

Not a Hoof Left Behind

Exodus 7-12 records the efforts of God through Moses to persuade the Pharaoh of Egypt to release the children of Israel from bondage. As that bondage is often used to typify sin, and Satan's hold on us, a better understanding of that ancient struggle could assist us today.

Pharaoh's heart was stubborn, and the plagues of blood, frogs and lice did not move him, but when the flies came Pharaoh offered his first compromise. **"Go ye, sacrifice to your god in the land** — do it here, no need to leave this land. When Moses refused such a suicidal attempt, Pharaoh offered his second compromise. **"Go, only ye shall not go very far away: entreat for me"**. God removed the plague of flies, only to have Pharaoh harden his heart and refuse to let the people go. So, the cattle murrain, boils, and hail came, and the threat of locusts. Then came the third effort at compromise. **"Go now ye that are men,"** leaving your women, children, and the flocks behind. Neither Pharaoh nor Satan let go without a struggle, but Moses stood firm, so the locusts came; and after that the darkness. Now Pharaoh tries one more compromise. **"Go ye, serve Jehovah; only let**

By Robert F. Turner **your flocks and your herds be stayed."** Take all to serve God, except your material possessions. Perhaps he knew their hearts would remain with the possessions — or perhaps he sought to deprive them of that which they would need to successfully carry out their new venture. Whatever: we are doomed to failure if we think we can serve God acceptably while leaving anything we control in Satan's hands.

But Moses accepted no compromise. **"NOT A HOOF SHALL BE LEFT BEHIND!"**

We must live in the world, but our citizenship is elsewhere. In making the transfer of allegiance, when we determined to give up the world and give ourselves to the Lord, we should then have determined that "Not a hoof shall be left behind." We should know that Satan will do all possible to convince us that we can serve God "in Egypt" or "just a little way out" or compromising for the sake of family or possessions. It won't work that way. Give Satan a hoof, and he will take leg, loin, chuck roast and all.



Classes This Week

Sunday 5:15 PM Kid's Class at the Building	Sunday Night College Devo and Singing at Craig Davis' with Will Harris Teaching	Monday 7:30 PM Evangelism Class with Ryan Hasty in college classroom	Tuesday 8 PM Truth-seekers in Student Center Rm 2225	Thursday 10 AM Ladies Class "Amazing Women of the Bible" at Anna Miller's Home	Thursday 7 PM Men's Class - at Walker Davis' Home
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Sick

Brad Marshall (Allie Hosey's Cousin)	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)	Mark Dean (Father of Logan Dean)	Jerry Foropoulos (Anna Jean's Uncle)
Jon Jon Henderson (Suzanne Stagner's cousin)	Quinton Addison (April Jenkins Grandfather)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Bob Cannon (Friend of Holly Law)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Eli Williams	Emily Stallings (Anna's sister)	Ted Nelson (Sheryl Fowler's Cousin)
Lisa Carter (Josh and Luke Carter's mother)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkin's Dad)	Toni and William Herd	Tom Davis (Walker Davis' Uncle)

October Birthdays

- 1 - Aiden Hahn
- 2 - Suzanne Stagner
- 3 - James Malloy
- 3 - Jennifer Hasty
- 4 - Jordan Corneil
- 6 - Jessica Anderson
- 7 - Molly Borden
- 8 - Kelsey Parsons
- 8 - Heath Fowler
- 8 - Coleman Padgett
- 11 - Mason Chandler
- 12 - Stacy Norman
- 14 - Grant Smith
- 15 - Ashton Guy
- 17 - Abbie Buchanan
- 20 - Evan Pender
- 20 - Keith Bailey
- 22 - Christopher White
- 22 - Meredith Bragwell
- 24 - Suzanna Roberts
- 24 - Sarabeth Roberts
- 25 - Bethany Bradford
- 26 - Palmer Daniels
- 29 - Belle Johnson
- 29 - Matt Hall
- 31 - Kitty Tam

