

The Temptation.

Man, with full earthly happiness and unbroken communion with God, is given the opportunity of proving his conscious obedience to God. This opportunity comes through the approach of the tempter.

The Question of Sin.

How sin came into the world, why it is there, what is its purpose in the creation, we do not know. We only know it in our own experience and in what we see around us. We know that it is subtle and insidious, coming like a serpent to-day as of old to our first parents; stealing in unseen, glittering as it exercises its fascinating influence, as it wreathes its coils around us.

The Way in which Sin Works.

1. Questioning whether God really has forbidden the thing or not (iii. 1).

2. Questioning whether the penalty really will fall or not (iii. 4).

3. Questioning whether the advantage to be gained does not make it worth our while to run the risk (iii. 6).

4. Questioning whether after all we have not the right to do as we choose.

5. By listening to suggestions of evil. By playing with the thoughts of sin.

6. By the sin of covetousness. Eve had all she needed, but she fixed her desire on what was not given to her by God. What we desire we strive after. What we fix our eyes and our thoughts upon in course of time becomes the goal towards which we work. Therefore, "Whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely . . . think on these things." "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness."

The Consequences of Sin.

1. *Eve did not sin alone.*—There is a great and terrible law in sin, and that law is that we do not sin alone. If we do not, like Eve, actually draw another into our sin, yet by

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