



# THE BROOKSVILLE BULLETIN

*Brooksville church of Christ*  
604 W. Fort Dade Avenue, Brooksville, FL

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October 24, 2021

## **How Do I Live In This Mess? (Dee Bowman)**

God did great good when He created man. Man is unique among all of God's creatures simply out of the fact that he is fitted to act from his own volition rather than from a law of necessity. Everything man does is only the fulfillment of what he has before decided of his own will.

C. S. Lewis has properly observed that "wickedness, when you examine it, turns out to be the pursuit of some good in the wrong way." Misuse of good, illicit use of right things, poor motives, selfish use of desires, appetites—all these and more constitute the basis for immorality. And in all of it, man's own selfish choices are the culprit.

We are bound to live in our atmosphere. Atmosphere is important. We are so attached to our own that when we leave it, we must, as do the astronauts, take a little of it with us where we go. And there are different kinds of atmosphere some are humid, some arid; some are warm, others not so

warm, but in every area people have adapted to their atmosphere. The ability of man to conform to his surroundings is amazing.

We live in a mess, an atmosphere where restraint has been cast aside and where what might be called "moral liberty" runs rampant. People today have lost their sense of shame. The blush is as outmoded as bustled skirts and high-button shoes. Pornography is not only tolerated, but its purveyors legally protected. Drug use has run through every age group, beginning with the young adults and running all the way down to grade school students.

Prostitution is openly practiced as immoral women ply their trade openly on street corners as well as in fancy hotels. Bad language, absolute gutter filth, is everywhere and no ear, no matter how tender, is excerpted from it. Marital promiscuity has become so common as to be expected.

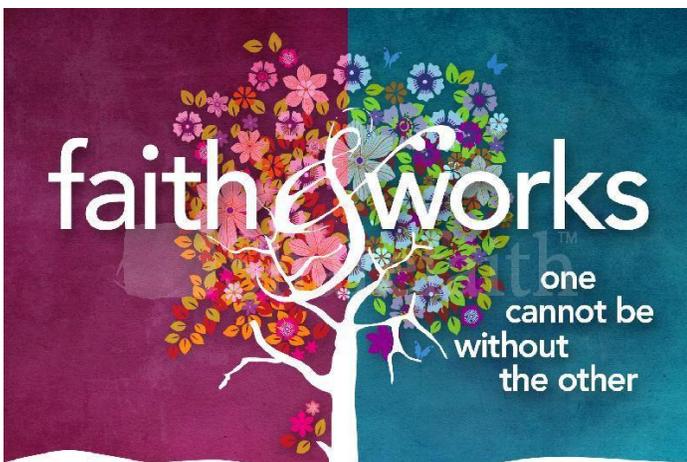
Television programs depict it as the norm and in doing so, promote it to a level of respectability. Lying, cheating,



stealing are excused today as being just good business and shoddy workmanship is practiced without excuse or apology.

This, then, is the atmosphere in which we live. Can we overcome it? Can we, in the midst of such filth and decadence, stand up for purity and righteous living? I say we can. We not only can, we must! It's up to us to pervade society, to seek to show that there is a sublimated way of living that not only makes better people but better living; and in the end, eternal life.

But how can we do it? We are



James 2:15-18

so few; they are so many. Besides, look at the appeal of evil. How can we be expected to contend against such appeal? Evil imposes no hardships; it requires only that one conform; it removes moral barriers and opens new frontiers for enjoyment.

But we can do it. I suggest: That we stop being timid about who we are and accept the challenge. Sure, it's hard. We must not be weary in our well-doing (Galatians 6:9); we must remain constant (1 Corinthians 15:58). And we have no reason to be ashamed of our

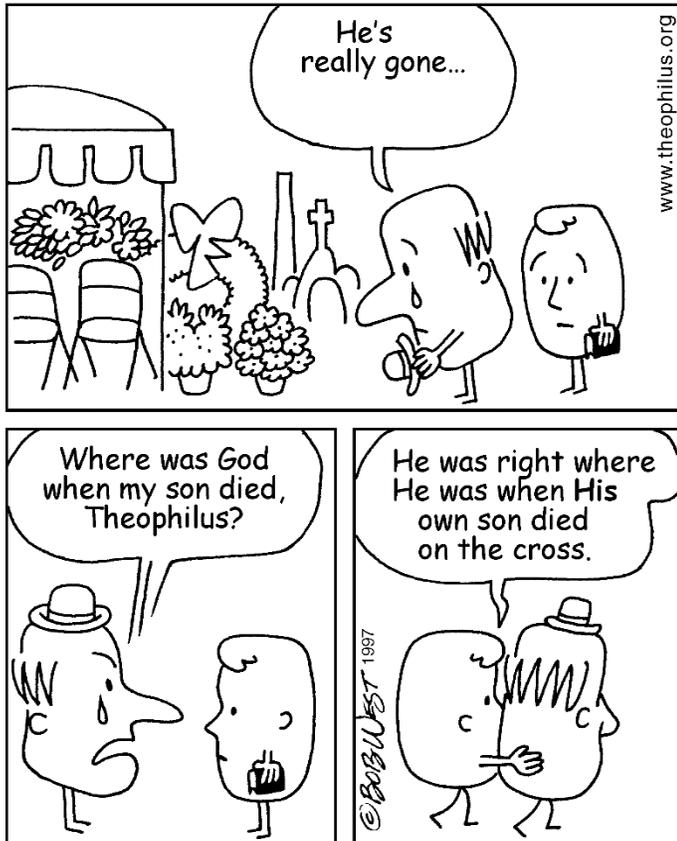
Master or of His gospel. We walk with the King! Let's act like it.