News and Notes

- ☒ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mothers, Brittany Bagent, Shang Li and Jana Hall!
- ☒ - Belinda Hartsell suffered a stroke this week and tests reveal a heart issue that will require medication. She is now at home from the hospital.
- ☒ - Remember Tim Morton and also Matthew Cavender, a new student to be with us in January, in your prayers as both are deployed to Afghanistan.
- ☒ - Will King's grandfather, H.L. King, died this week and his funeral is today.
- ☒ - Michael Bassie's sister, Yolanda Stewart, had a brain tumor removed on Wed.
- ☒ - Cliff Parsons has returned safely home!
- ☒ - Please remember Mary Ann Roberts' mom, Betty Mcareavy, as she recovers from surgery.
- ☒ - A new teaching quarter begins today

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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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Affair-Proofing Your Marriage

By Mark Broyles



Thoughts to Ponder
Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge. (Hebrews 13:4)

The prevalence of infidelity in marriage is staggering. If it was only a problem in the lives of those apart from God it would still be discouraging, but the truth is that the amount of marriages among our brethren that have been rocked by this sin is just as staggering.

Much the same as a medical doctor would use a pathology report to determine the root cause of a physical sickness; God's word gives the pathology of adultery. There is a four step destructive process involved in most adulterous relationships.

Step #1 - The Position of Vulnerability

Things such as stress, boredom, insecurity, rejection, unfulfilled expectations, and over confidence (1 Corinthians 10:12) all make us more vulnerable to temptation. Dave Carder wrote in Tom Asunder, "When we are vulnerable, we are emotionally run down, our defenses are down, our perspective on things is clouded, we are not able to make judgment based on truth, and everything is seen through an emotional filter. Pain is intensified. Therefore, the pursuit of relief from pain is also intensified. When you are vulnerable, a situation that might otherwise be safe may now be unsafe."

Step #2 - Emotional, Non-Physical Involvement

This is the gray area where the "game playing" occurs. "Don't worry, we are just doing work together." Because people tend to say that nothing is going on when there is no physical contact, they feel safe because they think they are still walking within the boundaries—when they are really crossing the line. This innocent "playing around" increases the threat level of the temptation. The boundaries are crossed when ever a couple shares emotional intimacy (sharing intimate information about your marriage, family, etc), experiences sexual tension (flirtation has begun), or practices secrecy.

Step #3 - Physical Involvement

At this point it is extremely difficult to get out. It is like a full blown addiction because of the physical pleasure and bonding that occurs.

Step #4 - Rationalizing Behavior

We find reasons to stay (this person understands me or fulfills me better than my spouse, surely God would want me to be happy, etc.)

So, if that is the pathology, how do we avoid falling into this temptation? A couple of cases in point may help us to see how God would have us stay pure in this area. **Proverbs 7:6-23** is a picture of a young man being caught in this sin and in II Samuel 11 we see King David also succumbing. Both cases fit perfectly into the pathology report described above. They both were where they should not have been. David should have been with his armies and the young man in Proverbs should not have been on the street at night testing the waters. They lacked knowledge and good judgment. They were curious—they were vulnerable. They were lured by the physical appearance of the women involved. They got involved in conversations and situations that should not have been—they were emotionally involved. They gave in to their physical lusts—they were guilty of adultery. David not only rationalized but also covered up his sin with more sinful actions.

There is a four-step protective process that God provides in His word, to help us avoid this awful pitfall. **Proverbs 7:24-27** as well as chapters 5 and 6 provide some very serious warnings and offer some strong words of instruction to this end.

Guard Your Heart

"Do not let your heart turn to her ways" (Proverbs 7:25a).

As we mentioned above, this sin does not

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Elders
Walker Davis (334) 703-0050
Larry Rouse (334) 734-2133

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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start with the physical action but with the mind-set that leads to that action. Jesus warned, "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (**Matthew 5:27**). We need to commit as did Job, saying, "I have made a covenant with my eyes. Why then should I look upon a young woman?" (**Job 31:1**). Know your own vulnerabilities.

- 1) Are you especially curious about people?
- 2) Are you extremely empathetic?
- 3) Do you invite other people to share their problems with you?
- 4) What might lead you to get emotionally involved with someone else unwittingly or with good intentions?

