



Family and Youth Corner:

by Breno Macedo

Avoiding Bad Company

Proverbs 1:10-19

There are many bad things that simple measures can avoid. You can avoid getting a cold by regularly taking vitamin C and washing your hands. You can avoid being overweight by watching your diet and regularly exercising. Solomon instructs you in these verses to avoid bad company; he does so through this simple measure—**resist them!** They are everywhere: in your school, in your neighborhood, in the soccer match, in the karate practice. They will try to persuade you to join them in their folly, but it is up to you to say “NO!” to them.

How do you identify them? Solomon gives you two hints. The first is that **they do not love others as themselves** (Proverbs 1:11-12). They seek the humiliation and destruction of others. They will act maliciously and behind other people’s back for their own profit and pleasure. In spite of the gory language of the text which mentions blood and the land of the dead (*Sheol*) the scenario described in the text is not that different from our daily life. We easily find among us those who tease and ridicule the kid who is different, those who gossip and create lies about others, those who purposefully injure someone in the middle of a game for mere pleasure. Against those who do these things and others similar to those, Solomon warns: **resist them!**

The second hint Solomon gives you to identify bad company is that **they do not love heavenly things** (Proverbs 1:13-14). On the contrary, they only care about earthly things and material profit, no matter what the cost. Although Solomon’s language may be a bit difficult to understand when he explains that their desire is to fill their houses with treasures and wealth, it is again easy to find these people among us. All they care about is that they have the best toy, the best dress, the latest video game or computer. Things like prayer, the Bible, fellowship with the brethren, Christ and His future return mean nothing to them.

Solomon insists that you should not walk in their path, that you should not spend time in their company, resist them and be apart from them. The reason is very simple: they are marching towards their own destruction (Proverbs 1: 15-19). Their sins will reach them shortly, surely in the day of Christ’s return, something they ignore. You are to remain faithful to your Lord and Savior, young reader, for you were saved by His blood so that you would persevere in His ways, so that you follow Him. That is also why He sent you His Holy Spirit, so that you would be changed by Him and conformed more and more to the image of your Savior.

Therefore, young brethren, when tempted to do evil against others, remember that Christ commanded you to love others, even your enemies, as you love yourself. Remember that He himself gave His life for sinners like you. When tempted to love and seek the things of this world more than those of heaven, remember that this world (the way we know it today) will come to an end. The things it has to offer possess only the appearance of good and valuable things, but they have no place in the celestial kingdom your Lord is preparing for you. **Resist bad company, avoid their paths, and walk with Christ!**

~Breno

Church-Wide / Family Retreat at Look Up Lodge
October 8th—9th
 (supper-time on Friday thru Saturday afternoon)

Featured Speaker:
Pastor Richard Thomas



Supervised activities for children (4 yrs & up);
 infant nursery available during all teaching sessions.

Save these dates!

Sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

- ◆ *Jonah and Emma Dueck were admitted to the Lord’s table.*
- ◆ *Brett and Sharon Anderson were received as associate members.*

 **Sunday Evening, August 22nd** 
Cook-out/ Picnic Supper!

Plan to join us on **Sunday, August 22nd**, following evening worship,
 for a **cook-out/ picnic supper (with ice cream treats!)**
 and a **time of fellowship.**

Menu: hamburgers, hotdogs, sides, lemonade & ice cream treats!

Please sign-up (in the narthex) to bring:
 a **side dish** (baked beans, pasta/ potato salad, veggie/ fruit tray, etc.)
 or a **box of your favorite ice cream treats** (popsicles, fudgesicles,
 ice cream sandwiches, etc.) ~Thank you!

FELLOWSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

AUGUST 2010 NEWSLETTER

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“Cultural Change”

by Martin H. Martin

Do you ever feel like things are rotting all around you? I don't mean the food in the fridge or the eaves of the house, but the culture we see all around us. Do you look at the way people behave in public or the way they appear and wonder “what in the world are you thinking?” Do you find yourself lunging for the remote to turn off the program or commercial that twenty years ago you would never have imagined would air?

As I listen to my children discuss what they encounter each day, and as I have traveled about a bit on vacation, I am struck with the realization that things are not what they used to be. The morality (or lack thereof) seen in the public square is often shocking. The statistics show that the trend is not just “out there” but has affected the people of Christ as well. As discouraging as all of this can be, I constantly have to remind myself that none of this is new, and God must pour out His mercy if it is ever to change.

