

# THE BULLETIN

## What Was God Doing?

*‘And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good....’(Gen. 50:20)*

Talk about troubles, Joseph had more of them than you could shake a stick at. They tramped into his life with such rapid cadence they were almost doing double time. Joseph was victimized by his family, friends, and foes. Folks were out to get him....and they did a pretty good job of it.

**Joseph was a victim of envy.** His brothers knew that he was his daddy’s favorite (Gen 37:1-5). Envy grew from day to day until they decided to kill him. Only the pleading of Reuben squelched the scheme. Joseph was thrown into a pit without so much as a drink of water. Meanwhile, his brothers teased and plotted against him. Finally, when a band of Midianites passed by, they decided to sell him as a slave for 20 pieces of silver. Where was God when Joseph needed Him? What was He doing?

**Joseph was a victim of lying.** Sold into the hands of Potiphar, Joseph performed his services so faithfully he was put in charge of his master’s house. But the situation was fraught with danger. Joseph was a handsome young man, and Potiphar’s wife wanted to have an affair with him. Day after day she tempted him. Joseph resisted her advances. He asked, ‘How can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?’ One day this designing woman caught Joseph by the clothes and begged, ‘Lie with me.’ Joseph fled. Later when Potiphar returned, his wife told him the Joseph tried to rape her. Poor Joseph. Where was God when he needed Him? What was He doing?

**Joseph was a victim of injustice.** He was thrust into prison where the king’s prisoners were confined. He was innocent of all charges - but he was in jail. Where was God when Joseph need Him. What was He doing?

**Joseph was a victim of ingratitude.** Inside the prison, Joseph once again rose to the top. He was placed in charge of all the prisoners. Two of the men confined to their cells had dreams - the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt. Joseph interpreted the dreams and told the butler that in three days he would be restored to his position. The butler was delighted. Joseph made only one request. “But remember me, when it is well with you, and do me the kindness, I pray you, to make mention of me to Pharaoh”. But such was not to be. “The chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him”. Where was God when Joseph needed Him? What was He doing?

You remember the ‘rest of the story.’ Joseph was made ruler of Egypt. And never during his trial did Joseph accuse God of forsaking him.

John Gipson

## The Manchester church of Christ

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Manchester NH 03109 603.623.5559  
[mht\\_church@comcast.net](mailto:mht_church@comcast.net)  
[mhtchurch.org](http://mhtchurch.org)

### Our Ministers:

Park Linscomb 540-0287  
Mark Casella (501) 388-1687

### Our Elders:

Barry Fogal 487-2387  
Gerry Millette 497-3105

### Our Deacons:

Benevolence & Outreach -  
David Skerry  
Building & Grounds - Will  
Hamel / Pete Steffensen  
Education - Doug Paul

### Worship Time:

Sun. Worship - 9:30am  
Bible Class - 11:00am  
Sun. Evening - 6:00pm  
Wed. Bible Class - 7:00pm



A church is great in the  
sight of God when it is:

Great in compassion. It’s heart  
reaches out to those who need

it’s ministry.



# Family News

"So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith." Galatians 6:10, NAS95.

**If you're a visitor to our church, welcome!** If you have questions, we welcome them; please don't hesitate to ask Park Linscomb, our minister (the really tall guy), or any other church member.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **TODAY** - TEEN SENIOR APPRECIATION LUNCH - grilling For lunch
- **JUNE 4** - Teen/Parent Meeting
- **JUNE 4** - Brown bag lunch after class then fishing at Massabesic. If you have questions, call Nick Bonzagni.
- **JUNE 5** - MNFM
- **JUNE 16-17** - NE States Men's Retreat
- **JUNE 17** - DAD'S NIGHT COOKOUT

## OTHER NEWS

**MNFM - June 5** - Come join for fellowship and an opportunity to serve.

**GANDER BROOK WORK & WORSHIP WEEK** -June 25.

### GANDER BROOK REGISTRATION

There are paper registration forms, in the foyer. Online registration forms will be available soon.

**CAMPERSHIP CANS** are in the foyer.

### GANDER BROOK CAMP SESSIONS:

- **1 - July 1 - 7**
- **2 - July 8 - 14**
- **3 - July 15 - 21**
- **4 - July 22 - 28**
- **5 - July 29 - 4**
- **6 - Aug. 5 - 11**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** - Need to come to the office prior to service time, please.

