

Everyone of us is assailed by the temptations of Satan. Everyone of us can fall to anyone of the three great temptations that John speaks of in his Epistle: the lust of the flesh which can lead anyone of us astray. Oh the == it is a common joke among ministers gorging themselves with food! God wants us to keep our bodies down and to satisfy your normal cravings but keep yourself in shape that you can accomplish for Him.

Then there is the lust of the eyes, the desire for possessions. Oh it is important for us to take care of what we have, to save so as not to be penniless or helpless. It is important that we do that. But Oh how easy it is for us to get a craving for more money and more money. When I've preached in a church so often people have said, What did they give you? I think people should give the one who brings them the Word of life that which is necessary to take care of his needs. But I never like to look in any hurry in what I may be given under such circumstances. I don't preach in order to get money. I preach in order to glorify the Saviour. I appreciate what people give, but that is quite secondary. But how easy it is for us to get to where the lust of the eyes, the longing for possessions becomes important.

Then the third and perhaps the most subtle of all and most dangerous of all is what John calls the pride of life. Anyone who amounts to anything has plenty of that. Oh we like to think we are working for the glory of God. We are working for Christ. We don't care what people think about us! What do they think about our Master? What do they think about the One who sent us? That's what matters. But somebody says, My that was a good talk you gave. My I like the way you looked there this morning. That was fine what you did. Immediately the old devil makes you swell up and think, My wasn't that fine! Didn't I do well! We want to do the best we can for the Lord, but this is perhaps the thing that everyone who serves the Lord has to watch for--putting our reputation, putting our standing, putting what people think of us in a place of greater importance than it deserves.

Oh to think through many factors of ourselves in preparation for the day of prayer, and think what are the particular things you need to bring before the Lord and to get cleansed by Him.

We've looked at ourselves. We could spend an hour on this easily. But you should not only look on your own things but also on the things of others. This is tremendously important. Our situation here is quite different from what it was in seminaries 50 years ago. Or even perhaps 40 years ago. I think the last 30 years has been quite different in seminaries because most students live away. They are not together in close quarters like they used to be. Yet perhaps the same things that used to be magnified then are sure present now. I see===I've seen two students, both fine Christian fellows, in the seminary but each of them has no use for the other. They just did not like each other because that other fellow was mean and they each thought that about the other. God wants us to look at the people with whom we come into contact and He wants us to think, Are we looking at them