

Ruts And Repentance

I. Spiritual Ruts Of Sin

Proverbs 26:11 As a dog returns to his own vomit, So a fool repeats his folly.

A. The Spiritual Ruts Of The Lust Of The Flesh

Proverbs 23:27 For a harlot is a deep ditch; and a seductress is a narrow pit.

Ecclesiastes 7:26 And I find more bitter than death The woman whose heart is snares and nets, Whose hands are fetters. He who pleases God shall escape from her, But the sinner shall be trapped by her.

Proverbs 23:35 "They have struck me, but I was not hurt; They have beaten me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake, that I may seek another drink?

Proverbs 19:15 Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, And an idle person will suffer hunger.

B. The Spiritual Rut Of The Lust Of The Eyes

1 Timothy 6:9-10 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

C. The Spiritual Rut Of The Pride Of Life

Psalms 10:4 The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts.

Judges 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Hebrews 10:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Malachi 1:13 You also say, 'Oh, what a weariness!' And you sneer at it," Says the LORD of hosts. "And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; Thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand?" Says the LORD.

II. Repentance

A. Changing Our Hearts In Order To Change Our Life

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Ephesians 4:22-24 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Colossians 3:10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

B. Getting Out Of The Rut Of Worldly Friends

Proverbs 22:24-25 Make no friendship with an angry man, And with a furious man do not go, 25 Lest you learn his ways And set a snare for your soul.

Proverbs 13:20 He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed.

1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits.

Proverbs 12:26 The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray.

C. Using God's Weapons To Pull Down Strongholds

2 Corinthians 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

Ephesians 6:10-11 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Ephesians 6:15-17 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

1 John 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith

D. Getting Out Of Spiritual Ruts With Help From Our Spiritual Family

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. 10 For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up. 11 Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone? 12 Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Hebrews 3:12-13 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; 13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

2 Timothy 2:24-26 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them

repentance, so that they may know the truth, 26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

III.

Emotional Ruts

A.

The Rut Of Anger

Proverbs 19:19 A man of great wrath will suffer punishment; For if you rescue him, you will have to do it again.

Romans 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good

Ephesians 4:31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Proverbs 17:9 He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates friends.

Hebrews 12:15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

B.

The Rut Of Fear

Proverbs 29:25 The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.

Isaiah 26:3 You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

Psalms 27:1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?

C.

The Rut Of Sorrow

Proverbs 15:13 A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, But by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

Psalms 69:1-3 Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck. 2 I sink in deep mire, Where there is no standing; I have come into deep waters, Where the floods overflow me. 3 I am weary with my crying; My throat is dry; My eyes fail while I wait for my God.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

Hebrews 6:19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,

Romans 5:2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 12:12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;