

Rejecting the Reins

In writing to Timothy Paul said that young widows should be refused because when they had begun to wax wanton against Christ, they would marry (1 Tim. 5:11). In discussing the derivation of the word translated "wax wanton," Adam Clarke says that it is taken from two words which mean to remove the rein and that it is a "metaphor taken from a pampered horse, from whose mouth the rein has been removed, so that there is nothing to check or confine him" (Clarke's Commentary, Vol. VI, pg. 609). The folly as well as the danger of this is evident to all who have had any experience with horses, and yet we find this to be a fitting description of the course being advocated by many in our society.

Moral Reins

There is some clamoring for the removal of all moral reins. Judging others by themselves, they have concluded that there is no such thing as virtue in either man or woman and that any claim made for such is sham and hypocrisy. They want us to believe that the solution for a guilt complex is the removal of the reins that check and confine man in the realm of morals and his being given the liberty to act as he chooses without censure. We might be duped into believing that these pampered horses have discovered the secret for a happy life if it were not for the fact that history has recorded numerous examples of advocates of this philosophy, and the only contributions they have made to society have been heartache and sorrow.

By Lowell Blasingame

This is the inevitable end to which all come that refuses the reins of moral restraint that God has imposed.

Religious Reins

There are others who seek the removal of reins in religion. They do not want to be checked or confined to what the Lord has said but wish to be left free to teach and practice what they will. To them, restraint in religion is equated with intolerance and bigotry and to ask for a "thus saith the Lord" equals practicing Bibliolatry. These loose constructionists view the inspired writings as just the best philosophical thought of a past age and insist that if religion is to serve modern man; it must alter itself to keep pace with his progress. They do not wish to be restricted to the doctrine of Christ (2 Jn 9) or confined to building "according to the pattern" (Heb. 8:5), but like pampered horses, want the reins removed so they can kick up their heels and run as they wish. Some of my own brethren have joined this herd!



Submission to the restraints of God is for the good and happiness of man. Let those who have named the name of Christ recognize this (Col. 3:17) and not be found with that number who seek to remove his reins.

Sick			
Ken Sullivan	Owen Mauldin (Seth and Summer Mauldin's Son)	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz's Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Kate Miller (Daughter of Brandon and Erin Miller)
Donna Pridmore (Erin Miller's Mom)	Neal May (Manna Jones' Mother)	Andrew Westphal	Andrew Hagewood (Friend of Sarah Norman)
Betty Bradford	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Dale Herd (Brother of William Herd)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Eli Williams	Emily Stallings (Anna's sister)	Madi Wise (Friend of the Robert's)
Diane Lewter (Kyle Lewter's mother)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkins' Dad)	Toni and William Herd	Amy Baswell Hall

May Birthdays

- 2 - Taylor Bethea
- 2 - Emily-Anne Rouse
- 3 - Paula Davis
- 4 - Cadence Pittman
- 10 - Ian Norman
- 10 - Ryan Hasty
- 11 - Scott Perkins
- 11 - Caleb George
- 12 - Daphene Whatley
- 12 - Patrick Davis
- 13 - Jana Hall
- 13 - Anna Grace Long
- 15 - Bryce Daniels
- 18 - Ty Randolph
- 19 - Madison Seals
- 22 - Sarah Holliday
- 24 - Andy Roberts
- 25 - Chuck Hahn
- 26 - Fallon Hartsell
- 28 - Barbara Weeks
- 28 - Candy Long
- 31 - Rachel Tolliver

News and Notes

- ☒ - Meredith Reid's grandmother, Rene Reid, died on Friday. She was 91 years old and a faithful Christian at the Gardendale church.
- ☒ - The Kids class will meet at 5:15 today.
- ☒ - The Ladies Class will meet on Thursday Morning at Candy Long's home at 10 to study the "Good Homes" book.
- ☒ - Lets keep in our prayers Fallon Hartsell as she is expecting twin girls!
- ☒ - Let us remember the family of Jeff Miller in our prayers in his recent death.
- ☒ - Liseth Aragon's bro-in-law, Harold Guido, died on Monday in Miami.
- ☒ - VBS postcards are in the foyer. Please be sure to register your children for VBS!
- ☒ - Congratulations to our High School graduates: Corey Hunt, Emily-Anne Rouse and Paul Tam!
- ☒ - Here is Justin + Karen Padgett's new address: 501 Webster Rd #184, Auburn, 36832
- ☒ - Gigi Pedroza, Liseth Aragon's niece, has returned home from Children's hospital.

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

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Devilish Discombobulations

By Dee Bowman

Confusion is one of the cleverest tools of the Devil. If he can get us confused on a matter he quickly gains an advantage. First of all, confusion breeds discouragement. We get quickly discouraged when we don't understand things. Second, confusion brings controversy, mainly because misunderstandings grow out of it. And thirdly, confusion breeds disunity. It's hard to be united on something when everybody's all mixed up.

The Devil has used confusion to retard and restrict people's understanding about a multitude of things. I want to discuss just a few to illustrate that fact.

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Confusion about sin. Sin has been softened in this generation. In fact, you seldom see the word used. You'll search several issues of your local paper without even seeing the word. Actually, there's no such thing as sin to most people.

