**The Nature of Sin**

* Deceptive (Hebrews 3:13) – give a false impression by appearance, statement, influence.
  + False teachers – 2 Peter 2:13,14,17
  + Eve and the serpent (cf. Genesis 3:1-8)
    - No consequences (v. 4).
    - False promises (v. 5).
    - Making itself attractive (v. 6). (Hebrews 11:24-25 – The pleasure is passing.)
      * Why it’s called lust – 1 John 2:16
* The Reality of Sin
  + Enslaving
    - John 8:31-34 (Truth makes us free from what?)
    - Romans 6:15-23 (We are slaves no matter what. Slaves of righteousness leads to life. Slaves of sin leads to death.)
    - Sin deceives us into thinking we are made free (cf. 2 Peter 2:18-19).
    - It ensnares us (cf. Hebrews 12:1). (NASV – *“entangles”* – runners trying to run a race while entangled.)
  + Defiling
    - Isaiah 1:18 – The contrast of sin is great and undeniable.
      * Something that is so richly stained it cannot be removed by any human means.
    - Psalm 51:1-2, 7 – After David’s sin with Bathsheba.
    - 2 Peter 2:20-22 – Turning back to the world described.
    - James 4:8 – Sinners are unclean.
      * Christ and God are pure – 1 John 3:3
      * They cannot be in fellowship with the impure – 2 Corinthians 6:17-7:1
  + Destructive
    - It is lawlessness – 1 John 3:4; law is handed down by God for instruction on how to live. Sin is literally living in a way God has not intended or designed.
    - Genesis 3
      * Destroyed innocence (v. 7)
      * Destroyed peace with God (v. 8)
      * Destroyed man’s world (v. 17)
    - Both physically and spiritually.
  + Progressive
    - Likened unto leaven (cf. Matthew 16:6; Luke 12:1; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8).
    - 1 Corinthians 15:33 – There are second hand effects of sin.
    - Did not stop with one sin – Genesis 6:5
    - Notice the progression in Romans 1:20-32.
      * Refusal to acknowledge God led to idolatry – (v. 20-23)
      * Worshiped and served themselves by fulfilling their lusts – (v. 24-25)
      * Pursued even what is unnatural – (v. 26-27)
      * Given to a debased mind to fulfill all unrighteousness – (v. 28-32)
    - *“Evil men and imposters will grow worse and worse” – 2 Timothy 3:13*
    - David’s sin. (2 Samuel 11)
      * Adultery (v. 3-4)
      * Murder (v. 14-17)