



GOD'S REMEDY AGAINST THE OCCASIONS OF SIN 7:1-27

As in [1:8, 10, 15; 2:1; 3:1, 11, 21; 4:10, 20; 5:1; 6:1, 3, 20] the words “*my son*” occur [7:1] and are expressive of the concern and affection in which *Solomon* makes his pleas. In this chapter, as in chapters 5-6 there is a warning against and a passionate plea concerning sexual immorality and instruction on how to avoid the ways of sexual immorality.

I. THE DANGEROUS WAYS OF SEXUAL IMMORALITY [verses 6-23]

Again, a father is instructing his son and because it is a father instructing his son, the warning is about “*the strange woman*” [verse 5], but the warnings and principles stressed here apply to all kinds of sexual temptation, not just the young man’s temptation. In reality, the warnings and principles stressed here apply to all kinds of sinful temptation. *Solomon*, to enforce the warning, tells a story of a young man that fell by the enticements of sin.

1. The Person Tempted And How He Exposed Himself To Temptation [verses 6-9].

☞ “*a young man*” [verse 7]. He was “*a young man*” and therefore prone to “*youthful lusts*” [II Timothy 2:22]. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ONE FLEE THE PASSIONS AND LUSTS THAT THEY ARE PRONE TO!

☞ “*a young man void of understanding*” [verse 7]. He was one who lacked insight concerning himself, and concerning the dangers and consequence of sin. TO BE VOID OF UNDERSTANDING PUTS ONE IN IMMEDIATE DANGER! For this reason *Solomon* speaks of the need to pursue “*understanding*” [2:2, 3; 4:1, 5, 7; 5:1; 9:6], and the value of “*understanding*” [2:11; 3:13; 16:16, 22].

☞ “*among the simple ones*” [verse 7]. This “*young man void of understanding*” KEPT BAD COMPANY! He was “*among the simple ones*” HE KEPT COMPANY WITH THOSE LIKE HIMSELF! The “*simple*” are “*the ones who lack understanding of God, of God’s truth and will, and are easily turned aside to error and wickedness*” The “*simple*” are identified with the foolish [8:5] and foolishness [14:18]. The “*simple*” fails to test what he hears by the Word of God [14:15], and is oblivious to danger [22:3; 27:12]. FOR THE SIMPLE TO COMPANY WITH THE SIMPLE IS A RECIPE FOR DISASTER!

☞ “*Passing through the street*” [verse 8]. He passed leisurely through the streets, HE HAD LITTLE TO DO! This is one of the things that led to *David’s* sin with *Bathsheba* [II Samuel 11:1].

☞ *“Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house”* [verse 8]. HE STEERED HIS COURSE TOWARD TEMPTATION! He deliberately put himself in the place where he would be tempted. He yielded to unrighteousness and gave place to the devil [Romans 6:13; Ephesians 4:27]. IT IS ALWAYS WISE TO STAY OUT OF THE DEVIL’S NEIGHBORHOOD!

☞ *“In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night”* [verse 9]. He began to move in the *“twilight”* and he continues through the *“evening”* and *“the black and dark night”* HE LIKED DARKNESS!

2. The Person Doing The Tempting [verses 10-12].

The result of this individual going *“near her corner”* and *“the way to her house”* is recorded in verse 10 *“And, behold, there met him a woman”* and in verse 13 *“So she caught him, and kissed him”* IF YOU GO INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF TEMPTATION, YOU WILL FIND TEMPTATION! This woman is described:

☞ *“And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot”* [verse 10]. She is described by her dress, which is suggestive, flaunting, and revealing! Her *“attire”* played a part in this young man’s fall into sin!

☞ *“subtil of heart”* [verse 10]. She is described by her heart. The word *“subtil”* means *“artful and crafty”* This is consistent with her flattery [verse 5]. The flatterer insincerely lifts someone up verbally IN ORDER TO MANIPULATE THEM IN A CERTAIN DIRECTION! *Solomon* warns against the flatterer [20:19; 29:5].