Oh, they might say murder's a sin or perhaps child abuse or something like that. But pornography? Naa. How about homosexuality? Naa. Cheating? Depends on who's doing it and why. Lying? Well, sometimes it's a little wrong, but sin? Naa. Sin is called sin only in the most extreme conditions. What about God's definition of sin? He says it's "transgression of the law" (1 Jn. 3:4-5). You mean even the

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Thoughts to Ponder

This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

(James 3:15-16)

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

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“little” transgressions? Yes, sir, sin is any transgression of the law. “To him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin,” God said (**Jas. 4:17**). You mean if I know something is good and I don’t do it, God holds that against me? Yes, sir. Omission of known good is just as much a sin as murder or child abuse. And **Romans 14:23** says that wilfully ignoring what you believe to be right or wrong is a sin, too: “whatsoever is not of faith is sin.” Sin is sin. And just because you ignore it doesn’t mean it goes away. Don’t be confused. “The soul that sinneth, it shall die” (**Ezek. 18:20**).

Confusion about faith. The devil has confused men about faith. For instance, faith, to most people, is merely mental assent, just “accepting Christ.” There’s more to faith than just the admission that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. For one thing, there’s no such thing as a faith that does not work. In fact, James says that “faith without works is dead, being alone” (**Jas. 2:17**). You mean that faith always does something to prove its validity. Yes, sir. Read how that “by faith, Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should afterward receive for an inheritance, obeyed” (**Heb. 11:8**) and how that “by faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days” (**Heb. 11:30**). Faith is not just some feeling better felt than told; it’s a conclusion not only that God is, but that He rewards “them that diligently seek Him” (**Heb. 11:6**).

Confusion about baptism. The devil has even confounded some of my own brethren about baptism. They have reached the untenable conclusion that

because they’ve been baptized, they’ve been saved. Now that’s true, if you want to talk about being saved initially, or being “born again” (**Jn. 3:3-5**). But that’s what baptism does, it brings about the new birth; it doesn’t assure your salvation. Once you’re born, you have to begin to grow. You mean that when I’ve been baptized, I’ve not guaranteed my salvation? That’s right, all you did was get ready to grow up in Christ. “If ye then be risen with Christ (I know of no other kind of being “risen” than being baptized), seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God; set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth” (**Col. 3:1-2**). Paul then enumerates the things that we must “put off” and the things which we must “put on” to insure our salvation. He calls it putting on the “new man” (**Col. 3:10**). Just as there’s more to faith than merely acknowledging Christ as your Savior, there’s more to salvation than merely being baptized.

Confusion about judgment. People are confused about the judgment. For instance, they have reduced God’s judgment to little more than a kind of slapping of the hand of the sinner. How clever, the Devil! God will not admit the unrighteous into His eternal abode: “Not every one that saith unto me, ‘Lord, Lord’ shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (**Matt. 7:21**) Make no mistake about it: God cannot tolerate sin. He will punish the sinner with an eternity in hell. “God is not mocked; whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” (**Gal. 6:10**).



Start With God

By Larry Rouse

Have you come to see that your life is empty and without purpose? Do you want to find a path that is full of meaning and real success? Start with God.

Perhaps you are a Christian that is dealing with personal doubts or are being challenged to test your beliefs and even your very heart to see if your faith is genuine. Start with God.

What does “start with God” really mean? There are many who speak for God and about God that do not know Him. Do not let a man take that earnest desire to seek God’s way and deceptively turn you to the ways and thoughts of men. Why not let God tell us about His nature and what His ways are like by reading His own words?

The God who Made All Things

When God gives descriptions of Himself we would do well to listen carefully. Hear His words through Isaiah:

“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak, And to *those who have* no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew *their* strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.” (**Isaiah 40:28-31**)

Do not accept anything less than the one true God. When you find Him you have found the One who:

When we come to know God we in turn realize our own insignificance, especially in our knowledge and power and thus our response is simply to wish to hear and believe whatever God reveals. As Eli told Samuel: “Speak Lord, for your servant hears.” (**1 Samuel 3:9**)

1. Is everlasting
2. Who created all things
3. Who never tires or grows weary (All Powerful)
4. Who has infinite wisdom
5. Who wishes to bless and provide for those who seek Him (Wait on the Lord).

The failure to know God is the source of all moral and doctrinal departures. Those who doubt the God’s ability to cre-

ate the universe in seven days, or to produce a perfect message that transcends all cultures or to have the ability and wisdom to bring about a unified people have simply not come to know God. When we come to know God we in turn realize our own insignificance, especially in our knowledge and power and thus our response is simply to wish to hear and believe whatever God reveals. As Eli told Samuel: “Speak Lord, for your servant hears.” (**1 Samuel 3:9**)

In addition to daily recognizing and praising God for who He is, we need to daily recognize what God has done and is doing in our lives. The one who keeps the one true God in his mind will be filled with thanksgiving and praise. Our very identity will be shown by our praise to our God!

“O Lord, open my lips, And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.” – (**Psalms 51:15**)

“So we, Your people and sheep of Your pasture, Will give You thanks forever; We will show forth Your praise to all generations.” – (**Psalms 79:13**)

When we thus “start with God” in making a turn in our lives and then in starting every day, our perspective will change on all things!

