The Way of the Transgressor is Hard

I. Introduction
   a. Proverbs 13:15 - Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard. - KJV
   b. David and Bathsheba
      i. 2 Sam. 11:26-27 – David Sins
      ii. 12:13 – David repents and is forgiven
      iii. 12:14 – But the consequences still remain
         1. The enemies of the Lord have occasion to blaspheme
         2. The child will die
         3. The sword will not depart from David’s house – 12:10
   c. Was David forgiven? YES
   d. Even without the guilt of his sin, did he find way of the transgressor to be hard? YES
      i. If this is a true of a forgiven, submissive, trusting child of God
      ii. How hard is it for the stiff-necked and rebellious?

II. KEY THOUGHT: The way of the transgressor is hard
   a. because of natural cause and effect,
   b. because God makes it hard, and
   c. because sin defiles our whole life.

III. Because of Natural cause and effect
   a. Every action produces a reaction, and sinful choices have evil consequences
      i. Sexual immorality – Illegitimate children, disease, broken homes and relationships
      ii. Drugs, Alcohol, Smoking – Disease, destruction of mind and body, death
      iii. Sins of the Tongue – Destroyed influence, destroyed friendships, destroyed churches, destroyed souls
   b. In each of these cases, the bitter fruit follows naturally from the sinful seed that is planted by an unrighteous word or deed.
   c. Notice that God does not usually protect us from the consequences of these things.
      i. Why not?
      ii. We’ll look at some of the reasons when we notice our next point
      iii. That sometimes the natural consequences are not bad enough, and God steps in to make it even harder

IV. Because God makes it hard
   a. Haggai 1:5-11 –
      i. Background of Haggai
      ii. God was not going to let them be comfortable while they were ignoring His will
   b. What if God made it easy for us?
      i. We might not miss the fellowship with God that is lost by sin
      ii. We may even conclude God is pleased with us in our sins
iii. We may feel little or no motivation to repent and seek forgiveness

   c. Why God makes it hard
      i. To remind us of how horrible sin is – Do you ever hate the devil
         1. When my parents divorced
         2. When I met a young teenaged girl who had been cutting herself
         3. When I see my brother or sister beaten down by the world and paying a heavy price
      ii. To remind us of our own weakness
         1. Jacob – Gen 32:31
         2. Paul – 2 Cor. 12:7-10
      iii. To remind us of God’s love
         1. Heb. 12:5-11
         2. Rev. 3:19

V. Because sin defiles our whole life
   a. Some think they can sin and it won’t affect their family, job, friendships, worship, etc.
      i. Compartmentalization
      ii. This is utterly false
      iii. James 1:8
   b. Haggai 2:10-14 – “every work of their hand … is unclean”
      i. Dishrag
      ii. Swine Flu

VI. Conclusion
   a. The way of the transgressor is hard
   b. The consequences of sin make life extremely difficult
      i. It can destroy our lives
      ii. But there is something worse
   c. The guilt of sin
      i. It can and will destroy the soul
      ii. It is the greater evil
      iii. When confronted with our own sinfulness, we should be much more concerned with avoiding the guilt of our sin than the consequences of our sin
         1. David – Against you only have I sinned – Ps. 51:3-4, 10-13
         2. Saul – Honor me in the eyes of the people – 1 Sam. 15:24-31
            a. 1 Samuel 15:30 Then he said, I have sinned: yet honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God.
   d. What if a person says, “I’m doing fine. I’m prospering in sin with no ill effects.”?
      i. I am avoid or dealing with whatever consequences come
      ii. God is not making it hard for me
      iii. And my sins aren’t affecting my whole life
      iv. It’s not hard at all!
v. ILLUSTRATION: How to kill a wolf
vi. In our frenzied pursuit of sin and pleasure we can ignore the fact that our soul is being destroyed
e. Invitation
   i. When we repent, God will forgive
      1. Acts 2:38
      2. 1 John 1:9
   ii. The consequences may remain
      1. David’s son deposed him from being king – 2 Sam. 15:14-16
      2. He was heartlessly cursed and mocked – 2 Sam. 16:5-13
   iii. But if we trust in the Lord we will be blessed –
      1. Psa 3:1-6 – Written while on the run from his own son!
   iv. Matt. 11:28-30
      1. The way of the transgressor is hard
      2. The way of Jesus is rest for the soul