Sunday Morning | July 3, 2016 FANTASTIC SUMMER Sundays

"FREEDOM FROM HABITUAL SIN"

HEBREWS 12:1 (NLT) "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us."

(NASB) "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us."

I. THE BIRTH OF HABITUAL SINS

TRUTH: Many today have no fear of the sins that will ruin their lives tomorrow.

TRUTH: It is during the early years of our lives we develop "besetting sins."

TRUTH: It is our fallen nature that enables us to get easily entangled in sin.

TRUTH: It is easy for sin to enslave you and me.

II. WHY SINS PERSIST

1. Unredeemed flesh is a stronghold of sin (Romans 7:21, 24; Galatians 5:17).

TRUTH: Until we receive our new redeemed bodies, there's not a day we are not in danger of sin and ruining our lives.

2. Sin is always near (Jeremiah 13:23; Romans 7:15 LB).

TRUTH: Wherever you are, sin is there with you.

3. Sin is a chameleon (1 John 1:9; Romans 7:18, 22).

REALITY: Sin is powerful, present, and pervasive in every child of God.

III. GAINING FREEDOM FROM ENSNARING SINS

1. The power of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:16; 2 Timothy 3:16; Jeremiah 13:23)

TRUTH: Sin will begin to withdraw as we live in God's Word every day and obey what God prompts us to do (Psalm 119:9, 11).

- 2. Definite heart responses that break entangling sins:
 - a. Always know God reacts to your sin (Hebrews 12:5-11).
 - b. Make a promise to heaven not to sin (Psalm 119:106).
 - c. You'll never be that good.
 - d. Repent immediately of sin.
 - e. Ask for God's help.