

Have You Thought Enough About Sinning?

I listened to her sob over the phone, "This isn't supposed to be happening to me—I'm a Christian wife and mother...!"

The very sound of her voice made my heart feel like lead. For months she had been involved in an affair with a man she had met at work. A friendly chat had evolved into dinner, then intimacy. Now her adultery had been exposed. She was pregnant with her lover's baby and could no longer hide her burgeoning figure. Everybody knew -- her non-Christian friends at work, her family, her church family, her husband, and her God.

She lamented her behavior and wanted ever-so-desperately to turn back the clock—to undo her illicit deeds. Then too, she worried about how her future would unveil. "Where will I live?" she asked. "Who will take care of me and the baby?" "What about my other children?"

I wanted to say some magic words. I wanted to alleviate her grief and mend her broken heart. Most of all, I wanted to see her restored to the Lord and her marriage repaired. My last wish wasn't possible. Having severed her sacred trust with her husband, he had filed for divorce. In a few days the legal work would be completed and their eleven-year bond would be dissolved in a court of law.

I didn't say it to her on the phone, but I couldn't help ponder later, "She should have thought more about sin." That's right! She should have thought MORE, not less, about sin. Often times we get ourselves into trouble because we don't think enough about sin and its consequences. Jesus said, "... It is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell" Matthew 5:29b). Hell. Wages (cf. Romans 6:23; Numbers 32:23; Galatians 6:7,8). Consequences. Satan doesn't want us to think about consequences—only the momentary gratification and pleasure. If he can divert our attention away from the results, we will falter and sell our soul for a "mess of pottage" (cf. Genesis 27).

I have a new-found appreciation for the words of the Hebrew writer: "By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin" (Hebrews 11:24, 25 NKJV). Moses thought about sin. He considered the eternal dimensions of staying in Egypt and sharing in the sensual pursuits of his peers.

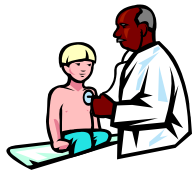
inexorably to daily abuse. Yet Moses, by faith, recognized these to be the people of God. He deliberately chose to travel with them the dangerous way rather than to continue in ease. He saw, by faith, that to continue in ease would be sin and further, that the pleasures of sin give no lasting satisfaction ..." (Neil Lightfoot, "The Faith of Moses," *Jesus Christ Today*, 215-216).

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Continue to remember in prayer:

Sick

Margaret Kratz, Miriam Majors, Betty & Walter Jenkins, Jim Dorsett, E.V. Wimmer, Martha Keith, Al Furrow, Marguerite Charles, Jo Musgrove, Evelyn Scott, Ruth Stanton, Lynn Anderson, WJ Wood, Carol Daniels, Andrea Halling, Al Furrow, Lynn



Anderson

- Grace Myers is home.
- Jo Hartman will be having surgery on Feb. 23.
- Collin Gregory's sisters, Velma and Thelma, both broke their hips last week and were in the hospital.

Happy Birthday this week to:

Caroline Harrington—2/23

Leah Durham—2/23

Norris Gearhart—2/23

Chloe Mays—2/36



Military

Jay Martin—Afghanistan
(need an update please)



FEBRUARY ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS:

Clear packing tape & dry erase markers. (these items are desperately needed) Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!



WOW

The next regular meeting will be on March 9 at 10:30.

Up-

coming Events:



Have an event in mind? —talk to your leaders!!!!

Teens



Bible Bowl is set for March 6
Study Guides are available!

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"What faced [Moses] was a crisis decision: whether to remain in the eyes of men 'the son of Pharaoh's daughter,' or to throw in his lot with the despised people of God. He could not be both an Egyptian and an Israelite. On one hand was all the splendor of Egypt, with its rare treasures and its magnificent heritage; to be in Pharaoh's palaces and to possess perhaps even the throne, to be in a position of power and in a place of privilege and refinement—all the things (the author describes them as the fleeting pleasures of sin) an ancient empire could offer. On the other hand were poverty, contempt, and affliction; for Israel at this time was a nation of slaves, groaning under its heavy load, with broken spirits and vanished hopes, hemmed in inexorably to daily abuse. Yet Moses, by faith, recognized these to be the people of God. He deliberately chose to travel with them the dangerous way rather than to continue in ease. He saw, by faith, that to continue in ease would be sin and further, that the pleasures of sin give no lasting satisfaction ..." (Neil Lightfoot, "The Faith of Moses," *Jesus Christ Today*, 215-216).

