

of Noah's drunkenness and Abraham's duplicity will occur to our minds. The Bible is the only book true to life.

2. *We are taught the persistence of the sin principle in the human heart.* From his very childhood David seems to have been of a religious turn of mind. Doubtless his contact with the beauties and splendor of nature in his shepherd life had impressed him much with the ideas of God's goodness and power of God, as we find from his psalms of outdoor life. His selection by Samuel, under God's direction, to be Saul's successor tells of his goodness. His conflict with the giant speaks to us of his courage and faith in God. His anxiety to restore the true worship by bringing back the ark tells of his love of the truth. His kindness to Mephibosheth speaks of his generous and forgiving heart. And yet throughout all these years the sin principle in the heart lived on ready to break forth in outward manifestation whenever opportunity offered and watchfulness was released.

3. *Uninterrupted prosperity and comparative idleness are often fruitful of sin.* For a number of years David's career had been one of steady and even brilliant success. His armies were triumphant everywhere and his kingdom was increasing rapidly in material wealth. The kings of other countries had paid homage to him. Under these circumstances a man is apt to grow self-reliant and also dictatorial, imagining that the rest of the world is made for his use. He fell, too, at a time when he had comparative leisure. No great project was engaging his attention at the time, and idleness brings many temptations into a heart not kept filled with good purposes. The ideal level of commonplace prosperity and the time of idleness are trying upon the life, and demand much grace to withstand their influence.

4. *One sin leads to another in efforts to hide consequences.* David had no sooner fallen into one great sin than he found it necessary to add a second to it in attempt to prevent unpleasant consequences from the first. A lie, for instance, cannot stand alone; it requires other lies to prop it up from either side. Thus

the succession begins, and every sin has a numerous progeny. The moral is to beware of the beginning of sin. Keep unceasing watch over the life, that the first sin may not appear and lead to others.

5. *The soul will not be at rest till the sin is forgiven.* The third and fourth verses tell that in unmistakable terms. When David kept silence and tried to conceal his sin and ignore it, the weakness as of age crept on him and all the freshness seemed dying out of his life. Sin cannot be ignored or suppressed in that way. The problem of sin must be solved and its only solution is in the cross of the atoning Christ. Until the sinner comes to that cross he will carry the unrest and remorse everywhere, that come in consequence of sin.

6. *There is forgiveness for the blackest sin if we truly repent and confess it.* As we read the story of David we find unmistakable signs in his after life of the fact that God had blotted out his sins and restored him once more to his gracious favor. So will God do to every returning sinner. The religion that has not some message for the very worst, even at the very last, is not the religion of the Christ who forgave the repentant thief on the cross. There is hope for all. The Son of man came to seek and to save the lost, and to call, not the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

ADDED POINTS.

1. Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.
2. Even the great saints were men of like passions with ourselves.
3. It takes a courageous prophet to unveil the sin of a king.
4. There is no royal road to forgiveness.
5. The cry of conscience will not down at our bidding.
6. Repentance and confession precede forgiveness and peace.
7. The forgiven are compassed with victories set to music.
8. The happiest man is he whose sins are covered by the blood.

THE BLACKBOARD.

SIN

HIDDEN.

DENIED

BRINGS

SORROW.

TROUBLE.

ACKNOWLEDGED.

CONFESSED

IS

FORGIVEN.

COVERED.

"I will confess my transgressions."

"If we confess our sins he is faithful to forgive."