



## FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember the health concerns of *Gerald Eaton, Joey Avance, Jerry Schnelle, Bonnie Allgor, Pat Buls, Sonny & Cathy Monaghan, Beth Ellen, and Pete Rowland.*

If you have any announcements, please call or text Bryan.

etc.)? Is there not a pattern for how the local church does her work (Acts 11:28-30; Eph. 4:12; Phil. 4:15-16; Rom. 15:25-26; etc.)? Is there not a pattern for marriage (Matt. 5:32, 19:4-9; Eph. 5:31), and for raising children (Heb. 13:4; Eph. 6:4)? How about just living day by day? Must we not also make sure that what we do is done by the authority of Christ and that our religion is “pure” (Col. 3:17; Jas. 1:26-27)?

Notice that there is a pattern with God. He has things he wants done “in order” and woe unto us if we get them “out-of-order”! I believe many of the problems we face today result from people doing things without regard for God’s order! When we read Leviticus, let us be impressed that God wants things done “in order,” and let us respect that principle today!

### **Sin Ruins Everything!** **Jarrood Jacobs**

Nadab and Abihu (Lev. 10) get much attention from us because they are noted as doing something without God’s authority. I intend to write about this truth, but the first

thing I want us to notice is that sin ruins everything it touches (Ecc. 9:18b)! Leviticus 10 teaches us this loud and clear!

As we read Leviticus 8-10, we see these chapters recording events happening on the same day – the “inauguration day” of the Tabernacle and the worship of God. On the same day that we see God’s beautiful plan in action, we also see things ruined when Nadab and Abihu sinned and “offered strange (foreign) fire before the Lord” (Lev. 10:1). Their act resulted in God killing them for their disobedience. How ironic that on the day in which God sent down fire to light the altar (Lev. 9:24), He then sent down fire to stop men from violating His command (Lev. 10:2).

Of course, this fire stopped them dead (Lev. 10:2)! Now, a father of four has had his children reduced by 50%! On the day intended to be dedicated to God and His worship, Aaron has to watch the bodies of his boys carried out of the camp (Lev. 10:4-5)! Yet, he can have no part in this, nor tell his boys goodbye (Lev. 10:6-7)! What a tragedy! What suffering! Yes, sin ruins everything!

How these things could have been avoided if these men had acted in a way pleasing to God and not when God had been silent. Their sin left a “dark cloud” over the events of the day and certainly hurt a loving father who no doubt had planned on working with his sons at the Tabernacle for many years!

It is no different today. When men yield to their lusts and sin, it will result in death every time (Jas. 1:14-15)! Sin does not build; it destroys. It destroyed man’s relationship with God in the Garden (Gen. 3:6). It destroyed man’s relationship with his family (Gen. 4:1-11). Sin

destroyed people’s minds (Gen. 6:5). It then destroyed the lives of millions in Genesis 6-8! Friends note the destructive power of sin, just in the first few chapters of the Bible! This destruction continues throughout Bible history, and just as it destroyed the lives and unity of a family in Leviticus 10, so also sin destroys in the very same way today (Rom. 6:23)!

Since this is true, what is your view of sin? Is there any wonder why God’s people from Old and New Testament days preached a message of repentance? Repent of your sins or perish (Lk. 13:3, 5). God has commanded all men everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30). Now we know why! Turning back to God and following in the footsteps of Christ is the only thing that will save us from destruction! If the sons of Aaron had listened to God, they would have been spared an instant death! Just think of what you will avoid if you will repent of your sins today and obey the Lord (Heb. 5:9). Don’t continue down the path that leads to destruction. Instead, repent and walk in the path that leads to life (Matt. 7:13-14).

### **Finding Your Life (Matthew 10:39)** **Jeff Curtis**

We sometimes say about a young person that they are trying to “find themselves.” Many people try to find themselves through legitimate activities such as sports, hobbies, education, and careers. Others attempt to find themselves through illegitimate pursuits, such as experimenting with drugs or being sexually promiscuous. In the end, none of these can satisfy. Solomon pursued work, wealth, and women in order to find life – and came away

empty. He concluded the meaning of life is only found in a relationship with God; “13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is mans all. 14 For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.” (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14). People can find life today by following Christ. This pathway is one of self-denial and sacrifice, and it is the only one that is truly satisfying.

### **A Working Church Is...** **Kyle Campbell**

No one wants to be in a congregation that’s not growing. But planting and watering so that God will give the increase can be an incredibly disheartening proposition (1 Corinthians 3:6). It’s good to remember a few simple rules that can push a congregation in the right direction if they’re properly applied.

1. A growing church, for the members that are doing what’s necessary for growth feel God’s true sense of purpose (Colossians 2:6-7).
2. A happy church, for people are happy when they are focused and working for God’s cause (John 13:17; 1 Peter 1:8).
3. A peaceful church, for people that are busy in God’s cause don’t have opportunities to stir up trouble (2 Thess. 3:10-12).
4. A planning church, for nothing worthwhile is accomplished by accident, and plans are carefully made and followed faithfully (Romans 12:11).
5. A praying church, for the members realize the need of constantly being in direct touch with God (1 Peter 3:12).