

“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:11, NKJV)

New England Christian Bulletin

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Twenty Spiritual Pitfalls to Avoid

By James Moriello

“When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, And when you run, you will not stumble” (Proverbs 4:12).

When we walk and run with the Lord, there are no spiritual hindrances. But when we don't, what hindrances hold us back? For what reasons do we fall? Here are twenty potential pitfalls.

1. Lack of sympathy- “Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.” But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, “Send her away, for she cries out after us.” (Matthew 15:21-23). “Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.” And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them” (Mark 10:13-16). How can we say we are in good standing with God if we are completely lacking in compassion towards others, even those who are suffering, or are innocent?

2. Discouraging circumstances- “Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralyzed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him. And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus” (Luke 5:18-19).

Inside This Issue!

Page 2-Jesus Came, and He's Coming Back!

Page 3-Soul Winning

Page 4-How Much More?

Page 5-A New Creation

Page 7-The Ten Commandments



∞ (Photo Above taken by Laurie Landry)

It seemed as though the circumstances would prevent these four men from bringing their paralyzed friend to Jesus, but they did not let that deter them. They found the way.

3. Unbelieving friends- “While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue's house who said, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?” As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not be afraid; only believe” (Mark 5:35-36). If the ruler had listened to these folks, he would have missed further blessing. Don't let your friends hold you back from going all in for Jesus.

4. Scoffers- “So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, “Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner”” (John 9:24). “Then Judah said, “The strength of the laborers is failing, and there is so much rubbish that we are not able to build the wall”” (Nehemiah 4:10). There will always be folks who speak this way. Don't react to their scoffing. Respond with faith.

5. Failure to understand God's purpose in divine delays- “Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, “Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.” When Jesus heard that, He said, “This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was... Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.” Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled” (John 11:3-6,32-33). Jesus had purposely delayed coming, that His glory might be known through His raising of Lazarus from the dead. Martha and Mary did not understand why He delayed. Sometimes we want and expect answers to our prayers now, but the Lord delays. Let us have faith that the Father knows best.

6. Worldly allurements- “But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt” (Genesis 19:26). Lot's wife looked back with longing to the life she had, and it was accounted as sin to her. Let us not look back with nostalgia to the former days when we lived according to our sin. But rather let us look forward to days of peace and hopeful expectation of an eternity with our God and Savior.

7. Attempting to rely on worldly means- “David fastened his sword to his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested them. And David said to Saul, “I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested them.” So David took them off. Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand.

(Continued on Page 6)

Jesus Came, and He's Coming Back!

By Scott Lanctot

“Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

(Revelation 22:7)

What this phrase is speaking of is Christ Jesus' Second Coming. Note that Jesus is saying, “I am coming quickly.” His timetable of quickly might differ from a human meaning of quickly. “But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day” (2 Peter 3:8). Our God is eternal. Believers have His Word as a guide to life, and how to live His Word. Be patient, wait, watch, be ready. These are all biblical principles we apply in a Christian walk. Sanctified is defined as made holy, consecrated, which simply means set apart. One might say, “How is one to be made holy, consecrated?” The answer, “Believe in faith upon Jesus Christ.” According to Jesus' own words, ““Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life” (John 5:24). The key is to believe in faith upon Jesus Christ, and confess that you are a sinner in need of a Savior. The Holy Bible has many prophecies of the coming Messiah, which were written long before He came. That which Isaiah wrote has its fulfillment recorded by Matthew. “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”” (Matthew 1:23; Isaiah 7:14). Jesus came in flesh to save His people from their sins according to Scripture. “And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). He came unto the Jew first, and also to the Gentile. God's plan of salvation is by God through Jesus Christ. If you believe in faith, you are grafted into the fold. You are a child of the Most High God. We as believers have an unshakable faith, knowing that one day, we will be in Christ's presence. “We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord” (2 Corinthians 5:8). We will be in Heaven, the Millennial Kingdom, and the Eternal State forever, one day future. As believers in Jesus Christ, we can say, “I know where my future is, with Jesus Christ.” I submit to the one who does not believe, “Seek the Lord today, for we are not promised tomorrow.” What I get from this paper being written is the hope that someone might get saved, and avoid the curse. “Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience” (Ephesians 5:6). Repent and believe in the gospel. Amen.

