

## **Inch by Inch, Anything's a Cinch.**

According to the Chinese proverb, “a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” Another proverb goes like this, “inch by inch, anything’s a cinch.” Christian salvation, I believe, is an ages-long process that begins by entering into a relationship with Christ and does not end until the conclusion of the ages. In the words of the Apostle Paul in Philippians 3:13-14, “*I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*”

When we enter into relationship with Christ we become *new creatures*. (2 Cor. 5:17) Old things pass away and all things become new. This is not an instantaneous process. It is a life-long journey that I believe continues after death. Progress, not perfection, is the best indicator that we have been genuinely “converted” to Christ. We all struggle with sinful habits in our lives, and like all addictions, they are very hard to break. Some are impossible to overcome without God’s help.

Here’s a suggestion for those of you who are struggling with a major problem or goal in your life. Try and break down the solution into very small bite-sized pieces, or steps. Decide what your first step will be, and make a commitment to do it each day, religiously, no matter what. Continue to do this until it becomes a daily habit and becomes a part of your lifestyle. Daily habits can be difficult to form, often with many missteps along the way, but once formed, they are just as difficult to break. Once you have formed your little “first-step” habit, then take another very small step, and form another habit that will advance your progress towards overcoming a major sin problem or achieving any positive life goal.