

The Mathematics of Sin

Desire + Focus = Inordinate desire (lust)

It is not a sin to have desire. Desire is a healthy motivator (Ecc. 3:1-11). However, when one focuses intently and at length on the object of his desire, desire grows out of proportion and often out of control. At that point it becomes inordinate desire or lust.

Desire + Opportunity = Temptation

Remove one factor from this equation and there is no temptation. One is not truly tempted if he has desire but no opportunity to fulfill it. He is not tempted when he has opportunity but no interest in the matter. Temptation arises when one has both the interest or desire and the opportunity to engage his desire. Furthermore, it is not a sin to be tempted; it is a sin to succumb to temptation.

Temptation + Action = Sin

By Paul R. Blake

When one combines temptation with action (mental, verbal, or physical), his desire has developed into sin. Sin does not exist in the absence of action.

Sin + Repetition = Reprobate Mind

Time

Sin that is one persists in over time becomes embedded in the heart and mind to the point that it is virtually impossible to remove. One develops a debased mind that cannot feel the pangs of sorrow over sin, and consequently never repent.

Sin - (Repentance + Right Conduct) = Death

One who does not repent of his sins and bring forth fruits that demonstrate repentance is spiritually dead, and he will partake of the second death in Perdition after the Judgment.



The Auburn Beacon



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

The Curse of Negligence

By Homer Hailey



Thought to Ponder

Negligence is the rust of the soul, that corrodes through all her best resolves

A very dangerous attitude entering into our general me today, and one affecting the whole structure of society, is that of doing just enough to "get by." The efforts of men are too often half hearted, with no spirit and fervor in the work, Such an attitude is serious enough and bad enough in secular affairs, but when it invades the sacred realm of religious life it becomes disastrous. Here one must deal with God, for it is He who is insulted and robbed by half hearted efforts, and the "get by" spirit.

In the history of Moab, the time finally came, when, because of her idolatry and corruption, she was ripe for destruction. The word of Jehovah came unto the prophet Jeremiah pronouncing her doom, and commanding that she be destroyed; adding a curse upon those who should enter the work of destruction negligently, or refuse to act at all, Hear the prophet: "Cursed be he that doeth the work of Jehovah negligently; and cursed be he that keepeth back his sword from blood." (Jer. 48:10)

Two words here need defining, namely "curse" and "negligently."

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The word "curse" is defined, "to invoke evil upon, anathematize, excommunicate, execrate." One needn't get over-excited when the pope curses or "damns" him as he did the Russians recently; but when God pronounces a curse, to disregard it is tragic. "Negligently:" "apt to omit what ought to be done." This is about the greatest problem facing the church today, the tendency to "omit what ought to be done."

In Deut. 11:13 God demanded service with "all the heart." Jesus said the greatest command is that men should love God "with all the

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Classes This Week

Sun 8:30 PM College Devotional and Singing at the Rouses. Joel Ellis will be teaching on evangelism.	Mon 7 PM Men's Class at the W. Davis' House	Wed 10 AM Ladies Class at the Rouse's House
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Sick

Fran Snyder (Mother of Carla Humphrey)	Lori Holloway	Chick Wade	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz's Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Carrie Chavers (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	Jared Nixon	Philip Locke (Jeremiah Johnson's Uncle)
Ross Folmar	Grandparents of Mary Ann Roberts	Joe Perry (Anna Miller's Relative)	Toni Herd
Ed Mort (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	Kenn and Ellen Smith (Ken Sullivan's Parents)	Erlene Davis (Walker Davis' mother)	Daphne Whatley (Lisa Lanier's Mom)
Gerald White (Christopher's and Wesley's Father)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)	Bill Rhodes (Toni Herd's Uncle)	Mike Reed (Friend of the Long's)
Marty and Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Frank Johnson (Debbi Coleman's Uncle)	Herbert Missildine (Toni Herd's Uncle)	Jo Faust Williams (Manna Jones' friend)

January Birthdays

- 1 - David Ogle
- 2 - Chuck Hunt
- 4 - Phillip Box
- 5 - Amber Adams
- 6 - Erica Seymore
- 7 - Hunter Collins
- 8 - Paul Coulston
- 10 - Megan Lee
- 11 - Spencer and Shepherd Hall
- 14 - Roy Liu
- 21 - Jacob Jerkins
- 23 - Conner Godwin
- 24 - Melanie Daves
- 25 - Caleb Daniels
- 29 - Jonathan Cagle
- 29 - Matthew Persell
- 31 - Jennifer Daniels
- 31 - David Frame

News and Notes

- Mike and Debbie Johnson has identified with the church! Here is their contact information: 313 Lake Placid Loop; Valley, AL 36854 (Hm) (334) 756-0383 (M) (256) 874-3480 (D) (256) 874-3479
- We will have our monthly men's business meeting today.
- We will be having our monthly singing tonight.
- There will be a special series of studies at the building for high school and college students Jan. 28-29 on the book of Ephesians. See Blake Edwards for more information.
- Tim Morton is currently serving our country n Afghanistan. Please remember him in your prayers.
- Jon Coleman has begun treatments and will continue 5-6 weeks.
- Audio CD's will be available in the foyer after each service.

Do You Have a Bible Question?
Call (334) 734-2133 or E-mail: LarryRouse@aubeacon.com

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM
Wednesday
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

Ask about our home Bible Study Groups!

Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

Check Us Out On the Internet: www.aubeacon.com

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heart." **(Matt. 22:37-39)** God commanded that "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." **(Eccl. 9:10)** And also that Christians should be "in diligence not slothful; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord." **(Rom. 12:11)** But what if someone should not take seriously the Lord in this matter, going about the work negligently today? The nausea of the Lord is declared against the insipid, indifferent, luke-warm attitude in no uncertain terms, when to the church, Laodicea, He said "I will spew thee out of my mouth." **(Rev. 3: 16)** That exactly expresses God's attitude still toward such a disposition.

The general attitude of many congregations today, entirely too many, is that of doing "the work of the Lord negligently," in worship, in work, and in warfare of a spiritual and doctrinal nature.

But note more carefully the next curse of Jehovah through the prophet, "And cursed is he that keepeth back his sword from blood." Moab must perish, must be destroyed; God commanded it, and whosoever would hold back, or shrink from the task, must perish under His anathema. The Lord's people are still His army, although not now engaged in carnal warfare, yet engaged in a warfare none the less terrific and deadly. The Christian fights "against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." The exhortation to "contend earnestly for the faith once for all delivered unto the saints" was not given to preachers exclusively, but to all Christians. No man, preacher or otherwise, can "contend earnestly for the faith" and at the same time "hold back his sword," To "contend" is to wield the sword, to smite "hip and thigh," as did Samson of old.

The armor of the Christian is of a spiritual nature, perfectly adapted to the warfare; and as said the apostle, "mighty before God to the

casting down of strongholds; casting down imaginations, and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God." **(2 Cor. 10:4, 5)** But for the sword to be felt among those whom God has said destroy, the work cannot be done negligently, nor the sword kept back "from blood."

Is it true that in the army of the Lord there are too many "camp-followers" and not enough actual fighters? Xerxes said, "I wish I had as many soldiers as men;" maybe that is what the Lord wishes, too. Gideon's army lost nothing of strength when of the thirty-two thousand men, twenty-two thousand of them went back; and then later when, through lack of diligence, nine thousand seven hundred more of them were rejected. "A few with God are mightier than a multitude without Him," someone has said; and certainly the negligent and the "holders back" do not have Him, for He has said, "My righteous one shall live by faith: and if he shrink back, my soul hath no pleasure in him."

And now, along with all the other "isms" the army of the Lord has to fight, such as denominationalism, pre-millennialism, "straddle-the-fence-ism," etc., Catholicism looms more formidable than ever before. For a long time the blood stained harlot that rules from the seven hilled city on the Tiber, has been casting her lustful eyes toward the United States; and it seems that at last our President is about to embrace her. I am not appointing myself a critic of the President of the United States; neither did God appoint me such, but rather said that I should pray for him. But every student of History knows that this gesture will ultimately mean to the religious life of this country if carried to the full maturity of the Pope's desires. Without speculating on what might be the outcome, for only God knows that, the vital point is this: Every Christian must tighten the belt a few notches tighter, whet the sword a few degrees sharper, exercise himself to greater ability, and shaking off the spirit of doing the work of the Lord "negligently," strike with all his might this monster of iniquity upon every occasion, Who dares hold back his sword when God says "Strike!" -- **Bible Banner - March 1940**



“I Am Praying for You”

By R. J. Evans

“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men” **(1 Tim. 2:1)**.

Paul wrote two letters to Timothy, as a young evangelist he referred to as “my true son in the faith” **(1 Tim. 1:2)**. Both of the letters are filled with instructions and admonitions that would come under the category of a “charge” **(1 Tim. 1:18)** that Paul was giving his “son in the faith.” Among other things, Paul charged him to study the Word **(2 Tim. 2:15)**; live the Word **(1 Tim. 4:12)**; preach the Word **(2 Tim. 4:2)**. But as noted from our text, Paul charged him “first of all” to pray for others.

Over four years ago, when I was battling for my life in my fight against cancer, there were no sweeter words than to hear brethren say, “I am praying for you.” I am convinced that I am alive and doing well today because of all the prayers of my brethren from all over the world. I believe this to be especially true in view of the fact that on the day of my surgery, the doctors told Jackie and my sons that I would live 18 months to 2 years.

Prayer is one of the most important duties and privileges of a Christian. And I am convinced that praying for others (“intercessions”) should take up a large portion of our prayer time. There are some valid reasons for believing this.

In our text, Paul is giving a command to intercede by prayer for all men. In the next verse he mentions some in particular— “for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence” **(1 Tim. 2:2)**. **Ephesians 6:18 and James 5:16** also commands us to pray for others. Thus, it is a duty commanded by God for every Christian to pray for others.

Our prayers for others manifest brotherly love and an unselfish attitude. These two areas are so important in the life of a Christian. The Apostle Paul said, “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others” **(Phil. 2:3-4)**. This being true, the requests we make for others are just as important as the requests we make for ourselves. When the Lord answers our prayers for others, no doubt, our faith is increased. Jesus said loving our neighbor as our self is the second greatest commandment **(Mk. 12:31)**.

The Apostle Paul prayed for all the churches where he labored. For example, in his letter to the Ephesians, he assured them of his prayers on their behalf. He said I “do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him” **(Eph. 1:16-17)**. The list of things he asked God to do for the Colossians was similar **(Col. 1:9-12)**. Epaphras offered fervent prayers for the Colossian brethren. Paul told them, “Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God” **(Col. 4:12)**.

I have no doubt that Christians enjoy many blessings from God because some brother or sister in Christ prayed for them. May we not forget that praying for others should be a big part of our lives. What encouraging words when some faithful brother or sister tells us, “I AM PRAYING FOR YOU.”

