

The following article appeared in The Gospel Advocate in March, 1977. In view of the violent crime which took place this past week just 30 minutes west of us and made national news, it seems fitting to reflect on the fact that S-I-N is still spelled with three letters. —the Elders

What Went Wrong?

Anyone who questions the fact that we are having an epidemic of violent crime has not listened carefully to the news media nor given thought to what is happening in his community. Serious crime is virtually out of hand. Nationally there is a 20% increase this year, but I am not so much concerned with what is happening as with why.

Is it the environment? A few years ago as a student in sociology I was led to believe that when all the old buildings were torn down and in their places new ones arose and each person was provided with a welfare income, this would eliminate crime and immorality. The new homes have now been built, and the taxpayers have provided more welfare than was ever imagined even by the social planners of the 30's and 40's, and now there is more poverty than when we started. The very environment that was to eliminate crime has bred one of the worst behavioral problems society has ever experienced.

Why? In a recent meeting several police chiefs voiced their opinion that jobs and education were involved in the answer to crime. Others felt strongly that something was wrong with the whole system. One chief stated, "Poverty causes crime, but it's not material poverty, it's moral poverty." It was also voiced, "The swinging mothers who decide to go their sexual way are going to produce a batch of criminals that are going to be unparalleled in the history of this country."

On NBC's *Meet the Press*, it was stated: "The No. 1 solution to crime is the proper kind of home culture, after that it's the proper kind of school culture. If marital fidelity means nothing in marriage, then we're going to see a wave of crime when those children hit the 14-29 age group like we have never (continued)

The Addition of the Law—2

As noted last week, Galatians 3:19 asks the question, "Wherefore then serveth the law?" The answer then follows, "It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made." To what was it "added," and why? We continue our study of Galatians 3 in order ultimately to answer these and other questions..

The Galatians were acting foolishly by returning to the very thing from which Christ had freed them—the Mosaic law (Romans 7:4). There is a contrast made throughout chapter three between the Old Testament law and the New Testament law. Phrases such as "works of the law" and "the hearing of faith" reveal this contrast. Obviously, these phrases are mere synecdoche (a part standing for the whole), since there was a matter of hearing involved with the law of Moses and more involved in the law of Christ than the mere hearing of it (cf., John 14:15; Hebrews 5:9). In Verse 7 Paul states that they which are of faith (the system of faith presented by Christ, the New Testament system) are the true children of Abraham. The Judaizers of that day were contending that one had to be their descendant and go through Judaistic traditions to be a child of Abraham. The fact that Jesus was the seed promised to Abraham and the One through Whom all nations would be blessed (Genesis 12:1-3) was the good news (the gospel in promise) which was "preached before...unto Abraham" (Galatians 3:8). Those who continued to promote obedience to Old Testament law were condemned because justification came only to those who lived by faith (Galatians 3:10, 11). (Again, "faith" is symbolic of the system of faith that Jesus established; His covenant).

Paul clarifies that it was to Abraham and his seed that the promises were made (Galatians 3:16). The Seed was Christ. So, it was through Christ that one actually became a beneficiary of the promise made to Abraham—the blessing to all nations that Christ provided but the law of Moses could not. (to be continued)

Eddy

What Went Wrong? (continued)

seen before.”

What is the solution? Foremost it is in the home. Parents must assume their role as parents. Delinquent parents are going to produce delinquent children. Christians must renew themselves to cry aloud against the corrupting influences that are destroying the home. Sermons on fidelity must ring from our pulpits. Elders must not permit immorality to invade the church, and Bible class teachers must begin early to teach against divorce, drinking, smoking, dancing, nakedness and all manner of sin.

We must make it clear that sin preached in the movies and on TV is unacceptable, and we will not support those who pay for it. It must be vividly pointed out to governmental officials that immorality is totally unacceptable and those who engage in such grotesque behavior can no longer be elected.

