

# Little Beetle Sins

On the slope of Long's Peak in Colorado lies the ruin of a giant tree. It stood there for four hundred years. It had been struck by lightning fourteen times. The storms of the years had broken over it. It had resisted all of nature's blows. But, now it lay in ruins.

A small beetle entered into that giant tree. The beetle brought his little friends with him. Although the insect was so small that a man could crush it between his thumb and forefinger, with the help of its companions, the little beetle felled the forest giant.

In comparison, some men can withstand the giant temptations. They will not succumb to **so called** "big sins," but they yield time and again to the "little beetle sins." Wrong attitudes, resentment, anger, pettiness, worry, fear, hostility and bitterness—all of these are the termites of the soul. — Author Unknown



## Navarre News and Notes

**Remember In Prayer Those On Our Sick List:** Joyce Barrett, Shelby Durfee, Carrie Hare, Felis Larson, Francis Mansfield, Sherry Mosley, Jim Wetzstein, Starr Wilkins, and Gerry Wiemert.

We meet on James M Harvell Rd next to the public library in Navarre. Call us for directions and more information (850) 939-8109



Navarre church of Christ  
8490 James M Harvell Rd  
Navarre, FL 32566

Place Stamp Here

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

**Sunday**  
Bible Class for all ages.....9:00 AM  
Morning Worship Service.....10:00 AM  
Evening Worship Service ..... 6:00 PM  
**Wednesday**  
Bible Class for all ages.....7:00 PM

**VISITORS ARE WELCOME!**

**If you know of someone who would like to receive this publication, please let us know.**

**For a free Bible correspondence course by mail, call us.**

# Navarre Messenger



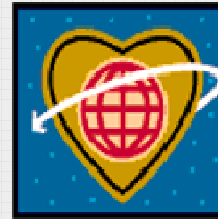
*"Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee." Matthew 11:1*

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### Thought To Ponder

**A congregation with ONE heart and ONE mind will make for a WON world!**



**I Corinthians 1:10  
Philippians 1:27  
Philippians 2:2  
Acts 4:32  
Romans 15:6  
I Peter 3:8**

### Inside This Issue:

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Jim Bell  
Evangelist & Editor

## DO WE LAY IT TO HEART?

Every parent knows the difference in "Do I have to go?" and "Do I get to go?" "Do I have to go to bed?" means the child wants to stay up. "Do I get to go to the show?" means the child wouldn't miss it for anything.

Isn't it strange that some of us will wave those same clear signals with reference to the Lord's services, and not see that we are being just as transparent as our children? "Do we have to go to Bible study?" says the same thing about our desires as it does when voiced by our child. When one asks, "How much must I give?," he is clearly saying, "I do not want to give anything, and would like to know how little will pay the bill." Either that, or he has failed to grasp the most fundamental and essential element in the spirit of acceptable service unto God.

There can be no coming to Christ except we deny or give up self (Matt. 16:24). Translated into the context of "doing" this means we must first want to do all possible (100% committed) to serve the Lord. The proper spirit must motivate the doing, or it is shallow and

Empty — may even be an abomination in His sight (Hosea 6:6). God told the priest of Judaism, "If ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name...then will I send the curse upon you, and I will curse your blessing; yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart" (Mal. 2:2).

Lay it to heart! That means truly respect God; take Him seriously. The priests had offered polluted bread on the altar (Mal. 1:7); offered blind and lame animals as sacrifice (Mal. 1:8). They said of worship, "What a weariness it is!" (Mal 1:13-14). To make this current, they said, "Do we have to do or give?" "Do it any old way, just get it over with; we want to go home to the TV." And to top it off, when rebuked, they acted so innocent and said, "When did we ever do that?"

"Oh, that there were one among you that would shut the doors, that ye might not kindle fire on mine altar in vain" (Mal. 1:10). Better to close up shop -- call it off -- than to play at worship, and not "lay it to heart."

— Robert Turner

**Check us out on the internet: [www.navarrechurchofchrist.net](http://www.navarrechurchofchrist.net)**

## “WITHOUT A WORD...”

“Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear” (1 Pet. 3:1). Wives were not required to be eloquent in speech or powerful in argument. Rather, the victory was “without a word.” Learn well this truth: tremendous impact is often made “without a word,” rather it stems from your “conduct accompanied by fear.” This concept is not peculiar to wives—but for all.

