

Wishing For Sin

By Robert Turner

The wealthy have many friends (**Proverbs 19:4**); and the bread of falsehood is sweet (**20:17**). We may get treasures by lying (**21:6**); and the rich rule over the poor (**22:7**). Sounds pretty good, doesn't it? Sometimes those who should know better are jealous of the apparent gains of sinners. When we notice such an attitude we feel it is time to lock the door and hide the sugar bowl. We cannot consider a man very pious who looks longingly toward "the advantages" of the world.

Solomon knew that "there is a just one who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked one who prolongs life in his wickedness" (**Ecc. 7:15; 8:11-14**) but he said this too was vanity. When we see the wicked prosper we face real temptations: (1) to consider our lesser fortune a sign of piety, and become self-righteous—"holier than thou"; (2) to envy the wicked (**Proverbs 24:1**); (3) to fail in our understanding of true values, distinguishing "the meat that perishes" from that which endures unto everlasting life; and (4) allowing the wish to become mother to the deeds.

James says a man is tempted when he is "drawn away of his own lust and enticed" (**1:14**). A man who

is happy with his wife doesn't go around saying, "Why couldn't I have had a woman like that one over there." And one who is happy with Christ does not look longingly toward Satan's realm. We envy the worldly man for one reason only—because we are worldly.

The friends of the wealthy are often shallow; and the sweet bread of deceit becomes gravel. The liar's treasures are vapor; and "he that oppresseth the poor to increase his gain . . . shall come to want" (**Proverbs 22:16**). The proverbial wisdoms given here are backed not only by inspiration, but are repeatedly proven in life.

Then, we must recognize the necessity for re-viewing our goals and the standards by which we hope to achieve them. Like Abraham, if we are forever mindful of that materialistic state from whence we came, we may have opportunity to return. But we desire a heavenly country; so God is not ashamed to be called our God: for He has prepared for us a city (**Hebrews 11:15**).



Brad Marshall (Allie Hosey's Cousin)	Jesse Godwin	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother)
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)	Audrey Barnett (Joanetta's sister-in-law)	Betty Bradford	Hazel Gilliland (Toni's relatives)
Tom Davis (Walker Davis' Uncle)	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Yolanda Stewart (Michael Bassie's Sister)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Toni Herd	Rebecca Davis (Chuck Hahn's Niece)	Holly Law
John M. Rhodes and Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley (Toni Herd's family)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkin's Dad)	Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew)	Ellie Vaughn (Scott and Genna's baby)

August Birthdays

2-Emma Miller
 2-Heath Donahue
 7-Joey McGee
 8-Alli Luther
 9-Elliot Weldon
 9-Troy Swenson
 10-David Hartsell
 11-Walker Davis
 11-Andrew Kiser
 12-Jon Coleman
 13-Brendon Kirby
 13-Ariel Ramsey
 15-Kalee Reid
 16-Cade Smith
 18-Makayla Chittam
 19-Brettlyn Currier
 19-Taylor Lawrence
 20-Caleb Law
 21-Matt Cavender
 23-Jordan Flatt
 23-Colton Miller
 24-Sophie Hall
 27-Chip Freeman
 28-Larry Rouse
 28-Cole Johnson

News and Notes

- ☒ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mother, Nicole Pender!
- ☒ - Please keep the Tam's in your prayers as they are away in China.
- ☒ - We rejoice in the baptism on wed of JeHyun "Paco" Ryo!
- ☒ - Please continue to pray for Scott Perkins' dad, Joe.
- ☒ - Remember our upcoming meeting with Paul Earnhart, August 23-27!
- ☒ - Please pray for the Harold Carswell family as they are caring for his sister in their home.
- ☒ - The ladies class will be this Thursday. At 7 PM at Denise Davis' house on "heaven."
- ☒ - Please pray for Troy's father, Jesse Godwin (Mac's grandfather) who is in the hospital in Prattville for a back issue.
- ☒ - Congrats to our graduates: Mac Searcy, Logan Dean, Kalee Reid., Bradley Seymore.
- ☒ - Please remember the family of Tyler Cox in the recent loss of his granddad, Cecil Cox.

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**)

Volume 6, Issue 39

August 2, 2015

Intentions Won't Get It!

By Dee Bowman

PEOPLE WITH GOOD INTENTIONS MAKE PROMISES BUT PEOPLE WITH GOOD CHARACTER KEEP THEM!

Thoughts to Ponder

Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin. (**James 4:17**)

Some of the proverbial expressions not found in the Bible are nonetheless true. Truth will always plumb with all other truth; it cannot contradict itself. Take the expression "the road to hell is paved with good intentions." That's not found in the Scriptures, but it's nonetheless true. Nobody really wants to go to hell; and everybody I know of intends to do something to preclude making that trip. But when? Ah, that's the question.

Intention without follow-through is profitless. No matter how firm they are, they are still just intentions and serve no useful purpose until they are actuated.

Intentions won't get it.

"I intend to be more diligent." When? Right away?

Diligence is necessary to progress in spiritual living. You can't sit around and become spiritual. Furthermore, diligence doesn't come by some process of osmosis—just because you are in close proximity to a Bible

When it's all said and done, and you stand before the bar of God in judgment, can you say to the Lord, with a clear conscience, "Lord, I intended to"?

or to those who believe it and are involved in it. Diligence is personal—a personal, willful action. You decide to be diligent.