"Bred in a palace, he espoused the cause of the people; nursed in the lap of luxury, he embraced adversity; reared in the school of despots, he became the champion of liberty; long associated with oppressors, he took the side of the oppressed; educated as her son, he forfeited the favor of a princess to maintain the rights of the poor; with a crown in prospect, he had the magnanimity to choose a cross; and for the sake of his God and Israel, he abandoned ease, refinement, luxuries, and the highest earthly honors, to be a houseless wanderer" (Quoted anonymously in Arno C. Gaebelain, *Moses -- His First and Second Coming*, np).

Like Moses, we need to think more about sin and what happens if, or when, we yield to our desires:

"A brief, lustful look could lead to an affair."

"A simple wink could wreck my marriage."

"Moral compromise would invalidate my example."

"A single click of the mouse could lead to a wrong relationship."

"A short-term thrill would devastate my family."

"An affair will jeopardize my salvation."

"The fleeting excitement of passion will rob me of inner peace."

Dear Christian, have you thought enough about sinning? "... *But fornicators and adulterers God will judge*" (Hebrews 13:4b; cf. Revelation 21:8).

-Mike Benson

Weekly Reminders

For Your Information

PLAN OF WORKS

The Elders plan to present the 2010 West Side Plan of Works this evening during services. All members are urged to attend this important presentation.

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP

There will be a Wednesday Fellowship on February 24 at 5:45. Menu includes soup, salad and sandwiches. Sign up and pay your \$5 at the door!

MARCH & APRIL EVENTS

If you have any events scheduled for March or April please get the information to the office by Feb. 24.

LADIES NIGHT OUT

The February Ladies Night Out will be held at Jennifer Laplante's home on Feb. 25 at 6:30. Please sign up on the board if you plan to attend.

SINGING WORKSHOP WITH BURT JONES

There will be a singing workshop on February 27 from 2-4 PM with Burt Jones. He will conduct a Song Leaders Training Class during Sunday Bible School and deliver a sermon during our worship time.

TURN, TURN, TURN

There will be a meeting on March 14 at 4:30 for the T3 Planners.

MEN'S RETREAT

The Men's Retreat sponsored by the Lake Drive congregation will be held on March 19 & 20. Registration forms are located in the foyer. Please respond ASAP!

EVENING AT WEST SIDE

There will be a meeting for hostesses on March 21 after evening services to choose invitees.

Bible Class Broadcast

Ladies- If you are going to be in Jeanny's spring Wednesday night class (beginning March 4), you need to sign up for a book by today. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

If you need outlines for the OT Class on Sundays, please sign up on the board by Feb. 24.

All Bible teachers and education workers/helpers, spouses, and special friends are invited to attend the **Education Appreciation Banquet** on March 13 at 5:45. There is a new sign up sheet for this event so make sure you resign up if you are attending!

Spring Quarter Classes start on Sunday, March 7. Upcoming teachers include:

Primary: Kristie Jearls, Amanda Brown, Jennifer Laplante, Kim Brown, Lisa Valentine, Shree Lowe, and Michelle Earnhart.

Secondary & Adult: Jim Harrington & Eddy Gilpin, Bob Garby & Jeff Durham, Eric Earnhart & Marc Laplante, Jeanny Gilpin.

