

Conquering the “Cons”

Hebrews 4:14-16

Introduction:

- A. Have you ever been a victim of a con artist?
- No one l_____ to be scammed.
 - Daily you face one of the biggest con artists and sometimes allow it to con you. It is called t_____.
- B. Today’s lesson reveals ways to overcome temptation.
- Heb 4:14 begins with the word, therefore, which resumes the topic of 3:1 that urged believers to carefully consider Jesus as the Apostle and High Priest of their con_____.
 - The writer compared Jesus to Moses as one being sent out (the meaning of the word a_____) – 3:2-11
 - Jesus was faithful without f_____.
 - Jesus was sent to build God’s h_____ (i.e. the people of God).
 - Christians are to confess Jesus as their apostle, one whom God has s_____ out to them.
 - The writer urged all to find complete rest in J_____ as their connection to God (3:2-11)
 - Rest in Jesus for your eternal d_____.
 - Rest in Jesus for your daily l_____.
 - Christians are to confess Jesus as their High P_____.
 - This passage reveals three cons that temptation will throw at you

Con #1 – Confession – Give in to sin, then CON-fess it (14)

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

- A. The command is to hold f_____ one’s confession of Jesus as their connection to God (high priest)
- This pictures a g_____ so tight that you never let go.
 - Some of the readers were holding on to s_____ (3:13; 4:11) - they had given in to the d_____ of sin
- B. Temptation cons people into sinning now by reminding them that they can confess it later.
- Have you ever done that?
 - This is a clever con because it mixes in the t_____ (Jesus paid for your sin; your sin will be forgiven)
 - This con gets people to ignore the purpose for Jesus’ death for sin.

C. Why did Jesus die for our sins?

1. He died to p_____ its penalty for us
2. He died to f_____ us from its power so that we no longer hold on to sin but hold fast to Him (Rom 6:2,6,11: Jn 8:34)
3. Let your words and deeds reflect Jesus not sin.

Con #2 – Concession – CON-cede to sin, then blame our weakness (15)

For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are, yet* without sin.

A. Verse 15 shows that we all have w_____

1. This is part of our natural born condition called a s_____ nature (often called the flesh in the Bible – e.g. Matt 26:41)
2. Have you identified your weaknesses?
 - a. Weaknesses vary from person to person
 - 1) Some are plagued with s_____ weaknesses while others are not.
 - 2) Some have a weakness with d_____ or alcohol, while others have no problems with them.
 - 3) Some get easily a_____ while others are laid back.
 - b. We must r_____ one another's weaknesses (e.g. don't cause another to stumble into sin)

B. Temptation cons people into blaming their failure on their weakness

1. If you had not done that, I would not have lost my t_____
2. I'm only h_____

C. Jesus can sympathize with our weaknesses

1. He is human but n_____ sinned.
2. He a_____ in the garden so much as He faced temptation that He sweat drops of b_____ (Lk 22:44).
 - a. Jesus went through more agony in facing temptation than you or I ever have.
 - b. Jesus can sympathize with your struggle against sin
3. Hold on to Jesus, and let go of sin.

Con #3 – Connection – CON-nect with sin, then blame God (16)

Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.

A. Blaming God is the oldest con

1. Adam put the blame on God for his sin (Gen 3:12 – *the woman whom YOU gave to be with me, she gave to me from the tree and I ate.*)
 2. Have you ever said:
 - a. God, why did you curse me with this weakness?
 - b. God, why don't you take my weakness away?
- B. Your sin is never God's fault (He is faultless – v 16)
1. God sits on a throne of g_____, ready to pour on us His undeserved favor.
 2. We access this grace through p_____ (the command is to draw near to God's throne and emphasizes ongoing action - keep drawing near)
 - a. Matt 26:41: continual prayer strengthens the s_____ so as to overcome the flesh or sin nature – the command emphasizes an ongoing action of praying)
 - b. Lk 11:5-10: Jesus told a story illustrating that God answers p_____ prayers (ask, seek, knock are all verbs that emphasize ongoing action in the Greek text as so means to keep on asking, seeking, and knocking).
 - c. A prayer of faith is not a one-time prayer but a continual plea, a persistent asking - *keep drawing near with confidence to the throne of grace.*
- C. The result of a persistent prayer (drawing near to God's throne)
1. We will find h_____
 2. The help will be in good t_____
 - a. The Greek word has the prefix eu, which means g_____ (eulogy – good word; euphemism – good phrasing)
 - b. The Greek word as the root word, time
 - c. God's help always has good timing (1Cor 10:13 – He will always provide a way to e_____ temptation)
 3. Keep your eyes on Jesus, not on temptation.

Conclusion – conquer temptation's cons by

1. R_____ Christ in your life (hold on to Jesus)
2. R_____ that your struggle will never be as great as Jesus's struggle (He sympathizes with your struggles)
3. R_____ God's timely help through persistent prayer