

# I Ain't Been Doin' Nothin'

By B. G. Echols

I once heard of a church (probably apocryphal) that regularly had what it called "Quitting Meet-in" which the members would confess their sins and promise to quit. There were always some women to confess to gossiping and backbiting with a promise to quit. Maybe a drunkard would confess, or a merchant would acknowledge how he had been cheating his customers. The meeting usually ended with everyone having confessed something. At one meeting, however, one brother never made any sort of confession. At last, under pressure from the others, he finally confessed, "I ain't been doin' nothin', and I'm gonna quit."

That is a confession a lot of people who claim to be Christians need to make. As far as the work of the Lord is concerned, they "ain't been doin' nothin'." James addresses a few choice words to them when he says, "To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (**James 4:17**). How many people will be lost, not so much for evils done, but for good undone. The folk proverb is true which says, "The road to hell is paved with good intentions." Maybe you "ain't been doin'

nothin'" when you should have been worshipping

God on Sunday, visiting the sick, caring for the needy, giving to preach the word, studying your Bible, or praying for the lost. To know that something needs to be done, and leave it undone is a sin. Ignoring God's will is destructive. You don't have to murder, lie, steal, or commit adultery to be lost. In fact, you don't have to do "nothin'."

In the parable of the talents, the man who had one talent was condemned because he buried his gift and did not use it. He didn't squander it on some evil purpose, but he did no good with it either. It was as if he had no talent at all. In the story of the good Samaritan, the priest and Levite did not harm the wounded man. but they did nothing to help either.

What positive good are you doing for God and His church? We are not planning a Quitting Meeting, but if you are guilty, you can confess to God, "I ain't been doin' nothin' and I'm gonna quit."



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)
Betty Mcareavey (Mary Ann Roberts' 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 Jerkins Grandfather)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Bob Cannon (Friend of Holly Law)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Amy Baswell Hall	Emily Stallings (Anna's sister)	John Marvin Rhodes (Toni Herd'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)

### December Birthdays

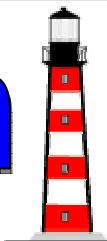
- 2 - Brady Peek
- 4 - Justin Padgett
- 5 - Rusty Weldon
- 5 - Charlie Johnson
- 5 - Drew Ogles
- 5 - Allie Hosey
- 7 - Michaela Walton
- 8 - Macy Johnson
- 13 - Dave Hosey
- 13 - Will Bruce Harris
- 14 - Beth Lingerfelt
- 16 - Cliff Parsons
- 17 - Joseph Miller
- 18 - Tin-Yau Tam
- 20 - Chris Zeannah
- 20 - Meredith Reid
- 20 - Micah Waters
- 21 - Holly Johnson
- 22 - William Herd
- 22 - Laura Abell
- 22 - Carter Burns
- 24 - Ryan Yates
- 24 - Jessica Yates
- 27 - Jacob Neeley
- 28 - Ebony Morrison
- 28 - Turner Stephens
- 28 - Gabby Borden
- 29 - Christian McGee
- 30 - Holly Law
- 30 - Justin Miller

### News and Notes

- ☒ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mothers, Laura Humphrey, Brittany Bagents, Shang Li and Jana Hall!
- ☒ - Daniel Cobia's father, Jeff Cobia, was airlifted to Brookwood Hospital with a serious heart issue. Please remember him and the family in your prayers.
- ☒ - Sympathy is extended to the family of Sheryl Fowler in the recent death of her cousin, Ted Nelson.
- ☒ - Remember Tim Morton in your prayers as he is deployed to Afghanistan.
- ☒ - Please remember Jennifer Dean from the Flint Hill congregation as she fights cancer.
- ☒ - Please remember George Harris, grandfather of Will Harris, as he begins dialysis.
- ☒ - Congratulations to Ty and Mallory (Ratcliff) Randolph as they were married yesterday!
- ☒ - Congratulations to our graduates!
- Angela Fowler - Doctoral
- Anna Stallings - Master
- Mary Catherine Burns
- Caleb Law
- Jessica Yates
- Bethany Marchman
- Kayla Garlock
- Brittany Bagents
- MaKayla Chittam

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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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## The Convertibles - The Nonconvertibles

By Bill Hall



### Thoughts to Ponder

"And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."  
(John 12:32)

There are people in this world who are convertible to Christ; others who are nonconvertible. Jesus was not able to convert everyone, nor were the apostles, and, in fact, the Bible clearly teaches that while many will be saved (**Heb. 2:10**), the majority will be lost (**Mt. 7:13, 14**).

There are major differences between the convertibles of this world and the nonconvertibles. The nonconvertibles consider the message of the cross foolishness. They see no need for a Savior, a cross, blood, atonement, or a message of salvation. As one young man said after hearing the message of the cross, "I'm sorry; it makes no sense to me."

The nonconvertibles have hearts closed to the gospel. The convertibles have hearts open to the gospel. They are

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The nonconvertibles glory in human wisdom. They are impressed with the intellectuals of the day who take on airs of superiority and infallibility.

The convertibles bow in humble submission to God's wisdom. They recognize that in Christ "are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and

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### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class .....9:30 AM  
Worship .....10:20 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

**Wednesday**  
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

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knowledge" (**Col. 2:3**). They withstand those who would rob them "through philosophy and empty deceit" (**Col. 2:8**). They believe anything God says and are willing to obey anything He tells them to do. They see the foolishness of injecting their own subjective thinking into anything clearly taught in God's word. For them, a "Thus says the Lord" is the end of all controversy. Just show them the scripture.

