

A Thousand Times ... No!

Ever notice that you can say "no" a thousand times, but all those no's are canceled by one "yes"? "No, you can't have a cookie, can't have a cookie, can't have a cookie! Okay, yes!" The cookie will be eaten! To concede and fail you don't have to say yes as many times as you must say no to remain steadfast and succeed.

A thousand no's to fornication are deleted by one yes that robs one of his virtue and virginity. A thousand no's to adultery are swept away by a yes that destroys family, home and soul. A thousand no's to drugs are erased by a yes that opens the door to all kinds of destruction and excess. A thousand no's to stealing are forgotten by a yes on our record when we stand before the law. A thousand no's to pornography are overwhelmed by a yes that writes indelible images in the mind. It applies across the board to all sin.

While it is certainly true that forgiveness in Christ is available for any sinful yes decision we make, this must not be seen as license to make that errant decision even once. We are called to completely die to sin (Rom. 6)-it is to

By David Diestelkamp have no part in us, or us in it.

Parents often tire of the "May I have a cookie?" question and finally concede with a yes. Kids know this. Satan knows this. We tire of saying no and looking different from others. We tire of our "no" answer causing abstinence from activities that appear pleasurable and fun. We tire of always being the one to say no. In time, sin nags us to the point where we finally want to say, "Okay, yes just this time." How much more can God expect us to resist-how many more times must we say no?

The Hebrew writer reminds us, "You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin" (Heb. 12:4). We're not just talking about saying no to the point of alienation and missing out on some of life's pleasures. Resisting "to bloodshed, striving against sin" means saying no to sin until it kills us! That means a thousand times no to the sin that tempts us from within and from without. And when we have said no a thousand times it is then time to say it a thousand and one times, and more!



Monday 7 PM Ladies Class at the Rouse's on "Fruit of the Spirit"	Tuesday 8PM Truth Seekers in Room 2310 in Student Center	Wed 12 Noon Ladies class at the Rouse's on "Women of the Bible"
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Sick			
Richard Wood (Melanie Smith's Uncle)	Eli Williams (Friend of Sarah Norman)	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz's Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	Bill Rhodes (Toni Herd's Uncle)	Philip Locke (Jeremiah Johnson's Uncle)
Josie Keith (Friend of Heath Fowler)	Grandparents of Mary Ann Roberts	Easton Alexander (Phillip Box's cousin's baby)	Jerry Sandlin (Megan Lee's Grandfather)
Gaylord Huffman (Jennifer Daniel's Grandfather)	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Erlene Davis (Walker Davis' mother)	Mary Smith (Nathan Smith's Grandmother)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)	Dale Herd (William Herd's brother)	Larry Alexander (Friend of Phillip Box)
Marty and Aubrey Meeks, Russell Dickerson (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Betty Bradford	Ann Robinson (Sharon Bailey's Mom)	Debra Lowe (Toni Herd's Friend)

January Birthdays

- 1 - David Ogle
- 2 - Chuck Hunt
- 4 - Phillip Box
- 5 - Rusty Weldon
- 6 - Erica Seymore
- 6 - Daniel Rogers
- 7 - Hunter Collins
- 11 - Shepherd Hall
- 11 - Spencer Hall
- 14- Roy Liu
- 18 - Scott Vaughn
- 21 - Jacob Jerkins
- 23 - Conner Godwin
- 24 - Melanie Daves
- 25 - Caleb Daniels
- 28 - Clay Jones
- 31 - Jennifer Daniels

News and Notes

- Our meeting with Buddy Payne will start this Sunday! Invitations are in the foyer.
- The Meal list for our Gospel Meeting is on the board.
- We welcome David Golden back to Auburn after a tour of duty!
- Scott Perkins was taken to the hospital in Huntsville on Saturday.
- Let's continue to remember our expectant mother, Candy Long, in our prayers.
- Our monthly men's business meeting will be today at 3:30.
- Thanks for all who worked so hard for the Philippians study!

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Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

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NO COMPROMISE

DO WHAT IS RIGHT, BE VALIANT FOR THE TRUTH, TEACH IT WITHOUT COMPROMISE AND ALL LOVERS OF THE TRUTH WILL APPROVE YOU FOR ALL OTHERS, YOU NEED NOT CARE A RUSH.

