

NSD Notes

For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. (1 Cor. 9:19)
Volume 6, No. 13 June 27, 2010

Services

Sunday

Bible Study	10 am
Morning Service	11 am
Evening Service	6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study	7 pm
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News @ NSD

- **Robyn Hamilton's** sister, in skilled nursing facility in New Orleans recovering from a car accident.
- **Matt and Janna Wells** – visiting at Lake Tahoe.
- **Martha Holloway** - recurring back and heart ailment.
- **Dema's** sister-in-law – liver and bone cancer.
- **Scott Shaw's** dad, Tommy – battling liver cancer.
- **Jeanne Lynne** – recovering from surgeries.
- **Ernest Peebles** – deployed in May.
- **Logan Harper** – deployed in Afghanistan.
- Also keep **Sally Harper** and the kids in your prayer.

Sunday Morning Class
Letters to the churches of Asia

Wednesday Night Class
Character Studies:
Joshua 7: Achan

Character Matters

by Gene Taylor

Many people are willing to take a chance on others never discovering their wrongdoings. Many of these, however, are caught and punished for their misdeeds. Others get by with evil works because they are able to fool people all the days of their lives.

Others refrain from doing things which are wrong because they know society does not approve of those things. They are afraid to take the chance of being discovered in their evil schemes by the public. As the standards that are acceptable to the majority vary, though, so will the standards of such people. Just think of what is practiced now in the way of immorality that does not even cause an eyebrow to be raised that would have provoked the strongest kind of censure just a few years ago. One who allows society to establish his standards will never be anything but an advocate of the status quo.

Still others who would be willing to take the chance of doing many things which are evil even though they might be apprehended by society are deterred by a fear of God. Anyone who has any knowledge of the Bible knows that it reveals that all sin will be found out and judged (Eccl. 12:14; 2 Cor. 5: 10). Numbers 32:23 states, "...and be sure your sin will find you out." Hebrews 4:13 speaks of the same thought when it says, "And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account."

Those who refrain from doing that which is wrong because they know it would displease the Lord are to be commended. However, God desires more than fear. Surely the person who has trained himself to follow the Lord's will ought to realize that he should do those things that are right because they are right. The religion of Christ does not encourage people to do all they think they can "get by with." Rather it teaches that those who are the Lord's disciples are to become good in their hearts (Matt. 15:18-20).

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North San Diego church of Christ

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<http://www.nsdca.com>

All are welcome
to worship and study!

Deacon: Matt Wells

Minister: Dan Austin

Evening Singing Service

**...speaking to one another
in psalms and hymns and
spiritual songs, singing
and making melody with
your heart to the Lord...**

Ephesians 5:19

Continued from front...

Jesus shows the heart to be the wellspring of actions: evil proceeds from the heart (Mark 7:20-23), so should goodness. God has commanded those who desire to be His children to change their hearts (Rom. 12:1-2) and to become godly in their manner of life. God said, "Be holy, for I am holy." (1 Pet. 1:16).

As disciples, our goal ought not to be abstaining from evil only because we are afraid of punishment but rather to be holy even as God is. James 1:13 cites the supreme goodness of God: "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God;' for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone." Verse 14 shows that temptation comes because of lust, inordinate desire, which entices one to sin. God is so completely good that evil is not an enticement to Him, He is not even tempted by it. Since temptation comes because one is drawn by his own desires toward that which entices, then the impossibility for God to be tempted must mean He has no desire for anything that is evil.

Can you think of something you once practiced which was sinful but that you have now discarded? If so, you are becoming more like God. How great to be able to reach a state where you have no desire to sin.

Just how far have you gone toward real goodness? What do you do when you think no one is looking? What would you do if you could hide your deeds from the Lord? Surely honest answers to these questions will help each of us evaluate ourselves properly. Our answers will enable us to see the progress we have made as a Christian and to realize more fully that our own goodness is very meager and that great challenges are before us and, with deep humility of our own unworthiness, that we must seek God's abundant love and grace to help us be the kind of people we ought to be, the kind He would have us be. The secret to good character is a converted heart.

SERMON NOTES: