

Truth for Today

February 2, 2020

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Published for the members and guests of the Woodlands church of Christ

The Danger of Looking Back

By Gary Henry – WordPoints.com

“But Jesus said to him, ‘No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God’” (Luke 9:62).

IT IS BY THE GRACE OF GOD THAT WE HAVE COME AS FAR AS WE HAVE IN THE JOURNEY OF LIFE. We are not apostles and we may not have been guilty of murdering Christians as Paul was, but we can still identify with his sentiment: “I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am” (1 Corinthians 15:9,10). Thanks to God’s patience with us, we’ve been given the time we needed to learn and grow and improve. Some things, we’re now glad to say, are in the past.

We need to exercise a degree of caution in the way we think about our past. We wouldn’t have done the things we used to do if they hadn’t been attractive to us, and we need not think they couldn’t become attractive again if we gave them the opportunity. We may have grown stronger, but we’re not yet invincible.

It would be impossible to forget completely the sins of our past. In fact, it wouldn’t be good to forget them — we need the memory of those things to keep us humble. But if we can’t keep certain memories from coming back, we can at least refuse to entertain them hospitably. We may have to look back for practical reasons now and then, but we dare not look back longingly.

When we break with our sins, God commands us to do so cleanly and decisively. It’s a strong thing that Jesus says when He teaches that if we look back after putting our hands to the plow, we are “not fit for the kingdom of God.” We do not properly honor Him as our Lord if our choice to follow Him is not wholehearted. The commitment to say “Yes” to Him must be accompanied by an emphatic “No” to the sins that have previously separated us from Him. That definite “No” is a necessary part of repentance.

It’s a dangerous thing to replay the still-enjoyable aspects of the memory of sin. Like Lot and his family who were told to leave Sodom and not look back, we need, in the case of some things, to leave them alone for the rest of our lives. We can’t afford to have any fine print in our contract with God. By His grace, we’ve been able to close certain doors. Reopening them is . . . well, unthinkable.

“To forsake sin is to leave it without any thought of returning to it” (William Gurnall).

Our Daughter's Nightly Struggle

Allison, START Parent, Overland Park, KS

My daughter is 16 and like all teens, deals with social drama and ups and downs. I want her to have a cell phone for safety, but last year I began to realize that she was using it for much more than that. She was staying up late at night texting and on social media, and the beautiful daughter I know, and love was, quite frankly, becoming awful to live with.

After investigating her hours of late-night phone use (which for a technology challenged mom like myself was no easy task), my husband and I decided it was time for us to start putting her device in our room at bedtime. I honestly had no idea how much this decision would impact her. After she blew up in anger, she began sobbing and puddled on the floor. As I held her, I just listened. Listened to all the worries and fears of fitting in and keeping up, but there was something even more alarming keeping her up at night... My daughter had been counseling another teen late at night who was suicidal. Her huge heart had been on high alert. She always HAD to stay up and be available “in case” her friend needed her.

We were able to talk, really talk (well, she talked, and I held my breath hoping that it wouldn’t stop). She shared all her social circle drama, the comments on social media she had to keep up with, the sleep overs and parties she saw that she knew she wasn’t invited to, and most importantly how she was single handedly owning responsibility for her friend’s life. My teen was relieved when we talked through how to break the silence and get her friend help, real help, and that it wasn’t my daughter’s responsibility to carry that burden, especially not alone. Together we came up with a plan to involve adults who can support her friend and break the silence over suicidal thoughts.

After the dust settled and we stuck to our new “no phone at bedtime” rule, I was amazed at the changes we saw. I could tell that my girl was so relieved! Much like setting limits with a curfew, she needed that structure from us to take the pressure off. Also, while initially it was an adjustment for all of us at bedtime to take the phone (not going to lie, some days were harder than others depending on what was going on socially), after a while it became routine. She began to use our limits to protect herself too, telling peers her mom and dad were taking the phone (we gave her permission to blame us for any lameness). She got sleep, she was less irritable, and I saw my beautiful girl come back.

Navigating this technology thing is not fun, for parents or our teens. But I will fight for our daughter’s health and am happy to report that this battle was worth it.

NEWS & NOTES

UPDATED PRAYER LIST

- **Hailey Boniche** 's surgery was been rescheduled on Friday, 2/7, at St. Luke's the Woodlands.
- **Kay Coss** has been placed on hospice. No calls, texts or visits have been requested.
- **Harvey Goble**
- **LouAnn Goble**
- **Linda Peterson** was released on Friday and is doing well. There was a fire on the 1st floor of her building Friday night; she had to evacuate but was back home by midnight. No one hurt.
- **Annette Yaws** had a different type of CT scan on Friday. Results showed the fistula has been plugged by a blood clot. In effect, it has fixed itself, and the doctor has released her unless she becomes symptomatic.
- **Several people** are battling seasonal ailments. Prayers for wellness is appreciated.
—See *Enews for Ongoing Prayer List*

MEETINGS, EVENTS, SINGINGS & STUDIES

- **WINTER ADULT CLASSES**
 - **ROMANS** | SUNDAY in the Auditorium
 - **THE MESSIAH'S MISFITS** | SUNDAY in Classroom #5
 - **INTRODUCING THE PSALMS** | WEDNESDAY in the Auditorium
- **BARNABAS GROUP** | Postcards on the Barnabas table. See Leo Betancourt.
- **2:52 Kids Class (MEMORIZING BIBLE FACTS & PRAISE)** [2-12] | 2/2/20, 4:00 p.m. classroom #9
- **SONG LEADER TRAINING CLASS** | (3rd Sundays) 2/16/2020, 4:00 p.m.
- **YOUNG ADULT STUDY** ["twenty-somethings"]