“Cultural decay” is not something that only appeared in the last fifty years. As we have been working our way through the book of Judges on Sunday mornings, we have seen how the people of Israel underwent a period of decline which lasted for centuries. Yes, God had given them the land and godly leadership under Joshua and those who survived him; but those who followed did not know the Lord or walk in His ways. By the end of the book of Judges, things have degenerated to the point that spiritual leaders live in gross immorality, the weak are horribly brutalized, and whole tribes are decimated in civil conflicts; everyone does what is “right in his own eyes”. If you think it is bad now, read Judges!

On the other hand, God's people lived in the presence of gross wickedness in the New Testament as well. The “Jewish” leaders installed by the Romans were wicked tyrants who cared little for God or His people. The city of Corinth, to which Paul wrote two of his letters, was so bad that the term “Corinthianize” was used to describe a decent into debauchery (not unlike terms which originated from the name of the city Sodom). The city of Ephesus housed a temple to Artemis which had connected to it thirty thousand prostitutes.

Can you imagine what it would have been to walk down the street in

Ephesus? Think how afraid you would be to let your child leave the house in Corinth! Yet God still worked in those cities! The Corinthians were children of their pagan culture, but when confronted by Paul, they repented! Ephesus certainly had its own peer-pressure, yet John tells us in Revelation 2 that the Ephesian Christians didn't give in. Cultural decay, real as it might be, is not new and is not necessary.

On the other hand, if we are ever to see the decay checked, it will be through God sending revival within and through His people. It has been said before (and is still true) that cultural transformation will come through sinners being converted to Christ, following after Him and being increasingly conformed to His image. It will not ultimately come from political influence or “changes in leadership”, but “one conversion at a time”. Much of the drift and decline we have seen in recent decades is because we have not seen large-scale revival for a long time; and many of the benefits we still experience are the residual effects of the fruit of the gospel in generations past.

The point? I think that the cultural change many of us notice is not neutral change, it is true decay. On the other hand, the “salt” that will prevent that decay is revival – revival among God's people and revival in our land. So are we praying for revival? Are you? And are we praying that it would begin with us?

Pray that God would be merciful to send revival. Pray that He would move by the power His Spirit so that we would be bothered by sin, even before praying that “they” would be bothered by sin. Pray that we would hunger to know and walk with Him. Pray that we would look like Christ before a world that needs Him. But then also pray, not for others' defeat, but for their salvation and transformation; not that they would be driven away, but that they would be brought near to God and to us His people.

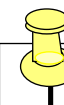
Are you bothered by the state of things? I can't disagree, so let's pray for the Lord's mercy in revival!

~Pastor Marty

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, August 8, 2010, following the morning service, to address the following items:

- ◆ Adopt a newly revised set of bylaws
- ◆ Elect “corporate officers” (note that these are distinct from “church officers”)
- ◆ Ratify past sales of land involved in the widening of Batesville and Old Spartanburg Roads
- ◆ Approve the sale of the land adjacent to River Oaks subdivision

Congregation members will be receiving an “advance packet” in the mail prior to our meeting in an effort to proceed as efficiently as possible on August 8.



CHURCH NOTES:

The sacrament of the **Lord's Supper** will be celebrated on **Sunday, August 1st**, during morning worship.

Wednesday Night Prayer This Summer:

Through AUGUST 18, 6:30—7:30 PM

Plan to join us Wednesday nights this summer, Now through August 18, 6:30—7:30 PM, for a time of informal prayer.

Please note: There will be no supper or activities; eating a picnic supper early or staying late is up to individual families.

Childcare for nursery/ preschool children provided; older children will be in prayer service with their parents.

There is a Session Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 10th, 7:00 PM, at the church.

Upcoming Youth Events:

◆ **Saturday, August 21, 9:00 AM: Zoo Trip**
Cook-out/picnic lunch at zoo following tour; parents needed for transportation; cost \$4.50/child

◆ **Friday, September 17, 6:30 PM: Dinner & Movie Night**
Dinner provided; please bring 1 soft drink per family

Please contact Breno Macedo (brenopm@gmail.com or 631-3896) for event details.

September Newsletter deadline is **Monday, August 9th**.



The **August** edition of **TABLETALK** are available (free of charge) to all members and visitors; pick up your copy (in the narthex) today!

SERVING IN AUGUST:

Elder of the Month: Lafayette Mooney Deacon of the Month: Sam Stubbs
Greeter of the Month: Anna McElrath
Ushers: Troy High, Ron Reinink & Bill Wilder
Nursery Coordinator: Melissa DeJong