We must remember it is regeneration that changes a man, not migration. It is our own weakness that has allowed this situation to exist. This is seen by the decadence in the church. Else, why would we continue to send those to high offices who flagrantly flaunt their immorality in the faces of those who elect them?

Nations have followed their leaders in sin (I Kings. 12:30), and the Lord has punished nations because of the sins of their leaders (Genesis 20:4; II Samuel 24:10-17). America could be in line for her “vials of wrath”.

Joe L. Connell

Wrong is ALWAYS Wrong

In a period of loose, sagging morals, Satan provides many rationalizations for improper behavior. Those who would live faithful Christian lives must not be “ignorant of his devices” (II Corinthians 2:11).

Wrong is wrong, even if you don’t get caught. Let us remember that *“the eyes of the LORD are in every place beholding the evil and good”* (Proverbs 15:3).

Wrong is wrong, even if you do it for a good cause. The honorable purpose does not justify the dishonorable deed or action. The end never does justify the means. *“...for sin is a transgression of the law”* (I John 3:4-5).

Wrong is wrong, even if others are doing worse things. It will be little comfort to you in the day of judgment, if you should be lost, that others you knew did things which you consider to be worse than your own sins.

Wrong is wrong, even if it doesn’t bother your conscience. The conscience can be trained or educated to accept wrong doing, but even and honest sin or evil done in sincerity is sinful in the sight of the holy God. *“...whatsoever a man soweth, shat shall he also reap”* (Galatians 6:7).

Wrong is wrong, even if it is considered acceptable. *“Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil”* (Exodus 23:3). The Christian should *“Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass*

not by it, turn from it, and pass away” (Proverbs 4:14-15). *“Prove all things, hold fast to that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil”* (I Thessalonians 5:21-22). Remember, there is never a right time to do a wrong thing!
Bulletin Digest

Sins That Cripple the Church

† **ABSENTEEISM:** *“...not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more as ye see the day approaching”* (Hebrews 10:25).

† **INDIFFERENCE:** *“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou were cold or hot”* (Revelation 3:15).

† **WORLDLINESS:** *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him”* (I John 2:15).

† **UNFAITHFULNESS:** *“Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love”* (Revelation 2:4).

† **SELFISHNESS:** *“Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others”* (Philippians 2:4).

† **NEGLECT:** *“How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation...”* (Hebrews 2:3)?

† **COMPROMISE:** *“Wherefore come ye out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you”* (II Corinthians 6:17).

† **CONTENTION:** *“...that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you”* (I Corinthians 1:10).

† **IGNORANCE:** *“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent”* (Acts 17:30).
—Jim Martin

Are you guilty of one or more of the sins listed above? *“Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee”* (Acts 8:22).

“Take your stand on the power and trustworthiness of your God, and see how quickly all difficulties vanish before a steadfast determination to believe. Trust in the dark, trust in the light, trust at night and trust in the morning, and you will find that the faith that many begin, perhaps by a mighty effort, will end by becoming the easy and natural habit of the soul....Every act of trust makes the next act less difficult, until...trusting becomes like breathing, the natural, unconscious action of the redeemed soul.”
—Hannah Whitall Smith

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

Proverbs 3:5, 6

SICK

(at home) **Charlie Puckett, Evelyn Scott** (had an MRI on Thursday), **Elsie Smith. Peggy Paxton's mom** has pneumonia, and Peggy and Bobby have gone to Florida to be with her. **Cory Driver, 15**, (1109 6th AV SW, Fayette, AL 35555), Eddy's nephew, will see doctors in Birmingham to determine course of action for treatment of a hole in his heart.

