

## AVOIDING TEMPTATION

### 1. Two Paths - Righteousness and Sin

- A. Temptation - The immediate precursor of sin - Jas 1:13-15.
- B. Resisting sin at point of temptation is often resisting **too late**.
- C. Spiritual maturity - The ability to recognize the path that leads to temptation and the ability to get off that path before temptation occurs.

### 2. Leaving The Path Of Temptation

- A. Anticipating temptation:
  - 1. Illus: Anticipating the flight of a baseball; anticipating financial markets.
  - 2. The ability to process current information and project what will likely happen.
- B. Making decisions which lead away from temptation (**overhead #1**): **See diagram page 3**. We often have many opportunities to escape from sin, to change course long before the transgression is committed. We often miss these warning signs.
- C. Focus is often too narrow: "Is it wrong, sinful?" "Does the Bible say I can't?"

### 3. Three Scenarios:

- A. Scenario #1: lying -
  - 1. Dad - "I would rather you not play baseball in the house."
  - 2. Dad gone; get out **tennis** ball.
  - 3. Break Mom's flow-blue china.
  - 4. Glue it back because "she'll never find out."
  - 5. "Who broke my china!" "**Not me!**"
- B. Scenario #2: Drinking -
  - 1. Out past midnight - Not wrong.
  - 2. With non-Christian friends - Not wrong.

3. They begin drinking but you don't - Not wrong.
4. They begin teasing, making fun of you. You are embarrassed, and so you take a drink. Not drawn to the alcohol, per se, but to alleviate the social pressure.
5. The driver then hits a child and kills them. You have been drinking; in the car with drunks. This was not what you intended.

C. Scenario #3: Adultery

1. Man hires beautiful secretary - Not wrong.
2. Goes to lunch with secretary - Not wrong.
3. Tells secretary marital frustrations - Not wrong.
4. They work late alone - Note wrong.
5. Kisses secretary on cheek for job well done - Not wrong.

**WHERE IS THIS HEADED?**

6. Go on business trip together - Not wrong.
7. Stay in two-bedroom suite - Not wrong.
8. A game of backgammon; she in comfortable nightgown - Not wrong.
9. ADULTERY OCCURS. **"It all happened so fast."**

**Conclusion:**

1. We are not always strong enough to resist temptation when it comes full force.
2. It is not enough to ask "Is it wrong?" We must examine other issues: wise? safe? dangerous?
3. Wise Christians recognize dangerous tendencies and leave the path of temptation.

