

Greasing The Squeaky Wheel

INTRODUCTION :

A. Most of us go through life greasing the squeaky wheel.

1. We don't notice the three wheels that function quietly. **They're supposed to do so.**
2. When one wheel begins to squeak, give it the attention necessary to silence it.
3. Children who don't think they're getting enough attention learn to squeak.

B. Life has a way of getting out of control.

1. Problems come out of no where.
2. The government changes the rules.
3. Sickneses come at inconvenient times.

C. Those we love demand our attention.

1. Children never get too old to want attention.
2. Grandchildren expect more attention than their parents.
3. Friends and loved ones become ill and need our attention.

D. Before we know it, the day is gone, the week is gone, our life is gone.

1. We've been busy, but feel we've accomplished nothing.
2. The squeaky wheels were greased, but our goals were not accomplished.
3. We are tired, but not fulfilled by our efforts.

TRANSITION :

This is how the devil keeps people out of Heaven. They commit themselves to Christ and start their journey determined to serve Him, but are distracted along the way by life on earth.

I. More Christians will be lost because they are sidetracked than because of sin.

A. Satan is expert at causing people to leave the Lord.

1. He seldom attacks your strength.
2. A body in motion tends to stay in motion so it is hard to stop, but easier to divert.
 - a. Boxers don't try to stop the blows of their opponent, they divert them.
 - * b. **Scientists know they cannot stop a large asteroid so they will divert them.**

B. Most Christians who leave the Lord do so without ever intending to do so.

1. They become so preoccupied with the world that they forget about serving God.
2. We live in a world which is full of distractions.

- a. It would be easy to concentrate on the Lord if we could see nothing else.
- b. The Hebrew writer challenges us :

Heb. 12: 1-2 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, ...

- c. The devil says : *“If you’d just work a little longer you could have a new car.”*
3. The Lord’s Apostle admonishes us :
I Pet. 1: 13- Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
4. Idealistically, that sounds great, but how do we do that while in the world ?

II. One must turn his back on the world if he is to face Heaven.

A. One can’t face north and south at the same time.

1. He must choose one or the other.
2. Likewise, one cannot simultaneously have earthly ambitions and heavenly ambitions.
 - a. **Read ... Matt. 6: 19-34**
 - b. This runs contrary to everything our society teaches us.
 - c. Everyone makes a choice of who he will follow, **God or the devil, i.e., self.**
3. There is no such thing as looking in between. (**They are polar opposites.**)

B. Faith trust completely in God to provide.

The flesh depends on self, strength, allies, 401K.

1. When trouble comes, what is the FIRST thought that passes through our minds ?
2. **Read ... Rom. 8: 4-8**
3. **Phil. 3: 18-20** For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. ²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; (**NO DUAL CITIZENSHIPS**)

III. The Christian must be prepared to make a clean break with the world.

A. When the bible speaks of “the world” it refers to more than just sin.

1. The world is this physical realm in which we live.
II Cor. 4: 17-18 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, **18** while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.
2. Loving the world does not refer to just loving sin.
I John 2:15- Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
 - a. To love this world is to place a high value on one’s earthly life.
 - b. To love the things of the world is to desire to have “things.”
I Tim. 6: 6-8 But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. **7** For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. **8** If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.

B. When one becomes a Christian he is a new creature. (different kind of person)

1. His old life must be completely replaced.
II Cor. 5: 17- Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
2. He has a new life. (a completely fresh start)
Rom. 6: 4- Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.
3. He has a new worldview. (Different mindset.)
Rom. 12:2- And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, ...
4. He has a new focus to his life.
Col. 3:1 - Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.
5. He has a new country.
II Pet. 3:13- But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.
6. He has a new citizenship.
Phil. 3: 20- For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

7. He has a new house.

I Pet. 1: 3ff ... to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ...

8. He has a new hope.

I Pet. 1: 3- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

CONCLUSION :

A. This is our challenge as a Christian.

1. We must become something noticeably different from other people.

Read ... Eph. 4: 20-27 (*Apply as you go.*)

2. The people of this world will not know how to handle the difference.

B. How could the early church liquidate all their worldly possession and give away the proceeds ?

1. **Acts 4: 32f**

2. They were not living for the NOW , but for eternity.

3. **Barnabas** sold everything and ended up being a missionary. **Cf. - Paul**

C. How different are we from the people who live on our street.

1. They go to some church.

2. They care about heir family and love their grandkids.

3. ***Jesus called us to be their light.***

D. This may be the single most difficult aspect of Christianity.

How is your progress ?

Do you spend your days greasing the squeaky wheels ?

How often do you think about God during your average day ?

What do you actually do for God each day ?

Lets all make a special effort this week to keep focused on the things above.

INVITATION :