement.
- C. It is in the final temptation that we see the culmination of all the temptations (Mt. 4:8-11).

II. A Better Offer?

- A. The devil presents an alternative path from God's, promising that you will reach the same outcome. But, as is consistent with Satan, he is a liar.
 - I. While he has some power, he deceives people into thinking he is in control (Jn. 12:31; Eph. 2:2).
- B. He tries to convince us that his path is better than the one God has ordained (Mk. 8:31-33).
- C. He lies about the severe consequences of taking his path over God's — he always leads us to destruction.
 - I. God's path is the only way (Heb. 5:8-10; Phil. 2:8-11).

III. The Better (Only) Path

- A. Jesus chose the path His Father had chosen because He loved His Father more than anything (Mt. 4:10; Deut. 10:20-11:1).
- B. The temptations culminate in idolatry - loving others more than God (Deut. 6:13-15; Mk. 8:33; Lk. 14:25-27).
- C. Jesus obeyed (and suffered for it) for the joy set before Him (Heb. 12:1-3).
- D. If we are truly walking after the footsteps of Jesus, like Him, we will not entertain sin or temptation even for a moment — as we see in Matthew 4.

IV. Conclusion

- A. What is keeping you from loving God most?
- B. You can rid yourself of that idol. But it will take the same measures that Jesus takes.
- C. It will be difficult, but it will be worth it (Rom. 8:18).

