



“Where Are You Pitching Your Tent?”

Rev. David J. Bauer

A young Christian man who had been engaged to a young lady sought out the wise counsel of his pastor.

He confided, “Kristen and I have a serious problem. We both want to keep ourselves pure for marriage. However, when we are alone and sitting in a parked car, we find we cannot keep our hands off of each other. It is a real problem for us. What can we do?”

The old pastor answered, “The real problem is, you and Kristen need to not allow yourselves to be alone and in a parked car!”

Though such a solution seems simple and obvious, we too try to get as close



Rev. David J. Bauer
BRM Director



NOTE - CORRECTION: In the recipe for the meatloaf sauce of February's edition, it should read $\frac{1}{4}$ Teaspoon of Nutmeg, not $\frac{1}{4}$ Cup. Oops! So sorry, typo. Hope we didn't ruin your meatloaf dish!

Cinnamon Pecan Coffee Cake

Cake: 1 Cup Butter

2 Cups Extra Fine Granulated Sugar

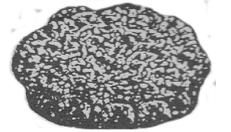
3 Eggs

2 tsp. Vanilla

2 Cups Sifted Flour

1 tsp. Baking Powder

1 Cup Sour Cream



Topping: $\frac{1}{2}$ Cup Chopped Pecans

$\frac{1}{4}$ Cup Light Brown Sugar

2 tbsp. Cinnamon

Glaze: $\frac{1}{2}$ Cup Powdered Sugar

1-2 tsp. Milk

Mix butter and sugar until barely mixed.

Add eggs one at a time. Add vanilla, flour and baking powder alternately with sour cream. Mix two minutes on med. Speed.

Grease and flour a 10 inch cake pan. Spoon in enough batter to cover bottom of pan.

Sprinkle $\frac{1}{4}$ of the topping over batter. Cover topping layer with remaining batter. Run knife through to spread filling. Sprinkle remaining topping over batter. Bake at 325 degrees for 50-55 min. Cool 15 min. Remove from pan. Cool completely. Drizzle with glaze.

-Eleanor Svoboda, "Icing on the Cake"

to sin's snare as we can risk, rather than running as far away as we can. It seems human nature to flirt with danger of a moral fall, a drunkard's path, a gambling habit, or other worldly pursuits. Probably we should avoid those dangers, as each trap of sin starts with the very first step.

We find that when Abraham and his nephew, Lot separated from one another, Lot chose to pitch his tent toward the most wicked city in the entire country – a city called Sodom – Gen. 13:12. During the same time, Abraham moved away from the site and built an altar to God – Gen. 13:18. Lot was attracted to earthly allures in the lights of Sodom, while for Abraham, communicating with God was reward enough. When one “walks in the counsel of the ungodly...” (Psalm 1:1a), how can one gain holiness? We can rationalize passing by the sin, or even just looking at it once. But pitching toward it leads to a daily downward slope.

It wasn't a long time before Lot was living within the city of Sodom -Gen. 14:12. He was found “standing in the way of sinners...” (Psalm 1:1b). In fact owning a house there, he would be taken captive by an army of five kings, who plundered inhabitants of Sodom, leading away Lot and his family as well. We can say that Lot was in the same bondage as the rest of the city's inhabitants. It would take Abraham and over 300 of his servants to rescue Lot and the kings of Sodom. Abraham won a major defeat over these oppressors, bringing back the inhabitants of Sodom. Lot lived within the wicked city, quickly finding himself in helpless bondage. If we live within the wicked world and adapt to its system, we will find ourselves in bondage just as quickly. Abraham refused to live in any city of Canaan, never built a house, nor founded a city for himself. He could have if he wanted to, for he was very wealthy. Yet he chose to live his entire life in a tent. Abraham was free from sin's bondage, believed and trusted God for a city, just not one of this world –Hebrews 11:16.

God recognized that Abraham knew Him and could be faithful to bring his offspring up in a godly way –Gen. 18:19. But Lot could finally be found sitting in the gate of Sodom, the city slated for certain destruction –Gen. 19:1. Sitting in the gate meant that Lot was now an important member of the town council – “...sitting in the seat of the scornful” (Psalm 1:1c). Lot finally earned his place in a city scheduled for destruction. The sad results of Lot living within the city of Sodom are revealed in Genesis 19:

- He had become a part of Sodom's evil government –Gen. 19:5.
- As a failing plan, when he tried to compromise with the unrighteous neighbors he appeared a hypocrite –Gen. 19:7.
- His daughters' fiancés believed he was joking –Gen. 19:14.
- He was not able to move very far from flaming Sodom –Gen. 19:20.
- There was the loss of his wife, who looked longingly back, maybe to wave goodbye to the neighbors –Gen. 19:26.
- There was a loss of material wealth – and more important, a spiritual bankruptcy –Gen. 19:28.
- There was a loss of marriage partners for his daughters, as they were forced to live in seclusion away from Sodom –Gen. 19:31.
- There was a loss of innocence in Lot and his daughters as they tragically engaged in incest, with long reaching problems –Gen. 19:30-38.