The key to converting the convertibles is not so much in our approach or study material we use. The key is in hearts that are open to the gospel. Nearly any approach will work if it includes the teaching necessary to bring them to Christ.

On the other hand, there is no approach that will convert the nonconvertibles. If they refuse to open their hearts to the word, they cannot be brought to faith, for "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (**Rom. 10:17**). They would not "be persuaded though one rise from the dead" (**Luke 16:31**). There are just some people who cannot be converted. Any attempt will be futile. They reject the only means by which one can be drawn to the Lord, the lifted up Son of God (**John 12:32**).

Can the nonconvertibles change their hearts and join the ranks of the convertibles? Yes! Can we contribute to their change of heart? Yes! We think of a friend in north Florida, who for years had refused the gospel, but opened his heart as he neared death, sought the

assistance of his grandsons who were gospel preachers, obeyed the gospel, and requested visitors to read the scriptures to him for the remainder of his life. What changed his heart? No doubt a combination of things: the godly conduct of his wife, children, and grandchildren, the sermons he had heard through the years, his longing for something better as he neared the end. Who opened his heart? The Lord did (**Acts 16:14**), no doubt using this combination of influences as tools. But the point is this: Our friend never joined the ranks of the convertibles until he had a heart open to the gospel. All attempts to convert him before that time had been futile.

Meanwhile, a failure to recognize that these two classes of people exist can lead to danger. Is it possible that some have softened their stance concerning divorce and remarriage and even the necessity of baptism because Bible teaching on these subjects gets in the way of "converting" the lost? It is possible that some have lost their faith in the power of the gospel and have turned to their own schemes and gimmicks in their effort to "convert" the nonconvertibles? Jesus once saw many of His disciples go back and walk with Him no more. He turned to His disciples and asked, "Do you also want to go away?" Peter spoke for the group, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (**John 6:68**). Many today will not walk with the Lord. Those who will are those who see that He, and He alone, has the words of eternal life.

**Biblical Insights - June, 2014**



## God Save the Family!

By Dee Bowman

The moral climate in our country has deteriorated steadily since the 1950's. The change from Father Knows Best to MTV is astounding.

I'm not one to flaunt the "good old days." Our memories tend to tolerate only the good stuff anyhow; and we often don't remember what was not good at all. Modern technology, communication, and medical advancements have made "the good old days" not so good by comparison. But the moral standards of that day make the "good ole todays" not so good, either.

The reasons for our modern immoral morass are complex and not easily understood. Just what happens is open for speculation by those who know more about culture, environment, psychology, and societal differentiations than do I. But one thing I know: the failure of the family unit has contributed more to the moral depletion in this country than any other single factor.

The family is the beginning place for society. If the family fails, so does society. And I fear for the failure of the family unit. Now, don't take that statement lightly. To whatever extent the family is diluted, to that same extent society suffers. It's scary, folks—scary how the families of this day bear so little resemblance to the pattern first instigated by God.

For instance, the most basic part of the family unit is understood in two terms: headship and helpmeet. The Bible teaches that the husband is the spiritual mentor of the family (**Eph. 5:22-25; I Cor. 11:1-3**). That fact is fundamental. Furthermore, it is necessary to the proper function of the family. The wife is to submit to and honor her husband (**Eph. 5:22; I Tim. 2: 9-15**), and provide for him such help as will make his obligations easier. And children are to honor and obey their parents (**Eph. 6:1-2**). In all three cases, the failure to honor these commitments, all three of which were instituted by God, brings about ill-defined roles, poorly defined obligations and, as a result, an unsettled family.

Love is the mucilage, the glue if you please, that holds the whole fabric of marriage together. Now, I know you already know that. But I'm not talking about some sentimental attachment, or some erotic linkage. I'm not talking about emotional feelings, either. I'm talking about the kind of love that makes a hard day—one where things go wrong—easier to bear. I'm talking about one where a fuss disrupts the family, one where somebody in the family gets out of line, and love—real love—is required to solve the problem (see I Cor. 13).

I'm talking about headship and helpmeet in regard to such matters, one where scripturally defined roles are used to solve the problems. That's real love—love for truth as well as love for one another.

Communication is the lifeline of a good family. It's necessary that wives and husbands learn—yes, I said learn—to talk to one another. Not only that, it's necessary that wives and husbands learn to listen to one another. That's the root of all communication—transmission and reception. When one or the other is impeded, there is a problem. I'm not a good counselor, but I have done enough of it through the years to know that a lack of sound communication skills, coupled with too much pride—is the cause of nearly every marital difficulty with which I have had to wrestle. And the simple fact is that talking when it's time to talk and listening when it's time to listen would solve nearly every marriage problem you can name.

And listen carefully. Families don't function well when God is left out. There's a void in the various relationships where God is not present. Please be clear about this: love is not love when truth is left out of it. True love has truth as its base, verity as its energy, and when those are not present, look out, because things are about to unravel. It may not be a bombastic explosion, but unravel they will. One day you'll wake up and there's no bond left in the relationship, no cement to hold it together. Why? Somebody—perhaps both somebodies, or perhaps even every somebody in the family—either darted off, or gradually drifted away from the truth of God that should characterize a good family. The father didn't do his job, the mother left the home, the kids got out of their place, and so it fragmented the family and distorted everyone's role in it. You can't have a good family that is not based on truth and righteousness. It won't work.

Like I said, I don't know all the answers necessary to ward off our headlong plunge into moral decadence. But I can read the Bible. I know what it says about families and how they are to function. And all the psychologists, sociologists, and human behavioral specialists, combined, are not going to solve the problems in our culture today until they return to the original pattern, the one ordained and commanded by the Creator—God Almighty.

Can you tell I'm serious about this?