We must admit that there is a danger of infatuation. There are those we find pleasing or attractive, funny, stimulating, easy to talk to, those we seem to bond quickly with. You like them—they like you—you hit it off. That is the time to deal with this problem. Temptation is present and sin is on the doorstep!

Watch Your Step

"Do not stray into her paths" (**Proverbs 7:25b**).

Watching your step begins with being careful and wise about where and when you are alone with-out your spouse. The world is full of times and places that won't help you keep your marriage vows: hotels during business trips, a deserted office after hours etc. So, watch where your feet go! Do whatever you need to keep them on the right path. Make adjustments in your personal life. It may mean changing several things in your daily routines and practices. Experts agree that the two most dangerous arenas for temptation are the workplace and the Internet. We can protect ourselves in both these areas. Jerry Jenkins, in his book *Hedges: Loving Your Marriage Enough To Protect It* (which I highly recommend to every man who wishes to have a strong, godly marriage) said, "One of the major causes of marital break-ups in the Christian community is the lack of protective hedges that spouses should plant around their marriages, their heads, their hearts, their eyes, and their hands." Don't be afraid to put up "emotional walls" around yourself and your marriage.

You cannot have intimate relationships with opposite sex coworkers and friends and still have a great relationship with your spouse. Preachers and elders need to be especially cautious when meeting with women for Bible studies, counseling, etc. Many times these situations involve people who are already vulnerable and looking for comfort. Make sure some-body else is there when you meet. There is very little, if anything, that can be gained by meeting alone — but much can be lost. The experts are also correct regarding the Internet. It has been my experience in meeting with couples who have experienced adultery in their marriage that the Internet and pornography has become a major factor. At one point last year, five out of seven couples I was meeting with were dealing with this problem. I would strongly recommend that you do whatever you can to eliminate this possibility. Starting with installing a good filtering system such as Bsafe.com, making sure the computer is in an easily viewable area of the house not a secluded room

such as a bedroom, etc. Two key scriptures to keep in mind are: **Ephesians 4:27** — "Do not give Satan an opportunity" and **Romans 13:14** — "Make no provision for the flesh in regards to its lusts." Should we all run scared? Yes! Fear is essential. Mark Twain said, "There are several good protections against temptation—but the surest is cowardice."

Consider the Cost

"Her house is a highway to the grave, leading down to the chambers of death" (**Proverbs 7:26-27**).

Few decisions you make can ruin more aspects of your life more quickly than an adulterous affair. In every conceivable way, it ends up feeling like death: spiritual death, moral death, marital death, sometimes even physical death (consider the number of people who die every year from sexually transmitted diseases). While it is true that not all sins make you pay quickly, adultery presents the bill almost immediately. A similar warning is found in **Prov. 6:27-29**: "Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned ... without his feet being scorched? So is he who sleeps with another man's wife; no one who touches her will go unpunished." The message is loud and clear: adultery is playing with fire! You will always get burned!

The apostle Paul declared that "a man reaps what he sows" (**Galatians 6:7**). The real tragedy of infidelity is that many marriages end in divorce. But even when it does not terminate the marriage it wreaks havoc in the relationship. In the blink of an eye, the trust and security that was the foundation for a healthy marriage is destroyed. Sadly, it takes years of dedicated work to rebuild lost trust and security ripped away by an affair.

Do we think for a moment that if David had really evaluated all the consequences of his sin that he would still have chosen to walk that path. But few who give in to adultery think about its real cost. An extramarital affair costs not just a car or a mink coat or new golf clubs—it costs your life! (**Proverbs 5:3-5**). It is critical that we see the end from the beginning if we are to stand strong. And, what it costs our families and us is not the end. Adultery in the life of a Christian costs God too. As Nathan said to David, "You have given occasion to the enemy to blaspheme" (**2 Samuel 12:14**).

Keep the Home Fires Burning

"Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well. ... May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth" (**Proverbs 5:15, 18**).

Your spouse is a gift from God and to not appreciate the gift is to not appreciate the giver. If we would spend all our marital effort in loving, admiring, appreciating, and serving our spouse we would do much to eliminate the desire to ever be fulfilled elsewhere. If I see my wife as the most beautiful woman in the world and God's gift as the fulfillment of my life, then she should be the object of my affection and my attention. Why should I look upon another woman?

