

be a stumbling block before the young believers and hindering you from helping them in a life of purity for the Lord, will you not put it away?

10—IT COSTS A CROWN. In James 1:12, the Lord promises a crown of life to those of His Own who "endure temptation" because they love Him. As Henry's father promises him a gold watch if he does not use tobacco before he is twenty-one, and he must choose one or the other—he cannot have both—so you cannot yield to this sin and get the "crown of life." In addition to this crown, the Lord shall give the "crown of glory" to those who are Godly examples to the flock, (1 Peter 5:4).

Deliverance From It

Now do you not want to be delivered from this habit? I trust that you will honestly answer, "Yes, I do; but how can I?" Here is some practical help.

1—Confess before the Lord your sin in practicing this habit, even after you had become one of His dear children; this confession will cause you to judge yourself and loath this thing. (Confession leads to holiness of life; see 1 John 1:9 with 1 John 2:1; Prov. 28:13).

2—Tell Him that your honest desire is to stop this habit, for His glory, but that you have no strength in yourself to do so.

3—Rely upon the Holy Spirit within you, as the Power for your deliverance, and deliver the battle into His hands. He will not relieve you of the responsibility, but He will be your Captain and Deliverer: follow Him, (Gal. 5:16).

4—Start out to wage the war; throw all the stuff into the fire. (Don't hide it behind the bush.)

5—Throwing out the tobacco can put a New Testament in its place. When you get hungry for

the tobacco, put some of the heavenly Manna into your mouth.

6—When the battle is going hard with you and you feel like you just must have some tobacco, get down before the Lord and speak to Him like this, "Lord Jesus Christ (be sure to use His full name; it has power, Psa. 54:1; Prov. 18:10) deliver me by Thy Spirit's power, that I might glorify Thee in my life, for Thy Name's sake, Amen." If you must cry to Him fifty times in the day, do so, but never give up. **Cling to Him for deliverance.**

Perhaps you have heard some Christians tell how the Lord took all the taste for it from them, and you wonder why He leaves you to battle on with it. He wants you to learn warfare, and He is preparing you for future battles. This will be your proving ground. David proved the Lord and the Lord proved David, in the desert, when he slew the bear and the lion and then he came forth with the Lord to a greater battle and won it. If you will slay this lion (tobacco), then He will use you to slay a "Goliath of Gath." This is your opportunity to learn that your Lord and Saviour is also One Who is able to deliver His people from their sins, (Matt. 1:21).

When delivered from this habit, don't go crowing around at testimony meetings about your victory, but praise Him and try to help some other struggling one. Walk carefully, for some times a dead lion proves to be a wounded lion. "Watch and pray lest ye enter into temptation."

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Tobacco

The Evil of It—
Deliverance From It

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"

For ye are bought with a price: therefore GLORIFY GOD IN YOUR BODY, and in your spirit, which are God's."

1 Cor. 6:19,20.



See also
Colossians 3:17

THE TOBACCO QUESTION
AND MIGHTY HARD TO ANSWER

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By
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TOBACCO

THE EVIL OF IT—DELIVERANCE FROM IT

Some, in an attempt to retain their tobacco habit, have asked if the Bible says it is wrong. In answer to this I shall give ten Scriptural reasons why a real Christian should not use tobacco. (I refer to smoking, chewing or dipping, though some of my statements may apply to one form of its use.)

The Evil of It

1—IT IS AN UNCLEAN HABIT. The stained teeth and fingers, the black mouth, the strong breath, the smoky room, and the stained fireplace, all testify to the truth of this. Therefore it is condemned by God's Word. "All uncleanness—let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints, neither filthiness"; "Dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit" (Eph. 5:3-4; 2 Cor. 7:1).

2—IT IS A WORLDLY PRACTICE, being one of the world's inventions to enslave men to a habit that will fill the world's treasuries. As it is a worldly practice, it is forbidden by Eph. 4:17-22; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 John 2:15-16. If some one told you that "Paul" smoked and "John" chewed and "Mary" dipped, you would be ashamed to think that of them: if so of them, why not of you? Has God given you some "indulgence" to sin?

3—IT IS NOT OF FAITH, BUT SIN. If some one told you that they were trusting God in faith to supply them with food to eat, you would say, "Good"; but if they told you they were trusting in the Lord to supply them with tobacco, you would say, "Wicked." And why? Because it is not in the path of faith. Would one pray to God for tobacco? And would He give it to them? As it is

not in the path of faith, it is sin, "for whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (Rom. 14:23).

4—IT IS AN ENSLAVING HABIT. Many have testified that it had a much stronger hold on them than did liquor. It always enslaves its users. They boast of how they could stop it, but when they try, they discover its power over them. The Lord Jesus came to bring "deliverance to the captives" (Luke 4:18) and for one to belong to Him and go on in slavery to a sinful habit is dishonoring to Him. We are exhorted to "stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage" (Gal. 5:1); this is a Divine principle.

5—IT WASTES MONEY AND LEADS TO SELFISH LIVING. Indulgence in this habit causes such annual waste of money that often food bills are unpaid, children poorly cared for, and little or nothing is given to the Lord. What a serious accounting awaits such persons, when the Lord shall say, "Give an account of thy stewardship." Let them remember 1 Tim. 5:8 and 1 Cor. 16:1-2. Why not stop the tobacco, and give that much additional to the Lord? Isn't it better to lay it up as treasure in heaven, than to burn it up—polluting God's air, or spit it out—defiling God's earth? It leads to selfish living so that the user becomes unmindful of others, puffing his smoke in their faces or where they must smell it. If a husband and father, he cannot receive the affection of his wife and children without subjecting them to the stench of his breath. This is gross selfishness, and for a Christian, it is rebuked in Heb. 10:24.

6—IT RUINS HEALTH. The cough, the bad throat, the nervousness and restlessness, all show the sad effect of this habit on the body. A believer cannot "glorify God in his body," according

to 1 Cor. 6:19-20, while he continues in this habit. We should remember that "the body is for the Lord."

7—IT MARS THE CONSCIENCE AND GRIEVES THE HOLY SPIRIT. This habit of the old life is one of the things that grieve the Holy Spirit and therefore it is to be "put away," (Eph. 4:30). Each believer needs to be very careful to maintain a "good conscience" (1 Tim. 1:19) and a "pure conscience" (1 Tim. 3:9) and "to have always a conscience void of offence toward God and toward men" (Acts 24:16). The toleration of the tobacco habit leaves him with a condemning conscience. If its voice is not heeded he will have a hardened conscience and is in danger of soon tolerating worse sins in his life.

8—IT HINDERS THE TESTIMONY. Both the personal and collective testimony for the Lord are hindered by this habit. You cannot speak with power to a man about his soul while you practice the things he does. One man, trying to help a troubled soul at the end of a stirring meeting was met with these words, "No, you can't help me; you use tobacco." When a gathering of Christians have among them those who use tobacco, it hinders their united testimony for Christ. (The tobacco should be put away, not the Christian).

9—IT IS A POOR EXAMPLE. 1 Tim. 4:12 says, "Be thou an example of the believers—in purity." When souls are being reached with the gospel, they look to see how those already saved live. If they use tobacco, it encourages the young believers to do the same. Thus they are stumbled. Each believer should be an example of a pure Christian life, and able to say to the young believers, "Be ye followers of me," as Paul could say. Since your tobacco is then causing you to