Publication Information, Contact Information,
and an Invitation to Firm Foundation Church

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Firm Foundation Christian Church meets at 84 Cumberland Street, Woonsocket, RI. We meet every Sunday for Worship Service at 10 am, and also every Friday for Bible Study and Prayer at 7 pm. We are a Soul Winning, Great Commission, Christian Bible Church. In addition to an active evangelistic ministry, we host tent revivals, do street evangelism, and offer beginner to advanced level independent study classes, all free of charge. All of our preaching and Bible Study is directly from the Word of God. We invite you to stop by and visit us.

We believe in the inspired Word of God which is without error in all that it affirms. Scripture (The Bible) provides the basis for our Christian faith (2 Timothy 3:16).

We believe in the Divine Nature of the Trinity: God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 5:6; John 1:1-3; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11).

All men and women are sinners by nature in need of a Savior. We need God's grace and mercy (Romans 3:10-23; Isaiah 45:22).

That Savior is Jesus Christ, who paid for all our sins at the cross (Hebrews 10:12).

Those who trust in Him in faith (believe upon His work and promises) attain to eternal life (John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:16-18).

Soul Winning, By James Moriello

“He who wins souls is wise” (Proverbs 11:30b)

The salvation of souls is God’s work, and His alone. However, He calls Christian men and Christian women everywhere to participate in His work. The command to preach the gospel is a universal one: “Go, therefore and make disciples” (Matthew 28:19). Nobody can be a disciple without first becoming a Christian. “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned” (1 Corinthians 2:14). A second birth—a spiritual birth—is required. “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3). A clear presentation of the gospel is necessary in order that the weak and weary sinner might understand the grace and hope that the Gospel of Jesus Christ alone can bring. “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher” (Romans 10:14)? And here is the gospel: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). The facts which must be believed are presented concisely by the Apostle Paul: “For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

There are four main points which we will bring out that speak to why soul winning is wise. First, “he who wins souls is wise” because many souls are lost and it is a needful ministry. Second, “he who wins souls is wise” because it is every believer’s responsibility. Third, “he who wins souls is wise” because it strengthens one’s own faith. Fourth, “he who wins souls is wise” because the soul winner stores up treasures in heaven. Finally, we will define various categories of sinners, and offer practical instruction for winning each kind.

First, “he who wins souls is wise” because many souls are lost and it is a needful ministry. The Lord Jesus counsels sinners to “enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it” (Matthew 7:13). “The harvest (of souls) truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few” (Matthew 9:37). In other words, the number of needy souls far exceeds the number of those who are willing to work to meet the need. Are you a Christian looking to be of use to the Master? Are you unsure of how to serve He who paid so great a price for the redemption of your soul? Heed then the counsel of Solomon. “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might” (Ecclesiastes 9:10a). As long as there are unsaved souls in your family, neighborhood, and workplace, a need exists right now, right where you are. There are sinners all around each of us who need the Savior.

Second, “he who wins souls is wise” because it is every believer’s responsibility. We said in the opening that soul winning is part of the Great Commission. For too many professing Christians, there is a ‘Great Omission’ with regard to evangelism and discipleship. The Lord holds us accountable not only for sins of commission (anger, lust, and the like), but also for our sins of omission. If we saw a man in a burning building, would we not rescue him if we were able to do so? Why then will we not rescue the same man who is facing an eternity apart from God, being scorched by the flames of hellfire?! Heed the divine command. “Deliver those who are drawn toward death, and hold back those stumbling to the slaughter. If you say, ‘Surely we did not know this,’ Does not He who weighs the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not render to each man according to his deeds” (Proverbs 24:11-12)? The Apostle Paul was a faithful steward of the Gospel of God. Heed his inspired words. “For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel” (1 Corinthians 9:16)! Notice that for Paul, proclaiming the gospel was not optional. And he backed up his talk by walking the walk.

