

•Leading silly sinful women away with divers [various] lusts (v.6)

...are rebellious against God.

Christians after God's own heart don't want to be like this and yet there are times when we find ourselves acting like something in this list above. Christians don't want to be guilty of folly and yet we know that people who persist in such folly, Paul said would be "manifest unto all men". Righteous people are marked as examples to follow (Phil. 3:17) and Unrighteous people, like Jannes and Jambres, are marked as examples not to follow (Phil. 3:18; Rom 16:17). Let's all strive to be the kind of example that people should follow — people who respect the authority of God — not those who withstand Him!

THE PROBLEM WITH SIN

From start to finish, the Bible gives us various and sundry examples of how sin will destroy us, and for some reason many just don't seem to get the picture. One of the great examples of sins progression in one's life, is the example of Amaziah, the ninth king of Judah. The account of this king is found in 2 Kings 14 and in 2 Chronicles 25. He is introduced, as far as kings go, as a "mostly good" king. *"And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, yet not like David his father did"* (2 Kings 14:3). The account in 2 Chronicles tells us as follows; *"And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, but not with a perfect heart."* It seems that the heart problem is the root of our sin. It started in Genesis and continues today.

Amaziah began his reign with a respect for the Law of Moses (2 Kings 14:6) but he did not remove the "High Places" which were used for unrighteous worship. This began his progression of sin. After God fought for him and allowed him to destroy the Edomites, Amaziah's heart was "puffed up" (2 Kings 14:10). Pride is one of the sins that seems to fuel the progression of one's heart problem. The next thing we note is that Amaziah brought back idols from the victorious battle. *"Now it came to pass, after that Amaziah was come from the slaughter of the Edomites, that he brought the gods of the children of Seir, and set them up to be his gods, and bowed down himself before them, and burned in-*

cense unto them" (2 Chr.25:14). God even sent him a prophet to ask him why he had been so thoughtless in his sin. *"Why hast thou sought after the gods of the people, which could not deliver their own people out of thine hand (15)?"*

Even today we do some of the most unintelligent things when it comes to sin, and it all has to do with our heart problem. What could this King have possibly been thinking? God had delivered him, and he knew it, but pride and lust worked on his heart, causing sin and stupidity. He finally rejected completely the council of God and was destroyed (2 Chr.25:27).

This scenario is pictured over and over again for our learning (Rom.15:4), and most choose to overlook the instruction.

Today we see men and women leaving their spouses and children, the love of their lives, for another person, and we wonder what could possibly be going on in their hearts? Husbands, "mostly good like Amaziah," forsaking the love of a good wife, and the love of their children for fleeting moments of pleasure, and wives doing likewise, because of a terrible heart problem.

James likens this heart problem to the reproduction process; *"But every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed, then when lust has conceived, it brings forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death"* (James 1:14-15).

We are warned to guard our hearts. *"Keep thy heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life"* (Pro.4:23). We are also warned not to trust our heart; *"He that trusts in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walks wisely, he shall be delivered"* (Pro.28:26).

The great problem with sin, of which God so graciously warns, is a heart that leaves the wisdom of God; *"Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind"* (Mt.22:37). Now Jesus pleads with us; *"If you love me keep my commandments"* (Jn.14:15).

David Harris

Hillcrest church of Christ

Stephenville, TX

Please Remember in Prayer:

Justin Barker, Rachel Barker, Doris Bell, James & Sue Browning, Billye Campbell, Gene Campbell, Suzanne Charlton, Randy Cooper, Jim Duncan, Barbara Duncan, Irene Duncan, Patsy Duncan, Wade Miller, Wayne Pickrel, Thelma Reed, Helen Roper, and Rebecca Tippit.

Also: Ozroe Bush, Carolyn (Katy) Cabell, Gary Duncan, Denise Hess, Cato Jones, Margaret Laurence, Mary Jo Lee, Janice Lineberger, Kent Stephenson, Kaitlin Taylor, and Charles Whitney

Congregational Shut-Ins:

Pleasant Springs Assisted Living: Doris Jean Bell, Annah Brown, **Home:** Irene Duncan, **Villa Assisted Living:** Georgia Lide.

NOTICE TO EVERYONE!!

SET YOUR CLOCKS THIS COMING SATURDAY NIGHT ... MARCH 13 ... AHEAD ONE HOUR BECAUSE DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS AT 2:00 A.M. ON SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 14, 2010.

HEALTH UPDATES

No news was furnished to the editor of this bulletin ... at it's printing ... regarding any other sick folks or prayer needs. Please remember that if you wish something mentioned you MUST get the information to me by Thursday evening.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

The **Sweetheart Banquet** is scheduled for **March 14**—in the Multi-Purpose Room—after morning services and will be over by 2:00 p.m. All single and widowed women and men are invited to attend. A sign-up sheet is provided in the foyer for you to sign if you plan to attend ... NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

Youth volunteers are needed for the Sweetheart Banquet. Please come to a quick meeting at 5:40 p.m. TODAY in the Multi-Purpose Room ... and find out how you can help.

Donations to help fund the Banquet would be appreciated. You may give your contribution to Karen Roper or Keely McCary.

Bible Bowl Practice at 5pm today. This is for all young people from the 1st-12th grades.

The next Bible Bowl is scheduled for Monday night, March 8 at 7PM. Everyone is invited to participate and/or attend.

Next Sunday, March 14 Bible Bowl practice will be in Room #4 at 5:00 p.m.

ALSO ... All men ... **next Sunday we have the Men's Business Meeting after evening service** in the **Multi-Purpose Room** ... and you are all encouraged to attend this important meeting. Your input is needed. Please make arrangements, now, to attend ... won't you?

Reminder for All Ladies ... Ladies Bible Class this Tuesday at 10:00am. Studies in Hebrews. All the ladies of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

LADIES DAY will be **April 17.** More details later.

Events

Baby Shower

In the Multi-Purpose Room on Sunday, **March 14, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for Mark Wesley Smith,** son of Christy Charlton and Wesley Smith ... given by Michelle Pickrel and Jesse Massey. *Note: Some may not have an opportunity to get a gift but you can give money to a Money Tree if you wish.*

Preparations for the Shower will begin as soon as the Sweetheart Banquet ends.

Bridal Shower

Honoring Stacie Charlton
March 13, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.
North Ridge Church of Christ
212 East Burton Road
Mount Pleasant, Texas 75455
Hosted by: Denise Philpot and Windi Gibbs
Stacie and Joe are registered at
Target and Wal Mart