More Toxic Than Rat Poison

Growing up, I recall my grandmother selling rat poison in her grocery store. The rat poison had a skull and crossbones on the box with a big red X, so you knew just by looking at the box that the contents were dangerously toxic to anything that consumed the contents of the box. Just as consuming the poison for the rat is deadly; we must understand that consuming sin for us is deadly - spiritually. Dangerously toxic is how God presents sin to us. Sin is not just harmful; it is more deadly than rat poison. The rat poison does kill that rat once. However, consuming sin will keep on killing us forever in eternity.

Consider how sin is deadly to us. Through sin, we inherited death (1 Corinthians 15:56, Hebrews 9:27). Ignoring the law of God is sin (Romans 7:7). Failing to do the right thing when we have the knowledge of what is right is sin (James 4:17). Denying Christ instead of confessing Him is sin (1 John 5:16). All unrighteousness or wrong doing or unrighteousness is sin (1 John 5:17). Sin is reproachable (Proverbs 14:34). Sin is lawlessness (1 John 3:4). Sin is always crouching waiting at the door to devour us (Genesis 4:7).

Even considering these Bible verses to help us understand just how toxic sin is, we must further understand that if any of these things are in us, then we are slaves to it (John 8:34). Think of how the rat is lured into eating the poison. Such is how the devil works. Given in to temptation may begin slowly. However, the more one gives in, the easier it becomes to give in. In addition, before one realizes it, sin in ruling in our mortal body (Romans 6:12). If we want to live eternally with God, we cannot take the sinful bait. Rather, we must rid ourselves of our sin or we will die a second death, spiritually for all eternity (Revelation 21:8).

The Hebrew writer instructs us, "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1). Like the rat, we are lured by the poison that is sin. John writes, "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (1 John 2:16). Paul furthers with, "So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh" (Galatians 5:16). Sin has its lure and the devil knows it. Remember, Jesus was tempted in all ways that we are tempted - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - yet, He did not give in (Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13). We must purpose in all that we do to follow His example.