

THREE STEPS TO (RUIN) PERDITION

Psalms 1

Note progression: walk, stand sit; (listen, join, defend)

Not just one giant step from good to evil. It takes 3 steps.

Having taken the 3 steps a member can go from:

Following Christ to deserting Him.

Believing truth to not believing it.

Active godliness to active sin.

SAVED to LOST

What are the 3 steps to perdition (final ruin)?

STEP ONE: DABBLE IN WHAT IS QUESTIONABLE OR WRONG

Become lax; ignore rules in particular instance.

Listen to "reasons" conjured up to justify allowing it.

Violate conscience.

Good conscience not maintained. Act.24:16

End of faith: good conscience. 1Ti.1:5

While suffering pangs of conscience, yet endure and continue.

May only plan to dabble, but like vortex of whirlpool, drawn in.

O.T. examples: Adam and Eve, David, etc.

N.T. examples: Judas, Ananias, Demas, etc.

No one immune to temptation. Anyone can yield to it.

STEP TWO: PARTICIPATE KNOWING IT'S WRONG

Rom.1:32. *And, although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.*

Refuse admonitions of Scriptures and brethren. 1Jo.3:21, Rom.6:16

Excuse: "Know it's wrong but..." "Don't want to discuss it." "Can't help it."

Stifle prodding of conscience.

Effectively weakening it, eventually making it ineffective.

STEP THREE: JUSTIFYING AND DEFENDING IT.

Rom.1:32b *"give hearty approval to those who practice them."*

One talent man defended his action. Mat.25:24-25

Sear conscience so it doesn't prod. 1Ti.1:19

RESULT: CHANGED FROM DEFENDING RIGHT TO DEFENDING WRONG

By the 3 steps: dabble, doing, defending.

By giving in, giving over, and giving up,

Final state: ruined. Heb.10:26-31

Conscience of no practical value; Life not consistent with godliness.

Become enemy of the cross of Christ. Phi.3:17-19

REMEDY: RESIST, REFRAIN, REMAIN

Resist being drawn into sin by evil surroundings. 2Co.6:17

Forego evil companions. 1Co.15:33

Refrain from questionable and worldly activity.

Remain steadfast. 1Co.15:58

FINAL ADMONITION: Heb.10:35-39

INVITATION: Psa.51:10-17