No onetime event or promise will affair-proof your marriage. Complete fidelity takes constant, conscientious effort. But the work is well worth the joy of having a husband or wife who is your faithful, lifelong best friend. Consider the wise words of author Peggy Vaughn: "Preventing affairs is not like having a onetime inoculation—or even getting occasional booster shots. It's more like taking a pill every day for the rest of your life."



Know the Unknowable?

By James W. Adams

For one to assume that he knows the unknowable in religion is the greatest ignorance and the grossest presumption and arrogance. True indeed is the statement, "Wisdom is knowing when you cannot be wise" (Paul Engle). Some have erroneously concluded that Revelation precludes mysteries. To us finite human beings, the omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, absolutely perfect God revealed in the Bible, being infinite, of necessity must be incomprehensible in many aspects of His nature and operations. Only that knowledge of God which is necessary to enable humans to glorify Him in their present earthly environment and to fit them to live with Him eternally in the world to come is revealed in the Bible. To perfectly comprehend God in His nature and operations one would have to be Deity himself. The most perfect revelation of God to man is Jesus Christ and His teaching as set forth in the New Testament.

Recognizing man's inability to comprehend perfectly and to be able to explain and vindicate God's nature and operations, Moses said, "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong to us and our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law" (**Deut 29:29**). Jesus voiced the same sentiment when he said, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons which the Father has put in his own power" (**Acts 1:6**). Paul enlarges on the matter by saying, "Without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory," (**1 Timothy 3:16**). When Paul wrote, these facts had become matters of revelation, but in Old Testament times they were mysteries of Messianic prophecy. In the Bible usage of the term, any unrevealed thing is a mystery. All of this is noted to emphasize the fact that there are things about God which are not clearly revealed to us, hence are mysteries. The silence of God in reference to such matters must be respected. This precludes speculation and fruitless and divisive wrangling.

What theologians call, "The Incarnation," i.e. the fleshly manifestation of the Eternal Word in the person of Jesus (**John 1:1-4, 14**), has been the occasion of endless controversy beginning in the second century. Arius was probably the most able and vocal of the "church fathers" who denied that Jesus was deity. His famous confrontation with Alexander at the Council of

Nice (325 AD) resulted in the official acceptance of the "doctrine of the Trinity" and the condemnation of "Arianism."

Since then, until now, there have been endless controversies over speculative theories concerning the interaction of Deity and humanity in the person of Jesus. Most of them have been futile exercises in semantics and/or nebulous vagaries of human imagination growing out of man's presumption of a knowledge of the unknowable.

The Bible speaks of the "Godhead or Godhood" (**Romans 1:20**). It says nothing of the "Trinity" or of "hooomasia [Gk. "of the same essence"]. It further teaches that Jesus was God (**John 1:1-4, 14; 8:58; 19:7**). It also teaches that Jesus was a man, human, having all the normal characteristics of a human except that he lived above and without sin (**John 3:5; Hebrews 4:14-16**). He was the Son of Man and the Son of God. Why not teach what the Bible says about his person without feeling the necessity of explaining whatever in his nature and functions seem to be at variance with human analogies?

If God had wanted us to have this knowledge, no doubt he would have revealed it unto us. Our logical (?) deductions concerning the nature of Deity derived from statements of Divine Revelation are flawed by the limitations of human experience and the incapacity of human analogies. While I do not accept many of the aspects of Soren Kierkegaard's existential philosophy, the following excerpt from his writings expresses a basic fact which all Bible students should recognize; namely, "No analogy perfectly accords with evangelical fact" (Training in Christianity, p. 66).

No human analogy known to me can make three one and one three, yet this is what the Bible teaches concerning the Godhead, and I believe and teach it. No analogy can explain how the man Jesus could be at the same time God and man and maintain both his Godhood and his manhood while he fulfilled all that the Bible says he came to accomplish and did accomplish. Yet, I believe and teach all the Bible says without fully understanding the how of the matter. One does not have to understand a fact to believe it. I do not understand fully the workings of a computer, but I am using one.