Notice! Scripture does not say that people are taught without a word. This is never done. A good example can never answer the question, “What must I do to be saved?” A good example can never explain who Jesus is, or how to worship, or dozens of other vital truths. Words are necessary vehicles for teaching. All spiritual instruction is solely by teaching scripture—there is no possible alternative. This scripture says that people may be won—not taught—by a good example. And they may also be lost by a bad example. Actions are powerful!

It is often impossible to overcome the impact of a bad example. One might think of you, “You mean that old reprobate goes to church—is supposed to be a Christian? I know him. He is a scoundrel.” What just happened to your teaching opportunity? Their answer will inevitably be, “Don’t talk to me about becoming a Christian!” An eloquent preacher is defeated—his every appeal nullified—“without a word.” For practical purposes, God’s powerful truth is rendered virtually useless—all “without a word.” Even worse, “The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you...” (Rom. 2:24). Bad conduct defames God, and makes His name a byword—all “without a word.” Bad actions and bad examples destroy.

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On the other hand, it is hard to overestimate the power of good examples—people behaving like Christians. “Demetrius has a good testimony from all, and from the truth itself...” (3 John 12). Such men are great helpers. They are “lights” in the world that “cannot be hidden” (Matt. 5:14). Their impact is compelling. People see their “good works” and “glorify” the “Father in heaven” (Matt. 5:16). As lights, they may say little, they may not win debates, and they may not boast great things. However, like godly wives, they exhibit excellent “conduct.” Such people quietly open doors and open hearts to receive the word. Plainly, they win souls—“without a word!” People who manifest hope break down the resistance of lost men—without having to preach a sermon on hope. Early pagans watched Christians bury their dead—without the dirges of those who “have no hope” (1 Thess. 4:13). They were puzzled hearing mourners sing songs of expectation and joy on the way to a grave. They were impressed—they were amazed by what they saw. All “without a word” of preaching. Still, pagans see Christians grow old and die without despair—serene even in death. Pagans watch Christians cope with suffering and heartbreak—joy still twinkling in their eyes. It is compelling! Pagans may say, “How do they do that? I want to know about those people.” They inquire, opening the door to learning. The Christians’ conduct, rather than their doctrine, often draws them. They are captivated by the obvious demonstration of hope—the “anchor of the soul” (Heb. 6:19). They are “won” – “without a word” so that they may be saved by the word (1 Pet. 1:22-25; Jas. 1:21)

Christianity depends on people who walk the walk!

— Joe Price (via Moody, AL bulletin)



## BEING WITH JESUS

In Acts 4 we find the religious leaders disturbed by the preaching of Peter and John (:1-2). We also find them amazed: “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled” (:13). They come to a conclusion about these men: “They realized that they had been with Jesus.”

What an honor to be recognized as one who had been with Jesus! Do people recognize us as being with Jesus? While it is true that we cannot be with Him in a physical sense like Peter and John, we can live in such a way that others can see we are with Him spiritually.

Do we demonstrate being with Jesus by our boldness for Him? Some people are more concerned about being “politically correct” than standing boldly with Jesus. We may find ourselves outnumbered if we speak out against homosexuality, unscriptural divorce and remarriage, religious error, and other such things; but His disciples in the first century let it be known that they stood with Him by standing against them (Romans 1:18-32; 7:1-2; 16:17; etc.). Do we demonstrate being with Jesus by the things we flee? When we live our lives after the will of God, we no longer pursue the sinful pleasures of this world (1 Peter 4:1-3). This may not always sit well with those of the world. “In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you” (:4). Do others see us as running with the world or with Jesus? Do we engage in the same immoral behavior and imbibe the same ungodly entertainment, or do we demonstrate Christ living in us by avoiding such things?

Do we demonstrate being with Jesus by the things we do? Someone has asked the sobering question, “If you were tried for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?” Jesus says, “Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven” (Matthew 5:16). Are we doing the good works that cause others to realize we are with Jesus?

Do we demonstrate being with Jesus by the peace we enjoy? Many people in the world, especially here in the United States, are in a state of paranoia following the recent terrorist attacks. Some seem to stay in such a state. If we are with Jesus, we will demonstrate it by the absence of anxiety the presence of peace in our lives (Philippians 4:6-7). As the saying goes, “No Jesus, no peace. Know Jesus, know peace.” Jesus gives us two options: “He who is not with Me is against Me” (Matthew 12:30). Which do you demonstrate? Are you with Jesus?

Troy Nicholson

~via *The Southport Sounder*, Indianapolis, IN

**SIN IS A VERY  
SHORT WORD  
BEGINNING A  
VERY LONG  
SENTENCE...**

*Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.” (Acts 17:30-31) NASV*

