

Awake to Righteousness and Sin Not

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

As a concerned Christian, I'm saddened to see so many living in sin. In the news it is almost always some conflict, robbery, drunkenness, divorces, or some kind of sin. Each of the people who are arrested, or the victims, are an individual. Someone's son, or daughter, who is affected by either their own action, or someone else's.

Often I notice that so many of the names of those in trouble are the same ones, time after time. Some time ago I heard a person speaking of his friend who was caught several days in a row doing something illegal. My thoughts were, "Why don't they know enough to stop doing it?" Consider **1 Corinthians 15: 34**, "Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame." Listen to the word of God and see what the creator has to say. Don't waste the years and life that God has granted you. Each of us has a number of years to spend here on earth. When it is over, what will you have to show for those years? **Matthew 25: 24-30** tells the story of the master who gave his servants talents (money), to be used in his absence. When he returned he took account with each of the servants. I believe that is essentially a parable about our lives here. When

our master comes back we will give account to him of our lives and what we have done with our time here.

What could a person say who has been in trouble with the law throughout his life. Or, the one who has lived his life on drugs, lying and stealing to obtain them? God didn't intend for anyone to be a drunk, or a trouble maker all his life. If we have, and are doing this, we can quit. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. I have and everyone else has too. If anyone, preacher, or whoever he, or she, might be, tells me that he has never sinned, I call him a liar right to his face. Jesus is the only one who could say that he had never sinned. I look back with sadness on the sins that I have done. I couldn't go back and undo them, but thank the Lord, I have been forgiven for them.

If you look at yourself and see that life is one conflict after another, look at the decisions that you make. If you are using drugs, alcohol, or any other kind of sinful thing, you can stop it. Praise the Lord, we don't have to continue down the road that leads to destruction. I changed, by the grace of God and you can too. If you haven't started using alcohol, or drugs, don't ever start.

You'll be saving your loved ones and yourself from a lot of misery and hurt, both now and in the future. These things are not an escape from the troubles of life, they only bring on more of them.

So many are quick to divorce these days. Don't rush into it.

If you loved him, or her, enough to marry, then work it out and stop the things that hurt your marriage. God wants us to love one another, not to hurt each other. Divorce is not condoned by the Lord unless it is for the cause of fornication. I believe it is good advice to not rush into a marriage, or into a divorce.

It is your life and you will live it as you believe. If you believe in God and will live for him you will escape the sins and grief that they bring. Are you living in sin? If you repent, the Lord will forgive you and bless you. In Christ Jesus there is power to change - it is up to you.

Sometimes people continue to make bad choices and wonder why life is so troublesome. Often we cause many of our problems because of bad judgment on our part. God tells us in his word how to live and learn the way of peace. Often, because it doesn't happen instantly, folks give up and go on in sin.

Our lives will not change until we realize that we need and want to change. It is not a temporary thing but indeed a change in life and for the rest of our life. God sent Jesus to save us and he will when we come to him in faith and repentance. That has to be the first step for we can't do it on our own. Remember doing it our way was the trouble in the first place. We need the Lord and we are not complete and really happy until we know him as Lord and Savior. Wake up and see where you are in life, where you came from and where you're going.

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GUARDING THE KING!

IN BIBLICAL TIMES, WHEN ALL KINGS, AS A GENERAL RULE, WERE TYRANTS AND DESPOTIC, TO SAY THE LEAST, IT WAS FOUND NECESSARY TO CONTINUALLY GUARD THEM FROM THEIR ENEMIES! THE SOLDIERS OF THE ROYAL BODYGUARD HAD TO BE COMPLETELY DEPENDABLE IN THEIR FIDELITY TO THE KING THEY WERE PROTECTING! AND THE CAPTAIN OF THIS ROYAL GUARD, GENERALLY WAS THE MOST LOYAL FRIEND THE KING HAD! SUCH A MAN WAS BENAIAH, DAVID'S CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD (II SAM. 22:22, 23) AND THE BIBLE MENTIONS MORE HIGHLY PLACED CAPTAINS - POTIPHAR FOR PHARAOH (GEN. 37:36; 41:12), NEBUZARADAN, CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD, FOR KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR (II KINGS 25:8) AND OTHERS - BUT ORIENTAL PALACES WERE HOTBEDS OF INTRIGUE AND THE KINGS COULDN'T TRUST THEIR CAPTAINS THAT MUCH - SO IT BECAME A CUSTOM TO SET SPIES THROUGHOUT THE PALACE TO MAKE SURE THAT THE ROYAL GUARD WAS REALLY LOYAL - ESPECIALLY AFTER ZIMRI, A TRUSTED CAPTAIN, SLEW HIS KING AND REIGNED IN HIS STEAD FOR ONE WEEK BEFORE BEING DEFEATED (I KINGS 16:8-20) AFTER THAT, THE PALACE SPIES ABOUNDED AND NO ONE WHO ENTERED THE PALACE WAS EVER TREATED WITH ANYTHING BUT COMPLETE SUSPICION AS LONG AS HE WAS THERE - "UNEASY LIES THE HEAD THAT WEARS A CROWN!"



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