



THE BROOKSVILLE BULLETIN

Brooksville church of Christ
604 W. Fort Dade Avenue, Brooksville, FL

December 19, 2021

Don't Remember The Failing Christians (Ralph Walker)

In talking to people who leave the church, I hear one justification more than any other. The departing Christian leaves because of the members: they are hypocritical, they gossip, they are unfriendly/unloving. I've become cynical about these claims. When somebody says, "I'm leaving because nobody reaches out to me," I hear "I'm leaving because nobody reached out to me except for those who did."

Let's suppose the disgruntled Christian has indeed seen brethren be hypocritical, gossipy, unfriendly, politically fixated, or unloving. Certainly, brethren can be all these things. Who believes all Christians are all these things all the time?

When a Christian says, "I am going to overlook the good and focus on the bad," that is fundamentally ungodly behavior. I mean that quite literally. In His

relationship with us, God does exactly the opposite. He is merciful with our failures. He forgets our sins, but He remembers our good works. When Christ looks at His ransomed church, He sees an assembly that is unspotted, unwrinkled, holy, and without blemish. Not because we are pure, but because we are continually renewed and purified.

Dwelling on bad behavior of brethren is seductive. The Devil makes it seductive. He loves to get us brooding over all the wrongs, real and imagined, that we have suffered. However, if we are committed to the higher calling of imitating Christ, that is precisely what we must not do.

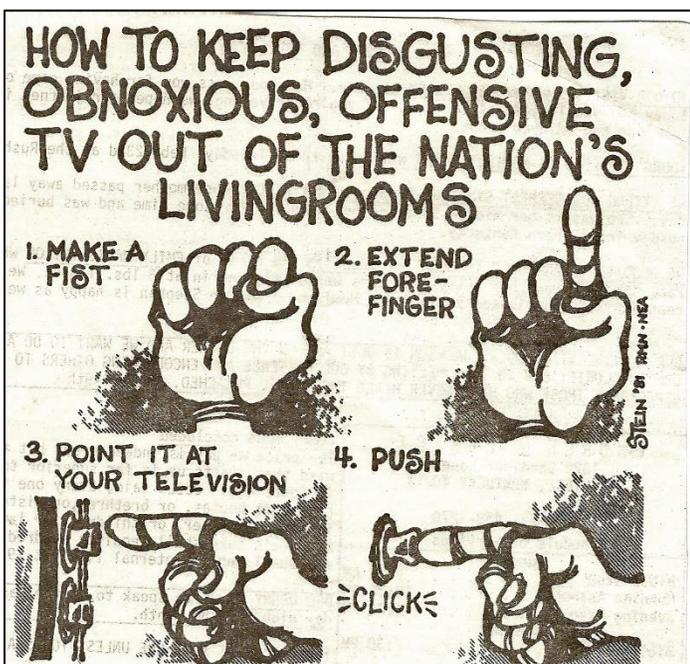
If you're thinking about giving up on God's people, don't remember their sins. Remember their good works. Don't remember the failing Christians. Remember the amazing ones. Remember all the people you have seen devoted to the word, joyful in worship, humble before the King, generous and hospitable. Remember the



brethren who did reach out rather than dwelling on the ones who didn't.

Overlook the sin committed in ignorance (unless you believe that you never sin ignorantly). Celebrate the goodness. In short, love, and continue to belong.

(Adapted from Matthew Bassford, preacher in Columbia, TN)



You Do Not Know What A Day May Bring (Jeff Himmel)

Bud Flanagan was usually at his desk before 8:00 a.m., but that morning a phone call at home made him late for work.

George Keith had an early appointment to get his car serviced.

Elizabeth Kramer was running behind that morning after a late night working on her master's thesis.

Debbie Archimbaud's bus was late.

David Gray decided to drive to work instead of taking the train. He got stuck in traffic.

Michael Lomonaco stopped off to pick up his new eyeglasses.

Larry Silverstein had considered going to the office rather than his doctor appointment that morning, but his wife wouldn't hear of it.

Rob Herzog was exhausted from a business trip and slept an extra half hour.

Lorraine Wallace was sick.

Irshad Ahmed's meeting that morning was pushed back, so he decided to go by Blockbuster to return some videos.

Jared Kotz had to make a detour to retrieve some papers.

Bill Trinkle missed his train.

And that's why these people were not inside the World Trade Center in New York City that morning — Tuesday, September 11, 2001. Had it not been for those little decisions, interruptions, and inconveniences, all of these people likely would have perished in the terrorist attack that claimed nearly 3,000 lives that day.

For these people, and for many others that day, there was no warning of the calamity that was coming. They made their choices and responded to their circumstances with no idea that it would save their lives. Meanwhile, hundreds of others that morning also made their choices and

responded to their circumstances with no idea that it would be their last day on earth.

