

THREE STEPS TO PERDITION

PSALMS 1

Note the progression: **GO NEAR, OBSERVE, JOIN**. Psalms 1:11

It's not just one giant step from good to evil ... it takes three steps.

Having taken the three steps, a disciple can go from:

Following Christ to deserting Him.

Believing the truth to believing a lie. Gal.1:6ff

Active participation to active sinning. 2Ti.3:1-5

Being saved to being lost.

What are the three steps to perdition (final ruin)?

STEP ONE: DABBLE IN QUESTIONABLE OR WRONG ACTIVITIES

Become lax; rules not always followed.

Excuse: "I know it's wrong but ... I can't help it."

One may only "dabble" in worldliness; but like a vortex, it draws one in little by little.

Example: David desiring Bathsheba. 2Sa.11:2-3

From lust to adultery to deceit to murder.

Example: Judas's love of money. Joh.12:4-6

From love of money to thievery to betrayal to suicide.

STEP TWO: PARTICIPATE KNOWING IT'S WRONG

Rom.1:32 "... although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death ..."

Refusing to listen to the admonitions of the Scriptures and brethren.

Jam.4:17, 1Jo.3:21, Rom.14:23

Stifling the prodding of conscience. Rom.14:22

This effectively weakens one's resolve.

STEP THREE: JUSTIFYING AND DEFENDING IT

Rom.1:32b "... they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them."

This sears the conscience, effectively bringing one to perdition.

Note how the one-talent man defended his action. Mat.25:24-25

RESULT: CHANGED FROM DEFENDING RIGHT TO DEFENDING WRONG

Progressing from **dabbling, to doing, to defending.**

Progressing from **giving in, to giving over, to giving up.**

Final state: **ruined.** Heb.10:26-31. Last condition worse than before. 2Pe.2:20-21

REMEDY: RESIST, REFRAIN, REMAIN

Refrain from associating with evil companions. 1Co.15:33

Resist being drawn into sin by evil surroundings. 2Co.6:17

Remain aloof from questionable and worldly activity. Rom.14:22-23

Remain steadfast. 1Co.15:58

ADMONITION: DON'T TAKE THE FIRST STEP

Note: *Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. For yet in a very little while, he who is coming will come, and will not delay. But my righteous one shall live by faith; and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.* Hebrews 10:35-39 NASB