

### WHAT A WONDERFUL GOAL FOR WHICH TO LIVE AND STRIVE!??

The Christian’s hope is not loss of being and total loss of identity but a place of peace and happiness (Revelation 21:4; 1 Peter 1:3-9). Heaven is, not only a cessation of pain and suffering, but, also, a perfect existence in fellowship with God. But, hope must be based on evidence (Hebrews 11:1) -- particularly, evidence of the resurrection of Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:1-ff; 1 John 1:1-4). The evidence of eyewitnesses is the basis for our faith and faith is the basis for our hope. For what do Christians hope? It is eternal fellowship with God in perfect existence (Titus 1:2).

So, why are so many people becoming enamored with reincarnation? -- probably because it offers them some comfort for rejecting accountability for their licentious living. However, the belief system doesn’t change reality. And, what a simple choice to make – nothingness or heaven! Of course, the end for those who reject God is not “nothingness.” It is eternal condemnation. – Jim R. Everett

### Navarre News and Notes

**Remember In Prayer Those On Our Sick List: Tracy Cauley, Shelby Durfee, Carrie Hare, Felis Larson, Francis Mansfield, Jim Wetzstein, Starr Wilkins, Gerry Wiemert, and Connie St. Pierre’s granddaughter. Keep Houston Perry in your prayers also as he is away.**

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*

Volume 3 Issue 6

March 18, 2007

### Thought To Ponder

**Even if we don't make TV an idol, it altogether too often make us idle!**



**Proverbs 19:15  
Proverbs 31:27  
Ecclesiastes 10:18  
Ezekiel 16:49-50**

### Inside This Issue:

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Jim Bell  
Evangelist & Editor

### “I Don’t Want To Be Involved”

In theory, none would deny the importance of the local body of believers. Our participation, however, sometimes belies the true sentiment of our hearts. Much of this discrepancy would be alleviated if we were to truly come to understand the concept of "membership" in the body. Listen to Paul: *“For as we have many members in one body, but all members do not have the same function, we being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another,”* (Romans 12:4,5). Membership in a local church implies much more than simply having one's name and picture in a directory. It acknowledges that we are willing to fulfill the "one another" obligations that are essential to the relationship, i.e. "love," "serve," "bear with," "admonish," "forgive," etc. What can we do to be better involved in the local church? Let me suggest several things.

**First, realize your dependence.** No Christian can function effectively by himself. Just as a hand severed from an arm ceases to function and will inevitably die, so also a Christian who does not participate with the others members of the body is destined to decay and die spiritually. Sometimes you hear a brother say, “I don’t need the local church. I

can function just fine by myself.” Really? Then you’re saying you know more about spiritual health than the apostle Paul. He taught that one member can never say to another, *“I don’t need you!”* **Second emphasize equality.** No member of a local body of believers should feel smug or superior to any other, (Romans 12:3). God designed both the physical and spiritual body so that all the members are important. The applications of this principle are legion. Member of our physical body are quick to aid any injured member, they do not ambitiously draw attention to themselves in order to protect a weaker member of the body. So also in the local church, when we learn to *“bear one’s another’s burdens”* to *“bear the infirmities of the weak”* -- when we do that, the body as a whole is strengthened. **Third, work for unity.** God designed the human body to love harmony and hate discord. In fact, when there is discord in the human body we say that it has a "disease." The principle holds true spiritually as well. That’s why Paul encourages us to endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace,” (Ephesians 4:3). Now, how healthy would the body be if every member functions just like you? — Don Truex

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

## SIN IS ALL ABOUT CHOICES

Throughout history, men have used just about every conceivable excuse to justify sin in their lives. Consider the time at the foot of Mount Sinai—in the midst of Israel's wicked idolatry—when Aaron tried to justify his poor choice. When questioned about the calf he fashioned for the Israelites to worship at their request, he told Moses, "And I said to them, 'whoever has any gold, let them break it off.' So they gave it to me, and I cast it into the fire, and this calf came out" (Ex. 32:24). Whether it is a one-time act, or a continually repeated sin that besets one, statements such as, "The Devil made me do it," "I had no choice," or "I could not help myself," have often been heard. Nevertheless, such thinking is foreign and contrary to the word of God.

