

Trends

Some sobering statistics on adultery:

- ☛ 22% of married men admit to at least one incidence of infidelity.
- ☛ 14% of married women admit to at least one incidence of infidelity.
- ☛ 17% of men and women admit an infidelity with a brother-in-law or sister-in-law.
- ☛ 36% of men and women admit to infidelity with a co-worker.
- ☛ 31% of marriages survive an admitted or discovered infidelity.
- ☛ 68% of women say they would have an affair if never caught.

—via Statistic Brain

1 Corinthians 6:18-20: "Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

Sentence Sermons

"When adultery occurs, three of the Ten Commandments are broken: you shall not commit adultery, not lie, and not covet your neighbor's wife."

—Dennis P. Hollinger

News & Notes

Please pray for those mentioned in the announcements after services and others listed on the bulletin board in the foyer of the church building.

Pray for all the members at Westside! Please pray for Susan Ferrell and her family as she continues to recover from a brain tumor. Please pray for her and her family.

Please pray for Alan Jones. He underwent deep brain stimulation to hopefully relieve severe facial pain. Alan held a gospel meeting for us in October 2014. He's been unable to preach for several months due to his affliction. Pray for him and his family.

Please pray for sister Virginia Brown's upcoming hip replacement surgery (2/15/17).

Pray for the all of our students. Schools are back in session and bring many temptations to our young people.

Please keep sister Wilma in your prayers! She gives all of us so much encouragement! God bless her and Virginia! Remember both of them in your prayers.

There are many needy saints! Can you help? Let me know.

If you know of any in need of our prayers please let us know!

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"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

John 6:68

Potato Chips And Cotton Candy

Larry Ray Hafley



A brother in another state wrote of going to a meeting recently. Below are his comments on the lesson he heard:

"I went to hear (preacher's name) at (a certain place) last night....He 'talked' on marriage. The passages he used...were Psalm 15; Genesis 2; Song of Solomon 7; Matthew 19:6; Ephesians 5:25-26. None were discussed very definitively....Of course, others there may have thought differently, but for the most part he just talked. Part of his lesson consisted of the reading of the wedding vows he uses to conduct a wedding and of what he says at the exchange of the rings....The substance of his lesson...came more from the wording of the vows than from scripture.

"As for the invitation, he said, we need to come to Christ in faith. That was it! The conditions for the alien sinner to meet were never given, nor any mention of what an erring child of God must do to regain his acceptable state before the Lord."

Additional Comments

Of course, anyone may, if he wishes, make harshly critical remarks of any sermon he hears. We do not justify such behavior.

However, I fear some preaching, weighed in the balances of God, may be found wanting and falling short of what the Lord would have it to be. Therefore, to this brother, I responded, "What you described in your letter is exactly what is wrong with much of today's preaching. While it may not teach any overt, blatant error, it does not sustain any distinctive truth. Such preaching will neither build sound churches nor souls for eternity. Potato chips and cotton candy are food; they will not kill you, but they will not build up the body. The same is true with much of the pabulum that passes as preaching in many places."

Let us remember the spiritual climate that envelopes and engulfs our world today—"evil men and seducers (are becoming) worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived" (2 Tim. 3:13). Hence, in our preaching, let us be aware of the need to differentiate between the true and the false, between human religion and divine religion, between the counsels of men and the commandments of God, between the traditions of men and the appointments of heaven (Matt. 21:25; 28:20; Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 11:2; Col. 2:8; 2 Thess. 2:15). We dare not assume that men today, not even those in the church, know the way of God which we may take for granted. Whether addressing morals or marriage, or Muslims or Mormons, let us give the sense and cause men to understand the will of God as expressed in word of truth (Neh. 8:8; Lk. 24:25-27, 45).

Failure to tell the lost what they must do to be saved is a growing problem. First, men must learn of “*righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come*” (Acts 24:25). Second, intensive efforts and exhortations must be made to men to “*save themselves from this crooked nation and perverse generation*” (Acts 2:40). Third, “*with great force and power,*” the lost must be told exactly what they must do to be saved by grace through faith. (Acts 20:21; 22:16). The lost must see the contrast between the “easy believism” (faith only) of denominational religion on the one hand and the plain, certain terms of gospel obedience on the other (Acts 8:5, 12, 35-39).

“*But speak thou the things which befit the sound doctrine*” (Titus 2:1). “*Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables*” (2 Tim. 4:2-4).