That we develop a sense of well-being about who we are. It takes confidence to win and we of all people should be most confident. Do you realize that while we stand with God we cannot lose? It's so! There is no power that can stop us (Romans 8:35-39)—not even death (1 Corinthians 15:54-55). So let us be bold and fearless, for ours is the victory!

That we learn again what is the value of the spiritual. All of us know that at one time, when we first obeyed the gospel. But we tend to let it slip away. We need to return to it. To understand the value of the spiritual is to relegate our trials and difficulties to their rightful place of only relative importance, to tune our minds to the noble, the sublime, the truly great; to aim higher; and to work harder. Our heart and our treasure are at the same place. Let us begin again to look up, not out.

We can do it. We not only can exist in this mess, we can change it. With neither shame nor diffidence, let us concentrate on where we are and who we are and realize that ours is a grand mission even though it must sometimes be in the midst of a mess.

**O LORD, MY STRENGTH AND MY  
FORTRESS, MY REFUGE IN THE DAY OF  
AFFLICTION. (JEREMIAH 16:19)**



## What Is the Biggest Problem You Have? (Gary Henry)

“While he was still speaking, another also came and said, ‘Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!’” (Job 1:18,19).

AT WHAT POINT WOULD YOU SAY THAT THE “WORST” HAS HAPPENED TO YOU? In the story of Job, he might have said the worst had happened when all of his oxen and donkeys were stolen by the Sabeans, but worse news was yet to come, and even worse news after that, and worse and worse. He

suffered not one tragedy but a cascade of tragedies, each one making the ones that went before seem small by comparison. By the time the worst truly had come, he probably looked back at the initial loss of his oxen and donkeys and was ashamed that he had called that a “problem.”

In life, there are what we call “problems.” A problem is a significant difficulty, something that hinders or hurts us in a major way. And surely, there is no shortage of such things in the world as it now is, broken and marred by the consequences of sin and strife.

But in life, there are also what we call “annoyances.” These are difficulties of a lesser nature. They can be quite bothersome (think of a tiny pebble in your shoe), but in the larger scheme of things, they don’t represent any serious threat to anyone’s well-being.

Now the interesting thing is that a difficulty that one person sees as a problem, another person thinks of as just an annoyance. How do we account for the difference? The answer is simple. Your definition of a problem is relative to what you’ve had to deal with up to now. That ache in your leg won’t seem like much of a problem if there ever comes a day when you don’t have any legs at all.



So what is the biggest problem you have? Whatever it is, be aware that things could get worse, as they did in Job's life. But don't let that scare you or depress you; just let it make you grateful for your present situation. (There are people who would jump at the chance to have "problems" no worse than yours.) And let it make you glad for this fact also: the problems you have today have helped you to see that what you thought were your problems yesterday weren't really problems — they were only annoyances.

### **Anger (Frederick Buechner)**

Of the seven deadly sins, anger is possibly the most fun. To lick your wounds, to smack your lips over grievances long past, to roll over your tongue the prospect of bitter confrontations still to come, to savor to the last toothsome morsel both the pain you are given and the pain you are giving back--in many

ways it is a feast fit for a king. The chief drawback is that what you are wolfing down is yourself. The skeleton at the feast is you.

### **Standing On The Promises (Edsel Burleson)**

Too many churches are singing "Standing on the Promises" when they are in reality just sitting on the premises. Someone has said that every church is made up of willing workers, 10 percent are willing to do the work and the other 90 percent are willing to let them do it. Too many have learned that heaven will be a place of rest and are getting all practiced up for it.

- ✓ Pray – don't give God instructions, just report for duty.
- ✓ Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning to dance in the rain.
- ✓ You can tell how big a person is by what it takes to discourage him.

#### **Brooksville Church of Christ**

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#### **Times of Services**

Sunday Bible Class for all ages (10:00am)

Sunday Worship all Welcome (11:00am & 6:00pm)

Wednesday Bible Class for all ages (7:00pm)

*Supporting the GOSPEL in other places:*

☞ Jamey Hinds, Hollywood, Florida; Roy Fenner, Panama City, Florida

☞ Zeke Flores, Columbus, Texas; The saints in Nicaragua

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