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THE BULWARK

TRAPPED!!!

By design it is ever so enticing. Everything about it from it's overall beauty to the scent it sends forth is intended to draw prey to it. The unsuspecting victim crawls into the welcoming open flower, which then triggers the sensors along the outer rim, setting off the trap which in 1/10 of a second snaps shut entombing it's prey. The Venus flytrap is truly a unique flower for it is carnivorous. Once the beauty closes, enzymes work to consume whatever insect or arachnid has allowed itself to be "seduced" by the Venus flytrap "charms". Gulp and gone.

A working definition for a trap is "a device to catch animals, a trick to catch a person" (AI Overview) In life we are often faced with various situations and or things that can serve as a trap. Solomon writing in the book of Proverbs in chapter five noted the following with respect to a most seductive trap. *"My son, give attention to my wisdom, incline your ear to my understanding; that you may observe discretion, and your lips may reserve knowledge. For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and smoother than oil is her speech; but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death, her steps lay hold of Sheol. She does not ponder the path of life; her ways are unstable, she does not know it. Now then, my sons, listen to me, and do not depart from the words of my mouth. Keep your way far from her, and do not let go near the door of her house."* (vs 1-8) Ominous warning to say the least. But how many have been enticed by those things of a sensual nature? It isn't just the young and naïve who are ensnared. Pressing on further in the fifth chapter, Solomon notes, *"Drink water from your own cistern, and fresh water from your own well."* (v 15), he uses this as a type in order to stress fidelity in marriage (see verses 16-20)



How many families have been torn apart by having a spouse getting seduced by the allure of another. Euphemisms for infidelity are numerous but they do nothing to soften the damage and destruction brought about by allowing self to be trapped!

Yet there is another trap that is found in the Scriptures that can easily capture the unsuspecting. Paul in his first letter to the young evangelist, Timothy, set forth a dire warning as seen in the sixth chapter and verses nine through ten. *"But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang."* The NIV uses the word "griefs" in place of "pang". Grief indeed.

The promise of happiness in life that material possessions and wealth present is tenuous at best. Clearly if one sets such as first place in their life, it will indeed become problematic to say the least. The author of Hebrews challenges children of God to *"Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself said, 'I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you.'"* (13:5) Once again, notice the words of Solomon. *"Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless."* (Ecclesiastes 5:10)

Don't let yourself get trapped. Appreciate the preciousness of your relationship with God. Set your priority therein and never allow anyone or anything to draw you away. (wbe)