

Churches Filled With Irrelevant Salt

Jesus said His disciples would be the salt of the earth unless the salt loses its savor (Matt.5:13f). When we consider the number of churches in this country and then compare that to the moral and spiritual decline in our country, the necessary inference is that "Christians" have made themselves irrelevant.

This means that the majority of those who profess to follow Christ on Sundays, look, act, and talk just like the world on the rest of their time. The problem in America is that there is not enough visual and vocal voice for the gospel. People should know by our talk, dress, behavior, and spiritual priorities, that we stand for what is right and holy and moral. We influence people to think of God and His will. There are enough church attenders to make a huge difference, but what we find in too many places is shallow faith with little to no conviction. Many churches have become nothing more than a social club that gets immoral people to just "feel good about themselves" with little to no emphasis

By Terry W. Benton on repentance and change so that we can influence others to also change with us.

This is what happened in Israel before their fall. They tuned out truth-teachers like Jeremiah, and hired men to tell them "peace, peace" when there was no peace between them and God (Jer.6:10-15). The people felt good about themselves as they became salt that was fit for nothing but to be cast out and trodden under foot of men. We must all ask ourselves some serious questions. Have we become irrelevant Christians? What can we change in order to be a spiritual difference maker? These are things I'm sure God wants us to continually ask ourselves. Churches can make a moral difference if each one will care enough to emphasize a difference that must begin inside each individual Christian. Let true peace with God begin in me so that I can point the way for others to also have peace with God. Friendship with the world is enmity with God



Classes This Week

Sunday 5:15 PM Kid's Class at the Building	Tuesday 8 PM Truth-seekers in Student Center Rm 2225	Thursday 7 PM Ladies Class at Belinda Hartsell's house. Guest teacher is Melody McCrary.
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Sick

Brad Marshall (Allie Hosey's Cousin)	Owen Mauldin (Seth and Summer Mauldin's Son)	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)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Kate Miller (Daughter of Brandon and Erin Miller)
Donna Pridmore (Erin Miller's Mom)	Neal May (Manna Jones' Mother)	Mark Dean (Father of Logan Dean)	Jerry Foropoulos (Anna Jean's Uncle)
Jon Jon Henderson (Suzanne Stagner's cousin)	Quinton Addison (April Jenkins Grandfather)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Bob Cannon (Friend of Holly Law)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Eli Williams	Emily Stallings (Anna's sister)	Ted Nelson (Sheryl Fowler's Cousin)
Lisa Carter (Josh and Luke Carter's mother)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkin's Dad)	Toni and William Herd	Tom Davis (Walker Davis' Uncle)

October Birthdays

- 1 - Aiden Hahn
- 2 - Suzanne Stagner
- 3 - James Malloy
- 3 - Jennifer Hasty
- 4 - Jordan Corneil
- 6 - Jessica Anderson
- 7 - Molly Borden
- 8 - Kelsey Parsons
- 8 - Heath Fowler
- 8 - Coleman Padgett
- 11 - Mason Chandler
- 12 - Stacy Norman
- 14 - Grant Smith
- 15 - Ashton Guy
- 17 - Abbie Buchanan
- 20 - Evan Pender
- 20 - Keith Bailey
- 22 - Christopher White
- 22 - Meredith Bragwell
- 24 - Suzanna Roberts
- 24 - Sarabeth Roberts
- 25 - Bethany Bradford
- 26 - Palmer Daniels
- 29 - Belle Johnson
- 29 - Matt Hall
- 31 - Kitty Tam

News and Notes

- ☒ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mothers, Laura Humphrey, Brittany Bagent, Shang Li and Jana Hall!
- ☒ - Easton Nash has made progress and been moved out of NICU.
- ☒ - Remember Tim Morton and also Matthew Cavender, in your prayers as both are deployed to Afghanistan.
- ☒ - Mary Ann Roberts' mother, Betty McCareavy, will have significant back surgery on November 4.
- ☒ - Katie Carter's dad, Cary McDaniel, will have treatment for a tumor behind his ear.
- ☒ - We are thankful that no cancer was found in Toni Herd's procedure!
- ☒ - Sandlyn Fultz will have surgery on both legs this Thursdays.
- ☒ - Time change is next Saturday. Turn clocks back one hour.
- ☒ - We will have group meetings tonight.
- ☒ - Our monthly singing is tonight!

The Auburn Beacon



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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The Problem of Private Lust

By Connie Adams



Thoughts to Ponder

Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.

(1 Corinthians 6:18)

Lust has gone public in America. No subject is too delicate for a television or movie script. Pornography is big business. Absolutely nothing is left to the imagination. Yet, this business would utterly fail were it not for the fact that it feeds the private yearnings of corrupted hearts. It is from this private cesspool of defilement that this flowing well of licentiousness comes. Polluted minds demand a diet of contamination to gratify illicit hunger. This creates a climate in which the problem only feeds itself.

No man ever rises above the quality of his own mind. One cannot be more perverse than his heart allows him to be. Conversely, pure and noble words and deeds first proceed from hearts that are pure and noble. "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23). "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7).

