

## For Our Information

Vickie McNees fell and was scraped up pretty bad. Her son is back in the hospital with pneumonia.

JoBeth Henderson is dealing with a sinus infection, coughing and fever.

Joyce Venable has not been well.

John LaValla had more fluid removed and a port installed.

Ruben & Brenda Keisler will be travelling in Mexico for most of this week.

Remember one another in your prayer to the Father.

## Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

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We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

John warned us to look out for three lies about sin:

1. Saying, "we have fellowship with Him" while we "walk in darkness" (**1John 1:6**).
2. Saying, "we have no sin" (**1John 1:8**).
3. Saying, "we have not sinned" (**1John 1:10**).

After each of these lies, John gives us the truth. First, if we walk in the light, we have fellowship with one another and Jesus' blood cleanses us from all sin (**vs. 7**). Second, if we confess our sins, He forgives and cleanses us (**vs. 9**). Third, if we sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus speaks in our defense (**2:1**). He is the propitiation (satisfaction) for our sins (**2:2**).

We all struggle with temptation. We make mistakes and sin. Denial doesn't do us any good. We must see sin for what it really is.

# Seeking His Righteousness

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## Against The Grain

**Evan Lancaster**

The English philosopher and author Arnold Toynbee once said, "It is doubtful if the majority has ever been right." We can see an example of this idea at work in the Israelites as they came to the outskirts of the land of Canaan. The 13th and 14th chapters of the Book of Numbers detail the story. Moses had sent twelve spies, the heads of each of the twelve tribes of Israel, into the land to check it out and bring back a report. When they returned, they showed the people the huge clusters of grapes found there,



*In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you; **1Peter 4:4***



1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

## Meet With Us

**Worship Services**

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

**Bible Classes**

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

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and told them about this land that flowed with milk and honey. It sounded like a good report at first. But notice the comments of ten of the spies in **Numbers 13:31-33**:

"But the men who had gone up with him (Caleb) said, We are not able to go up against the people, for they are too strong for us. So they gave out to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying , 'The land through which we have gone, in spying it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great size. There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."

One thing must be noted here before we go on; God had promised them the land. He told them they would defeat and drive out everyone there and take the land with no problem. Yet ten of the spies forgot this promise. Only two spies, Joshua and Caleb, remembered it. But when the Israelites heard the report of the ten spies, they began to weep and wail, saying that God had brought them out there to die. They even started to choose a new leader to lead them back into Egypt, where they had been held captive for many years! They paid no attention to the pleadings of Moses, Joshua and Caleb.

What do we learn from this? Hopefully we can see that going with the majority almost always leads to failure and disappointment. People have the natural tendency to find the negativity in everything. And

## Store In My Heart

### Daniel 7:1

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel saw a dream and visions in his mind as he lay on his bed; then he wrote the dream down and related the following summary of it.

Though the first half of Daniel reveals the lives of 4 Jewish captives, the last half contains several prophetic visions that Daniel received from God.

These visions reveal the future of Israel and the coming Messiah. Near the end of the book it seems Daniel asked for insight into things that were to take place even after the coming of the Messiah. Yet he was told they were concealed. Some see these prophecies as yet in our future. We must be careful not to seek for that which God has concealed.

when we follow along, we become narrow-minded, cynical and pessimistic just like the majority on this occasion.

Fight this tendency!!! It's not easy, but it is imperative. If we want to get to heaven, we must go against the grain. Jesus, in **Matthew 7:13-14**, said, "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it." If we follow the majority, we will end up in hell. Only by fighting to rise above the mediocre majority can we be pleasing to God and get to heaven.

(It is never easy to go against the grain and often it leads to great discomfort. Yet this is exactly what Jesus expects of His followers. There are many examples in the book of Acts of first century disciples going against the grain. When we read of the Apostles, Stephen, Paul, Phillip etc., we are reading of those who stood for right when most of those around them would not. Keep doing right, even when all others will not. DLH)

# Lies About Sin

Shane Williams

Becoming like Christ is a never ending process. A Christian will not come to a point when he can say there are no struggles with sin in his life. Only in heaven will we be without sin. I believe that 's why