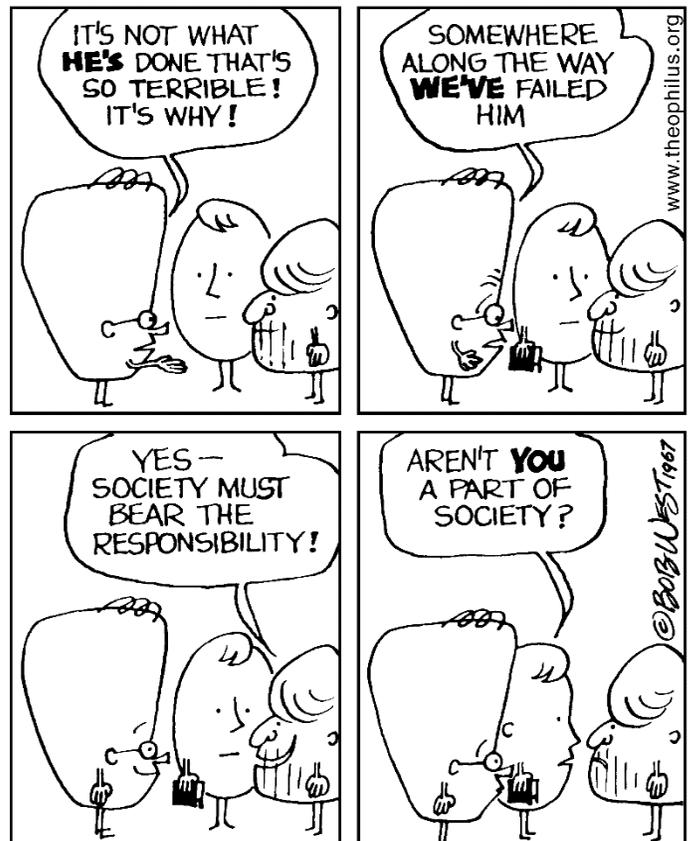
Every day, you and I make hundreds of decisions, often hardly aware that we're doing so. Every day we confront hundreds of variables and possibilities, myriad tiny interruptions and alterations to our plans. Even when a day goes pretty much as we anticipated, we could look back on it and see countless unexpected moments, occurrences, and choices.

That ought to humble us. "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring" (Proverbs 27:1). While we have freedom of choice, we have far less control over our lives and our circumstances than we are often tempted to think.

"Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.' Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.' But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. (James 4:13-16)

THEOPHILUS

The Blame Game



How should we think and act in the face of an uncertain future? William Barclay wrote: "The true Christian way is not to be terrorized into fear, and not to be paralyzed into inaction, by the uncertainty of the future, but to commit the future and all our plans into the hands of God, and always to remember that our plans may not be within the purpose of God." (The Letters of James and Peter 134)

Jesus told a parable about a man whose work was productive. He made adequate plans for his financial security. Then he sat back and rested on his accomplishments, supremely confident that the world was at his command. "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?'" The man was brought face to face with the one thing he had not planned for: the judgment of God. Jesus concluded, "So is the

EVERY TIME HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF, THE PRICE OF THE LESSON GOES UP.

man who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God” (Luke 12:16-21).

On that fateful Tuesday morning twenty years ago, hundreds of people got up, went to work, carried out their plans. But “their souls were required of them.” God alone knows whether they were prepared to meet Him. Are you?



How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word. I have tried hard to find you—don’t let me wander from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. I praise you, O Lord; teach me your decrees. I have recited aloud all the regulations you have given us. I have rejoiced in your laws as much as in riches. I will study your

commandments and reflect on your ways. I will delight in your decrees and not forget your word.
(Psalm 119:9-16)

The God Who Knows (William Luff)

I do not know the future,
But I know the God who knows;
And in His perfect wisdom,
Unknowing, I repose.

What good could come of knowing
How little I could do;
To meet the joys or sorrows
That I am coming to!

I do not know the future
But I know the God who knows,
I make His love my study
And follow where He goes.

The path, its joys and sorrows,
I do not care to trace;
Content to know His goodness
His mercy and His grace.

Brooksville Church of Christ

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Times of Services

Sunday Bible Class for all ages (10:00am)

Sunday Worship all Welcome (11:00am & 6:00pm)

Wednesday Bible Class for all ages (7:00pm)

Supporting the GOSPEL in other places:

☞ Jamey Hinds, Hollywood, Florida; Roy Fenner, Panama City, Florida

☞ Zeke Flores, Columbus, Texas; Philip North, Branson, Missouri

☞ The saints in Nicaragua

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