

# "Nobody Will Ever Know..."

By Jonathan L. Perz

Have you ever used these words to rationalize sinful behavior? Have you ever said, "Well, just this once...nobody's looking" or "Nobody will notice?" If you have, then there is a little tidbit of news God has shared with us that may be of interest to you. The wise man wrote, **"The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good" (Prov. 15:3)**. This short, but powerful proverb should be committed to memory by each and every one who would allow themselves to do a little evil under the "supposed" guise of secrecy. For there is nothing that escapes the notice of God!

Thus, the next time you think to tell a fib, sneak a snort, commit a nasty, cheat a bit, steal a smidge, indulge a little, turn a blind eye, take a peak, cut a corner, or any such thing—remember, God is watching (2 Cor. 5:10)!


*Buried With Christ* **Baptisms:** We rejoice in the baptisms of David Henton, Jr, and Connie St. Pierre on Wednesday evening. Please welcome these new converts and keep them in your prayers. **Please remember our sick: Jim Wetzstein, Kenny Cauley, Francis Mansfield, Starr Wilkins, Debbie Kingsmill, Carrie Hare, Sister Gerry Wiemert. Houston Perry** overseas on military duty in Iraq and. **Mary Serilli** overseas in Afganistan until December.

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

**Every Christian occupies some kind of pulpit and preaches some kind of sermon everyday.**



**What does your sermon teach?**

**Matthew 5:13-16  
2 Corinthians 3:2-3**

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Jim Bell  
Evangelist & Editor

## "Is Unity Really Desired?"

Frequently, someone approaches me concerning unity among brethren. I am always interested in this matter because it is a Bible subject. Both Old and New Testaments discuss it at length. David wrote, "Behold, how good and how pleasant, it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psa. 133:1). God hates the sower of discord (Prov. 6:16-19). The Savior prayed that His followers would all be one (John 17:20, 21). The apostles, in the name of Christ, commanded unity (1 Cor. 1:10; Gal. 6:16).

If oneness (unity) of speech produces a condition of "no divisions among you," every disciple of the Lord should be careful to learn and speak that body of truth. The so-called free declare this to be legalism. Carl Ketcherside wrote; "Legalism leads to division. It can lead nowhere else for men in the flesh. So long as men substitute love of law for the law of love, trouble is waiting in the wings." Shallow emotionalism, identified as "the law of love" and substituted for the law of God, is rebellion against God. Their "law of love" tolerates actions in and of churches which the "law of God" does not authorize; it allows and encourages preaching that does not identify with the sacred oracles (1 Pet. 4:11). This action leads to

division! The peace and mercy of God are upon those who "walk by the same rule" (Gal. 6:16).

Churches of Christ in the first century evangelized without "sponsoring churches" or the establishment and subsidizing of human missionary societies. There was no scripture to authorize them then and there is none now. But the "law of love" created both! Discord prevailed. On February 18, 1909, a meeting was held by ten men in Nashville, Tennessee to work out unity. Evangelistic societies and instrumental music had occasioned the disunity. The barriers to unity were the societies and the instrument. The proposal was made to remove both; this would make for common ground and, unity could again obtain. The apostate movement refused to remove the causes of divisions and sought to shift the blame for divisions from those who introduced and used the objectionable practices to those who opposed them. Unity was not achieved. They remained wed to their idols. Brethren continue this same course to this very day. If they would remove their idols - church support of social gospel programs, church support of human benevolent and evangelistic societies - common ground would exist. Brethren, think about this!

— Earl Robertson  
(Truth Magazine, Aug.23,1979)

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

## “CHURCH GROWTH: From Decline To Growth” Fervent Prayer Needed

### Prayer is vital to the growth of a congregation!

We cannot read of the great growth that the Jerusalem church achieved without also seeing their great devotion to prayer. The disciples were “devoting themselves to prayer” in anticipation of the coming Holy Spirit (Ac. 1:14). Luke describes the newly-formed Jerusalem church as a people “continually devoting themselves to prayer” (Ac. 2:42). Prayer held a high priority in the lives of the church’s leaders and teachers as well (Ac. 6:4; 13:2), so much so that they would not sacrifice it even for other important pursuits.

### Prayer is vital to inward spiritual renewal.

A church’s decline is not just about statistics. Often there are powerful spiritual forces at work. The decline itself may be the result of ailing spiritual health brought on by a neglect of prayer.

