

“THE PRIDE OF LIFE”

Among the ways of temptation, John refers to the “pride of life” (along with the lust of the flesh, and eyes) in 1 Jn. 2:16. Even Solomon of old wrote that “Pride goeth before a fall” (Prov.16:18). In Matt. 4, we have the account of Satan appealing to Jesus to cast Himself down from a pinnacle of the temple, and angels would protect Him from any danger of the rocks and earth below. What an accomplish that would be for the Lord—to perform such a feat! Young men by the hundreds would yield to such an offer if they had ANY assurance they would not be killed. Even so, if some WERE killed, it would be a challenge to many others to do it without injury or death. Was it not pride that motivated Evel Kneivel to his many death-defying feats?

CBS news recently reported a challenging feat of climbing some of the rugged rocks and mountains in the Santa Ana Mountain range in Orange County, California. It seems that a few have successfully climbed these mountains, and filmed their feat and put it on FaceBook, and many have been lured to make this one of their feats as well. The many enticing pictures and stories that are posted have challenged many into trying it as well. Park rangers and emergency crews are kept very busy in trying to rescue many who have begun their climbs, but have fallen to their deaths, or to serious injuries to their bodies—such as multiple spinal injuries. Some who have survived would not recommend it to others—yet MANY continue to take the plunge. The “pride” of making a name for themselves, and to do something that few are able to do, continues to bring climbers to the Orange Mountains. The presence of rocks and poison oaks is always present.

Temptation to sin is often prevalent through “pride”. It really matters not whether one falls through the lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh OR the pride of life. The end result is death. Not always physical death, but always spiritual death. Then, if repentance never occurs, the final end will be eternal death. Mountain climbers are warned of, and are aware of the dangers, but refuse the warning. Young folks especially, who are lured into the use of drugs and alcohol, and fornication (sex outside of marriage), most often do not heed the warnings, and plunge to their own death. James says that when sin is finished, it brings forth death (Jas. 1:15). In Proverbs 5, Solomon goes through two scenarios to show the folly of young men being lured by immoral women. First, he calls for “wisdom” to avoid such allurements and points out that the end of such activities is bitter—ending in “death” (5:1-5). Second, Solomon tells about a man who ponders his temptation briefly, but is entrapped and caught up, and finally experiences death (5:15-23). “Why will you die?”

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