Continue to remember: **Mary & Lynn Anderson, Norma Biller, Betty Buckner, Willard Campbell, Marguerite Charles, Dotty Collins, Owen Cosgrove, Jim Dorsett, Andy Duran** (had an MRI; strained deltoid muscle), **Paul Faw, Collin & Luetta** (her tumor is growing; is on new chemo medication)**Gregory, Luke Guard, Patti Gwaltney, Mr. Hamilton, Steve Harrah, Billy Lee Hart, Jo Hartman, Dee House, Dan Hudgins, A.C & Mickie Janney, Robert Jeffries, Betty Jenkins, Martha Keith, Lisa Knott** (ICU, Duke Univ. Hospital), **Margaret Kratz, Oliver & Miriam Majors, Buddy Martin, Sophia Mays, Donnie & Susan Mountcastle, Jo Musgrove Larry Phillips, Kevin Roach, Murphy Scott, Annette Shrader, Peggy Simpkins, Ruth Stanton, Ken Upchurch, Velma Vaughan, David Wertz** (now in a rehab facility; doing well), **David Wilcox, Evelyn White, Jessica White, Teresa White, E.V. & Effie Wimmer, W.J. Wood**

RESTORED & PLACED MEMBERSHIP: **Sandra Wood** (7/2); 2637 Lansing DR, SW, 24015; 342-3003.

SYMPATHY: We extend our sympathy to the families of **Chris Sutphin** (police officer) and **Derrick McFarland** (security guard) who were killed in the line of duty in Christiansburg last week. Funds for their families have been set up at 1st National Bank, P.O. Box 600, C'burg. 24073.

MISSIONARIES: **the Pearsons, the Staffords** and the TZ2000 team.

MILITARY: **Ty Stricklin** (has begun out-processing for coming home; should be back in the States by the end of September), **John Shannon** and **Gabriel Hayes** who are in Iraq. **Jonathan Chumley**, Kosovo. **OTHER:** On-going Bible studies; "Restore 2006"

THIS WEEK AT WEST SIDE

Today: Happy birthday to **Jeff Durham!**

Monday: Happy birthday to **Ty Stricklin!**

Tuesday: Happy birthday to **Kim Brown, Darlene Mellon & Bobby Paxton!**

Wednesday: Bible Study, Summer Series, **C.E. Mannon**, Laurel Hill, 7pm.

Thursday: Happy birthday to **Bobby Martin!** Happy anniversary to **James & Marsha Cooke!**

Friday: Team 2 (Garby) to Avalanche game; everyone invited.

Saturday: Happy anniversary to **Wayne & Jackie Dixon!**

Sunday, 9/3: New teaching quarter begins.

ITEMS FOR TANZANIA—YOU CAN HELP

Dry erase markers, ink pens, loose leaf notebook paper, ties (new/used) white t-shirts (new or clean, in good-repair ones), NKJV Bibles. Give to **Rebecca Durham**.

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER

September 6, 5:45pm. "Out of Africa" menu for our guys leaving the following week. Sign up and pay an elder \$5 before Sunday, 9/3.

LADIES' NIGHT OUT

Hostesses: **JoAnn Edwards & Melissa Rogers**

Tuesday, September 12, 7pm.

Sign up and bring appetizer or dessert. It's going to be just "ducky".

LADIES, MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Suffolk Ladies' Day, September 30, 9:00am-12:30pm. "Clean Out Your Closet" (II Corinthians 7:1). Registration and continental breakfast begin at 8:15am. RSVP to Carol Ficklen (757-539-9697; bioteacher@myexcel.com) by Sunday, 9/17. There will be no child care.

TURN, TURN, TURN 2006

"You Can't Always Have It Your Way" (Learning Contentment) (Philippians 4:11; Luke 2:52). **Celicia Grider** of Collierville, TN, will be the featured speaker on **Saturday, October 7**. Activities begin at 8:30am with a continental breakfast. There is no cost for this year's event. Registration forms are available on the table in the foyer. Registration deadline is September 27.

A NOTE FROM KEN UPCHURCH

"...just wanted you to know how much I appreciate your constant prayers. I know it is because of you and congregations like West Side that ya'll have prayed me right through this difficulty. I am humbled by the outpouring of love by so many wonderful people. That was a special card I got from West Side—they really are the BEST SIDE!! God bless them....I love you. just ken

A B-I-G THANK YOU!