Just as Sodom was scheduled for God's destruction, so is our world system. God has instructed us to “Love not the world, nor the things in the world...And the world is passing away...but he that does the will of God will abide forever” -1 John 2:15-17. In the end God will destroy our world with fire, not unlike the destruction of Sodom. See 2 Peter 3:10-13. He tells us to “...look for a new heaven and a new earth...,” not the present. Remember Lot's downward progression: leaning toward, living in, and being a part of wicked Sodom.

Where are we pitching our tent: toward God or toward Sodom of this world?



When you knead a lot of dough...

Oil hands a little, and hard-to-knead dough, such as pumpernickel, whole wheat, and rye will be easier to handle.

To keep the bowl from slipping and sliding while mixing ingredients, place it on a folded damp towel.

Dough won't stick to hands if it is kneaded inside a large plastic bag. Neither will it stick to the bag or dry out.

Use water in which potatoes have been boiled to make yeast breads moister. The texture may be coarser, but the bread lasts longer and is a slightly larger loaf.

Press dough into a greased bowl, turn to bring it greased side up, and cover; then the dough won't form a crust while rising in the bowl.

For information on planning a legacy, Give Terry Balko a call at 404-229-1645 or email Mr. Balko for forms and details at terry@terrybalko.com ! NOT PLANNING is a plan, but it is NOT a very good plan! **Leave a legacy for your family & favourite ministries. Don't let life-time earnings you worked hard for go into probate bureaucracy!**

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Bible Related Ministries Newsletter

Rev. David J. Bauer, Director



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"The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will show them his covenant." -Psalm 25:14

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Rev. Dave Bauer
&
Dr. Jim Rodgers'
March Itinerary



March 5,12, Mt. Prospect Bible Church, Mt. Prospect, IL 19, & 26 10:30 a.m. Dr. Jim Rodgers

March 5 Devon Church, Chicago, IL 9:30 a.m. Rev. David J. Bauer

March 16 Pacific Garden Mission, Chicago, IL 12:00 noon Rev. David J. Bauer

March 26 Devon Church, Chicago, IL 9:30 a.m. Rev. David J. Bauer

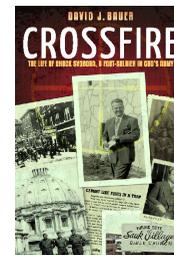
On The Lighter Side: Label Instructions:

On a Sears hairdryer - Do not use while sleeping. (That's the only time I have to work on my hair.)

On packaging for a Black & Decker iron - 'Do not iron clothes on body.' (But wouldn't this save me time?)

On a bag of Fritos - You could be a winner! No purchase necessary. Details inside. (shoplifter's special?)

On a child's Superman costume - 'Wearing of this garment does not enable you to fly.' (Blame the parents for this one.)



From Cicero Gangland, to Enemy Gunfire, to Church Organization, to Arbitration in Churches... and beyond! The Chuck Svoboda Story & Bible Church History!

----- **CROSSFIRE** -----

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BRM Field Report #Three

February was a short busy month for us all. Office work and phone calls come in cycles. But there is plenty to do to keep us all busy.

The board of a small church, looking for a pastor thought they would have not one, but two pastoral "candidates" preaching in two succeeding weeks, ignoring our instruction for them to use a questionnaire first and to only look at one candidate at a time. They were intent on hearing both of these men preach first. We thought it was kind of like a man having two fiancés at the same time, while trying to decide which one he would eventually marry. And this "candidacy" came off about that successfully too - exactly what we expected!

Another church with declining attendance thought that cutting all missionary support was the answer. This usually is the first thing on the agenda for trimming, and is not the sign of a healthy church. Church boards and treasurers forget that in each church there are people who are passionate toward missions. This can be an offence to them. And then, we have to ask: "Is this a God-honoring solution?"

A supporting church is looking for a youth pastor. This is usually a hard search, as there are not too many folks who are good with youth. And then of the ones who are good with youth, most are seeking a higher position in a church. Many times youth ministry is a stepping stone to a senior pastorate. It has been estimated that the average youth pastorate tenure is less than two years. No wonder we are losing our youth in our churches.

We continue to stay in contact with pastors and board members, engaging in financial challenges, calming church disputes, and generally just trying to get churches focused on efficiently doing God's work in God's way. Thank you for daily prayers and support of our ongoing ministry toward keeping our local church doors open in America. As prayer supporters you are with us as we go! Yes!

Sincerely,

Rev. David J. Bauer -Ephesians 4:3