

Dealing With Our Doubts

By Robert West

It is safe to say that there is not a person living who has not had doubts in the realm of religion. Conviction or faith as "evidence of things not seen." Obviously, if one is unfamiliar with available evidence on a subject, he will be doubtful concerning it. Thus we see one of the causes of doubt: *Ignorance*.

Doubts and their antecedent ignorance are not wrong in themselves. On the contrary, if dealt with properly, they can be the occasion of leading to greater growth and knowledge. As is too often the case, however, the doubter mishandles his doubts which then lead to his own harm as well as that of others. It would appear, then, that it is of the greatest importance for us to know how to deal with doubts when they arise. When some doubt is raised in our mind concerning a doctrine or religious practice, there are three courses of action usually open to us.

1. We can harbor that doubt and constantly look for things with which to nourish it until it makes complete ruin of our faith.
2. We can express such doubts publicly and thus run the risk of creating further doubts in the minds of others.
3. Or, we can engage in diligent investigation of the subject and resolve or confirm the doubt.

Unfortunately, too many doubters want to expose their doubts before anybody and everybody. Some do this in writing, from the pulpit, and in Bible classes. It is one thing to have strong convictions on something and stating such convictions publicly. It is quite another thing to entertain doubts and express

such before babes in Christ, the unconverted, or outright enemies of truth. When we have doubts, don't spill them all over everybody else and thus run the risk of hindering the free course of truth in other people.

Obviously, one should never leave a doubt alone. Doubts are like a leaven that, left unattended, will eventually permeate and corrupt all of one's convictions. Doubts indicate insufficient evidence to bring real conviction, either because such evidence does not exist or because the doubter is unfamiliar with it. So, let's not harbor a doubt and foster it with continued ignorance. Get after it! Face it squarely and do something about it! Dig the information out of the Bible for ourselves. Or study the matter with ones who have more knowledge of and no doubts about the subject. Find out wherein their confidence lies. Don't just take their word for it. Require them to point out the evidence from God's word.

One cannot live happily in doubt. Eminently more important, one cannot serve God acceptably with a doubtful mind (**Romans 14:23**). So, when doubts arise (and they will), face them for what they really are: signals indicating that our knowledge is deficient, then get busy and investigate. By so facing our doubts we will not only resolve them, but will find ourselves growing more and more in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.



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 Hagemood (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 Perkin's Dad)	Toni and William Herd	Amy Baswell Hall

June Birthdays	News and Notes
3 - Phillip Stephens 8 - Mac Searcy 9 - Kay White 11 - Hannah Alexander 11 - Clint Stagner 12 - Orié Cecil 13 - Addison Dembowski 14 - Jeremiah Johnson 16 - Kaleigh Green 17 - Sarah Norman 17 - Brooks Pender 18 - James Long 20 - Jonas Dembowski 20 - Aden Hergett 22 - Paul Tam 23 - Micah Pittman 24 - Justin Bice 25 - Corey Hunt 28 - Clint Davis 28 - Craig Davis 29 - Lisa Lanier	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Lets keep in our prayers Fallon Hartsell as she is expecting twin girls! <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Please pray for Heath Fowler's mom, Reba Patterson, who is recovering from emergency surgery on Thur. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Congratulations to Stephen and Leah Ambrose on their wedding yesterday! <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - VBS postcards are in the foyer. Please be sure to register your children for VBS! <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Sympathy is extended to Cliff Parsons whose mother, Patricia Parsons, died this week after her battle with ALS. The Funeral will be on Monday. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Be sure to go to www.auchurch.com for latest audio and directory!

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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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"Bound to Give Thanks ... for You"

By Steve Klein



Thoughts to Ponder
 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers (**1 Thessalonians 1:2**)

Teaching little children to pray can be a wonderful and sometimes amusing challenge. I recently read about a little three year old girl named Kelli who, when saying her nightly prayers with her mother, would thank God for every family member, every friend, and every pet animal (current and past). For several weeks, as she finished her prayer, Kelli would add, "And all girls." Finally her mother asked her, "Kelli, why do you always add the part about all girls?" Her response: "Because we always finish our prayers by saying 'All Men!'" You have to admit, "all men" and "amen" do sound alike. Kelli wanted to make sure the girls were included too!