☞ *“She is loud and stubborn”* [verse 11]. She is described by her behavior. This is the opposite of a *“meek and quiet spirit”* [I Peter 3:4], which is humble and submissive. The source of temptation is that which is proud, defiant, rebellious, and contrary to God.

☞ *“her feet abide not in her house: Now (in the twilight, the evening and the dark night) is she without, now in the streets”* [verses 11-12]. She is described by her place. This woman who was married [verse 19], did not stay in her God-ordained place.

3. The Temptation [verses 13-20].

This *“young man”* having gone *“near her corner”* and *“the way to her house”* [verse 8] is ensnared with temptation [verse 13].

☞ *“I have peace offerings with me”* [verse 14]. There was a claim of prosperity. SIN ALWAYS PROMISES MORE THAN IT GIVES! THE TEMPTER ALWAYS HAS PROMISES!

☞ *“I have paid my vows”* [verse 14]. There was a profession of piety. She presented herself as something acceptable and harmless. THE TEMPTER PRESENTS THE TEMPTATION HAS SOMETHING ACCEPTABLE!

☞ *“Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee”* [verse 15]. There was flattery. THE TEMPTER WILL PRETEND TO HAVE AN AFFECTION FOR THE TEMPTED!

☞ There was an appeal to pleasure [verses 16-18]. THE TEMPTER PROMISES PLEASURE!

☞ There was an appeal to safety [verses 19-20]. What she said here was in anticipation of an objection. The tempter has already anticipated whatever objections may be offered AND HAS A READY ANSWER! THE TEMPTER PROMISES THAT YOU WILL NOT GET CAUGHT!

4. The Success Of The Temptation [verses 21-23].

The temptation is successful because the *“young man”* is *“void of understanding”* and because he has put himself in the very midst of temptation. He yielded [verse 21], and such yielding is destructive [verses 22-23].

II. THE REMEDY AGAINST SUCH TEMPTATION [verses 1-5, 24-27]

1. Instructions Concerning The Word Of God [verses 1-5].

☞ *“keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee”* [verse 1]. LET THE WHOLE HEART AND LIFE BE OCCUPIED WITH THE WORD OF GOD!

☞ *“Keep my commandments and live”* [verse 2]. THE WORD OF GOD IS TO BE A DAILY MEANS OF LIFE! The Word of God must be taken as a daily part of life [Deuteronomy 17:18-20; Joshua 1:8; Acts 17:11].

☞ *“Keep.....my law as the apple of thine eye”* [verse 2]. The *“apple of thine eye”* is the center of the eye. THE WORD OF GOD IS TO BE THE CENTER OF LIFE! This speaks of maintaining a high regard for the Word of God!

☞ *“Bind them (the words, commandments and law) upon thine fingers”* [verse 3]. LET THE WORD OF GOD BE AT HAND FOR CONSTANT USE! Have the Word of God always in sight, and have it always ready to be put into practice.

☞ *“write them upon the table of thine heart”* [verse 3]. ALLOW THE WORD OF GOD TO HAVE AN INWARD PLACE!

☞ *“Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman”* [verse 4]. The word *“sister”* was sometimes used as a synonym for one’s wife, and a *“kinswoman”* speaks of a close relative. The idea is, that THE WORD OF GOD IS TO BE FAMILIAR TO US, AND AN OBJECT OF GREAT DELIGHT!

☞ *“That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words”* [verse 5]. When the heart and life are governed by the Word of God, it serves as a defense against sin.

2. There Is A Call To Listen To Godly Instruction [verse 24].

3. There Is A Warning Concerning The Ways Of Temptation [verse 25].

☞ *“Let not thine heart decline to her ways”* [verse 25]. One cannot follow the way of sin without there being a spiritual decline. To *“decline”* is *“to turn from a straight course, to stray, to descend”*

☞ *“go not astray in her paths”* [verse 25]. There can be no entering the paths of sin without straying from the Word of God.

4. There Is A Call To Learn From The Ruin Of Others [verses 26-27].

As in the preceding chapter, this chapter warns against the terrible dangers of temptation. In the light of such there is a plea for the child of God to give heed to the instruction of God’s Word, and to have it as a governing force in daily life. Such provides protection from the very ways of temptation.