**WE NEED HELP!!!**

### Grounds Clean Up

The sign-up sheet for mowing, etc., along with a list of what needs to be done, is in the foyer. Make it a family affair and help keep our grounds beautiful. More than one family can sign-up for a week.

### Wednesday Night Supper:

This is a grand opportunity for **you** to "step up to the plate" and serve. *If you are willing to help please sign*

up at the back. This is an opportunity for fellowship and learning more about one another. **May 31**, The Bell's are making lasagna. Please sign up at the back of the auditorium so you can have some supper. Thanks!

### Lord's Supper To Shut Ins:

Volunteers needed, **now**. Please talk with Doug Paul about this.

### Pantry:

Those willing to participate on Wed. evenings between 6:30 & 7:00pm or Sunday between 8:30 & 9:30am, please drop a text or email to Dave Skerry. Several have joined Dave & Linda in this effort.

## THANK YOU



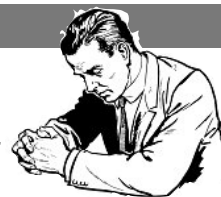
• To all who have contributed for Anni Davis. The Davis family is so overcome with gratitude and thanksgiving - that people that don't even know them have been so generous. It is making this stay much easier and God is really at work.

• To our teachers and helpers

## PRAYER

### New Prayer

**Concerns:** for the selection of additional elders, Lynn & Gerry Millette, Jim Cordaro and his family, Linda Linscomb. Additional Prayer Requests and details are on the WORSHIP INSERT.



## VBS is coming - June 26 - 28

- Invite your friends & neighbors!

- We need lots of church volunteers & help to make this possible!
- **Everybody** - please make an effort to be at VBS during the VBS days, we can use as many people as possible!

# A Word of Encouragement

“For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.”  
Hebrews 2:1, NAS95.

## FLESH AND SPIRIT, PART 1

The Christian is to walk and live by the Spirit and not according to the flesh (Galatians 5:16-18 and Romans 8:5-14). But for everyone who has decided to follow Jesus there is the discovery of how difficult discipleship is.

One of the things that makes it difficult in our modern day is the lack of clarity about what is a work of the flesh (sin) is and what is not. In our day the world has disoriented the majority by calling good evil and evil good—“*Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!*” (Isaiah 5:20). So, it is useful now and again for Christians to go to the lists of sins and righteousness in the Bible to be reminded of what really is good and bad. Moreover, it is crucial to define what these things actually are, because the world has often redefined their meanings to obscure what God has commanded. So, for the next few weeks I’d like to take a look at the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit as they are found in Galatians 5:19-23 in this space in our bulletin for your reflection and encouragement.

Paul begins with the works of the flesh and his first three have to do with primarily with sexual sin: sexual immorality, impurity, and sensuality.

**Sexual immorality** — The word in the Greek text is “porneia”. The word came from the word for prostitute, and is where we get the word “pornography”. But the word is broader in its New Testament (NT) use. It is often translated “fornication”, a word that incorporates everything from pre-marital sex (promiscuous, one-night-stands, or someone I’m really in love with), to adultery, to homosexuality, to prostitution, to pedophilia, to bestiality, to necrophilia, and any other sexual act outside the heterosexual marriage relationship. I do not list these things for the sake of being gross or for titillation. Believe it or not, the world has found ways to justify most of these sins to itself. The disciple of the Lord needs to know where the lines are.

**Impurity** — The word here is “akatharsia” and it essentially refers to whatever might defile a person. In the Old Testament it could refer to everything from eating unclean meat to touching a dead body. But since Jesus (Mark 7:14-23) and His new covenant made the Mosaic idea of ritual impurity obsolete, the meaning of impurity shifted its weight toward the deeds we do which defile us. In 1 Cor. 6:18-20 Paul points out that sexual sin defiles the temple of the Holy Spirit, our bodies. And indeed, it is most often associated in the NT with sexual sin (e.g., Rev. 17:4). But in other contexts it is also used as an opposite of “holy” (e.g., 1 Thess. 4:7), describing a mind or heart that is filled with unclean thoughts, desires, and passions. Ever met one of those sorts of people, with whom nothing is so wholesome that can’t be made into some dirty joke? Christians must take care to keep their hearts pure.