Thoughts to Ponder

If Jesus had preached the same message that many preach today He would have never been crucified.

Do You Have a Bible Question?
Call (334) 734-2133 or E-mail: LarryRouse@aubeacon.com

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

Ask about our home Bible Study Groups!
Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

"Righteous Lot"

By Edward O. Bragwell, Sr.

(2 Peter 2:7-8) "...and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds) -- (NKJV)

Lot, the nephew of Abraham, is scripturally judged to have been a "righteous man". That does not mean that he was a perfect man. He was subject to weakness and made mistakes. This is clear from observing both his pre-Sodom and post-Sodom days.

Lot's Unwise Move

Lot made a grave mistake in judgment in choosing the well-watered plain of Jordan as a place to raise his family (Gen. 13:10). The plain was as wicked as it was prosperous. There was nothing inherently wrong in his choice. After all, Abraham had freely given him the choice. However, as time passed, it proved to have been a poor choice. His children grew up and married in that environment. Later, when he attempted to save them from destruction, his sons-in-law thought he was joking (Gen. 19:15). We are not

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told how many children Lot had in all, but only two daughters escaped destruction. Even after their escape the wicked influence of Sodom still surfaced in the two daughters (Gen. 19:30-38).

One needs all the help he can get in raising his children in righteousness. In the best of communities there are adverse influences. To escape all evil influences one would have to go out of the world. Yet, there are clearly communities where moral standards are much worse than others. There are communities where there are some opportunities to form friendships with morally upright people. There are others where there are

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little or no opportunities to associate with good people. One needs to understand that, wherever he lives, his children are going to seek companionships, of their age group, from among those available to them. The harder it is for them to find someone of high moral character the more likely it is they will associate with those of low character. So, anyone with children to raise should seriously consider the general moral character of a community before moving there.

It is this writer's judgment that preachers with school age children should consider this before moving into a place so isolated from other Christians that their children would have little or no association with young people who are taught the same high moral standards that they want their children to have. It is so easy to lose one's children to the world in such an environment. Yet, one does not need to so shelter them from the "real world" in which they must function one day that they will not be able to cope. They must learn to be "children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation" (**Phil. 2:15**).

Lot's Righteousness

Being surrounded by ungodliness does not mean that one has to just flow with the current. He can be righteous in the midst of unrighteousness. Lot maintained his righteousness while living in a city so wicked that it has a vile repulsive sin named after it. Too often, we excuse our sins and the sins of those we love by blaming outward circumstances. True, it is easier to live godly when surrounded by godly people. However, the real test of the genuineness of one's faith comes when he must live godly when surrounded by ungodly people. Truly, Lot shined as a light "in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation".

If asked, "What is the greatest weakness among brethren today?" I would likely answer that it is our unwillingness to daily stand above the crowd in moral, ethical and spiritual conduct. It is so

easy to justify compromises when we look at the world around us.

Lot's Torment

The secret to Lot's maintaining his personal righteousness while surrounded by unrighteousness may have been that he never got to where ungodliness in others did not bother him. He was "oppressed with the filthy conduct of the wicked" (v. 7). He "tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds" (v. 8). When one gets to the point that another's sin does not bother him, then, likely, it won't be very long until he will be comfortable with his own sin. When we can hear and see lawlessness with passive indifference we have reached a danger point in our own efforts to remain pure. When we can hear vulgarity and profanity with hardly a raised eyebrow, it is time that we checked our own spiritual health. When we can observe the "works of the flesh" openly advocated and practiced in society without becoming disturbed, it is time to be concerned about our own relationship with God.

Lot's Deliverance

Lot is held up to us as an example of how "the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and reserve the unjust under punishment for the Day of Judgment" (**v. 9**). One, such as Lot, living in the midst of a wicked society faces many temptations. There is strong temptation to accept a false deliverance - ease the struggle by giving in to, or at least tolerating, sin.

One is tempted to partake of the pleasures of sin with his neighbors. He is tempted to relax and not be so "up tight" about the wickedness that he sees and hears. He is tempted to reach some sort of accommodation whereby he can be at total peace with the world. After all, he may rationalize, such things cannot be so bad or they would not be so socially acceptable to so many people.