Even where such is not the case, decline in a congregation has a powerful effect on each member’s state of mind that can only be remedied by refocusing on God and His power and blessing. Thus prayer helps facilitate the inner spiritual renewal we all need to refocus and get back to the work

God has given us.

### Prayer is vital in manifesting love for one another.

The love of the Jerusalem church for one another is seen in the great concern that led them to pray for one another in times of crisis (Ac. 12:5). Surely all can see that one would not be eager to be separated from any congregation where there was such a great manifestation of love and closeness among the members of the church as existed among the Jerusalem saints.

### Prayer is vital in maintaining our courage in the midst of spiritual warfare.

Having described the Christian’s armor, Paul urges “With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints...” (Eph. 5:18). The prayers of God’s soldiers heighten their alertness and open them up to the possibilities of victory brought about by God.

### Prayer is vital to opening doors for teaching.

Notice how often Paul appealed to the saints to pray for his work “that God may open up to us a door for the word” (Col. 4:3). He obviously believed that the prayers of the saints can bring about opportunities for the proclamation of the word to those seeking the truth.

### Pray daily for the Lord’s work “here at Navarre”.

George Barna makes this powerful statement about the importance of prayer in the transition from decline to growth: “Until the church owns prayer as a world-class weapon in the battle against evil and cherishes prayer as a means of intimate and constant communication with God, the turnaround efforts of a body are severely limited, if not altogether doomed, to failure (“Turn Around Churches, p. 97).” God forbid, then, that we neglect prayer! Instead, let us all pray the more earnestly that we may succeed in the work God has given us, doing it with joy, enthusiasm and the hope of a fruitful harvest of souls given to us by God and to His glory.

— Johnny Felker (adapted)



## WILL YOU LET THE HOME DIE?

A woman accompanied her husband to the doctor’s office. After his checkup, the doctor called the wife into his office alone. He said, “Your husband is suffering from a very severe disease, combined with horrible stress. If you don’t do the following, your husband will surely die.” “Each morning, fix him a healthy breakfast, be pleasant and make sure he is in a good mood. For lunch, make him a nutritious meal. For dinner, prepare an especially nice meal. Do not burden him with chores, as he probably had a hard day. Do not discuss your problems with him, it will only make his stress worse. In addition and most importantly, shower him with a lot of love and affection daily. If you can do this for the next ten months to a year, I think your husband will regain his health completely.” On the way home, in a weak voice the husband asked his wife, “Dear, what did the doctor say?” “You’re going to die.” She replied.

The previous caricature is funny. However, it is also sad. It is sad to think that a wife would have so little regard for her husband. Of course, the same charge applies to the husband who has little regard for his wife. The present times trouble the righteous soul. Children grow to adulthood observing selfishness and lack of commitment. Therefore, each generation gets further and further away from godly homes.

Homes across our great land are in trouble. It is not just the homes of the worldly. The homes of Christians are in trouble as well. The family sitting in the pew behind you could be in trouble. It could be the family next to you. It could even be your home!

The fact that Christians have troubled homes is not the problem. A reality check will reveal that Christians are human and as such, are

prone to weakness. Additionally, homes consist of more than one personality and you have the ingredients for trouble in the home.

It is becoming increasingly common for Christians to give up on having a godly home. Some even gives up to the point of destroying the home through divorce. Why is there no solution to this devastating problem?

There is good news and bad news. The good news is, ‘YES,’ there is an answer to the problem. The Bible teaches us how to have good, solid homes. It instructs us in the ways that will ensure a home complete with peace and harmony. Following the instructions creates a home where all members are happy and well adjusted. It creates a home where the family is clothed with spiritual armor. The Spiritual armor necessary for doing battle with the forces of evil. Then why are there so many Christians homes that are unhappy? That is the bad news.

Too many Christians are like the wife in our introduction to this article. They are not willing to do what is necessary to make the sick home well. Whether it is selfishness or just plain laziness, the things that ensure success in the home never materialize.

The method for having a godly home is not a mystery. There are many passages in the New Testament that deal with the subject. (See **Ephesians 5:22-28**) A selfish wife who constantly wants her way, or a demanding husband who never considers his wife’s needs, is a disaster waiting to happen. A self-indulgent husband who surrounds himself with his “toys”, or a domineering wife who seeks to control every aspect of the relationship will bring a home to ruin.

— Glen Young

