

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Eddy Dickinson

Opening Prayer: David Key

On the Table: Head - Charles Berryhill
Servers - Ralph Burleson
Gary Addison
Josh Berryhill

Closing Prayer: Al Corkren

Preparing the Lord's Supper Michelle Lowery

Weekly Service Times

Sunday

Bible Study 10:00 am
Morning Worship 10:45 am
Evening Worship 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

Visit Our Website

www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

Elders: Deacon: Al Corkren
Leonard Key / David Key
Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson Minister: Greg Lowery

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***It Always Comes
With A Cost***



***The
Brilliant
Beacon***



“Little” Sins, “Big” Sins and Full Grown Sins

By Dan Jenkins

Sometimes we mistakenly think of the magnitude of sins in a wrong way. We talk of “little” sins as being those which really do not “count” because they seem so innocent when compared to major blunders which only the most ungodly do. The Catholic Church even has the same view of sins which are characterized as venial and mortal sins.

When one has this mindset, he struggles to figure out how eating fruit from a tree in the Garden of Eden could be so wrong. How could such an “innocent” act be compared to the sin mentioned in in the next chapter where a brother kills his own brother? Surely, murder must be a greater sin than eating fruit.

The same mindset struggles to deal with the “little” sin Saul committed in First Samuel chapter thirteen. Saul had been king for only one year when he was confronted by the Philistine army which had 30,000 chariots and 6,000 horsemen. Saul’s army had only 3,000 soldiers. The prophet Samuel told the king that he would come to the battlefield and make sacrifices to God to seek His blessing in the conflict. For some unknown reason, Samuel was delayed, and Saul’s army was about to flee even before the battle was begun. He knew he could never defeat the Philistines without the Lord’s help and, though he was not a priest, he went ahead and offered the sacrifice. How could such be wrong? If it was a sin, it had to be a “little” one. Yet God did not see it this way. Saul’s “little” sin caused the kingdom to be taken from the lineage of Saul. Our view of “little” and “big” sins is often so wrong.

While the Bible does not use these words to describe sin, it does speak of “full grown” sins (Jas. 1:15). This verse describes the enticement of sin and the entrance into sin as the birth of sin. However, sin does not remain a “baby” sin. If it is not dealt with, it grows and grows in our lives. We often fail to realize that any sin can become an addiction. Peter described this process when he talked about Christians escaping the pollution of sin through following Christ but then are again “...entangled therein and overcome” (2 Pet. 2:20). Sin has remarkable power, and when we have waited until it grows we sometimes leave the Lord.

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Faye Cotton: please continue to pray that she continues her fight against cancer and that she will win

Lellie Dickinson: is recovering from recent knee surgery, please pray that she will make a quick and full recovery

Barbara Wilkinson: is recovering from recent hernia surgery, please pray that she will make a full recovery and have not further trouble

Larry Metcalf: has been diagnosed with lung cancer; please pray that he can receive treatments that will defeat this cancer

Laraine Foss: please be praying that she has good days and good nights and keep Arlen in your prayers also while they are undergoing this very difficult trial

Carolyn Weatherly: is at home recovering from recent stroke, please keep her and Gary in your prayers

Alice Foster: was diagnosed with congestive heart failure and having problems with her lungs, please keep her in your prayers

Mary Rainey: she has bone cancer throughout her body, please be praying for her and her family

Maylene McWhirter: her blood gases are showing signs of myeloid leukemia, please be praying for her and her family

Chad Henderson: this young man is battling cancer, please pray that he will be able to receive treatment that will help him in his fight with this terrible disease

Don Lawrence: recovering from recent knee surgery, pray that he makes a full and quick recovery

Jack Waldon: {Linda’s Brother-In-Law } he is under hospice care, please keep him and his family in your prayers

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Arthur Ewing: has lung cancer, please pray that he will be able to receive treatment that can help him

Robeana Green: has been diagnosed with cancer, please be praying that with treatments that this cancer can be defeated

Connie Autrey: recent scans show that the cancer is shrinking, please continue to pray that the treatments will continue to work in defeating her cancer

Marjorie Goodwin: is in the nursing home at Winfield for rehab, please continue to pray that she will continue to improve.

Jamie Long: his liver is failing him and he is on the list to receive a liver transplant, please be keeping him in your prayers

Frances Booth (Tanya’s Mother-In-Law): diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer, please keep her and her family in your prayers

Laura Lara: has shingles, please pray that she will quickly get better

Upcoming Events

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|-----------------------|--|---------|
| Today | Fellowship Meal | |
| Today | Bible Bowl (Here) | 2:00 pm |
| Feb. 25 th | Tri-County Singing {Tidwell Chapel} | 2:00 pm |

Joseph was enticed by Potiphar’s wife. He ran! Had he stayed he might have fallen into the bondage of sin. David was tempted and did not run! Look at the ruin such brought to his life and family.

