

# Good News

*From Getwell*

Published by  
**Getwell Church of Christ**  
1511 Getwell Road  
Memphis, Tennessee 38111-7299

Phone: (901) 743-0464  
Fax: (901) 743-2197

E-Mail: [mail@getwellchurchofchrist.org](mailto:mail@getwellchurchofchrist.org)  
Website: [www.getwellchurchofchrist.org](http://www.getwellchurchofchrist.org)

#### ELDERS

Dewey Murray  
Daniel P. Phillips  
Ron Wallace

#### MINISTERS

Michael Wyatt, Minister  
Ron Wallace, Assoc. Minister  
Daniel P. Phillips

Publishers of  
**THE SPIRITUAL SWORD**  
Alan E. Highers, Editor

Home of  
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*The Truth in Love*  
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#### SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY

##### SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.  
Worship.....10:20 a.m.  
Worship.....5:00 p.m.

##### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

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## ON THE HOME FRONT

Karen and I recently celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I personally find this hard to believe since I am only 39 years old. In today's culture this is indeed an accomplishment. The credit goes to my wife Karen. When I started dating, I prayed for a good woman to come into my life. A faithful Christian, a faithful wife and a good mother to our children. God answered my prayer on all these levels and even more. Following I have included Proverbs 31:10-24 which I feel describes my wife of 40 years and hopefully many more to come.

### A Virtuous Woman Proverbs 31: 10-24

- <sup>10</sup> Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.  
<sup>11</sup> The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.  
<sup>12</sup> She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.  
<sup>13</sup> She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.  
<sup>14</sup> She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.  
<sup>15</sup> She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.  
<sup>16</sup> She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.  
<sup>17</sup> She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.  
<sup>18</sup> She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night.  
<sup>19</sup> She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.  
<sup>20</sup> She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.  
<sup>21</sup> She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.  
<sup>22</sup> She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.  
<sup>23</sup> Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.  
<sup>24</sup> She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.

Ron Wallace



# CAN YOU BECOME DESENTIZED TO DARKNESS?

By Michael Wyatt

Usually when a preacher mentions the things that I am going to mention in this article, he becomes really unpopular. But, as most preachers, we recognize the importance of what I am about to mention and will be able to bear such unpopularity, hopefully for only a short while. Most of this comes from an article I read in the Northside Anchor bulletin from Calhoun, GA. "Have we allowed our eyes to adjust to darkness?" by **Ron Hall**.

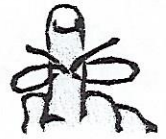
Many people have become desensitized to violence and abnormal behavior. It comes from movies, TV programs, social media, the internet, video games, and smart phones that all contribute to this mindset. Such desensitization leads to a moral break down in our society unseen by previous generations. One major, if not the primary, contributor to this behavior is the new generation of VIOLENT video games, i.e., *Fortnite*, *Battleground*, *Apex Legends*, *Battle Royal*, etc. One writer who covers media trends wrote: "You know Fortnite is incredibly popular. But did you know it's even bigger than some of this year's biggest blockbuster movies? Bigger than the NFL? Bigger than virtually anything on television in fact?" ... (Toni Fitzgerald Media Life). Studies show that violent video games are significantly associated with: increased aggressive behavior, thoughts, and affect increased physiological arousal; and decreased prosocial (helping) behavior ... (Anderson & Bushman, 2001). If we think that our kids, or adults for that matter, can fill their minds with violence/evil/dark entertainment, and it have no consequences, we are deceiving ourselves (Gal. 6:7-8).

Today's technology brings this darkness into our private spaces 24/7 via the internet, TV, smart phones, etc. Many are downloading this darkness right into our lives, and most times it's FREE! Well, then you are prompted to purchase all sorts of prizes and rewards. We are talking multi-billion dollar businesses. According to ESA, 2018 recorded a revenue breaking year for the gaming industry, with total video game sales exceeding \$43.4 billion. As the leading form of entertainment today, video games are an integral part of American culture (ESA Entertainment Software Assoc.). Sadly, many of these video games focus strictly on violence - the dark side. Dangerous for any group, but especially vulnerable are those between the ages of 12 to 18. According to a Wikipedia survey the far majority of these kids prefer the games rated "M" (mature) or "AO" (adult-only). **NOTICE THIS POINT** - The sad reality is that kids who spend any time playing these type games are gradually "adjusting to the darkness" and become desensitized to God's moral standards. Do you think it is any better for the adults? Parents, don't allow your children to spend their time filling their minds with such darkness. What did Paul say we should fill our minds with, (Phil. 4:8)? Once our children become comfortable with the darkness of this world they will become desensitized to what sin really is and its deadly effect on their social and spiritual lives. It will be much harder to bring them back to the light (God's moral standard) once their minds have been seared with darkness. What do our children become when you allow them to spend time in these dark places? Parents, don't allow your children to adjust to Satan's dark world. Don't let Satan win the battle for your children's souls. Keep them in the light (Gal. 4:16). Watch what our children are feeding upon. Jesus warned, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matt. 6:21). " ... For out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh" (Matt. 12:34-35). In the Bible. God calls evil - darkness, and good - light (Eph. 5:8-14). Darkness is associated with all things bad while light is associated with that which is good (1 Pet. 2:9).

Don't let your eyes adjust to the darkness! What a great warning to Christian families today. Don't let Satan take your children without a fight! That means, parents, you'll have to be more careful with where your eyes are focused.



# RON'S REMINDERS



## Identifying Marks of the Lord's Church: What Standard of Authority?

The New Testament is the only standard of the Lord's church in faith and practice.

In the first century church, there were no human creeds. The apostles were guided by the Spirit "into all truth" (John 16:13). They left us the fully revealed, written Word of God (Ephesians 3:3, 5; Jude 1:3). The early church "continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine" (Acts 2:42).

No person is to add to the Word nor subtract from it (Deuteronomy 4:2; Revelation 22:18-19; 1 Peter 4:11). The omniscient God does not need man's input. His Word needs no revision (Matthew 24:35).

The Holy Scriptures are all-sufficient for man's salvation. "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).

God's Word contains "all things that pertain to life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3). Thus, there is no continuing revelation or direct operation of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of sinners or Christians today. The faith "was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 1:3). The Spirit operates today only through the Word, His sword (Ephesians 6:17). The gospel "is the power of God to salvation" (Romans 1:16).

We can understand the Bible, and we can understand it alike. Otherwise, Jesus would not have said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

Some say, "You see it one way, and I will

see it another." However, this has the Bible teaching opposite things. Truth never contradicts. The Lord does not require some things of one person and contradictory things of another. "God is not the author of confusion" (1 Corinthians 14:33). Paul said that we should "all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:10). If we cannot understand the Scriptures alike, it would be impossible to obey this verse.

While abroad, a man from China purchased a powerful microscope. Returning, he looked at contaminated rice through the microscope and saw tiny living creatures crawling all over it. He did not like what the microscope revealed; rice was his favorite meal. What did he do? He smashed the microscope to pieces!

Johoiakim did not like what was revealed in God's Word. What did he do? He cut it with the scribe's knife and cast it into the fire (Jeremiah 26:23). Yet, the Word remained (36:28, 32). It remains today, "The word of the Lord endures forever" (1 Peter 1:25). We will be judged according to the Word (John 12:48).

If a religious organization holds some other book as its standard in faith and practice, or perverts the Truth, it is not the church of the Lord (Galatians 1:6-9; Colossians 2:8).

Andy Cates, House to House Heart to Heart,  
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