

Yield Not to Temptation

I. Introduction

A. The hymn *Yield Not to Temptation* expresses key principals about the choices Christians face each day concerning whether or not to obey God. Consider some teachings of Scripture alluded to in this hymn. *Hymns for Worship, Song 442*

II. “Yielding is Sin”

A. The hymn begins with the words, “Yield not to temptation, For yielding is sin.” These words touch on the distinction between *temptation* to sin and sin *itself*. **Hebrews 4:15**

B. While we cannot avoid all *temptations* to sin, we can (and must) pursue the *way of escape* God provides. **1 Corinthians 10:13**

III. “Fight Manfully Onward”

A. The first verse continues with the words, “Fight manfully onward, Dark passions subdue.” This brings to mind the diligence, courage, and steadfastness the Christian needs to endure the spiritual battles we face. **1 Corinthians 16:13**

IV. “Shun Evil Companions”

A. The second verse exhorts, “Shun evil companions.” While Scripture does *not* teach Christians to completely avoid people of the world (cf. **1 Cor. 5:9-10**), warnings *are* given that show the need for us to watch our influences. **1 Corinthians 15:33**

B. Perhaps the phrase “shun evil companions” can be applied more broadly to shunning *sin*. This includes turning from bad language, as exhorted in the hymn. **Matthew 12:36-37**

V. “Be Thoughtful and Earnest”

A. The hymn continues with the words, “Be thoughtful and earnest.” It takes thoughtfulness to *rightly divide* God’s Word and *apply* His teachings. We should also thoughtfully *meditate* on the wonderful things He promotes. **Philippians 4:8**

VI. “Kindhearted and True”

A. Two additional qualities Scripture commands that the hymn alludes to are *kindheartedness* and *truthfulness*. While being a kind person does not, by *itself*, make one pleasing to God, it is a key *part* of pleasing God. **Ephesians 4:31-32**

B. The same can be said for truthfulness, which applies to our speech, and can more generally apply to the sincerity we must have in our service to God. **Ephesians 4:25**

VII. “To Him That O’ercometh...”

A. The third verse of the hymn begins with the words, “To him that o’ercometh, God giveth a crown.” While the path of righteousness is often difficult, the comfort God provides to those who choose it is more than worth it. **2 Timothy 4:7-8**

VIII. “He Who is Our Savior...”

A. The strength to endure trials and temptations is supplied by our Savior. It is the Lord who provides the “armor” we need to “fight” the spiritual battles we face. As the song says, “Look ever to Jesus, He’ll carry you thru.” **Ephesians 6:10**

IX. “Ask the Savior to Help You”

A. This leads into the chorus of the hymn, which stresses the help the Lord provides for those who choose the path of righteousness. He is *willing* to aid us, but we must be willing to *receive* the help He offers. **Hebrews 4:16**

X. Conclusion

A. May we never excuse sin, but each take responsibility to choose the path of obedience to the Lord. May we shun evil, zealously pursue good, and petition God for His help.