Prayer List:

Marguerite Charles	Collin Gregory
Lynn Anderson	Evelyn Scott
Martha Keith	Danny White
Miriam Majors	Jo Musgrove
Walter & Betty Jenkins	Ruth Stanton
WJ Wood	Carol Daniels
Margaret Kratz	Jo Hartman
Jim Dorsett	Glenn & Ruth Hartman
E.V. Wimmer	Al Furrow
Charlie Puckett	Sandra Wood
Grace Myers	Bill Bryant
Thelma & Velma Vaughan	

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FEBRUARY 2010

Announcements: Fred Altizer
 Song Leader (AM): Jeff Durham
 Communion: Charlie Maness (preside)
 B. Martin, J. Black, H. Baker, M. Brooks
 Prayer: Jerry Anderson (open)
 Marc Laplante (close)
 Next week prayer: Gene Benefield (open)
 Mitch Jearls (close)

Song Leader (PM): Adam House
 Scripture Reader: Nathan Pelfrey
 Prayer: Glenn Gabbard (open)
 Don Pettit (close)
 Next week prayer: Bob Garby (open)
 Tom Rogers (close)
 Communion: Danny Guard, Sam Valentine

Song leader (Wed): Bob Garby
 Prayer: Jeremy White
 Next week prayer: Eric Earnhart

Open/Close Building: Eric Earnhart
 Greeters: Cooks, Gabbards
 Nursery: Lori Cook (AM)
 Paula Gibson (PM)
 Ushers: David Brown, Curtis Oakes
 Handouts: Cameron Brown, Greg Edwards
 Prepare Communion: Shirley Baker
 Amanda Brown

Attendance 2/14&17/10
 Sunday Class—137 Worship—155
 Sun. Eve.—143 Wednesday—103
 Contribution—\$10230

We conclude our look at the word “except” with a brief study of the Ephesian church. We have often heard the statement, “There are always exceptions to the rule.” In the Scriptures, the word “except” (found 74 times in 72 verses- KJV) is pivotal. As we have seen, it is used in life or death situations, approval or disapproval situations and in saved or lost situations. Without the “exceptions,” the results would have been devastating to man. With the “exceptions,” man has hope.

The Lord addressed the church in Ephesus through John in the book of Revelation. This congregation (one of seven Jesus addressed) was guilty of leaving their “first love” (Rev. 2:4). The next verse reveals that the Lord told them, “I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place.” This is the basic sentence as pronounced by the King. However, there was an “exception” mentioned by Christ. The verse in its entirety reads: “Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent” (Rev. 2:5). Notice that there were conditions laid down for the church through which they could avoid having their candlestick removed-remember, repent, redo. If they failed to repent, they would suffer the consequences. Obviously, since the church is unknown in that city today, they failed to obey.

The church at Ephesus left a legacy for us to avoid. They departed from their first love. Sadly, many have followed in their steps through the ages and separated themselves from the Lord (cf. Is. 59:2). Warnings abound against such apostasy, yet man continues to ignore the warnings and plunge headlong to his own demise. What was true of Ephesus is also true of each one who turns away from the Lord- except they repent, they will perish. John informs us that “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (I Jn. 1:9). Do you need to take advantage of this “exception” to the rule?

-Eddy

Feb. 21 (Romans 4)

- Read Romans 4 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 4
 - Illustrations of the law of faith
 - Memorize Rom. 4:7
- Write a note or card this week
- *Increase your contribution by \$1 today

Feb. 22 (Romans 5)

- Read Romans 5 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 5
 - Blessings of obedient faith (1-11)
 - Contrasts between Adam's sin and Christ's atonement (12-21)
- Memorize Rom. 5:8

Feb. 23 (Romans 6)

- Read Romans 6 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 6
 - Freedom from sin's dominion
 - Memorize Rom. 6:3

Feb. 24 (Romans 7)

- Read Romans 7 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 7
 - Freedom from the law of Moses
 - Memorize Rom. 7:4

Feb. 25 (Romans 8)

- Read Romans 8 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 8
 - Spiritual nature of the new life in Christ
 - Memorize Rom. 8:1

Feb. 26 (Romans 9)

- Read Romans 9 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 9
 - Why the Jews were rejected and the Gentiles accepted
- Memorize Rom. 9:33

Feb. 27 (Romans 10)

- Read Romans 10 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 10
 - Israel's only hope - the gospel
 - Memorize Rom. 10:17