**Sensuality** — The Greek word here is “aselgeia”; English Bible translations have used “lasciviousness”, “licentiousness”, “indecentcy”, and “sensuality” to try to get across its meaning. But J.B. Lightfoot has given a more meaningful definition: “‘*aselgeia*’ indicates a love of sin so reckless and so audacious that a man has ceased to care what God or man thinks of his actions.” It is, in other words, a heart that is lost to shame; and it would seem to be the main goal of many modern sinners (Romans 1:32). “Come out of the closet!”, “Normalize!”, and “Don’t judge me!” seem to be the (im)moral themes of the day. But Christians understand the rightful and useful places of conscience, self-respect, and even shame in the battle of the flesh against the Spirit.

Paul said about these things, “*Now the deeds of the flesh are evident...*” (Gal. 5:19). A recent president was criticized for failing to call radical Islamic terrorists what they are, “radical Islamic terrorists”; because to fail to truly identify the enemy is to make yourself vulnerable to his attacks. Let’s call sin, sin. These things are works of the flesh; let us walk by the Spirit.

Park Linscomb



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

June calendars in the foyer. Grab one!

**Senior Appreciation Lunch:** Is today. Please plan on staying for lunch. There will be a variety of grilled goods! We are excited to be able to celebrate the successes with our teenagers! Congratulations to Cade on graduating and good luck in the Military!

**Youth/Parent Meeting:** Right after Bible Class on June 4th we will have a fairly quick meeting with the youth group and parents. This shouldn't take more than 15-20 minutes and concentrate on the summer schedule and expectations for students moving forward.

**MNFM:** June 5th this month! We will work on VBS stuff! Please join us from 6-8pm. There is always food involved!

**Church Game Night:** There will be a church wide game night on June 9th starting at 7pm. We will be at the building! Bring your favorite game and a snack or drink to share! We are looking forward to a good time of fellowship and friendly competition. Young, Old, or somewhere in between we hope to see you there!

**Father's Day Weekend Grill-Out!** Saturday, June 17th will be a night of food and games! Bring the whole family down to celebrate Dad! We will have outdoor games around the property and lots of burgers and hot dogs at a minimum! We hope the whole family can join us from 6-8 pm. There will be a sign up sheet soon!

**Teen Event Ideas:** Teens! If you have ideas for events you would like to see done this year please write them down on a piece of paper and turn it into Mark or Ann. This will help us plan for the year.

**VBS Set Up Days!** June 23rd from 7-9 at the building and at a TBA time for the 24th. There are lots of things to do and we will probably have more work days. If you can't make a work day but would like to help out contact myself or Kas Dumas to see what you can do! All levels of experience can help!

**VBS:** Theme is "**Standing on the Promises**". We need lots of volunteers and church help to make this possible! VBS is June 26, 27, and 28. Invite your friends and your neighbors! Please make an effort to be at VBS during the VBS days. We can use as many people as possible!



**From the Youth Minister**

This weekend we are lucky to be able to celebrate the successes of one of our own. Each year we get to take the chance to celebrate and reflect on the accomplishments that were made. There may have been bumps in the road but there are rewards for working hard to get through those bumps.

High School isn't the end. For some people the next step is college, some need time to think about what to do, others go into full time work, and others go off to Basic Training for the Military among other things. What is really important it that we continue to work hard and improve from where we are at. It is very easy to get stagnant in life and not go far. We need to work hard and keep acquiring knowledge and skills to use in every day life. You never know when you will need to fix the lawnmower, cook your wife or husband a surprise cake, or learn a new language in a foreign place. Take the chance and keep on improving your life. God enables you!  
- Mark

**Thought Provoking Question**  
*What successes have you celebrated this week?*

**Family Bible Reading and Congregational Calendar for May 28 - June 3**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28 - Duet. 27</b> 9:30am Worship 11am - Bible Class 6pm - Evening Worship  Mandy Hazelton - BD	<b>29 - Duet. 28</b>  Brian Cleavitt - BD	<b>30 - Duet. 29-30</b>  Faith Hazelton - BD	<b>31 - Duet. 31</b> 6pm - Wednesday supper 7pm - Bible Class	<b>1 - Mark 15</b>  Julia Ogunsuyi - BD Steve & Casey Jones - Anniv	<b>2 - Duet. 32-34</b>  Leigh Ellen Lively - BD	<b>3 - Jos. 1-2</b>