Thanks to all the primary teachers and helpers during the Summer quarter. We appreciate your dedication and love for children's souls. Teachers/helpers were **Rosemary Bush, Marshal Cooke, Judy Durham, Rebecca Durham, Adam House, Melissa Marshall, Martha Wood**.

COMING IN OCTOBER

Turn, Turn, Turn, Saturday, 10/7

Gospel Meetings:

15-18: **OURS** w/**Keith Mosher**, MSOP; Round Knob w/**Clarence Lavender**

Ladies' Night Out: Thursday, 10/26, 7pm.

NEW AREA PREACHERS

Steve Canup (Ft. Chiswell), **Bob Horne** (Tazewell)

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER ITEMS FOR STAFFORDS

Torengos (tortilla chips in a can), zip lock bags (any size)

Anyone can carry his burden, however hard, until nightfall. Anyone can do his work, however hard, for one day. Anyone can live patiently, lovingly, purely, till the sun goes down. And this is all that life really means.

Robert Louis Stevenson

Opportunities to Serve **September 2006**
Announcements..... Tom Duff
Reader (PM)..... Garrett Durham
Preside..... Squeaky Valentine
Serve.. Gene Benefield, John Black, Adam House, George Mellon
(PM) David Brown, Mike Durham

Opening Prayer
9/3..... Charles Gwaltney, (PM) Glann Hartman
9/10..... Fred Altizer, (PM) Ortie Boyd
9/17..... Gary Sartain, (PM) Bob Garby
9/24..... Tom Richardson, (PM) Paul Mays

Closing Prayer
9/3..... Murphy Scott, (PM) Jim Harrington
9/10..... A.C. Janney, (PM) James Cooke
9/17..... Don Pettit, (PM) Greg Edwards
9/24..... Collin Gregory, (PM) Herbert Baker

Greeters..... Jenkins, Mellons
Open/Close Building..... Tom Richardson
Care of Communion..... Freda Overton, Melissa Marshall
alternate, Susan Mountcastle

Song Leaders
Sunday.. (AM) J. Durham, (PM) C. Gwaltney. . . (Wed.) B. Garby
Care of Baptismal Garments..... JoAnn Edwards
Ushers..... Norris Gearhart, Roger Mays
Nursery..... Becky Cooke, (PM) Teresa Sartain
Alternates..... Mark Brooks, David Brown
Handouts..... Paul Faw, Curtis Oakes, Richard & Ryan Simms
Doorman..... Fred Altizer; alternate, Bob Garby

OUR RECORD.... 8/16, 20, 2006
Wednesday..... 138
Sunday Bible Study..... 137
Sunday Morning Worship..... 158
Sunday Evening Worship..... 128
Contribution..... \$5,360.00
Volume XXVII, Number 35 **August 27, 2006**

15 Reasons Why We Say “The Church of Christ”

- Christ built it (Matthew 16:18).
- Christ called it “His” (Matthew 16:18).
- It is “His” body (Ephesians 1:22).
- He is the chief cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20).
- It is His own house (Hebrews 3:6).
- He gave Himself for it (Ephesians 5:26-27).
- It is His wife (II Corinthians 11:2; Revelation 19:9).
- He is the Savior of the body (Ephesians 5:27).
- He is the Head of all things to it (Ephesians 1:22).
- The Lord added to it “*such as should be saved*” (Acts 2:47).
- We are all baptized into one body (I Corinthians 12:13).
- The one body is the church (Ephesians 1:22).
- All baptized believers are the church (I Corinthians 1:12).
- The connecting link through the ages is the “seed,” the Word of God (Luke 8:11).
- Eternal life in Christ is the goal of all (John 10:27-38).
—via *The Christiansburg Chronicle*