

Oak Grove Church of Christ

(502) 749-9209

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 AM
Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
Evening Worship: 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class: 7:30 PM

Evangelist: Bruce J. Dehut

*Home Bible Studies Available
Upon Request*

Oak Grove church of Christ
9203 Thixton Lane
Louisville, KY 40291



OAK GROVE ENCOURAGER

**"And let us consider one another in order to
stir up love and good works" Hebrews 10:24**

APRIL 16, 2006

I Have No Excuse

By Gene Taylor

I knew it was happening. I felt bad about it. I was gaining weight. I had lost some 55 pounds a little over a year and a half ago and now I had put back on about 20 of it. Others were noticing too. Some, being kind, didn't say anything. Others gently asked things like "Are you putting on just a little weight?" No one seemed to want to come out and say what needed to be said, "You should stop overeating, change your diet and habits and lose the pounds you have gained back. It's not good for you to be heavy." Many reasons could be given for my weight problem but my brother probably stated it best when he said, "I like to

eat." I do too. But I know I should not eat as much as I do and I also know the things I like the best are not good for me. I didn't just need to change my habits temporarily. I needed to make a permanent change. Yet, I resisted such a change. Rather, I sought to excuse the fact that the weight was coming back on me. And believe me, I could find many excuses.

I would measure myself against others instead of comparing my weight to the proper medical standard. "I'm a little overweight but I'm sure not as heavy as him." It seems we can always find someone who is worse off than us.

I would minimize the problem. "It's not so bad. Yes, my clothes are a little tighter but you can expect that as you grow older. Everybody puts on a little weight as they age."

I was sincerely adhering to a false standard. I thought the scales in my bathroom were properly calibrated to give an accurate weight. I was wrong. They were weighing seven pounds light.

Food gives me a lot of pleasure. Anything that tastes that good can't be too bad.

In reality, I just lacked the will power to change.

But I did change. And, along with my wife's help, I have lost most of the pounds I had regained. It hasn't been easy but it has been worth all the sacrifices I made.

You might, at this point, be wondering why I am sharing all of this. Believe me, it's not because I'm on some kind of ego trip. Rather, there is meaning to all that I have said so far when you apply the same attitudes and reasoning toward sin.

Many people deal with sin the same way I dealt with getting fat.

They dismiss it by measuring themselves against others. They will say things like, "I'm really not all that bad. I'm a much better person than he is and he claims to be religious." The apostle Paul said that this was not a good practice. "For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise" (2 Cor. 10:12).

They minimize sin. They think that it is not as bad as it really is. That is part of the deceitful nature of sin (Heb. 3:13). Judas did not think that sin was as bad it was. In the end, he took his own life because he was not able to deal with the sin he had committed.

They, with sincerity of heart, adhere to false standards. They measure their righteousness by the standards and creeds of men. They may be honestly mistaken but they are still mis-

taken. It is not enough to have a zeal for righteousness. You must submit to the true righteousness of the Lord.

There is some pleasure to be derived from sin (Heb. 11:24) but it is short-lived and in the end you must pay for it. The joy derived from being and doing right is everlasting. It is far better to set your mind on things that are above (Col. 3:1-4) and change your thinking to enjoy good things, not to enjoy sin.

Many lack the will power to refrain from sinning. That power is available from Christ. You can do it with His help (Phil. 4:13). As He drew power from the word of God when He was tempted (Matt. 4:1-11), you can tap its reservoir of strength to resist temptation and overcome sin (See 1 Cor. 10:13).

Someone needs to tell those who are in sin that they need to stop sinning. They need to change their habits and desires. They need to repent. If we truly love them, we will seek to get them to do something about their sin problem.

There is no good reason for me to be fat. There is no good reason for you to be in sin. If sin is a problem to you, don't try to rationalize it, minimize it or explain it away. Rather, confess it, then repent of it and seek God's forgiveness. Your spiritual health will improve dramatically.

BUMPER STICKERS

**Don't Pray for a light load
Pray for a strong back**

**Many Who Plan to SEEK GOD
at the 11th Hour Die at 10:30**

**Evolution: When "scientists"
made monkeys of themselves**

**If God is your Co-Pilot,
SWITCH SEATS**

**Live so the Preacher Won't
Have to Lie At Your Funeral**

**Forbidden Fruit can get you in
some Bad Jams**

**I'm Glad Mary & Joseph Were
not Pro-Choice**

**They took prayer & Bible from
public schools and now they
have shootings**

**As long as there are tests,
there will be prayer in schools!**

**Next time you think you're
perfect, try walking on water.**

I know the future: Jesus wins!

**Make your eternal reservations
now--- 'smoking' or
'non-smoking'?**

**A man who can kneel to God
can stand up to anything.**

**Prevent truth decay, read the
Bible**

THE LORD'S DAY PRIVILEGE LIST

Sunday Morning Service

Announcements: J.O. Smith

Song Leader: Brandon Yates

Opening Prayer: Doug Smith

Lord's Table: Bill Milliner
Chris Runner
Mark Sharp
Robert Hood

Scripture Reading: Brian Shepherd

Sermon: Bruce Dehut

Closing Prayer: Jim Covington

Sunday Evening Service

Announcements: J.O. Smith

Song Leader: Brandon Yates

Opening Prayer: Mark Smith

Sermon: Bruce Dehut

Lord's Table: Bill Milliner

Closing Prayer: Jr. Stout