

Treating Symptoms and Ignoring Causes

I recently read this insightful sentence by Scott Smith and began thinking about all the times people saw the symptom and result but not the real problem:

"Immediately after Adam and Eve sinned, they tried to cover their nakedness with leaves to hide what they thought was the problem—after all, it is what "appeared" obvious (Gen. 3:6)."

Sin has consequences, and it is easy to look at the symptoms of a sin and miss the real cause. Adam and Eve chose to listen to someone other than God and did what they desired, thinking their actions would bring benefits. They were wrong in this assumption.

Treating symptoms is not bad or inappropriate, if we also think of the cause of the problem; but if we do not treat the cause, we will not end the problem. We'll only mask it.

Whatever the sin, we must realize there is a deeper issue: Do we believe God's instructions? Will we serve God or selfish desires? Morality is at its foundation relational toward God. Remember Joseph's reply to Potiphar's wife, who wanted Joseph: "How then could I do this great evil and sin against God?"

The next time you are tempted, go to God (Hebrews 4:14-16).

- Phil Sanders, Speaker: *In Search of the Lord's Way*, Edmond, OK (via *Bulletin Digest*) -

Encouragers in the New Testament

Barnabas - "he was glad and encouraged them all" (Acts 11:23)

Silas - "encouraged and strengthened the brothers" (Acts 15:32)

Paul - "encouraged them with many words" (Acts 20:2)

Tychicus - "that he may encourage your hearts" (Col. 4:8)

Timothy - "to...encourage you concerning your faith" (1 Thess. 3:2)

Us - "Therefore, encourage one another" (1 Thess. 5:11)

- Edd Sterchi, Broadway Church of Christ, Campbellsville, KY (*Bulletin Digest*) -

Reality Check

"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

If we were to video tape ourselves for a day, would the viewing of that tape be consistent with how we perceived ourselves? Watching the tape allows us to see ourselves as others and God see us. In the final analysis, it matters not what we may think of ourselves or what others may think of us; what really matters is how we appear to God. The reality is that God sees us the way we actually are, in thought and action. May we so live that a video of ourselves would portray a life pleasing to God.

"But to me it is a very small thing that I should be examined by you, or by any human court; in fact, I do not even examine myself For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord" (1 Corinthians 4:3-4).

- Ron Adams (*Bulletin Digest*) -

You need to know God's truth to see through Satan's lies.

News & Notes

SYMPATHY: To the Haught Family at the passing of Joe Hornack (Jennifer Haught's dad). God bless and comfort this family. Send cards to: Jen Haught & Family, 86 Timberland Dr., Colliers, WV 26035.

NEW CONVERT CLASS: Each Sunday a.m. Bible Class in Room 401.

OUR FELLOWSHIP DINNER & EARLY AFTERNOON SERVICE: TODAY at about noon at the Fellowship Building followed by our **early afternoon service** at the church building at **2:00 p.m.**

TO HAVE SURGERY: Keith McClung will have out-patient surgery, **tomorrow.**

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. All ladies are invited to join in this good work; your participation will be welcomed. Come and help make these little bears for sick and needy kids. Sewing skills not necessary.

MEN'S ENRICHMENT CLASS: Each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Men are urged to come and spend an hour with other brothers and be encouraged.

CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS YOUTH RALLY: Friday and Saturday, April 5th & 6th at the Lubeck Church of Christ, Washington, WV. Speakers: Charles Pugh, Andrew Beasley, Hunter Melott. Additional details on the bulletin board.

CHESTER'S SENIOR DAY: Saturday, April 13th. Speakers: Aaron Burch and Chris Raynor. Give any monetary donations to Willard or Rosie Burdine to help defray the cost.

MEMBER VISITS: Elders and Minister visits with members are being made and can be scheduled in your home or to meet here at the building. Please schedule an appointment so this outreach can be completed ASAP.

PANTRY: Cereal and crackers.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Sally Watson (Sue Collins' sister), c/o Donna Ellis, 225 Clark Ave. [street number correction], Burgettstown, PA 15021. Sally has serious health issues. **Bob Eddy** (recent cancer surgeries), 4898 Oroszy Ave., Lorain, OH 44052. **Kendall Dunbar** (serious health issues), 15 mo. old granddaughter of Jolene Hines - First Choice America Credit Union. **SICK & SHUT-IN: At Home:** Arlen & Joann Webb, Russell Martin, Blondenia Orr, Doris Dunham. **West Penn Hospital, Pittsburgh:** Chris Lamb (David Roach's sister). **FOX:** Mary Jane Bowers. Tom Postlethwait (Pepperberry-Assisted Living). **CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller. **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl.

GOSPEL MEETINGS

Pennsboro	Mar. 10-15, 7 p.m. (except Sunday)	Ed Melott
Hillview Terrace, Moundsville	Mar. 17-21, 7 p.m. (except Sunday)	Ken Burton
Bridge St., New Martinsville	Mar. 24-28, 7 p.m. (except Sunday)	Phil Sanders
Southern Hills	Apr. 7-10, 7 p.m. (except Sunday)	Gary Bailey
Chester	Apr. 14-18, 7 p.m. (except Sunday)	Terry Jones
Weirton Heights	Apr. 21-26, 7 p.m. (except Sunday)	Rico Brown