(Continued on Page 8)



How Much More? (Hebrews 9:14), By Rick Meunier

“How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” (Hebrews 9:14, KJV).

This verse is one of the keys to separated, consecrated, Christian living, and victory over sin. It speaks of the blood of Christ in the “present tense” as currently available to cleanse a Christian’s conscience, from the things he used to do before he was saved. What makes you think his blood has completely disappeared, (after saving you), and is no longer at your disposal?

Since “the life of the flesh is in the blood” (Leviticus 17:11), and the life in Jesus Christ was eternal life, His blood has to be different from our blood (Acts 20:28). Our blood cannot purchase anything!

“The Spirit...the water, and the blood” are “one” witness here on earth in the present, just like the Trinity is one witness in Heaven in the present (1 John 5:5-9). The Apostle John tells us how to use the blood of Christ as a “cleansing agent” (1 John 1:7-9). In the old Baptist and Methodist circles they called that “pleading the blood”, which went on down by the old mourner’s bench. You won’t find that term being used by any of the “Christian celebrities” of today.

Just remember that the blood is as valuable, (and available), to the lost sinner, as it is valuable, (and available), to the saint seeking to serve the Lord in a lost and dying world. Sinner, let the blood save you from your sins. Repent, call out to God, and be saved today!! Brother and Sister in Christ, let the blood “purge your conscience from dead works”, so you can start serving the Lord today!!

Old Time Preaching Ministry

If you are looking for doctrinally sound Bible preaching and teaching, tune in to WNRI 1380am and 99.9fm on Tuesday at 7pm, and Saturday at 4pm. Where the “Old Book” is still used.

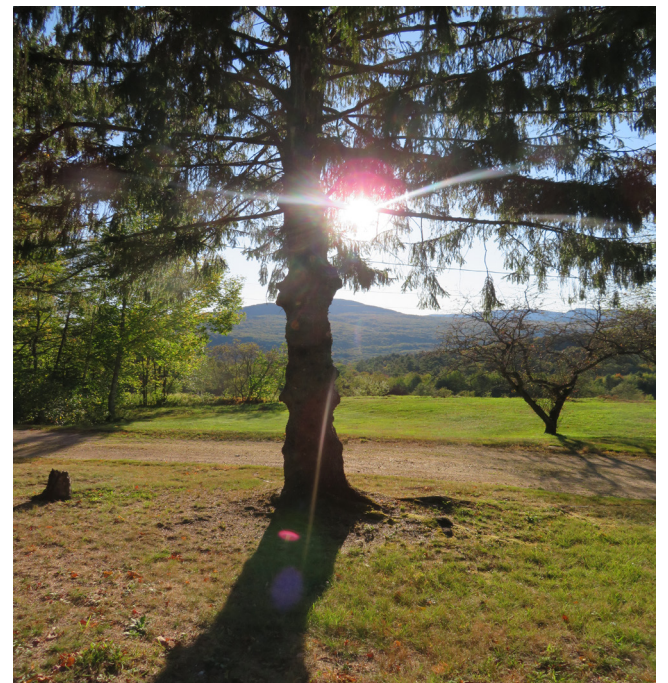
Psalm 138:2 (KJV): “I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy loving-kindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.”

