Works We Support

- **John Shafer,** Foreign Evangelism. (MO, NE, & India)
- **Peter and Pooi Fun Chin,** Four Seas College of Bible & Missions, Singapore
- **"Seek The Old Paths"**, Monthly Newsletter
- **Chuck Northrop,** Bible Institute of Missouri (Instructor)
- **Kent Eakins,** Hermitage, MO
- **Chris O'Brien,** Mexico
- **Michael Pickett,** India
- **"Whom Do You Serve?",** Television Program
- **"Bible Questions With Bible Answers",** Television Program

Scripture Readings

AM: **PM:**

Upcoming Sermons

Sunday AM

May 20: Philip Steele –
May 27: Philip Steele –
June 3: Philip Steele –

Sunday PM

May 20: #662 Philip Steele –
May 27: #663 Philip Steele –
June 3: #664 Philip Steele –

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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www.webbervillechurchofchrist.org
http://sermons.webbervillechurchofchrist.org

To See Our Services Live:
http://live.webbervillechurchofchrist.org
Sundays: 11 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 3 p.m.

Services:
Sunday
Bible Class: 10 a.m.
Worship Assembly: 11 a.m.& 12:15 p.m.
Wednesday
Bible Classes: 7 p.m.

Sunday, May 20, 2018

http://webbervillechurchofchrist.org/?page_id=9
for a complete video archive of sermons

To our visitors, we want you to know that we are honored by your being with us today. We welcome any questions you may have. All materials that you see are free of charge and if there is any other information you would like, we will be happy to provide it.

How Close Can We Get To Sin?

When I was in elementary school, there was a section of the playground we had to stay in during recess. We were told many times that if we were caught outside that area, then we would have to stand by the door until recess was over. I remember many times the children would see just how close they could get to the edge without going over it. A few would even take a step or two beyond the edge, then quickly come back over.

This is how the world views sin. They look to see just how close they can get to the sin without actually sinning. Sometimes, they'll cross over the line and quickly get back, thinking they are okay. They want to know where the line of sin is, so that they can live their lives close to that line.

However, the Bible tells us that we should get as far away as possible from sin. In 2 Timothy 2:22, Paul tells Timothy to flee youthful lusts. In 1 Corinthians 6:18, Paul tells the Corinthians to flee fornication. In 1 Corinthians 10:14, Paul tells the Corinthians to flee idolatry. In 1 Timothy 6:10-11, Paul tells Timothy to flee the love of money. In each case, the word "flee" is used. It doesn't mean to try to get close to these sins. It means to get as far away as possible and quickly. The image is of a person running as fast as they can AWAY, not TOWARDS.

What most people don't realize is that if they're trying to get as close to sin as they can, they're really getting as far away from God as they can. Their focus is on trying to find a way to do what they want without sinning, when it should be on trying to find a way to do what God wants. They're like the Israelites after they left Egypt – even though they've left their old life of sin, they still look back and remember at it fondly. Their desire is to do all the things they did before. That is why they try to get close to sin without going over. Their focus is on their old lives instead of the new lives they have in Christ.

James 4:7-8 says, *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you..."*. Our focus should be on getting as close to God as we possibly can, which means getting as far from sin as possible. Satan will tempt us and try to draw us closer to sin. But, if we submit to God and draw near to Him, He will give us the strength to resist Satan and force him to flee from us. The closer we are to God, the farther away we will be from Satan and sin.

Instead of asking "How close can we get to sin?", we should be asking, "How far away can we get to sin?". In 1 Thessalonians 5:22, Paul writes, *"Abstain from all appearance of evil"*. We are to abstain or flee from everything that could cause us to sin, not try to get as close to it. If we want to live as God would have us to live, we will not try to get close to any sin. We will flee from sin, draw close to God, and get strength to be able to drive Satan and his temptations away from us. Don't seek to get close to sin. Seek to get close to God.

Philip Steele

Prayer Requests

- Lillian's Brother
- Al Haskell (Kidney)
- Michael Golwitzer (Kidney)
- Marty Stearns (Health)
- McClaine Family
- John Shafer & wife Linda
- Bobbie's Brother
- Bob Knox (Health)
- Billie Rollstin
- Tom Van Alstine
- Gordon and Beulah Wonsey
- Joel Henry

Mark Your Calendars

- May 20 – Men's Meeting, Pot-luck Luncheon