The Bible teaches that sin is a matter of individual choice (cf. Ezek. 18). It begins with *discerning good from evil* (Heb. 5:14) and then *refusing the evil and choosing the good* (Is. 7:15). A sure and consistent pattern for such thinking can be clearly established from the beginning of time.

In the garden, Adam and Eve were given free will, as well as some very specific instructions. They could eat of the fruit of every tree except one, which God declared off-limits. When tempted by Satan, Eve made the wrong choice—she partook of the forbidden fruit, as did Adam (Gen. 3:1ff). Though Eve blamed Satan, and Adam blamed Eve, they each bore the consequences of their individual sins, as each had made the choice to commit that sin. **Pointing the finger elsewhere never justifies**

**sin, nor does it remove the consequences.**

In like fashion, Moses committed a sin when—instead of glorifying God and obeying His instructions—he glorified Aaron and himself, choosing not to follow God's command. This incident is found in Numbers 20:7-13. The Israelites needed water and God specifically instructed Moses on how to provide that water (v. 8). Moses did not head the instructions exactly (vs. 10-11), thus he suffered the consequences of his wrong choice. **Even when the choice to sin is made in the heat of the moment, the consequences remain.**

King David is another testimony to the fact that sin is a matter of individual choice, and God will hold man accountable. David, walking on his roof one evening, came upon an awkward situation. A woman (not his wife) was bathing where she could be seen. David, now faced with a choice, subjected himself to the temptation—instead of turning away from the compromising situation. In so doing, one sin led to another—before long a great evil was done for which David suffered grave consequences (2 Sam. 11-12). **Even if we are faced with a tempting situation, the choice to turn away and avoid its consequences is still available—thus, rendering our actions inexcusable.**

In truth, the examples are boundless. Sin is all about choices. James wrote, "Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of



life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted of God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death" (James 1:12-15). From this passage, we can acknowledge some simple facts about sin, temptation and choices.

1) *God does not tempt man.* God might allow man to be tempted (cf. Job's temptation by Satan), but He does not directly tempt man. As a matter of fact, with each temptation man suffers, God is faithful, in that He, "will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (1 Cor. 10:13). This verse is bona fide proof that we, as individuals, must bear the burden of choice with each and every sin!

2) *We are tempted by our own desires.* Often, we place ourselves in bad situations. We considered the example of King David, who made the choice to be enticed, and in turn, was enticed. In like fashion, people today do the same thing. For example, men and women often allow themselves to be in compromising situations with those of the opposite sex, who are not their spouses. Too often, the outcome is fornication, infidelity and broken homes. Likewise, when recovering alcoholics frequent establishments that serve alcohol, they set themselves up to sin.

Consider the folly of recovering drug addicts choosing to befriend people who abuse drugs (cf. 1 Cor. 15:33). The list is unlimited. The fact is that we choose our circumstances, be they our workplace, our companions, or our environment. Why do we burden *ourselves* with situations that we are certain to stumble in and commit sin?

3) *Temptation is the birthplace of sin.* We need to realize that we have not sinned until we give in to our temptations. This does not mean we should push the threshold of temptation to the maximum. Rather, we should know that even if we are tempted, we do not have to give in! We can still turn it around! We can still avoid sin! We need to simply say NO! This is why the Spirit teaches us to "abstain from every form of evil" (1 Thess. 5:22). We are instructed to "resist the devil and he will flee from us" (James 4:7). We are told to "flee sexual immorality" (1 Cor. 6:18). We are commanded to "abhor what is evil, cleave to what is good" (Rom. 12:9). We must acknowledge that even in the heat of temptation, as Satan is turning up the thermostat, we choose to avoid sin by not *giving place to the devil* (Eph. 4:27)!

Indeed, sin is all about choices. We make choices between right and wrong, good and evil, acceptable and unacceptable, pleasing and not pleasing, truth and error every day of our lives. These choices will determine our eternity. Ultimately, the choice is between life and death! It is important to understand: it is one thing to know right from wrong and another thing altogether to choose right over wrong. Ask yourself, "What kind of choices am I making?"

— Jonathan Perz

