

Happiness in Marriage

By Bill Hall

The marriage relationship can bring great happiness, joy and peace:

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing and obtained favor of the Lord" (**Prov. 18:22**); or it can result in supreme misery, sorrow, and turmoil: "It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house" (**Prov. 21:9**). What steps can one take to insure happiness in his own marriage?

1. Select carefully. A good marriage begins with a good companion. The young person who is seriously considering marriage must be concerned with the following questions: Is this person mature? Is he kind and unselfish? Is he the kind of man that I want to influence my children? Will he help me to go to heaven? Above all, is he a faithful Christian? A failure to consider such questions could lead to misery, for love alone will not make a happy marriage.

2. Forget divorce. Marriage is not a "trial and error" proposition. It is for life. The vows which are exchanged say, "So long as we both shall live." Jesus gives only one cause for divorce and remarriage (**Matt. 19:9**), and this cause should never exist where two Christians are married. Divorce is just not the answer. Problems will arise, but they must be solved through a mature respect for one another and for God and His word.

3. Keep chasing. So much effort is given to wooing before marriage, that the "let-up" in such activities after marriage may result in a considerable "let-down" for the companion. Men should continue bringing in those little surprises all along; women should remember to prepare those favorite dishes for their husbands. A little thoughtfulness can do wonders for a marriage.

4. Love your companion. "I just don't love him any more" is probably the most immature statement one's lips can utter. "Husbands, love your wives. ..." (**Eph. 5:25**) "That they may teach the young women...to love their husbands." (**Titus 2:4**) Real love (and maturity) accepts the faults of others and adjusts to them.

5. Pray. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (**James 5:16**) Peter speaks of the husband and wife "as being heirs together of the grace of life" (**1 Pet. 3:7**). They begin life together, live together, serve God together, die together, and become heirs together.... What a beautiful life!



The Auburn Beacon



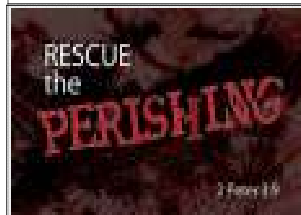
Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (**Matthew 5:16**)

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I Saw a Friend Die

By Dee Bowman



Thoughts to Ponder

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. (**2 Peter 3:9**)

Death is indeed sad. To watch a death scene is an event not easily erased from one's catalog of memories. I saw a friend die one time. It was a slow death—so slow in fact that he didn't even know it was happening. I saw it coming. I warned him. Others did likewise. But it was all to no avail. He just finally died. May I take a few moments of your time and tell you about it? It could save your life.

The preceding story is true. You have already surmised, I'm sure, that the death of this family was spiritual, not physical. I hasten to remind you, however, that the fact that the death was not physical should not lessen the impact of the story. On the contrary, it should bring a greater emphasis to it.

other things. He had little time to eat. So many things were demanding of his time.

He first began to show signs of disease with a loss of appetite. He didn't seemingly care to eat, and even when he ate, he paid no attention to what he ate. He simply was not bothered nor interested in diet. He remarked that other matters needed his attention. His work needed his attention. So did his yard. So did several

Now showing signs of a loss of strength, he became sluggish and obviously anemic. It became more and more apparent that he was ill. I talked with him about it. He was evasive and showed no signs of wanting to talk about his condition. He made excuses about this loss of weight, and

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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)
Betty Mcareavey (Mary Ann Roberts' 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 Jerkins Grandfather)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Bob Cannon (Friend of Holly Law)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Amy Baswell Hall	Emily Stallings (Anna's sister)	John Marvin Rhodes (Toni Herd'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)

January Birthdays

- 1-Luke Carter
- 1-David Ogle
- 2-Savannah Spohn
- 2-Chuck Hunt
- 4-Phillip Box
- 6-Erica Seymore
- 7-Sarah Darby
- 9-Jordan Oldag
- 9-Liseth Aragon
- 9-Tyler Hudson
- 10-Mallory Randolph
- 11-Spencer Hall
- 11-Shepherd Hall
- 13-Meredith McCray
- 14-Kendall Parker
- 15-Michael Bassie
- 18-Scott Vaughn
- 21-Jacob Jerkins
- 23-Connor Godwin
- 25-Caleb Daniels
- 25-Sara Lail
- 27-Blake Bagents
- 30-Kayla Garlock
- 30-Kristi Garlock
- 31-Jennifer Daniels

