

# Things that Really Matter

by Irvin Himmel

Many of us get worked up in our daily lives over things that are relatively inconsequential. If one is given to anxiety, the chances are that he worries over a lot of such things.

To some, social events are highly important. Others are much involved in sporting events. There are people who spend many years earning academic degrees. A business executive may set his goal on reaching the top rung of the corporate ladder. Others consume long hours and large sums of money on entertainment. Some are very fashion conscious. They like to keep up with the latest styles and newest customs. Some relish extensive travel. Then there are people who buy all the new electronic gadgets they can afford, and perhaps some which they really cannot afford.

Self-control is a relative matter. That is, there are varying degrees of temperance (self-control) just as there are with all of the "Christian graces" found in **2 Peter 1:5-10**. None is perfect (without a flaw cannot grow any more) in temperance. Furthermore, we never will be. The key to being acceptable to God is to work on self-control with "all diligence" (**2 Pet. 1:5**).

There are some areas of life where this quality is more easily practiced than in others. Easy or not, we must grow in self-control.

The greatest battle you will ever fight is fought within yourself.

When we stand before the Lord in judgment, as all of us will, the things that loom before us now as having such absorbing interest will not matter at all. In that day it will not matter how many degrees a person has, nor what kind of house he lived in, nor whether he wore plain clothes or the latest fashions, whether he drove an old clunker or a shiny new auto, and whether he was underpaid or earned a top salary. And the team that he rooted for will have no more fascination.

The things that will really matter then are the things that ought to matter now. Faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. Cheerful obedience. Righteous living. Submission to divine authority. Love. Loyalty in worship and service to God. Eternal hope based on the grace of God.



**Truth Seekers begins on Thurs, September 7 at 8 PM**  
Meetings will be in Room 2107 of the Student Center

**Ladies Classes will begin on Sept. 11 on Monday Night and on Sept. 19 Tuesday Morning on "Teach Me to Love"**

**Men's Classes will begin on September 19 on Monday Night at Walker Davis house.**

Lisa Carter (Luke's mother)	Jesse Godwin (Troy's father)	Nell Holcomb (Ben's grandmother, Joannetta's aunt)	Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Ruth Addison (gmom of April and Julie)
Madeline Morton (Greg Lanier's g'daughter)	Anna Price	Betty Bradford	Reba Patterson (Heath Fowler's mom)
Jean Buchanan (Abbie Harrison's grandmother)	Tina Atnip (Orie's cousin)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Abbie Harrison
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Arabelle Rich (Joannetta's aunt)	Jane Hunt (Chuck's mother)	Charles Hunt, (Chuck Hunt's dad)
Gay Ulrich (Emma's mom)	Toni Herd	Taina Acuff (Anna's aunt)	Shawn Lauderdale (Larry and Joannetta's son)

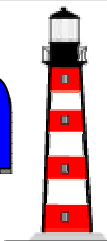
**August Birthdays**  
 1-Trinity Jerkins  
 2-Emma Miller  
 6-Allyson Houlton  
 6-Sandra Chason  
 8-Alli Luther  
 9-Elliot Weldon  
 9-Troy Swenson  
 10-David Hartsell  
 11-Walker Davis  
 12-Jon Coleman  
 13-Ariel Ramsey  
 15-Kalee Reid  
 15-Everleigh Crawford  
 16-Sharon Edwards  
 18-Heidi Abell  
 18-Chris Britnell  
 21-Matt Cavender  
 22-Case O'Dell  
 23-Jordan Holliday  
 23-Colton Miller  
 24-Sophie Hall  
 26-Payton Davis  
 27-Chip Freeman  
 28-Larry Rouse  
 28-Cole Johnson  
 28-Alex Dobbins

**News and Notes**

- ☒ - Sandra Chason's mom is out of hospital and receiving Home Health care in Sandra's home.
- ☒ - Joy Powell was admitted to hospital on Friday at EAMC. She is having tests run on her heart.
- ☒ - Sandra Chason's mom, Mary Edwards, remains in the Hospital and may come home on Monday.
- ☒ - Please pray for our expectant mothers: Paula Davis, Xiang Li, Mallory Randolph and Suzanne Stagner .
- ☒ - We welcome our new members, David Eison, Connell Hodges, John Berkebile !
- ☒ - Please have your picture made or update your picture after the Sunday morning service in the foyer! Today is the LAST DAY to have picture made.
- ☒ - All audio is immediately uploaded to [www.auchurch.com](http://www.auchurch.com). Also CD's of meeting will be available in the foyer.