The potentiality of private lust was recognized by Jesus when He said, "Whoso looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his

The divine mandate to "flee fornication" (1 Cor. 6:18) must surely include flight from whatever channels of thought might lead us to this tragedy. We must not be filthy dreamers" (Jude 8) with defiled minds.

heart" (Matthew 5:28). In this context Jesus not only condemned the act of adultery, but also the progressions of thought which culminate in this forbidden act. It is not wrong to recognize beauty. Some have a charm and grace which is at once attractive and appealing. But it is a far different thing to allow the mind to descend to the level of fantasizing about sexual relations with one we have found to be appealing. So then, the heart must keep a distinction between admiration and lust. It is in the heart that reserves are bro-

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Elders

Walker Davis (334) 703-0050
Larry Rouse (334) 734-2133



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

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ken down and that schemes are devised to gain attention, then seduce the one who become the object of our obsession. Adultery committed in the heart, but which proceeds no farther, may not have the frightful consequences which the overt act does -- but it is still an affront to God and destructive to the character of the one who entertains it. Recognition of the wrong and repentance are surely required.

The problem is pervasive in our society. Many streams strive to erode a channel into our hearts to pervert them. Modern television programming, to say nothing of the movie industry, grind out a continual stream of coarseness, vulgarity, sexual innuendo and compromising scenes which could wear down the best defenses of the most godly were these allowed constant entry into the mind. The print media carry reports which often titillate the senses. Even television news programming often resorts to this device, I suppose to add what is conceived to be "spice" to an otherwise dry business. The music of our time, with incessant beat, preaches moral permissiveness and does much to break down convictions and moral reserves. Perhaps the two worst offenders in this area are today's rock and country-western music. The lyrics are not even subtle. They are brazen. How can any of us listen repeatedly to such lyrics without being affected to some degree?

What about pornography? Is it nobody's business what a person reads or views in his own home? Should he have the Playboy channel hooked up to his cable TV? First, those who defend such right are the losers because they defile and debauch their own hearts to the destruction of their souls. Next, they contribute to a sordid business which promotes vice of every kind. Then, they run the risk of reaching a point where they cannot separate fact from fantasy and that can lead to criminal action. Unrealistic expectations develop which create disillusionment between spouses. The price for

gratification of mental lust can become very expensive.

The divine mandate to "flee fornication" (**1 Cor. 6:18**) must surely include flight from whatever channels of thought might lead us to this tragedy. We must not be filthy dreamers" (**Jude 8**) with defiled minds. In contrast to that, "Unto the pure all things are pure" (**Titus 1:15**). It is not enough to root out impurity of thought. These must be replaced with that which is decent, ennobling, gracious, uplifting and pure. "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart" (**2 Timothy 2:22**). Whatsoever things are...pure...lovely...of good report...think on these things" (**Philippians 4:8**).

Ultimately, the victory over private lust is bound up in the admonition of Paul to bring "into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (**2 Cor 10:5**). Christ must not only be Lord of my external conduct; He must rule my mind. "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace" (**Rom 8:6**). Paul wrote, "But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members" (**Rom 7:23**). Folks, this is a war we must win. Shall private lusts conquer us, or shall we bring our thoughts into captivity to our Lord Jesus Christ?

"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer" (**Psalms 19:14**). "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God" (**Psalms 42:1**).

Indeed, "a mind is a terrible thing to waste!" It was God's purpose to put His law into our hearts and write His precepts in our minds (**Heb 10:16**). When the mind is so filled with the knowledge of truth and right, then whatever thought-form is inconsistent with that divine system is rejected as repulsive. It cannot grow in unprepared soil. The antidote to private lust is a constantly growing knowledge of the will of God accompanied by an active life of ser-



"Passin' Through"

By Aubrey Belue

All earthly things pass away, and we must not become attached to them. With Abraham, we must "look for a city" that is built by God (**Heb 11:8-14**).

One of America's most prolific Western writers once wrote a novel that included a man called "Mr. Passin' Through". He had earned this name by never staying long in one place, was just always "passing through". In many ways, he is not to be compared to one of God's children, but in one respect, he is like the Christian. We, too, are "passin' through".

After Eden's disaster, the earth was cursed, and from that time forward was never intended as the permanent home of mankind. A major effort of heaven has been to help us separate ourselves from the world..."love not the world...the world passeth away, and the lust thereof.." (**1 Jn 2:15-17**). Our carnal, fleshly nature is at odds with the desired direction of our affections. In **Col 3:1**, Paul tells us to "set our affections on things above, not on the things of the earth.." Our only hope is in gaining a heavenly body, which is adapted to a heavenly home (**1 Cor 15:31ff**), and such an ambition must become the focus of our lives.

Peter tells us that we are "strangers and pilgrims" upon the earth (**1 Pet 2:12**). We are truly just "passin' through". Becoming a child of God will locate us in "heavenly places", even here on earth (**Eph 1:3**), and marks the beginning of a life to be lived looking toward a better place. Just as physical "pilgrims" and "aliens" only "sojourn" in lands other than their own, so children of God "sojourn" on

earth as they reach toward their heavenly home. Though forced by circumstances to live in the world, the child of God must come to think less and less of it, and more and more of "heaven". As one's life grows in Christ, he must be less and less attracted by the material life, and those desires which focus upon the flesh.

The world has its own "words", which often must be avoided by the Christian. It has its own entertainment, which contains elements that destroy the spiritual character of the Christian. It has its own dress, which is more than not likely to be "unbecoming" for the modest child of God. It has its own outlook on life, and a certain attitude about things like envy, jealousy, and revenge. To the world, greed is normal, and covetousness is acceptable. For the Christian, he trusts God for material things, and puts the kingdom first (**Mt 6:33**). For worldly people, earthly success is the motor that drives their lives. For the Christian, it is the desire to be like God that consumes him and orders his way.

All earthly things pass away, and we must not become attached to them. With Abraham, we must "look for a city" that is built by God (**Heb 11:8-14**). Thinking this way makes it a simple thing to live by divine truth, and keep our focus away from the appeal of the world. Do you do that?