News and Notes

- ☒ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mothers, Laura Humphrey, Brittany Bagents and Jana Hall!
- ☒ - Please pray for the family of Scott Perkins as they have suffered the loss of his grandfather, as well as having several family members ill.
- ☒ - Please pray for Taylor Lawrence's father, Jerry, as he awaits surgery for a benign brain tumor.
- ☒ - Remember Tim Morton in your prayers as he is deployed to Afghanistan.
- ☒ - Welcome to our new members: Anna Acuff, Rachel LaGrone and Winston Atnip!
- ☒ - Caleb Gandy's grandfather has returned home from the hospital and is improving.
- ☒ - Please pray for the family of William Herd as his cousin's wife, Charlotte rich, died recently.
- ☒ - Zac Slay's friend, Jessica Moore, is improving from her recent neck injuries!
- ☒ - We will have a student devo. Tonight after services at Gold Hill with David Maxson leading.
- ☒ - Our meeting with David Maxson starts Today! Lets invite our neighbors!
- ☒ - Next Sat: 1st-5th graders meet from 6-8 p.m. at the Anderson's and 6th-12th graders meet from 6:30-8:40 p.m. at the Norman's
- ☒ - The deadline for registering for the Jane Bragwell study is coming up. See Yvette if you are interested.

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

E-Mail:
larryrouse@aubeacon.com

Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

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

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was not at all impressed with my suggestion that he see the doctor. "I will," he said, "when I become convinced I need one."

Then a terrible thought occurred to me. This is a contagious disease; and even if he will not allow us to take care of him, surely he will let us help his children. "My children are my businesses," he said. "If I die, they're going to die with me."

Now they are all gone. My friend, his wife and a lovely group of children. At one time, all of them were the picture of a healthy, happy people, busily engaged in living a good, clean, healthy life. Now they are gone, and I can't believe it has happened. Why should it happen? Why should a seemingly happy family just up and die like that? It's sad. So sad.

The preceding story is true. You have already surmised, I'm sure, that the death of this family was spiritual, not physical. I hasten to remind you, however, that the fact that the death was not physical should not lessen the impact of the story. On the contrary, it should bring a greater emphasis to it. Spiritual demise is a most tragic, unnecessary event. Hope is gone. The future is bleak beyond belief. It's sad, because this death has a remedy; it can be prevented.

What causes this spiritual demise? If it is so that there is a remedy, why in the same of common logic was not the remedy applied? Why was not something said or done to stop this spiritual passing away?

The fact is, you can't force people to serve God. They have the right to refuse spiritual warnings, ignore spiritual warnings, cast off spiritual concerns. And they will often disdain admonitions to take care of their spiritual health.

I hope this father and mother realize that consequences and implications in their lack of concern. It is not enough that they don't realize their own spiritual condition, but how sad that they are committing spiritual homicide by bringing about the spiritual death of their own children, children who had before been interested in learning about Jesus and His people. What man has the right to commit such an act? Will not God hold him accountable for such dereliction? Surely He will!

Yes, I saw a friend die—just pass away. A friend and brother in the Lord has gone. Will he come back? Can he bring his family back? I don't know, but I hope so. How sad to see someone you love die.



I Hate Sin

By Morris Norman

"Abhor that which is evil" (Rom. 12:9)

How anyone can contemplate the terribleness of sin and what it has done to all of mankind, and not de-test sin, is hard to understand.

Sin is Responsible For:

Every physical pain since Eden;

Every tear of sorrow ever shed;

Every mistreated husband or wife;

Every divorce that destroyed a home; Every abuse ever heaped on a child;

Every broken-hearted parent over a wayward offspring;

Every illegitimate child ever born;

Every ruined and misspent life;

Every loved one lost by death;

Every injustice done to any man;

Every war that ever was waged;

Every ill-feeling toward any brother;

Every disturbance in any church;

Every division and apostasy from Truth;

(ad infinitum).

But what is of graver consequence, sin has estranged every sinful soul from God. Every soul that goes down to hell will be there because of sin.

"The soul that sinneth it shall die" (Ezek. 18:20). "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God;" "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 3:23; 6: 23). Sin damns!!!

The terribleness of sin is seen in the extreme price that had to be paid to redeem man from sin. It cost heaven the Son of God.

The terribleness of sin is seen in the extreme price that had to be paid to redeem man from sin. It cost heaven the Son of God. Sin holds man in such bondage that it is impossible for man to escape by any deed or merit of his own. It was necessary that a sinless offering be made to meet divine justice, so that man

could be saved. Jesus, born of a virgin by the Holy Spirit, was God in the flesh to offer Himself for the sin of the world. "He came to deliver us from the present evil world" (Gal. 1:4).

"I Hate Sin!!!" I have given the feeble efforts of life to the preaching of the gospel, God's power to save man from sin. I would that all persons would so hate sin that they would give the efforts of life to the overcoming of sin's power. There is no way to completely eradicate sin from the world in which we live, but it would be a far better world to live in if all men would apply the gospel's power to live as far above sin as possible. But only through Jesus Christ can this be made possible.

"How beautiful heaven must be!" There will be no sin there!