A New Creation, By Steve Jackson

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

As we have just entered a new calendar year, it seems fitting to speak of new things. For it is not uncommon that people will set for themselves New Year’s resolutions. Be that diet and exercise, a commitment to read the Bible, or perhaps just being more assertive, more forgiving, less judgmental, or any variety of character traits we would like to improve upon. There is nothing wrong with setting new goals for ourselves, but I would caution that we should be diligent to ensure these goals do not take away our focus from God and become a form of an idol to chase after. Now our text is taken from what we know as Second Corinthians, which is actually Paul’s third or possibly even fourth letter to the Corinthian church. And while that detail is not crucial information at this particular moment, it just goes to show his care and concern for them. As we know, the Corinthian church was weighed down with a variety of serious issues, and Paul did what he could to correct them and guide them into a proper and loving relationship with God and one another. In this particular passage we read his claim that if someone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away and become something new, something different altogether. And he is speaking about the act of regeneration. The new birth. How God is able to take our dead and decrepit hearts of stone and replace them with new and living hearts of flesh. Something only God can do. And no amount of New Year’s resolutions or self-improvement could ever achieve, no matter how much time, effort and energy are expended in the vain attempt to find happiness and fulfillment. But the broader context surrounding verse 17 is more than just this amazing act of regeneration. Beginning in verse 16 we read, “Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:16-19). The idea presented in verse 17 is just a basic explanation of what happens when someone exercises saving faith and surrenders themselves to Jesus Christ, As he says in Romans 6, “Those who are baptized into Christ Jesus are baptized into His death and buried with Him.” He also says, “if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin” (Rom 6:5-7). When someone puts their faith in Jesus, they are giving up any and all hope to redeem themselves, and transferring all of that trust to Christ alone, He died on the cross, in order that we might be forgiven, even though we weren’t asking to be forgiven. Every faithful Christian should understand this was entirely a work of God. 100% of the way. And as clear as I can be, there is nothing you or I could ever do to make up for our sins. Which is why God had to do it Himself and come to this earth in the form of Man, Jesus Christ, to offer a sacrifice on our behalf. Because we are slaves to sin, “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21). It doesn’t matter what happened in our past lives when we were enemies of God. When we were rolling in the filth of our sins like pigs in the mud. Whether we were fornicators, idolaters, thieves, extortioners, or worse. For “Such were some you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Corinthians 6:11). And such will be the one who turns to God and looks to the cross for salvation. For with God all things are possible. And He does not desire that any should perish but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). It is not our job to judge the crimes of our fellow Christians, or even the crimes of unbelievers, but to offer them the message of reconciliation, as we are ambassadors for Christ. Just as we were offered reconciliation while we were lost in sin. It is so easy and tempting to look upon the world with anger, disdain, and disgust for their blatant wickedness, but let us not forget the words of Jesus as He was being crucified. “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do” (Luke 23:34). They are slaves to sin and we are to look beyond the flesh, and to the soul. Whether that is a fellow saint who has wronged us or an unbeliever. The message is the same. Turn to God and be reconciled. Do not be caught up in the devil’s scheme to breed hate and fear. But trust in the Lord, who is able and willing to forgive everyone who comes to Him. If you did not make a New Year’s resolution, or desire one that is truly worthwhile, allow me to offer this suggestion. To learn what it means to be an ambassador for Christ as we read in verse 20 and embrace that responsibility. To deliver this message, “as though God were pleading through” (you, to everyone you encounter) “on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.” Just as you were reconciled to God. Let us each now take some time to ask forgiveness for our sins, and offer Him praise for His efforts to redeem us through His Son, Jesus Christ.

(Photo Below Taken By Tanya Hay)



