

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements
Jon Barry

Song Leader
Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper
Rodney Ellis, Mark Davis,
Cole Meador

Prayers
Alec Capel, Jerry Schnelle

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Announcements
Rodney Ellis

Song Leader
Jack Calvert

Prayers
Jon Barry, Daniel Allgor

Invitation
Clay Morris

ABOUT US

Elders
Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Deacons
Jon Barry Mike Davis
Clay Morris

Evangelist
Bryan Garlock

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday
Bible Study9:30 A.M.
Worship10:15 A.M.

Monday (Zoom)
Bible Study7:00 P.M

Wednesday
Bible Study7:00 P.M.

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GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION

Hear the word of truth Romans 10:13-17

Believe the truth..... Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24

Repent from all sins Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38

Confess the name of Christ ... Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

Be Baptized in His name Mark 16:16;
1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12

Walk in newness of life and **be faithful** unto death Romans 6:1-4; Revelation 2:10

makes you the bad guy. In those moments, remember God's words to the prophet Samuel: "They have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me" (1 Samuel 8:7). Remember what Jesus said to Nicodemus: "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed" (John 3:19-20).



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Issue 28

Sin Destroys Families
Jacob Hudgins

Family is a beautiful thing. After the deep ache of loneliness, imagine how excited Adam must have been to see Eve, a companion and helper. Imagine their pure joy at holding little Cain for the first time, then adding a little brother for him. Proud parents and sweet children—the boys grow up, play together, and become close. Then one day, no one can find Abel, Cain becomes a vagabond, and the family is destroyed. What happened? "The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground"(Gen 4:11). Sin destroys families.

Sin is horrible in its own right. It has real consequences for our souls, causes God's name to be blasphemed, and leads others to do wrong. But the Bible teaches us that sin has a catastrophic impact on those we love most.

Ask Lot, who saw sin take his sons-in-law and his wife—and whose own incestuous sin made a horrible end for a

righteous man's family. Ask Jacob and Esau about deceit and scheming and its effects on their family. Ask Laban, whose double-dealing made his own daughters want to leave. Ask Joseph and his brothers whether sin hurt their family. Fast forward to Achan, who brought his stolen gain into his tent and caused his family to be killed with him. Ananias and Sapphira met their end together because of their sin. Even David was told, "the sword shall never depart from your house"(2 Sam 12:10), a prophecy we sadly see fulfilled in his own children.

What is the lesson? We are often lured into thinking that no one will know if we sin, and that it will affect no one but ourselves. This cannot be true. The Bible record is too unanimous to be misunderstood. Sin will take its toll, and it will be on the innocent victims we love most. If we are unconvinced by the pleadings of God's word, if fear for our

FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember the health concerns of *Francine Davis, Gerald Eaton, Joey Avance, Jerry Schnelle, Bonnie Allgor, Pat Buls, Sonny & Cathy Monaghan, Beth Ellen, and Pete Rowland.*

own soul does not move us, perhaps the last straw is an appeal to the people we love most and spend most of our time working to help. Think twice. Sin destroys families!

Christ Is the Answer...But What's the Question?
Jeff Himmel

I sometimes see T-shirts, bumper stickers, and billboards with the slogan, "Christ is the answer." But what questions is He the answer to? Consider a few.

How many paths to God are there? Christ is the answer. "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).

Does God really love me? Christ is the answer. "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

How can a holy God justify sinful people? Christ is the answer. "For all have sinned

and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteous-ness, because in the for-bearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed...so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Je-sus" (Romans 3:23-26).

Can God really sympathize with me? Christ is the answer. "There-fore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weak-nesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin." (Hebrews 4:14-15).

Is there a clearly defined way to live so as to please God? Christ is the answer. "For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously" (1 Peter 1:21-23).

Is it possible to know real joy and peace? Christ is the answer. "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with

thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:4-7).

How can a Christian overcome sin? Christ is the answer. "But if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellow-ship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unright-eousness" (1 John 1:7-9).

Is there hope beyond this life? Christ is the answer. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you" (1 Peter 1:3-4).

"Everyone Who Does Evil Hates the Light"
Jeff Himmel

Sometimes the true test of a conviction comes when defending that conviction — or merely explaining it — causes someone else to view you as an enemy. When simply stating what the Bible says about an issue leads others to call you mean, repressive, or even un-Christ-like. When your efforts to

teach someone the truth cause them to weep, not tears of regret or repentance, but the tears of someone who feels he is being treated unfairly. When a person paints you as being responsible for others' heartache and suffering just because of what you believe.

That hurts.

Think of what may happen when you defend the Bible's teaching about sex and marriage. Jesus said, "Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries one who is divorced from a husband commits adultery" (Luke 16:18; cf. Mark 10:11-12; Matthew 19:9). But no matter how kindly and lovingly you try to explain this, many people will see you as a villain who wants to keep people apart or even wreck happy marriages.

The New Testament says that sex outside of marriage is sinful, period (1 Corinthians 6:9). It says that the practice of homosexuality is sinful (1 Corinthians 6:9; Romans 1:24-27). But no matter how kindly and lovingly you say so, many people will see you as a hateful bigot who wants to deny others their happiness.

Certainly, we should do our best to "speak the truth in love" — and sometimes disciples have failed on the "in love" part (Ephesians 4:15). But understand that no matter how graciously you present the truth, some people will still decide that it