In **2 Timothy 2:15**, Paul says, "Give diligence to present yourself approved to God." The English word translated diligence is from a Latin word which means to give earnest persistence to a matter. The Greek word for diligence means both an earnest zeal and a burning haste to get a matter done. You can't sit around and be diligent. Peter

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 Worship 10:20 AM
 Evening Worship 6:00 PM
Wednesday
 Bible Classes 7:00 PM
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tells us something about diligence when he uses that same term when to conclude what we call The Christian Graces:

“Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure” (**2 Peter 1:10**). He had begun with that same admonition: “But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith...” virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love. You don’t add those things up in your mind and you’re through; it’s a life-long pursuit, one requiring consistent diligence to make sure the calling of God. It all begins with the decision to get on with the project. You have to develop a serious conviction as well as a pressing urgency to continually add all these graces as you go along.

Intentions won’t get it.

“I intend to get involved.” When? Soon?

And what’s wrong with starting today? You are involved only when you actually participate, when you become a part, when you make an effort to be dedicated to whatever the project. Paul speaks of such participation in **Romans 12**: “For as we have many members in one body, but all members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.” We’re individuals who are melded together in our common worship of the Father, in our common desire to grow up in Him, in our common desire to bring others to Him. We’re together, and being together takes work – patience – understanding. And it takes time. It doesn’t just happen, either. It’s planned action. Intentions don’t work, folks.

Intentions won’t get it.



“I intend to tell somebody about Jesus.” When? Today?

I seriously doubt that anybody is going to heaven alone. You will likely go with someone and you will likely take someone with you. Just as somebody loved you enough to tell you about the Lord and His salvation, it’s up to you to love somebody enough to pass it on. But that takes more than mere intentions. You have to get past the fear, get past the timidity, and get on with the mission assigned. You have to run the risk, even it means losing a friend or making a family member angry.

Intentions won’t get it.

And you don’t have to be a Bible scholar to teach the word. All you need is a note pad and a knowledge of the Scriptures broad enough to tell someone what you did to be saved. Following the great commission in **Matthew 28:18**, Jesus said, “...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.” Please note what He has just commanded– “Go therefore and teach all nations.” Maybe you intend to do it but just don’t have the ability. That’s possible. Then help someone else do it. Be a part. One thing is certain: the message needs to be told, and intentions won’t get it done.

When it’s all said and done, and you stand before the bar of God in judgment, can you say to the Lord, with a clear conscience, “Lord, I intended to”?

The Sin of Murmuring

By Earl Fly

Those who truly love God and his church have no desire to be hypercritical faultfinders, wandering about murmuring to all who will listen.

Korah, Dathan, Abiram, fifty princes of the congregation and others rebelled and murmured against God’s servants Moses and Aaron (**Numbers 16:1-11**). “The earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up ... they, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them, and they perished from among the congregation” (Numbers 16:32-33). “And there came out a fire from the Lord, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men that offered incense” (**Numbers 16:35**). When the Jews murmured that Moses and Aaron were responsible for the deaths, God killed fourteen thousand; seven hundred of them by a plague (**Numbers 16:41-49**). This is written for our admonition and should cause all murmurers in the church to repent and reform, lest they suffer a “sorer punishment” (**Hebrews 10:28-29**).

A murmurer can do a great harm and irreparable damage in a congregation by creating discontent, discouragement, and apathy among members, by sowing discord among the brethren (which God hates—**Proverbs 6:19**), by undermining the work of preacher, teachers, deacons, and the rule of elders. This many times creates a general attitude of dissatisfaction and loss of interest, enthusiasm and zeal, resulting in decreased attendance, contribution and impairment of all work in general. The murmurer may then be the first to criticize the lack of growth, and may use the preacher or someone else as the scapegoat to bear the blame, not realizing or ignoring the fact that his own sin is responsible.

The murmurer does not truly love God and is not really interested in the welfare and growth of the church, but in his own selfish desires and opinions. He is either woefully ignorant of or willfully

disregards God’s word regarding his sin, and is a dangerous threat to the cause of Christ. He can and does destroy or greatly lessen the influence and work of those who happen to be the object of his disgruntled attack. It is difficult to deal with such a situation because often times the murmurer does not have the courage or character to honorably discuss his complaints with the proper ones, but whispers them in secret to others.

Christians should not lend receptive ears nor endorsement to murmuring, but exhort the guilty one to cease his sin. Remember, if one will murmur to you, he may murmur about you, because many times he is a pharisaical faultfinder, a chronic complainer with a hypercritical attitude who is usually never satisfied very long with any arrangement.

We earnestly exhort all murmurers everywhere in the name of Christ to repent of this sin, to cease and desist in tearing down the work of God, and to get busy in the kingdom to build it up. Those who truly love God and his church have no desire to be hypercritical faultfinders, wandering about murmuring to all who will listen. If anyone should persist in this sin after proper warnings and efforts to restore, then scriptural discipline should be brought about to protect the flock of God and its work. The work of our Lord is too important to allow the murmurer to run and ruin the church.

