

Introduction: Satan is a master at deception.

- A. God warns us concerning the terrible consequences of sin. **(Eph 5:5-6)**
 - 1. How many times have I seen young people justify fornication or older people thinking they can get away with it.
 - 2. Over and over the “Bills come due” and a terrible price is paid. **(Gal 6:7-8)**
- B. Consider the examples of the Old Testament. **(Rom 15:4: 1 Cor 10:11)**
 - 1. One of the great tragedies of the Old Testament is that of the king Manasseh.
 - 2. Does it pay to live a life of sin as long as I can repent and be saved before I die?

I. The Advantages of Manasseh

- A. He was **raised as a Jew** in the nation of Israel. **(Rom 3:1-2)**
 - 1. He heard the scriptures and knew of God’s will.
 - 2. The nation was faithful to God during his childhood.
- B. He had **a godly father**, Hezekiah. **(2 Kings 18:3)**
 - 1. He was a man who won many victories through prayer. **(2 Kings 20:2-6)**
 - 2. He would accept the word of God without question. **(2 Kgs 20:16-19)**
 - 3. Without a doubt the faith of Hezekiah deeply influenced his son Manasseh.
- C. He had **access to** one of the greatest of Old Testament prophets **Isaiah**.
 - 1. Would you want God’s will to guide you as king?
 - 2. Any man who knows the one true God would rejoice at this blessing.
Ex. King Jehoshaphat **(2 Chron 20:6, 12)**

II. The Choice of Manasseh

- A. Even with the great advantages Manasseh had, he still could choose evil!
 - 1. He became king at 12 years old. **(2 Kings 21:1)**
 - 2. At this age he would be very susceptible to the advice of the princes of Judah. Rehoboam fell to this influence. **(1 Kings 12:6-8)**
 - 3. When someone makes a stand they will determine what kind of company they will keep, Often this will be for a lifetime and for an eternity!**(1 Cor 15:33)**
- B. Manasseh completely gave himself over to evil. Look at what he did. **(2 Kgs 21:2)**
 - 1. He worshipped idol Gods and built altars in Israel. These are the Assyrian god’s that were completely discredited by God during his father’s reign! **(2 Kgs 21:3)**
 - a. The appeal of these gods was not truth but the flesh. (Immorality)
 - b. To many the sin of fornication is the first step away from the Lord.
 - 2. He desecrated the temple of the true God. **(2 Kings 21:4-5)**
 - a. When one departs from worship there remains no restraints. **(Rom 1:21,24)**
 - 3. He killed his own children in pursuit of pleasure. **(2 Kings 21:6)**
 - a. How many families are destroyed by sin?
 - b. What is the main reason for the millions of abortions in this country?
 - 4. He disdained the word of God. **(2 Kings 21:7-8)**

- a. He wanted a worship “relevant” for his generation.
- b. He no longer wanted a “negative” religion based upon “do’s and don’ts”.
- 5. He led the people into sin. (**2 Kings 21:9**)
 - a. These people were willingly led. They had become ripe for apostasy.

C. Manasseh hated the rebuke of faithful prophets. (**2 Kings 21:10-15**)

- 1. God was merciful to give Him warning.
- 2. Manasseh responded by murdering the righteous. (**2 Kings 21:16**)
- 3. In all probability one of these murdered men was Isaiah!

III. The Fall and Repentance of Manasseh

A. God kept his word concerning Manasseh. (**2 Chron 33:10-11**)

- 1. Was this good or bad for Manasseh?
- 2. Many are like Pharaoh and are hardened by humiliation.

B. Manasseh made a genuine repentance to God. (**2 Chron 33:12-13**)

- 1. Why did he remember God at this time? Because of the past efforts of Godly parents and other godly people. The **seed** was there.
- 2. Give Manasseh credit, he came back to God. His lived it! (**2 Chron 33:14-16**)
- 3. Remember one can never fall too low to be forgiven if they repent.

IV. The Unstoppable Consequences of the Sins of Manasseh

A. He could not bring back those he put to death!

- 1. Oh, how he needed Isaiah now.
- 2. He could not save those who died in the idolatry he introduced. (**Heb 9:27**)
- 3. How often does sin create things that cannot be undone.

B. He could not bring forth a full restoration of the nation. (**2 Chron 33:17**)

- 1. Mistakes made early in life often have consequences you cannot change later.
- 2. How often do you see children of different ages show the attitudes of parents at given times in their lives.

C. He could not save his own son. (**2 Chron 33:21-23**)

- 1. He was named after an idol God of Egypt.
- 2. What would his son have said to him after his change?

D. He could not clear his own name. (**2 Chron 33:18-19**)

- 1. Like the scars on his lips, his past would not go away.
- 2. Everyone for all time knows of his actions.

E. He could not avert the eventual destruction of his people.

- 1. The Babylonians did come and “wipe Jerusalem as a dish”.
- 2. When this happened Manasseh was given “credit”. (**Jer 15:1-4**)
- 3. Manasseh was saved, but his influence was felt for generations.
- 4. Remember the consequences of sin! (**Ex 34:7**) Ex. Man who quit in Abbeville.

Conclusion: Remember our question: Does it pay to live a life of sin as long as I can repent and be saved before I die? **Answer: NO, NO, NO!**

A. Sin is the worst news this world has ever known! Not even the blood of Christ can remove all consequences.

B. Should you give into one sin with the thought that you will be forgiven later? **THINK.**