# The Auburn Beacon

A weekly publication of the University church of Christ in Auburn, Alabama

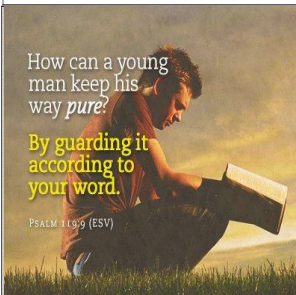


Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (**Matthew 5:16**)

Volume 8, Issue 51 September 10, 2017

## Maintaining Sexual Purity

by Kevin Maxey



**Thoughts to Ponder**  
 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. (**Psalm 119:9**)

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

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**  
**Sunday**  
 Bible Class .....9:30 AM  
 Worship .....10:20 AM  
 Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM  
**Wednesday**  
 Bible Classes.....7:00 PM  
 E-Mail:  
[larryrouse@aubeacon.com](mailto:larryrouse@aubeacon.com)

**Larry Rouse**  
 Evangelist and Editor

"New and improved! Our product is now 100 percent natural and pure. It contains no dyes, perfumes, artificial colorings, additives, cholesterol, fat, or sugar." Our society is obsessed with maintaining product purity. Manufacturers are rapidly selling everything from clear soft drinks to clear detergent. Meanwhile, at the opposite end of the spectrum, our society is tragically selling nothing but impure and unnatural sexual standards. Apparently people foolishly care more about product purity than sexual integrity.

Society continually bombards us with explosive messages of filthy sexual immorality. The mass media has capitalized on the world's universal appeal for sexual passion. No small number of songs on the radio have sexual overtones and themes. Television situation comedies often poke fun at circumstances involving pre-marital sexual relations. Soap operas build on similar adulterous themes. Every movie it seems must also have its moments of sexual exploitation on the screen. Even advertisers use sex to sell everything from automobiles to butter. In addition to all of this commercial pressure, our educational system has become saturated with humanistic philosophies approving sexual activity, homosexuality and abortion. We still have not even mentioned the pounding influences of a peer group that overwhelmingly flirts with and participates in sexual immorality. According to an article in Time Magazine (January 21, 1991), 80% of all youngsters in New York become sexually active by the age of nineteen.

What is a young mind to do? Is it possible to keep our hearts pure in such a godless age? The psalmist appropriately asks, "How shall the young man cleanse his way?" (**Psa. 119:9**) We can either allow the world to corrupt our souls or we can confidently determine to live by the principles found in God's word.

When we look at the story of David and Bathsheba recorded in **2 Samuel 11**, we discover that sexual immorality is not new to our age. Even this man after God's own heart was subject to sexual temptations (**1 Sam. 13: 14**). No one is immune to the "passing pleasures of sin" (**Heb. 11:25**). No matter how long we have been Christians, no matter what good we may have done in the past, or even if we are dating other Christians, we too can be tempted. "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall" (**1 Cor. 10: 12**). Since this account was "written for our admonition" (**1 Cor. 10:11**), let's investigate what led to David's fall, so that we can avoid making the same mistakes.

**Neglecting Our Responsibilities**

We often overlook the negligent behavior that may lead up to the sin of sexual immorality. What was David doing, or not doing we should say, before committing adultery with Bathsheba? "Now it came to pass in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem" (**v. 1**). It was "the time when kings go out to battle" and "David remained in Jerusalem." The text does not say why

(Continued on page 2)

Find us on the Internet: [www.auchurch.com](http://www.auchurch.com) and [www.aubeacon.com](http://www.aubeacon.com)

(Continued from page 1)

David remained, but we do know that if David was fulfilling his work as king the temptation with Bathsheba that night would not have occurred.

David teaches us the danger of neglecting our responsibilities. If we are busy about our "Father's business" we will avoid a great deal of temptation (**Lk. 2:49**). If we make God the center of our lives at school, at work, with our friends and especially in our dating relationships, we will always lessen the opportunities for being tempted. The couple who fills their time with godly activities and submits to God will be able to "resist the devil" (**Jas. 4:7**). Attending gospel meetings and Bible studies, and enjoying uplifting forms of entertainment with other Christians will aid in removing sexual temptations. Paul assures us that God "will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make a way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (**1 Cor. 10:13**). We can find that "way of escape" through filling our time with spiritual activities. When we neglect the righteous work God has for us to do, we, like David, open the doors for the sins of sexual immorality.

### Compromising Situations

After examining what we are not doing, we next must look at what we are doing and investigate whether it leads to sexual immorality. What do we find David and Bathsheba each doing before they commit adultery? "Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold" (**v. 2**). David was walking on the roof of his house. In and of itself, walking on one's own roof is not a sin. But if David knew he could see such thing; from his roof then he should have avoided that activity. Bathsheba, the text says, was bathing. In and of itself, bathing is certainly not sinful. However, if Bathsheba knew others could see her, then she should have avoided bathing in such a visible place.

What is the lesson for us? There are many activities that in and of themselves are not wrong to participate in. However, if we know those activities may lead to temptation, we then should avoid them. Instead, we often get as close as we can to the world and subject our hearts to compromising situations that lead to sin. For example, wearing stylish clothing certainly is not a sin, but when we dress immodestly, we are inviting immorality (**1 Pet. 3:3-4**). This very situation with David and Bathsheba clearly proves that the lack of sufficient clothing leads to sexual sin. Swimming is another example. In and of itself swimming is a healthy activity, but swimming in mixed company in immodest clothing leads to impure thoughts. Going to a party with friends is not a sin, but attending a party where alcohol is being served or where dancing is present promotes lasciviousness and "those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." (**Gal. 5:16-21**). A second way to main-

tain sexual purity is through avoiding compromising situations.

