

*And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother. 1John 4:21*

## Evasive Maneuvers

### Greg Gwin

#### Store In My Heart

#### Revelation 1:3

Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

I have always thought this verse should be more prominent in our thoughts. The need to read and retain the message of God is of such great importance that we should keep such admonitions in the forefront of our minds.

The only way that we will ever enjoy the blessings God has prepared for us will be through our study and application of His Word. Even the last phrase of this passage should give us pause. "The time is near." While I realize the specific nature of this warning to those who were addressed, I also understand that none of us has long before we will be called to account for our actions. Read and Heed for Time is Short.

We have a friend who has been telling us for a long time, "I'm not overweight; I'm just 6 inches too short!" When we learned that he was scheduled for an annual physical check-up, several of us predicted that the doctor would put him on a "no salt, no sugar, no nothin'" sort of diet.

After the doctor's appointment we were quick to ask, "Did he put you on a diet?" No! What a shock! How could this be? A little prying produced a confession. The reason the doctor had not ordered a diet was because our friend had volunteered at the very beginning of the exam that he was already trying to lose weight. No need for the doctor to give diet instructions when you tell him you're already on one, right? Pretty clever evasive action, wouldn't you agree?

Our friend is not the first one to stumble onto this method of escape. In fact, sinners have been doing it all through the ages. It is accomplished like this: if someone seeks to admonish you about a sin in your life, simply admit that you are already aware of the situation. For instance, when some brother comes to you because you are not attending the services regularly, just say, "I know I ought to do better", even if you have no plans to improve. It will disarm any attempt to restore you, but it does keep folks off your back. After all, you already know what you should be doing, right?

The point is this: you can try to evade the problem of sin in your life, but it doesn't solve anything. True repentance does. Try it!



## Contact Us

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

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## For Our Information

John Ragsdale will consult with doctor regarding his eye.

Betty Ragsdale is still having some difficulty with pain.

The Simpson family is out of town this weekend.

Tonight we start our study near 1Kings 3:15.

Wednesday we will begin our study in 2Thessalonians.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

# Humbling Reminders

## Tommy Peeler

These thoughts should encourage us to be humble.

1. God created us. We are dependent upon Him for life, breath, and all things (**Acts 17:28; Daniel 5:23**). When we see how big God is, it reminds us how small we are (**Isaiah 40:12-17,21-24**).

2. We have messed up, sinned, and done wrong (**Romans 3:9-23**). When we reflect on how many times and in how many way we have sinned, it is truly staggering. Yet, God loved us anyway and sent His Son to die for us (**Galatians 2:20**) and our sins (**1Corinthians 15:3-4**) so that we may be saved. We are not "good enough" to go to heaven.

3. Any skill, any success, any talent we possess or have enjoyed is from Him (**Exodus 31:2-3,6**). These are God-given and not self made. We cannot even give money to God which He has not first given us (**1Chronicles 29:12,14**).

God, forgive us, when we think that we are something and pat ourselves on the back - or demand others do so - for some small thing we have done.

(It is good for us to be reminded of our own inability to survive on our own. I am reminded of the old story of the scientists who told God that He wasn't so special any more since they could now create life. God challenged them to show their new found ability. As they reached down to get some dirt to start the process, God stopped them and said, "Get your own dirt." No matter where we start, it is from something God has provided.

This humbling feeling should impress on us the importance of listening to the One who gave us life. "Keep my commands" is very prominent in Scripture. The two greatest commands from God, no matter the time, Love God Completely and Love One Another. Maybe remembering our own weakness will help us obey those commands more diligently.

DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!