



THE BROOKSVILLE BULLETIN

Brooksville church of Christ
604 W. Fort Dade Avenue, Brooksville, FL

May 1, 2022

Wasted Lives (Kent Heaton)

Jeremy Taylor wrote: “God hath given to man a short time here upon earth, and yet upon this short time eternity depends” [Holy Living, 1650]. Life is filled with the pursuit of gaining what previous generations have thrown away. It is the task of men to busy themselves with the accumulation of material accomplishments and worth. The rat race is won by the rats as we anxiously draw in each day with its futile search for happiness.

Lives are spent wasting away the precious moments and hours to gain what no man can keep and what all men lose in death. At the best of times, life is short. Life becomes a day-to-day obsession with the vanities of life.

The living live short lives. “For what is your life? For it is a vapor, which appears for a little time, and

then disappears” (James 4:14). One of the greatest lies Satan has filled the hearts of men with is that life is long and that all men should live as if they will never die. The television is filled with creams, paste, machines, pills, and options that will seemingly help us live longer younger lives. Living for the moment and taking all the gusto we can out of life is the creed of material man. How soon we grow old and how soon we die – and then what does man find.



Life is likened to a vapor, and upon this wisp of man’s existence, the whole of eternity depends. How do we measure eternity? There is no end. Decisions made in this life mold the existence of our eternal being. Filling our lives with the pleasures of this world and pursuing the cares of this world waste precious time from preparing to launch into a world of eternity. There is no time for God in this world. In eternity, it will all be about God.

Solomon wrote the book of Ecclesiastes as a vivid portrayal of man's folly to seek fame, fortune, and pleasure in this life only to find vanity in the face of that which was worthless. His conclusion of the reality of life: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter. Fear God, and keep His commandments. For this is the whole of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it is good, or whether evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

How sad when young couples turn their backs on the Lord to pursue what they cannot find or obtain. Work becomes the most important goal in their life. The busy affairs of life overshadow the important needs of spiritual sustenance. Wasted lives apart from God.

The son who left home seeking fulfillment in life's pleasures only found himself wallowing in the mire with the hogs (Luke 15:11-24). The seed sown in a good heart that hears the word is choked to unfruitfulness because of the "cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches" (Matthew 13:22). The temptation of covetousness brought momentary joy to a family condemned to death (Joshua 7:10-26). Trying to cover up the pleasures of sin brought only shame, death, and misery to King David (2 Samuel 11-12). How many

lives are wasted when seeking the things below and not the things which are above (Colossians 3:1-4).

"For what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Mark 8:36-37). The many lives wasted to pursue this world will only find this world giving nothing back but a place in the grave. True happiness, peace, and hope can only be found in seeking the Lord; then - life will not be wasted.



False Religion (Author Unknown)

By 1590 the Japanese warlord Hideyoshi exercised control over all of Japan. On one occasion, he commissioned a colossal statue of Buddha for a shrine in Kyoto. It took 50,000 men five years to build, and Hideyoshi himself sometimes worked incognito alongside the laborers. But the work was scarcely completed when the earthquake of 1596 brought the roof of the shrine

crashing down and wrecked the statue. In a rage, Hideyoshi shot an arrow at the fallen colossus. "I put you here at great expense," he shouted, "and you can't even look after your own temple."

Cursing and Dancing? (Kent Heaton)

