

Announcements & Prayer Requests

- Let's keep the following in our prayers:
 - Jimmy & Darlene Woodall: traveling
 - Bernida Wolfe: cirrhosis
 - Kim Self: Cancer and stomach ulcers
 - Angie Self: Arthritis and Parkinson's
 - Darrell Austin's mother on hospice
 - Rick Parks' parents: Roy has prostate cancer; Helen has dementia, on hospice
 - Joann Larkin: Advanced dementia
 - Barb Agee's son (James)
 - Dorothy Macon, Sandra Perez's grandmother: Dementia
 - Frank Wineinger, Sandra Perez's uncle: Stage 4 cancer

THE GOSPEL PLAN OF SALVATION

- Hear Gospel – Rom. 10:17; Acts 8:30-31
- Believe – Heb. 11:6; Mk. 16:16
- Repent of & Turn from Sins – Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess our Faith – Rom. 10:10; Mt. 10:32
- Baptism – Acts 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21
- Live Faithfully – Rev. 2:10

Let us draw near with a **true heart in full assurance of faith [Believe]**, having our **hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience [Repent]** and our **bodies washed with pure water [Baptism]**. Let us **hold fast the confession [Confess]** of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to **stir up love and good works**, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but **exhorting one another**, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. – *Heb. 10:22-25*



CHURCH OF CHRIST

Invitation

'Therefore, go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' – Mt. 22:9

Address

5080 Highway 70 East
Rockwood, TN 37854

Assembly Times

Sunday Bible Study – 10:00 AM
Sunday Worship – 11:00 AM

Please text/email any announcements, questions, or concerns to Bill Fix, (865) 934-9239 or fix.bill@gmail.com

www.hwy70church.com

April 25, 2021

We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors and members. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please let one of us know.

**Adult Bible Class – Legal Principles and the Bible:
Mens Rea/Intent**

Sermon Topic – When the Church Grew

Slinking Sin

By John N. Evans (April 24, 2011)

If sin came all at once—with lights, bells, and whistles—calling attention to itself and displaying its consequences, we'd do a better job of guarding against it.

Instead, it slinks in, taking baby steps and hiding its true intentions. It smiles and winks at us, offers an open invitation, while encouraging us to participate a little at a time.

In this way we are beguiled and seduced because sin seems like such a little thing at first . . . just a slight deviation from what we know is right . . . perhaps just a little detour down a side road. “I don't plan to go far down this wrong road,” we argue with ourselves. “I can always get back to where I should be,” we think. “I'm just a little off course; I can still see the truth from here.”

And so Satan insinuates himself into the cracks and crevices of our lives, like the roots of a spiny cactus burrowing its way through rock.

We shouldn't be surprised by all of this; the Bible provides us with plenty of warning. We know that the devil means us no good. John 8:44 makes it about as strong as one can imagine: “He (Satan) was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

1 Peter 5:8 reminds us that Satan is like an opportunistic predator “seeking someone to devour.” He's not interested in being merciful or fair. He'll use every trick and act of deceit to entice us to sin.

And one of his favorite tactics is to get us to do wrong a little bit at a time—that is, engage in creeping sin.

I was reminded of all this last week when I had a yearly physical. I was visiting with the doctor about weight control. What should a fellow do to drop those extra pounds that tend to accumulate over time? We all know that obesity is one of the most serious physical problems that our culture faces.

Well, the doctor explained that America's growing weight problem (forgive the pun) has several causes. One of the causes we may not be aware of is the larger food portions we consume.

She said, “Just compare the average size of the dinner plates that your grandmother or great-grandmother used in her kitchen with the ones we keep in our cupboards. There's a significant difference.

“And most people, if you set a bigger plate in front of them, put more food on the plate. It's happened gradually, over a couple of generations.”

See what I mean? It's a creeping kind of a problem . . . just like slinking sin.

And then I happened to pick up a magazine that compared the size of hamburgers sold in restaurants during the 50's with the ones we're likely to buy in today's greasy spoons. Wow! The ones sold in the 50's would be “kiddie burgers” today! We'd feel cheated if a waitress plunked one of those puny things in front of us. We want to GIGANTICIZE our meals!

But all of this happened over a period of years. Again, it's a gradual kind of a problem. Just like sin . . . slinking sin . . . some today, some tomorrow . . . and a little more next year.

“Be steadfast, immovable . . .” 1 Corinthians 15:58 admonishes us. The devil will always want to tiptoe into our lives, but we can recognize him if we look hard enough.

Fixating on What's Important: *Change*

By Bill Fix

The article on “Slinking Sin” was one I first read 10 years ago. The idea of slow incremental change fits many different categories. For example, I've been trying to make it to the gym in the mornings before work, but it can sometimes be too easy to skip it if I'm seeking an excuse not to go.

Incremental change can be the solution for achieving difficult positive results (like losing weight), but it can also cover a slow devolvement that goes unnoticed. What does it take to make changes in our lives that involves removing sin? Paul tells us in Rom. 12:2, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

A transformation by the renewing of our minds. This is achieved only with a full commitment from us, and while difficult, Paul tells us it is not impossible. In fact, he describes it in the previous verse as our “reasonable service” (Rom. 12:1). Let's endeavor to make positive changes and resist slinking sin.