

We live in a day with many “Asa’s” who in many forms of leadership both in and out of the church:

1. *Misplaced Trust* [trust in human wisdom, techniques, programs, plans]
2. *Impenitent Attitudes* [when convicted by sin, some are too prideful to repent]
3. *Disregarding Scripture* [Scripture exposes sin, it’s disregarded; explained away]
4. *Little Accountability* (isolated) [pastors? Professors? Leaders? Really? Pastors: do they need it??]

But be sure that your sin will find you out (Num 32.23)

THESIS — 5 STEPS TO SURELY MAKING A DISASTER OF YOUR LIFE & CHRISTIAN WALK.

In other words, here are 5 sure ways to destroy your life. How to shipwreck your faith?

I. UNGUARDED COMPLACENCY IN PEACEFUL/EASY TIMES **(15:19)**

II. MISPLACED CONFIDENCE AND TRUST WHEN **HARDSHIP STRIKES (16:1-6)**

It is a foolish thing to lean upon a broken reed when we have the Rock of Ages to rely upon. (Matthew Henry)

“Some boast in chariots and some in horses, but we will boast in the name of the Lord, our God (Ps 20.7)
“Victory belongs to the LORD” (Prov 21.31)

III. UNCONTROLLED ANGER & IMPENITENCE WHEN CONFRONTED WITH DIVINE TRUTH (7-10)

The prophetic speech follows a prophetic “judgment oracle” which has three parts:

1. The accusation (v.7);
2. The reminder of past blessings (v.8-9a);
3. The accusation and sentencing (v.9b)

The prophetic message from Hanani:

He exposes the placed object of trust (7)

He reflects on the past graces of God (8)

He reveals the demands of God (9a)

He reproves for his Unfaithfulness (9b)

He promises the consequences of his sin (9c)

Asa’s response to the prophetic message (v.10):

Remember: those that idolize their own conduct cannot bear contradiction.
All self-lovers can’t stand to be reproved by Scripture!

IV. LACKING LOVE FOR & REJECTING THE PEOPLE OF GOD (10b)

V. PERSISTING IN CALLOUS, ARROGANT, AND WILLFUL REBELLION AGAINST GOD (11-14)

Review: Here’s the path to the sure *shipwreck* of your faith. How to destroy your life...

1. Unguarded Complacency in Peaceful/Easy Times (15:19)
2. Misplaced Confidence and Trust when Hardship Strikes (16:1-6)
3. Uncontrolled Anger and Impenitence when Confronted with Divine Truth (7-10)
4. Lacking Love for and Rejecting the People of God (10b)
5. Persisting in callous, arrogant and willful rebellion against God (11-14)

But now, How to safeguard and ensure you “finish well”; that is, how to **NOT** shipwreck your faith:

- ✓ **Read the Word Daily**
- ✓ **Receive Loving Reproof Humbly**
- ✓ **Remain in Fellowship Intentionally**
- ✓ **Repent of Sin Specifically**
- ✓ **Relish the Gospel Happily**

Conclusion:

Be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time because the days are evil (Eph 5.15-16).

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Come behold the wondrous mystery, in the dawning of
the King
He the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail
humanity
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has
come
Look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to
ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, he the perfect
Son of Man
In his living, in his suffering, never trace nor stain of sin
See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell-
bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfillment of the law, in him
we stand.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, Christ the Lord
upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in
victory
See the price of our redemption, see the Father's plan
unfold
Bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured, love
untold

Come behold the wondrous mystery, slain by death the
God of life
But no grave could e'er restrain him, praise the Lord,
He is alive
What a foretaste of deliverance, how unwavering our
hope
Christ in power resurrected, as will we be when he
comes.

By Faith

By faith we see the hand of God
In the light of creation's grand design
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness
Who walk by faith and not by sight
By faith our fathers roamed the earth
With the power of His promise in their hearts
Of a holy city built by God's own hand
A place where peace and justice reign

*We will stand as children of the promise
We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward
Till the race is finished and the work is done
We'll walk by faith and not by sight*

By faith the prophets saw a day
When the longed-for Messiah would appear
With the power to break the chains of sin and death
And rise triumphant from the grave
By faith the church was called to go
In the power of the Spirit to the lost
To deliver captives and to preach good news
In every corner of the earth

*We will stand as children of the promise
We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward
Till the race is finished and the work is done
We'll walk by faith and not by sight*

By faith this mountain shall be moved
And the power of the gospel shall prevail
For we know in Christ all things are possible
For all who call upon His name

*We will stand as children of the promise
We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward
Till the race is finished and the work is done
We'll walk by faith and not by sight*