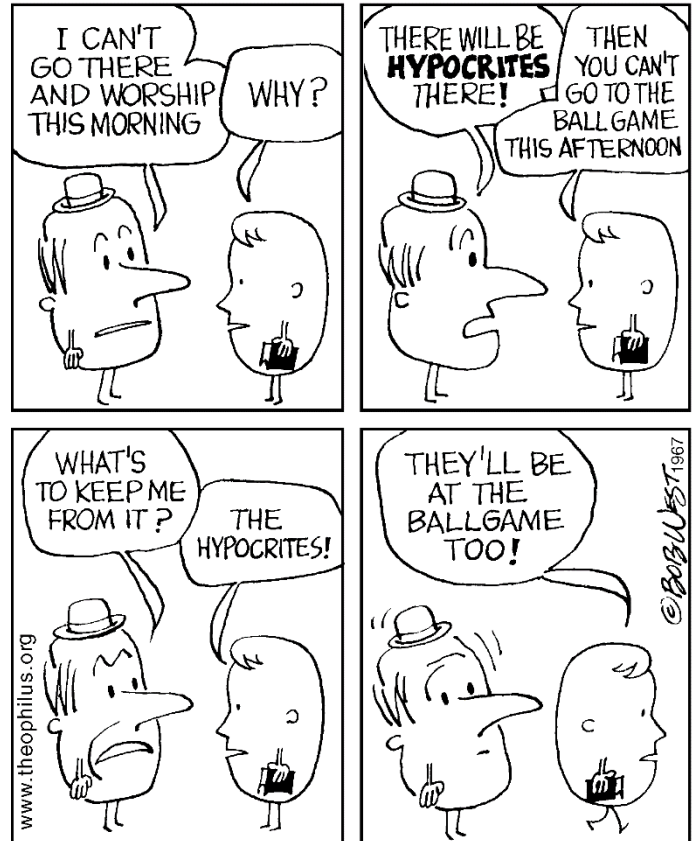
In the recently published book, "A History of Church of Christ in Florida with Other Related Stories 1869-1949," by J. C. Townsend, compiled by Geraldine McLeod Thompson, a brief history of the Midway Church of Christ in Gilchrist County reflected a trend that hindered the growth of the local church. "The congregation remained strong through 1935. Different problems caused it to stop growing; people moved away, many of the young people left and haven't returned, and some were withdrawn from for cursing and dancing." [Page 74]

History has a unique way of reminding us of how the minds of men change over time. It also shows us that while the mind of men may change, the word of God has not. The action of "withdrawal" is the local church exercising punitive discipline upon those who walk disorderly and not in accordance with the will of God.

Each body of Christ has a responsibility to maintain the purity of the body in the use of discipline.

THEOPHILUS

They're Everywhere!



This discipline is not just punitive but mainly instructive. The purpose of corrective discipline is when all other areas of instructive discipline have been exhausted. The larger portion of church discipline should be exercised within the work of instruction, teaching, admonishing and encouragement.

Without knowing the particulars of the case, Midway's brethren expressed some strong views about cursing and dancing. Were these views their own opinions, or were they the result of diligent study of the word of God?

Cursing is condemned in God's word. "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth" (Ephesians 4:29).

Dancing is lewdness in the Bible. (Galatians 5:19-21).

Has the Bible changed, or has the mind of men changed about sin? What say ye?



Our theme this month is seeking to renew a spirit of worship as we gather together as the family of God. Worship extends itself to every part of our lives, but we will focus on directing our worship to the assembly.

How can I RENEW A SPIRIT OF WORSHIP?

1. I will make Sunday THE priority. Nothing comes before my worship on the first day of the week. No ball games, parties, company, or headaches will keep me from worship.
2. I will not be late to worship God. Arriving late disrupts worship,
3. I will participate in worship by singing (God is not impressed with how we sing). When prayers are offered, I will show reverence. The Lord's Supper will be a time of reflection. Listening to the sermon will be a time of learning.
4. Every worship service will be a time to take something away so that I can grow as a Christian.
5. During worship, my focus will be on one thing: worship. It will not be a time to play, do homework, check Facebook, or cruise the internet. God sees what we are doing and is displeased.
6. I will know Jesus Christ died for me. The least I can do is show my love for Him and respect. He suffered so that I could worship.
7. I will promise God that worship will be a part of my life, and I will show my love in my worship.
8. I will renew my spirit of worship.

Brooksville Church of Christ

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Times of Services

Sunday Bible Class for all ages (10:00am)

Sunday Worship all Welcome (11:00am & 6:00pm)

Wednesday Bible Class for all ages (7:00pm)

Supporting the GOSPEL in other places:

☞ *Jamey Hinds, Hollywood, Florida; Roy Fenner, Panama City, Florida*

☞ *Zeke Flores, Columbus, Texas; Philip North, Branson, Missouri*

☞ *The saints in Nicaragua*

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