One needs to understand that godly living is not freedom from temptation and trials. In fact, because such godly living is not the norm for the world at large it creates a conflict.



Courageous Faith

By Paul Earnhart

For God gave us not a spirit of fearfulness; but of power and love and discipline. Be not ashamed of the testimony of the Lord, nor of me his prisoner; but suffer hardship with the gospel according to the power of God... (**2 Timothy 1:7-8**)

The Prussian king Frederick the Great was widely known as an agnostic. In striking contrast, one of his most trusted officers, General Von Zealand, was a deeply convicted believer. It is reported that during a very festive gathering of his general staff, the king created uproarious laughter with his crude jokes about the Son of God. Finally, after enduring this with much patience, Von Zealand arose quietly and addressed the king: "Sire, you know that I have not feared death. I have fought and won 38 battles for you. I am an old man; I shall soon have to go into the presence of one greater than you, the mighty God who saved me from sin, the Lord Jesus Christ whom you are blaspheming. I salute you, sire, as an old man who loves his Saviour, on the edge of eternity."

The room went deathly still, and with a trembling voice the king replied, "General Von Zealand - I beg your pardon! I beg your pardon!" and with that the party quietly ended.

It took courage for an old Prussian general to stand alone before his king and amidst his scoffing fellow officers and announce boldly and without shame his own deep faith in that God and His Son whom they were blaspheming, but that is just the kind of faith which being a follower of Christ requires. We cannot serve Him and be ashamed of Him, no matter what the odds or the dangers.

So many have stood entirely alone in defense of their confidence in the true God. **Noah** is a remarkable example. It is difficult to conceive the loneliness of being, with your family, the only one on earth who genuinely believed in God. (This may have included his father, Lamech, and grandfather, Methuselah, who, if the genealogy is complete, died just before the flood.) But Noah was not only steadfast, he was bold, preaching earnestly to warn his contemporaries of a rapidly approaching disaster (**2 Peter 2:5**) - and at last, in the final 100 years before the deluge, rearing three sons who shared his singular faith so strongly that they were able to convert their wives (**2 Pet. 2:5**). What laughter and contempt his boat and his preaching must have provoked can be easily imagined. Noah's was a faith that blossomed in a spiritual desert against incredible odds.

Abraham was a kindred spirit. What amusement and disdain must have followed him out of Ur of the Chaldees as he left that pagan, but prosperous, city to go to some place about which he knew absolutely nothing! The only explanation he could offer was that he went at the behest of the true and living God, risking everything on His promises. Folks that worshipped the likes of Nannar the moon-god would not have been much impressed. Abraham was all alone in his faith, a solitary figure walking out on apparent thin air. It is no marvel that he is called "the father of the faithful."

And then there is **Joseph** - friendless in Egypt, with the vivid memory of his brothers' hate and the heartbreak of a presumed abandonment by his once doting father. He could easily have felt forsaken by God as well - all those dreams and visions, and now this! Whether Potiphar's wife was a beauty or a hag is not stated by Moses, but the young Joseph, in the flower of his manhood and perhaps on the edge of despair, was certainly vulnerable to her seductions. We marvel, therefore, at the courage of his lonely, but unyielding, faith when he resists her with the words: "...how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" (**Genesis 39:9**). How he honored the God of his fathers!

And finally there is **Moses** and **Joshua** and **Elijah** and **Jeremiah** and **Daniel** and the "three Hebrew children" and **John the Baptist** and the **Twelve** and **Paul**. The list is long. But our names need to be added to it. We need a holy boldness about God and His Son as we live amidst a perverse generation - an open and unashamed conviction that attaches itself not only to who Jesus is, but to what He says - "the testimony of the Lord."

There is a very good reason why we need to be uncomfortable with a faith that fades and wilts and falls back at the first hint of social disapproval. Jesus said, "Whoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the son of man also shall be ashamed of him, when he comes in the glory of his Father and with his holy angels" (Mark 8:38). Must we have a supportive crowd before our convictions find a voice, or do we have the courage to speak up for Christ and the gospel even when we stand alone? It is a critical question which all of us must honestly face.

