

SIN'S NOT A SMART INVESTMENT!

- **Adam and Eve**, for a bit of fruit when they were not even hungry, brought sin, suffering, shame and death upon themselves and us (Genesis 3).
- **Lot's wife**, revealing her longing for the things that pertain to earth, took one last look back and became a pillar of salt (Genesis 19).
- **Achan**, for a garment he could not wear, and for silver and gold he could not spend, paid with all his possessions, family and life (Joshua 7).
- **Samson**, for the caress of a hypocritical woman, lost his will, his strength, his liberty, his eyes, and finally his life (Judges 16).
- **David**, to enjoy another man's wife, handed to posterity a tale of adultery, shame and tears, boldly written across his face (2 Samuel 11, 12).
- **Ahab**, coveting a vineyard he'd never enjoy, permitted his wife to have its owner killed (1 Kings 21).
- **Judas**, for thirty pieces of silver which he had no occasion or conscience to use, took his own life in shame and despair (Matthew 27).
- **Demas**, loving the transient world more than a permanent future, forsook Paul and provoked the wrath of heaven (2 Timothy 4).
- **A Christian** who leaves Christ and forfeits his ticket to heaven for joys that are only temporary (2 Peter 2:20-22; Hebrews 11:24-26).
- Glad Tidings of Good Things, Jacksonville, AL

God Has A Positive Answer To Problems

YOU SAY	GOD SAYS	BIBLE VERSES
"It's impossible"	All things are possible	Luke 18:27
"I'm too tired"	I will give you rest.	Matthew 11:28-30
"Nobody really loves me"	I love you	John 3:16; Romans 5:8
"I can't go on:	My grace is sufficient	II Corinthians 12:9; Psalm 91:15
"I can't figure things out"	I will direct your steps	Proverbs 3:5-6
"I can't do it"	You can do all things	Philippians 4:13
"I'm not able"	I am able	II Corinthians 9:8
"It's not worth it"	It will be worth it	Romans 8:28
"I can't forgive myself"	I forgive you	I John 1:9; Romans 8:1
"I can't manage"	I will supply all your needs	Philippians 4:19
"I'm afraid"	I have not given you a spirit of fear	II Timothy 1:7
"I'm always worried and frustrated"	Cast all your cares on ME	I Peter 5:7
"I'm not smart enough"	I give you wisdom	James 1:5; James 3:17
"I feel all alone"	I will never leave you or forsake you	Hebrews 13:5

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy ... be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever." Jude 24, 25.

A hypocrite is a person "white-washed" rather than "washed white".

News & Notes

CONFESSION: Santana Noland.

ELDERS NIGHT: This evening our Elders will speak and inform us of the ongoing work of this congregation and future plans. Please be here and support these good men.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Join the ladies in this good work.

NURSING HOME VISIT & DEVOTIONAL: Next Saturday, Feb. 2nd, 2:30 p.m. at Fox.

PANTRY: Canned fruit.

REMEMBER THESE SHUT-IN'S: Bette Gentry, Fred Larrimore, Jr.

SICK: City Hospital: Lloyd Ferrell. **Beaver Co. Medical Center:** Lloyd Cowdery. **AT HOME:** Linda Parkes, Ruth Brewer, Joyce Murdock, Charlie Delong, Fred & Ilene Rayl, Bertha Seman, Jack Board, Dan Williams (Sharon's husband). Also remember those posted on the bulletin board who have been shut-in or in nursing homes for an extended period of time.

WHAT DO YOU LOOK LIKE?

A couple of weeks ago I had a good discussion with a young lady who is not a Christian. She had a number of questions and I was excited about the opportunity to share God's Word with her. I answered questions she had about prayer. She asked if one had to be baptized in order to go to heaven. Then she asked, "Why do you go to church every week?"



After a series of questions she then said, "It's hard for me to come to church because there are so many hypocrites." I know this is a normal excuse for a lot of people who do not care about coming to worship God but she had really been observing and watching people who call themselves Christians.

The word, "*hypocrisy*" derives from the Greek word, "*hypokrisis*," which means "*play-acting*" or "*acting out*." *Hypokritēs* was a technical term for a stage actor. The word did not start out as a negative term, but applied to any sort of public performance. Before and during the first century the Greek actors would perform as different characters. Women were not allowed to perform in public so the men would wear masks and play different parts in a play, therefore they would be hypocrites. The word took on a negative connotation when a successful actor took up politics and his skills at impersonating characters on stage made him an untrustworthy politician. It was the assumption of a counterfeit persona that gave the modern word "*hypocrisy*" its negative connotation.

I often wonder how many people are watching us as Christians and saying, "their faith in Jesus is nothing but an act." How many of us are, in fact, just "play acting?"

Jesus said in Luke 6:46, "**Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not what I say?**" Why does our friend look at Christians and see a person who claims to love Jesus yet does not do what he says? Can you answer that question? What do you look like to others?
- Kevin Jourdan, Goodman Oaks Church of Christ, Southaven, MS