Twenty Spiritual Pitfalls to Avoid, Continued from Page 1

7. **Attempting to rely on worldly means, Continued...**And he drew near to the Philistine” (1 Samuel 17:39-40). This battle belonged to the Lord. All the worldly weapons and defenses are not sufficient. David relied upon his God to provide the victory. So too should we in every circumstance.
8. **Unbelief-** “Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief” (Matthew 13:58). This is a timeless principle.
9. **Worldly possessions-** “Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions” (Matthew 19:21-22). This would-be disciple was held back due to covetousness. He put too much value on worldly things and too little value on heavenly things.
10. **Imaginary hindrances-** “Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, “Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?” But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away—for it was very large” (Mark 16:1-4). The women went to the tomb expecting to encounter a big problem, a large stone which God had already removed. When we go into a situation, let us not expect problems that may not even be there. Or worse, let us not allow anticipated problems to render us fearful of doing anything at all.
11. **Family ties-** “Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, “Lord, I will follow You wherever You go.” And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” Then He said to another, “Follow Me. But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.” And another also said, “Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.” But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God”” (Luke 9:57-62). One man wanted to wait for his earthly inheritance. The other wanted to make merry with his family for a little while longer. Let us honor our family, but place the call of Jesus ahead of any earthly ties, even family ties.
12. **Every weight generally, and that sin which is most tempting to you rearing its ugly head specifically-** “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1). Strive to avoid all sin, and especially to avoid that particular sin that tends to ensnare you. That sin, and you know the one it is, is seeking to preoccupy your affections, usurping God’s rightful place.
13. **Prayerlessness, or praying in a state of sin-** “Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures” (James 4:1-3). Friend, are your prayers really in the will of God, or do you have your own agenda in praying them? And when you truly have need, do you fail to try at that time? “If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death” (1 John 5:16-17). A sin leading an individual away from God ought to be repented of at once. Let us never uphold others by supporting them in their sin and wishing them prosperity in it.
14. **Infrequent repentance-** “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:8-9). To fail to repent of known sin is to fail to acknowledge there is sin in us. Let us frequently repent of our sins, and then we will enjoy the beauty of God’s forgiveness.
15. **Failure to resist sin-** “You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin” (Hebrews 12:4). If the Bible calls it sin, please do not say that God made you that way or that you cannot help it.
16. **Spiritual Laziness-** “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’ “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest’” (Matthew 25:24-27). God has given you gifts. Are you a good steward of those things for which He expects a return?

(Continued on Page 7)

Twenty Spiritual Pitfalls to Avoid, Continued from Page 6

17. **Neglecting to use spiritual gifts-** “Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership” (1 Timothy 4:14). I have seen too many “used to be” pastors, teachers, evangelists, Sunday School teachers, servants, and so forth. Don’t join that club.

18. **Not holding to sound doctrine-** “Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you” (1 Timothy 4:16). Some so-called Christians seem to think “doctrine” is a bad word, but Jesus used it and talked about it. Sound Bible doctrine is promoted by Jesus (John 7:16-18), Paul, and others in the Bible. Every text has one meaning in context, and many applications. All the Bible understood as a whole is perfect, and its doctrine (teaching) therefore must be consistent. Be diligent to read and study the Word of God. And avoid any doctrine contrary to it (Romans 16:17).

19. **Failure to prioritize the Word of God-** “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). “I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth More than my necessary food” (Job 23:12). Is the Word of God a priority to you? If not, you are creating your own hindrance to your spiritual growth.

20. **Neglecting the church assembly-** “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 (Hebrews 10:24-25). “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers” (Acts 2:42). The church is an assembly, not a hermit kingdom. It is essential that Christians come together physically to worship God regularly. This is a testimony to His worth, and to the unbelieving world. All Christians need to regularly sit under sound Bible preaching and teaching, gather with other believers, receive the elements of the communion table, and engage in both public and private prayers.



The Ten Commandments

(Exodus 20:3-17)

1. 3 “You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. 4 “You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.
3. 7 “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.
4. 8 “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.
5. 12 “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.
6. 13 “You shall not murder.
7. 14 “You shall not commit adultery.
8. 15 “You shall not steal.
9. 16 “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. 17 “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor’s.”

For in-depth in-person Bible teaching, please join us Friday nights at 7 pm at Firm Foundation Christian Church, 84 Cumberland Street, Woonsocket. We are currently studying verse by verse through the Book of Proverbs. We also offer Awana Bible Study for children ages 2-12 at that time.

Soul Winning, Continued from Page 3

Third, “he who wins souls is wise” because it strengthens his own faith. God gives us commands for our own spiritual benefit. Our faith is strengthened as we obey the Lord, and see Him work through us (redeemed sinners) to minister hope to lost sinners. Those who take seriously the call of God to be light bearers are of necessity much in prayer and much in the Bible. Soul winning is spiritual work, and we must be connected to the vine which is Christ if we expect to be successful in the work. Jesus said, “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). Soul winning is spiritual work which engages the heart and the mind. This being so, Christian worker, you are called to “be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). As we continually pray and spend time in the Scriptures each and every day, our faith is strengthened and we bear spiritual fruit unto the Lord. What a great and glorious thing it is to rejoice with the angels of heaven when we see lost men and women coming to Christ because we were faithful to God’s charge (Luke 15:7)! Now a word to the discouraged soul winner: “the testing of your faith produces patience” (James 1:3). There will be times, even seasons, when you are faithful but the gospel falls on deaf ears and hardened hearts. It is the will of God that we learn patience through such experiences. Persevere through those times in prayer, and continue to share the hope that is in you, knowing that the work is ultimately the Lord’s and not your own.

