

Good News

From Getwell

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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

Proverbs 2

- ¹ My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;
- ² So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;
- ³ Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;
- ⁴ If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;
- ⁵ Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.
- ⁶ For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.
- ⁷ He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.
- ⁸ He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.
- ⁹ Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.
- ¹⁰ When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;
- ¹¹ Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:
- ¹² To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things;
- ¹³ Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;
- ¹⁴ Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked;
- ¹⁵ Whose ways are crooked, and they froward in their paths:
- ¹⁶ To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words;
- ¹⁷ Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God.
- ¹⁸ For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead.
- ¹⁹ None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life.
- ²⁰ That thou mayest walk in the way of good men, and keep the paths of the righteous.
- ²¹ For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it.
- ²² But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.

Ron Wallace

RON'S REMINDERS



Don't Play With Sin

Sin is no plaything. First, we toy with sin, then sin toys with us. To begin with, we play master, and it plays slave; then we switch, and it does not want to take turns anymore.

The prodigal boy in Jesus' story (Luke 15) is an exception. The truth is that most prodigals never come home. Oh, they think they will. They plan to . . . someday. They may even start back toward home . . . several times. But it is a long way back. It is embarrassing to admit you have been wrong. Sin's entanglements are confusing to unravel. Bad habits are hard to break; bad friends are difficult to give up; bad reputations are hard to live down.

What happens to most prodigals? They enjoy the passing pleasures of sin (Hebrews 11:25) and then marry someone from the far country. Somebody they met at a party or a bar. Somebody they "experimented with". Somebody who never knew the Lord and does not care much about knowing Him now (cf. 1 Samuel 2:12). On Sundays, prodigals prefer the lake to the Lord. When it comes to reading, they prefer the day's news to the Good News. They still drink a little more (on the weekends), still smoke (a pack a day now), still use bad language (when they are "with the guys" or in a foul mood), still watch bad movies, and . . . well, you get the picture. They are still in the pigpen. It is hard to leave.

ASK DAVID

His sin started as a Peeping Tom watching his neighbor take her bath (2 Samuel 11:2). He looked (she was beautiful), lusted (she was naked), sent for her (it is hard to say "no" to a king), and slept with her (11:4). That was about

as long as he had planned to stay in the far country (a one night excursion). Unfortunately, David found out that when he through with sin, sin was not through with him.

A few weeks later, he received an unwelcome note. It must have been tightly sealed with "King's Eyes Only" on the envelope. It was probably spotted and smeared with tears. He opened it to read the four words he must have secretly dreaded ever since another man's wife got out of his bed: "I am with child" (2 Samuel 11:5).

He was back on board the sin train— and it was going to keep him much longer than he wanted to stay. You know the downward spiral his life took from there. Deception. Hypocrisy. Conniving. Dishonor. Murder. Cover-up. Quick marriage (2 Samuel 11:6-27).

ASK NATHAN

The next scene is Nathan, God's prophet, paying the former shepherd a visit and telling a parable about a rich man, a poor man, and a pet lamb (2 Samuel 12:1-5). The poor man loved his lamb like it was his own child. He had kept it a long time. It ate at his table. The rich man killed it to feed to a passing guest.

Perhaps David (who thought this was a true story) thought of a pet lamb he had had while growing up. His face flushed with anger, and he rendered this judicial decision: "He shall restore fourfold for the lamb" (12:6). Unwittingly, David had just pronounced his own sentence and rewritten the script for the last two decades of his life. The rest of David's years read like a plot out of daytime television. Sin was about to take him for a long ride.

- Ask David how far sin will take you as he lies for a week in the dirt begging for the life of a dying baby (2 Samuel 12:16-18).

- Ask him at 3:00 a.m. on the seventh day when he has not eaten or been to his bed (2 Samuel 12:16).

- Ask him again as he walks home from the burial.

- Ask him again later when he learns that his daughter has just been raped – while on an errand on which he sent her (2 Samuel 13:7,8, 12-14).

- Ask him again when he finds out that one of his sons is the rapist. Put yourself in this father's place "when King David heard of all these things" (2 Samuel 13:21).

- Ask him again when the message comes that his son has just been murdered – because David has sent him into harm's way (2 Samuel 13:27).

- Ask him again when he finds out that another son is the murderer (2 Samuel 13:28-34).

- Ask him again when he does not see his own son's face for five years (2 Samuel 13:38; 14:28).

- Ask him again as he flees his palace one night, barefoot and weeping, because that son is trying to kill him and take his kingdom (2 Samuel 15:30).

- Ask him again as he ducks flying rocks and flinches from cursing insults (2 Samuel 16:13).

- Ask him again when he – along with all Israel – hears that his son has slept with ten of David's concubines in a tent on top of the king's palace (2 Samuel 16:22).

- Ask him again when his close friend betrays him and wants an opportunity to murder him (2 Samuel 17:1-2).

- Ask him again between his sobs as he grieves that his beloved son is swinging from an oak by his head with three darts through his heart (2 Samuel 18:14, 33).

ASK YOURSELF

How far is sin taking people?

- Have you witnessed the anger, sadness, depression, hatefulness, and hopelessness of a life Satan gives back after an extended stay in the far country?

- Have you looked into the vacant eyes of a person who has been living a worldly lifestyle for several months?

- Have you been around the miserable pessimist who has lost faith in God and the Bible?

- Have you seen a youth robbed of innocence and purity?

- Have you sat with someone who cries until she/he runs out of tears because the consequences of sin have become personal instead of theoretical?

- Have you been to rehab with one whose body has the "shakes," the hollow eyes, the bloodless face, the wasted body of withdrawal?

- Have you attended the funeral of one whom sin took so far that he decided death by bullet or pills was better than life?

Solomon said, "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, 'I have no pleasure in them'" (Ecclesiastes 12:1). The far country will keep you longer than you want to stay – maybe even for eternity.

Allen Webster, House to House, Heart to Heart
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