“Little” sins may seem rather innocent when we are first enticed by them, but yielding to “little sins” from a heart set on ignoring God opens the door to the bondage of sin. When you sin, repent. Do not let it become full grown!

Obtained at: www.pblcoc.org

When Things Go Wrong

By Dennis Gullede

I have been blessed to live a relatively calm and stable life upon this earth thus far. Of course, there have been some critical moments to come and go, but nothing that the Lord and I could not handle. With any crisis that has come my way, there has been the accompanying knowledge that there are others whose situation is far worse than my own. Life can present the following picture:

For long enough, life can go on rather smoothly. The sunny days far outnumber the dark and dreary ones. The road is pleasantly level. There is no effort beyond our power. There are no sorrows too great for us to bear. There are no agonizing struggles with evil. We can cope.

Then, all of a sudden things go wrong. Tragedy strikes the dearest on earth to us, and there comes a demand for an effort that we may well think is beyond us (Cf., 1 Corinthians 10:13). There comes an illness or a breakdown, which lays us low. The sun sets at midday and we find that life becomes nearly unbearable.

In that moment many turn to God, because, as Abraham Lincoln said, "there is no place else to go." But it will make all the difference in that moment if a Christian has been faithful to Christ through the years. He does not turn to the Lord as a last resort. He is able to seek refuge, not as a stranger, but as a familiar friend. The more closely we walk with the Lord, the easier it is to call on him when things go wrong. He is never far away.

Obtained at: www.gospelgazette.com

Satan's Grand Lie

By Gary C. Hampton

Jesus called Satan “a murderer from the beginning” and the father of liars (John 8:44). He referred to the incident recorded in Genesis 3 when Satan deceived the woman. There are some important lessons for us in this tragic story.

Satan focused on the prohibition instead of the provision (Genesis 3:1). He subtly got her to focus on the only fruit in the garden she could not eat. Today, there are those who whine because of what they do not have. We need to focus on giving thanks instead (1 Thessalonians 5:18). After all, God has given us the greatest possible gift (2 Corinthians 9:15; Romans 8:32).

Satan denied the reality of the curse of death (Genesis 3:4). The father of lies called God the Father a liar (Genesis 2:17). Some live today as if there were no death, much like the rich man in Jesus’ parable (Luke 12:16-21). Everyone needs to realize that even with the great advances in medicine, each has an appointment with death (Hebrews 9:27).

Satan denied God’s loving kindness by saying God denied man access to something good (Genesis 3:5). We need to recognize God is good and the source of every good gift (Psalm 136:1; James 1:17). God and His Word have been charged with being anti-woman when He actually made her the crowning act of creation (Genesis 2:22-23). The virtuous wife is praised, and husbands are commanded to love their wives in the strongest of terms (Proverbs 31:10; Ephesians 5:25-28).

Satan said man could set his own law by telling him “you will be like God” (Genesis 3:5b). Some would have us believe we can set our own path to salvation. Jesus said we must do the will of the Father (Matthew 7:21). Paul said God no longer will overlook ignorance, He but insists that all repent (Acts 17:30). The way to the new life is through being buried with Christ in baptism and raised to live a new life (Romans 6:3-4).

Ignore Satan’s lies. Live each day according to God’s will, knowing that is the path to entering Heaven.

Obtained at: www.gospelgazette.com

Then What? Consequences!

By Aaron Veyon

Shortly before America entered World War II, the Japanese government looked to Admiral Yamamoto to plan an attack against the United States. Though he was evidently leery of entering a war with the U. S., he believed the best way to cripple them was a surprise attack on the U.S. naval forces at Pearl Harbor. He predicted that such an assault would give the Japanese control of the Pacific for maybe a year; yet he strongly believed that if the war lasted longer Japan would not win. The implication was: “Yes, we can attack, but then what?” Tragically, the attack occurred, resulting in tremendous loss of life; and eventually the U.S. answered with death and devastation, forcing Japan to surrender.

You know, sin is a lot like that. Oh yes, one could easily do it, but it has devastating results. Just ask David (2 Sam. 11-12). Does a man have the capability of secretly taking another man’s wife? Yes. But, “then what?” David did not think about that, did he? If he had, he could have saved himself a great deal of pain, shame, and guilt. Or what of Achan (Josh. 7) or Gehazi (2 Kings 5)? Could a person be clever and sly enough to acquire possessions that they have no right to have? Sure. But, “then what?” As a result of their sins Gehazi was stricken with leprosy and Achan and his entire family were slain. They did not consider the possible consequences of sin, did they? What a tragedy.

Friends, the next time you are tempted to sin, please stop and ask, “then what?” Just remember, everything we do has consequences; and some things broken cannot be fixed.

Obtained at: www.churchofchristarticles.com