Fourth, “he who wins souls is wise” because the soul winner stores up treasures in heaven. “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:19-21). Alfred P. Gibbs, in his book ‘Personal Evangelism,’ poses this question: “Suppose you were offered \$1,000.00 for every soul you earnestly sought to win for Christ. Would you, for this reward, seek to win more souls for Christ than you are doing right now? If so, your love for money is greater than your love for Christ or your fellow man.” The greatest treasures are heavenly ones. Salvation is a treasure of eternal value (John 3:16). Every soul that makes it to heaven because we are the mouthpieces of God is a heavenly treasure. What are your priorities and perspectives, and are they in need of rearrangement?

Finally, we will define various categories of sinners, and offer practical instruction for winning each kind. This list is by no means exhaustive, but is meant to provide general aid to the soul winner. Notice the difficulties presented in each case. Occasionally, the Lord will send a ready hearer with an open heart to receive the gospel, but this usually is not so.

1. Mr. Careless: This sinner is living life as if God does not exist, without a care in the world with regard to spiritual things. In most cases, this person is not averse to God. The challenge is to awaken this sinner to the danger of neglecting spiritual truth. Scriptures to use: Proverbs 27:1; Mark 8:36; 2 Corinthians 6:2; Hebrews 3:15
2. Ms. Skeptic: This sinner is usually awakened to his or her spiritual need. Many are legitimately skeptical because of upbringing, background, or lack of understanding of the Christian faith. Gracefully and patiently answer and show this person in the Bible the answers to his or her questions. Scriptures to use: John 3:3; Romans 3:10-23, 6:23, 10:13; Hebrews 7:25
3. Mr. Smokescreen: This sinner is using skepticism as a smokescreen to evade accountability to God. These often consider themselves atheists or agnostics. These sinners will continually raise objections to Christian truth at every turn, and the soul winner should seek to meet these objections, which are really excuses, with Scripture based responses. Keep bringing the discussion back to the gospel, with emphasis on its objective truth and its claims on the individual. As a baseline, seek an agreement for both parties to be perfectly honest in discussion. Scriptures to use: Isaiah 1:18; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:23; Galatians 6:7; James 2:10
4. Ms. Deceived: This sinner has misconceptions about the gospel and the Christian faith. Be aware that for many, these false beliefs are sincerely held and deeply rooted, and Ms. Deceived is often deeply ‘religious.’ Be patient in pointing out the errors, making it a point not to ‘attack the person.’ Do it by showing this person where Scripture speaks on a matter, for often this person has a high view of God’s written revelation. Scriptures to use: General (Isaiah 8:20; John 3:16; 2 Timothy 3:16), To those who have been taught that salvation can be lost (John 6:37, 10:28; Ephesians 1:13), Roman Catholics who are often confused about the role of works in salvation and the role of Mary (Ephesians 2:8-10; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 10:10-12), Oneness Pentecostal Cult and other Charismatic groups which deny the Trinity and/or teach that speaking in tongues is required evidence of salvation—which is a false gospel (Matthew 3:16-17; John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 12:30, 13; Ephesians 2:8-10; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-5; Revelation 22:18-19), Jehovah’s Witnesses which deny the deity of Jesus Christ (John 1:1-3, 8:58, 10:30).

There was a king in ancient Israel named Solomon. He is famous for asking for wisdom, and “the speech pleased the LORD, that Solomon had asked this thing” (1 Kings 3:10). Do you wish to please the Lord, dear Christian friend? If so, I encourage you to seek wisdom and do wise things. Here is a place to start, for the Scripture says that “he who wins souls is wise”.