### Dwelling On Fleshly Lusts

Being faced with a temptation is not a sin, but what we do with that temptation is crucial. What did David do upon seeing beautiful Bathsheba? "So David sent and inquired about this woman" (**v.3**). David allowed sinful thoughts to enter his heart, and they affected his behavior. David "inquired" about Bathsheba. The things we expose our mind to will certainly influence our actions. "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he" (**Prov. 23:7**).

Paul recognized the danger of sexual pressure and warned young Timothy to "flee also youthful lusts" (**2 Tim. 2:22**). Peter likewise emotionally begs us to "abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul" (**1 Pet. 2:11**). Notice the power of the words used in these two verses. We are to "flee" and "abstain" from evil desires. This does not mean to try to get as close as we can to sin but instead it demands we run away from such lusts as Joseph ran from Potiphar's wife (**Gen. 39:12**). Fleeing and abstaining require us to have nothing to do with, to avoid at all costs, to reject and to refuse lascivious thoughts. The fall of David powerfully informs us that we must avoid sexual immorality by diligently guarding our hearts against the filth of the world (**Prov 4:23**)

### Hardening Our Hearts

Finally, the story of David and Bathsheba teaches us the incredible power sin has to harden our hearts and turn us away from God. Once we let our guard down by neglecting our responsibilities, putting ourselves in compromising situations, and dwelling on fleshly lusts, we become easy prey for the devil who "walks about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour" (**1 Pet. 5:8**). David's heart had become so corrupt that he boldly disregarded God's law and gave in to the temptation of adultery. "Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her" (**v. 4**). After David received word of Bathsheba's pregnancy, he deceptively tried to cover his sin by shamefully murdering her honorable husband, Uriah (**v. 15**).

Who could have imagined that David would have committed adultery and then even participated in murder? We occasionally hear shocking stories about Christians who partake in similar sins. David is not the only one who tried to cover his sin of fornication by murder. Currently, mothers violently abort over 1.5 million babies each year. Why? Because sin hardens the heart.

Though the moral integrity of the world is crumbling around us, we can victoriously maintain our sexual purity by building our lives on God's word. The sexual relationship between a man and a woman is a beautiful gift from God when reserved for the honorable state of marriage. "Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge" (**Heb. 13:4**). May we all learn from the tragic story of David and Bathsheba to endeavor to maintain sexual purity. - **Guardian of Truth - March 16, 1995**



# Congregational Infiltration

By Hugh Davis

Congregational infiltration has long been used by false brethren as a tactical device to overthrow the faith of brethren and enslave them to whatever brand of error they chance to espouse. Judaizers employed it against the good church at Antioch and for this reason, Paul speaks of them as "...false brethren privily brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage." (**Gal. 2:4**) The English word "privily" is from the Greek "pareisaktos". It means: to bring in beside, secretly, as spies or traitors. Hence, these Judaizers, instead of coming in openly with announced intentions, had, as it were, slipped in by the side door, slyly concealing their subversive motives of destroying the liberty of the brethren at Antioch and bringing them under the bondage of Judaism.

Libertines, men who confused liberty in Christ with license for gross fleshly indulgence, used similar tactics. Jude wrote concerning them "...I was constrained to write unto you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith...For there are certain men crept in privily..." (**Jude 3-4**) Peter seems to speak of these same subversives as he warns: "...Among you also there shall be false teachers, who shall privily bring in destructive heresies..." (**2 Peter 2:1**) Thus these digressives had not only "crept in privily" but had also "privily" brought in their destructive doctrines, cunningly and secretly introducing their error by the side of the truth.

Churches of reputation for militantly resisting error, regardless of its shape or form, do not have nearly so much to fear by way of direct and open attack as do those churches that seek to maintain their status quo by passive measures.

Sincere brethren sometimes have difficulty in believing that brethren could become so enamored with error as to be so unscrupulous in its propagation and practice. And herein lies the gravest danger of such infiltration! Remember that it did happen in the first century, and brethren have certainly not so improved that it cannot happen in the

20th century! Those of us who were in the thick of the institutional battle need no convincing. We know, only too well, the extremes of subversive activities with which we at times had to cope and how some churches were captured by just such infiltrations.

Churches of reputation for militantly resisting error, regardless of its shape or form, do not have nearly so much to fear by way of direct and open attack as do those churches that seek to maintain their status quo by passive measures. Where there is no fear of active resistance, the forces of error will attack again and again in the hope of bringing more and more churches into bondage. But, generally speaking, the very last thing these forces want is an open and fair fight with those who have the truth lest they run the risk of exposure and loss of prestige. There is, however, the need for constant vigilance against undercover operations and maneuverings, especially congregational infiltration by false brethren who may *privily* creep in and *privily* introduce their error, undermining and destroying from within.