I fear that somewhere along the way, many of us have gotten out of the habit of thanking God for others. Could it be that we are taking the faith, love, encouragement and work of our brothers and sisters in Christ for granted? Let's remember to thank God for one another!

In **1 Timothy 2:1**, the apostle Paul exhorts that "giving of thanks be made for all men" (and yes the word "men" here includes girls). Have we learned this lesson? Do we thank God for all men? Do we even thank Him for any men?

I wonder if the Lord thinks that teaching adult disciples to pray is also a chal-

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
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 Worship10:20 AM
 Evening Worship 6:00 PM
Wednesday
 Bible Classes.....7:00 PM
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thank God for the Thessalonians.

"We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other" (**2 Thessalonians 1:3**).

"But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth" (**2 Thessalonians 2:13**).

The word "bound" in these passages implies duty or obligation. We have a very special responsibility to give thanks to God for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Over and over again Paul mentions giving thanks to God for fellow Christians, and he gives several reasons for doing so:

For their faith and love.

"Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers" (**Ephesians 1:15-16**).

"We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints" (**Colossians 1:3-4**).

"I thank my God, making mention of

you always in my prayers, hearing of your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints" (**Philemon 4-5**).

For encouraging and supporting him in his efforts to serve the Lord.

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now" (**Philippians 1:3-5**).

For their work and labor in the Lord.

"We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father" (**1 Thessalonians 1:2-3**).

I fear that somewhere along the way, many of us have gotten out of the habit of thanking God for others. Could it be that we are taking the faith, love, encouragement and work of our brothers and sisters in Christ for granted? Let's remember to thank God for one another! As you count your many blessings, remember that some of God's greatest blessings are not things; they're people!



Addiction

By William C. Sexton

The word addiction is one we usually associate with drugs. An "addict" is defined as "one who has a confirmed habit, as the overuse of drugs..." (Webster's).

If we look, however, we can see that one can be addicted to almost anything; that is, to have a "confirmed habit." I suggest that many in our day are addicts, that is they have "a confirmed habit" of deviate sexual behavior. One can become involved over a period of time to practices that God does not approve. One can do it to the point that he becomes obsessed, addicted to that practice.

Just as one is not born with the urge to consume alcohol or other drugs, one is not born with the desire to engage in deviant sex practices. Yet, one may learn to do so, by experimentation, or by seeing others engage in such, or by hearing others talk about it. That is why pornography is so harmful today. Being available, many are introduced to it, and they get gratification from viewing it. People see things on the printed page (pictures) and view in porno movies acts that are glorified so as to arouse the sexual impulse in an individual. It begins to work on one's mind, and he becomes obsessed with such till the point that he'll do things that are very hurtful to his well-being and that of many others!

God made us either male or female, sexual being (**Gen. 1:26-28**). He provided for that need (**Genesis 2:24**): "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."

Jesus pointed back to that beginning when asked about the duty or rights involved in that relationship:

Matthew 19:4-6: "And He answered and said to

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them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

This was referred to by Paul, when he was showing the

need for purity and the sin of fornication in sexual behavior:

1 Corinthians 6:16: "Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For 'the two,' He says, 'shall become one flesh.'"

Sexuality is as much a part of us as our appetite for food and water, but, as in those areas, each must exercise control. To ignore what God says on this subject, as so many are doing in our day, is destructive to themselves and to others. Beloved, let us get our minds cleared of all unscriptural views, determine to do right ourselves, and help others to the extent we can do right!

If one has a problem, the first step is to **admit** it -- face up to it. Then one can seek and find help. But until one admits that he has a problem, no help can be forthcoming. Let us all look honestly at ourselves, and if there is a problem, let us handle it scripturally. Let us be looking for others who may have a problem, and be willing to help him **overcome** his difficulties. There is no problem that can't be handled, if one will honestly face up to the problem, having a desire to administer the teachings of the Lord, and seeking help from fellow Christians!