Biblical Warnings And Admonitions (1): Warnings

Mackey W. Harden

One of the five basic tenets of fatalistic Calvinism is the doctrine of the Final Perseverance of the Saints. Most people recognize it better by the slogans “Once Saved, Always Saved” or “Can’t Fall From Grace.” Basically it means that once a person is saved, it is impossible to ever be lost. This doctrine is totally foreign to Holy Writ. In fact, if this doctrine were true, many passages of Scripture in the New Testament would be meaningless to the Christian. The simple fact that God’s word contains repeated warnings to mankind should point out to anyone who is desirous of truth, that this Calvinistic theory is totally without foundation. If a person never has to worry about being lost, then why all these warnings from God? The answer is simple: man can sin and lose his soul, therefore God has given warnings to help us avoid the danger and folly of certain situations.

The countless warnings that we find in the Bible are of great significance. W.E. Vine defines the word warn as follows: “to put in mind, warn, is translated to warn in the A. V.; to teach, make known.” The *Random House Dictionary* defines it as: 1. to inform plainly and strongly of possible trouble. 2. to advise (a person) that a certain act, negligence, etc., on his part will lead to opposition or reprisal.” Some interesting synonyms are also given. “Forewarn, Caution, Admonish - these imply attempting to prevent another from running into danger or getting into unpleasant or undesirable circumstances.” Thus, we see the importance of the word warn.

Actually, we deal with warnings of some sort everyday of our life. If the automobile in which we are driving becomes overheated, it is equipped with a red light that should come on to warn us. Our car is also equipped with a horn that we can blow, with which we can warn people if we need to. As my family and I were traveling through the Smokey Mountains this past summer, we saw several signs that read, “Warning, Falling Rocks!” Those who smoke cigarettes (Christians included) should take heed to the stern warning on the package, which says, “Warning, May be Hazardous to Your Health.” On and on we could go. The point should be very clear.

Yes, we need to pay careful attention to the warnings that are found in the Bible. They were put there because of the need to be warned about the dangerous situations that can affect the destiny of our souls. If the doctrine of Once Saved, Always Saved” is true then these warnings are senseless. In this series of articles, we are going to notice many of these warnings that the Bible reveals to us. These articles should be examined very carefully, in light of the ever increas-

ing popularity of Calvinistic acceptance by some who claim to be our brethren in Christ. Though they have not accepted the “total package” of Calvinism as of yet, it may not be long until they do.

Warnings

In this first article, we will deal with “Biblical Warnings” in a general sense. In subsequent articles we will delve into many of the specific warnings that have been given to us by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The following should be warned:

(1) **The Wicked.** God told the prophet Ezekiel in the long ago that he was “*a watchman in the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me*” (Ezek. 3:17). It was Ezekiel’s responsibility to warn the wicked so that they might have opportunity to turn from their unrighteousness. If he failed to warn them, he would be found guilty in God’s sight. He was also told, “*Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul*” (Ezek. 3:20; cf. vv. 16-21; Lk. 3:1-8). What a great responsibility lays upon our shoulders even today, to warn the wicked.

(2) **Christians with selfish ways.** It seems that the Corinthian brethren whom Paul wrote to, had a problem with selfishness. In 1 Cor. 4:6-16, Paul deals with this problem and appeals to his own unselfishness in preaching the gospel. He tells them about the many trials and tribulations that he endured, and then says to them, “*I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you*” (vs. 14). Christians in any time period (1st century or 20th) should be warned against the perils that will come if we have selfish ways. This is an area in which gospel preachers would do well to spend much time in preaching. Because of selfishness many problems arise in the Lord’s church. It is our duty to warn against this dreaded spiritual disease.

(3) **Christians who are unruly.** Paul writes in 1 Thess. 5:14. “*Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.*” Another version says, “*admonish the disorderly.*” It is our responsibility to warn those of our brethren who are walking disorderly (unruly). We should warn them of the possible danger to their souls, unless they change and walk as God would have them to. Christians need to understand just how very important it is that we warn those who are unfaithful to the Lord and His church. Paul exhorted the Thessalonian brethren to do this, and we should likewise heed his exhortation.

(4) **Every man.** To the Gentiles, Paul taught that Christ was their hope of glory, “*Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus . . .*” (Col. 1:27-28). For hundreds of years the Gentiles “*were without Christ . . . having no hope, and without God in the world*” (Eph. 2:12). With Christ’s death on Calvary’s cross, the abolition of the Old Law became a reality. Now both Jew and Gentile had the opportunity to obey the gospel and be saved. When Paul “*preached Christ,*” he warned every man, not just the Jews or just the Gentiles. He also taught every man so that all men might be perfect (complete) in Christ Jesus. In similar fashion, when we “*preach Christ*” today we should warn every man, and not just a certain nationality or race. Jesus said, “*Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. . .*” (Mk. 16:15-16). Let us work with all the power within us to preach the gospel to every man.