

NEWSWORTHY NOTES:

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The Carriage Drive Messenger



Volume 4

August 9, 2009

Number 31

'TIS THE SEASON

by Bob Pulliam

Summer is the season of recreation and fun. School is out, the weather is suited to outdoor activities, and everybody is having fun. There is nothing wrong with summer or fun,... but it is a season that makes many "Christians" willing to put aside their purity for a little frolic.

The subject before us is lasciviousness. The Bible proclaims Lasciviousness to be a sin that will keep one out of the kingdom of heaven (Mk 7:22; Gal 5:19; Eph 4:19; I Pt 4:3). The word "lascivious" as found in the Bible is



Radio Program: WJLS 99.5FM every Sunday at 9:00AM
Website: www.beckleychurch.com

The *Carriage Drive Messenger*
is published weekly by the
Carriage Drive church of Christ,
Beckley, WV
Editor: Bob Pulliam
Building Phone: 252-8108

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday: Bible Study 10:00am
Morning Worship 10:50am
Evening Worship 6:00pm
Wednesday: Bible Study 7:30pm

A NEW BANK IN TOWN

by Pat Jones

defined: "wanton (acts or) manners, as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females..." (Joseph Henry Thayer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*, (1978), p79). The adverb form of the word "lascivious" (lasciviously) quickly conveys the thought of doing or saying something in such a way as to create lustful feelings in others. A person who willfully creates lascivious thoughts in another person is himself being lascivious. Consider Thayer's definition of "indecent bodily movements". Body movements *within themselves* are not evil or indecent. But when they create lust in self *or someone else*, they are lascivious.

Truly there has never been a more convenient and effective way of stirring human sexual emotions than exposing the human body. Extremely tight or otherwise scanty attire is a commonly used ploy in today's world of advertising and socializing. People of the world recognize and admit that halter tops, swimsuits, shorts (revealing the thigh), strapless evening gowns (which have better been described as gownless evening straps) and other such attire are designed with sex in mind, *not fashion!* It is alright for a Christian to be fashion conscious, but *not* when fashions are designed with a philosophy of lasciviousness in mind.

There is a law that some think to be true concerning attire in our day and age. Some think that the more mercury that shows on a thermometer, the less people will be wearing. But if you watch closely, you will see that this is not true. As soon as spring appears, people begin to show up at the stores in shorts and halter tops. It's not hot yet; it just isn't cold. People don't shed clothes *in public* because it's hot! They do so because it "looks good". People of the world will admit that this is true, why not you?

Remember, the question at hand is *not*, "can you wear very little clothing without thinking an evil thought?" The question *is*, "can you expose your body without *causing* evil thoughts in someone else?" I recognize that there are some weirdos out in the world that will lust after a modestly clothed individual. You're not responsible for the depraved thinking of such if you've dressed in a modest, shamefaced way. Providing fuel for the fire, however, leaves you guilty of lasciviousness.

Are you really responsible for the stumbling of others? Jesus said, "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea." (Mt 18:6). You might say, "But they would have looked at someone else and lusted anyway!" Jesus also said, "Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!" (v7) We need to give some careful thought before we go out in public and are seen by the opposite sex. That careful thought is best done before you enter your closet!

A new bank opened in town awhile back. Before it came, it had opened offices in several states across the nation. It has become a popular place to put your money. Since it started, the bank has placed locations across town where you can make transactions - grocery stores, convenience stores, etc. The officers of this institution have certainly made it easy to do business with them. And, here lately, I hear them advertise on radio and television all the time.

This bank appears to be very large and successful, but there is one thing I don't understand about its popularity. Their policy is that when a person makes a deposit, whether it is \$5.00 or \$500.00, there is almost no chance of getting their money back. Time and again I watch people who appear to be limited in income, step up to the counter and invest their money - resources they surely need for raising children, paying bills, taking care of aged parents, etc. I hear folks talk about losing everything they deposited, yet they can't wait till their next paycheck so they can invest some more.

I asked someone about why they kept turning their money over to this questionable bank. They said every few months the bank gives away several million dollars to just one depositor. "You mean," I asked, "I deposit \$15.00 of my hard-earned money every week, with little hope of ever seeing one penny of it, and they plan to give my money to someone else?" "Yes," I was told, "but you could be the one in a million who gets the money."

It didn't seem like that was a very good saving plan. I don't think I would be a very good steward of the resources God has blessed me with if I threw away money like that. These folk have such a desire "to get rich" that they "fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches." "But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition... Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy." (I Tim 6:9 & 17)

As you probably have guessed, my story is not true. I doubt that many would invest in such a bank; however, people act just a foolishly by playing the lottery every week.