- Friday, 1/25*, 6:30 p.m. at the Hootons.
- **TUESDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY** [Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.] | studying Luke in classroom 5.
- **TEEN BIBLE DEVO** [12-18, 3rd Saturdays] 1/25, Preuss' home, 6:00 p.m.
- **ADULT BIBLE STUDY** [30/40 somethings, bi-monthly] | 1/25, 6:00 p.m., C/T Chapman's.
- **OUTREACH MEETUP STUDY** | Mondays at Panera Bread at 7:00 p.m.
- **BUILDING A GODLY HOME Bible Study** | Sundays beginning **TODAY!**, 4:00 p.m.
 - **PLEASE READ**
 - This **Building a Godly Home** is a class for all Christians who are interested in attending: parents, couples or singles who are parents or singles who want to learn more about building a godly home. It will be a monthly class for discussion and Bible study.
 - **During the same hour, the Luke 2:52 class** for ages 2-12 will meet for Bible memorization, Bible story telling and singing exercises. **Also**, a Bible video class of "Following the Messiah" will be presented for **Teens** (aged from 13-18 and any others who want to come) so **every-one in your family** has a place to learn.
 - **WORKDAY** | Sat., 2/8/2020
 - **Begins in 1 Week! WINTER MEETING** | with Ethan Longhenry from Los Angeles, CA | 2/9-12
 - **Meal Hosts for Ethan are needed.** See the sign-up sheet in the foyer!
 - **SINGING** | Sat., 3/7/2020
 - **VBS** | FOCUS ON FAITH | Mon-Thurs., 6/22-25
 - **YOUTH LECTURES** | NEW DATE | Sat-Sun, 8/8-9/2020

- **MEETING** | with Ben Hall from Brooklyn, NY, 9/13-16/2020

AREA EVENTS

- **GOSPEL MEETING** | Centerville Church of Christ | Centerville | 2/9-12
- **Lessons about Pornography** with David Pickup | Alston Rd Church of Christ | Sugar Land | 2/21-23






DIRECTORY UPDATES

- **PHOTO DIRECTORIES** The most recent printed directory is in the foyer for members. Changes? See Brian Clark for any corrections or changes.
- **REASON TO REJOICE! Kay Coss**, the mother of Kay Barkoh, was baptized into Christ last Wednesday afternoon. Rejoice with the angels and all of us.
- **WELCOME to Debbie Horn** who placed membership with us on Sunday.
- **Blake Middleton** has moved east of Houston for work and found housing there and will be worshipping with a congregation there. We will miss him and wish him God speed.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

- **VOLUNTEER SIGN UPS for 2020**, including Communion Prep, visitor greeting and bimonthly building lockup.

Attendance	Last Month Avg	Last Week
Sunday Bible Class	112	121
Sunday Worship AM	180	178
Sunday Worship PM	97	79
Wednesday PM	84	88

Sunday AM Worship	2/2/2020	2/9/2020	Communion Preparation
Song Leader	Dwight Haas	Alan Stilts	February — Preuss
1st prayer	Nathan Shows	Barrett Blankenship	Visitor Hospitality
Scripture Reading	Granville Betton — Acts 17:1-9	Jacob Cowart — Prov. 4:1-9	February — Suarez
Lord Supper Lead	Jeremy Crump	Trent Williams	Elders
Bread	Gary LeBlanc	George Chapman	Keith Arrants 936.582.1244
Fruit of Vine	Craig Preuss	Al Suarez	George Chapman 281.298.1303
Offering	Jay Dulin	Brian Clark	Norman Davis 832.326.2966
Helper	Jacob Cowart	Steve Dargan	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
Helper	Jonathan Chandler	Granville Betton	Deacons
Preaching	Don Hooton	Don Hooton	John Beighle 806.367.3389
Usher	Hayden Clark	Dwight Haas	Adam Bohanan 281.798.1093
Closing Prayer	Keith Arrants	Jeremy Crump	Brian Clark 281.513.0706
Announcements	Adam Bohanan	Keith Arrants	Gary LeBlanc 281.292.0262
Sunday PM Worship	2/2/2020	2/9/2020	Craig Preuss 832.477.0578
Song Leader	Don Hooton	Steve Dargan	Evangelists
1st prayer	Mitch Harvey	George Chapman	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
Scripture Reading	Gerald Hodges — James 5:13-18	Clint Ford — Eccl. 11	You can also find us here...  WOODLANDSCHURCHOFCHRIST.org  facebook.com/woodlandschurchofchrist  @woodlandscc  woodlandschurchofchrist  woodlandschurchofchrist
Lord Supper	Jay Dulin	Leo Betancourt	
Preaching	Singing	Don Hooton	
Closing Prayer	Bobby Cleek	Dwight Haas	
Wednesday	2/5/2020	2/12/2020	
Song Leader	Adam Bohanan	Hayden Clark	SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Worship Assemblies Sundays at 10:20 am & 5:00 pm Bible Classes for All Ages Sundays 9:30 am & Wednesdays 7:00 pm
Invitation	Jeremy Crump	Dwight Haas	
Closing Prayer	Keith Arrants	Jeremy Crump	
Announcements	Dwight Osteen	Dwight Haas	