

## Daniel and Joseph

The Bible records a tremendous list of heroes. It tells of them doing wonderful works and overcoming tremendous odds by the power of God. But the word of God does not whitewash the mistakes these heroes made in their lives either.

David committed adultery and murder. Solomon slipped into idolatry. Moses lost his temper and struck a rock he was commanded to speak to. Abraham lied. Peter denied. Samuel failed as a father. Elijah became discouraged and wanted to quit. Job questioned God. The list goes on. Only Jesus did not sin.

Daniel and Joseph were not sinless, but the record of their lives does not reveal any sins. Like Ruth, they were young people in a strange land. But unlike Ruth, they did not choose to go there. Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers and ended up in Egypt. He did not hate his brothers or get even with them when he had the chance. He was all alone in slavery and then in prison. He did not have the guidance of a loving father, but he still submitted to the will of God.

Daniel was taken to Babylon in the first deportation from Jerusalem. He was without his parents and may have even seen them killed by the Babylonians. There was no Jewish rulers to make him abstain from unclean meats and yet he chose to do so. There was great incentive to abstain from prayer but he did not.

Both Daniel and Joseph succeeded in strange lands by trusting in God. Why do so many of our children fail to accept God when they are in the comfort of their own homes and with the guidance of their own parents? Think about it.

*Ron Roberts*

## Mooreville church of Christ

720 N. Indianapolis Road

Mooreville, IN 46158

**November 19, 2017**

### Assemblies

#### **Sunday:**

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. Worship

#### **Wednesday:**

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

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Moorevillecoc.com

**What will you  
tell God was  
more important  
than Bible class?**

### Announcements

The business meeting and ladies' Bible class will meet today at 3:45.

Laura Howard has been moved to the Hospice Memory Care Unit at Meadow Lakes. Her new room number is 312.

Our next "meet up" study at the library will be at 2:00 on Saturday, November 25. Acts 3 will be discussed. There is a sign up sheet on the table for those men who desire to teach a chapter. Get involved men!

If any of our ladies would like to become Bible class teachers for the children please tell Marynell.

A number of our members will be traveling for the holidays. Please pray for their safe journey and return. We should not take it for granted that they will always come back to us.

Have you called a shut-in today?

## “We Never Get To Have Any Fun!”

It is a frequent complaint among children to their parents. “**We never get to have any fun!**” Of course, it is an exaggeration. They do get to have fun on occasion. The statement is made when they are denied participation in something they want to do. The child wants to make the parents feel guilty and to reconsider their decision by use of the hyperbole. Often one parent will be swayed to the child’s side and they will both try to reverse the decision of the “hold out” parent.

Generally when a parent denies their child of something it is for the good of the child. The child does not see that an abundance of candy is bad for them. It gives them too much energy for a short time, too much weight for a long time, and tooth decay for all the time. The child does not see any harm in staying at the playground all day and missing lunch. But if the meal is avoided hunger pains and grumpiness will soon follow. Whether we are talking about bedtime, bath time, school time, or meal time; the child often has something he would rather do and wants to make the parents feel like abusers when they enforce the rules.

*Foolishness is bound in the heart of the child;* and the parent must **drive** it from him with proper correction (Prov. 22:15). Unfortunately, many parents do not do the **driving** in their homes. The kids manipulate one parent against another to get what they want. This is especially true among divorced parents. The primary custody parent becomes the only disciplinarian. The weekend parent is the irresponsible one giving the child all the fun he can stand while the consequences for the recklessness falls on the “mean” custody parent.

When a child who manipulated his parents grows up, he thinks he can manipulate the rest of the world as well. He thinks he can get around his boss, his professors, his peers, and the law. He has a life that leads to ruin because all he does in life is what he sees as fun. He denies himself nothing. He never looks down the road. He is unaware that there are consequences he must face from his choices.

Parents do their children a disservice when they let them run the home. We must be their parents before we can be their friends. We have to use our matured minds to guide them into responsible adulthood.

We must put away the world’s dictionary when rearing our children. The world defines **success** as making a great deal of money. It defines **spanking** as abuse. It defines **fun** as sinful behavior. When a young person goes away to college he is encouraged to go clubbing. He is told he should drink alcohol and smoke marijuana. He is pushed toward fornication and vandalism. To join a fraternity he must humiliate himself and then he is rewarded with a license to sin with his “brothers”. Any student who declines the invitation to sin is asked, “*don’t you want to have any fun?*” Their concept of **fun** is erroneous. The world’s dictionary must be replaced by the parents with truth.

1 Peter 4:4 says of the world, “*Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you.*” The people of the world do not understand your abstinence from their idea of **fun**. They like to drink, to party, and to follow any and every lust. “*What’s the matter with you?*”

Nothing is wrong with you. You do not want their **fun** because you understand the consequences of it. They will have hangovers. They will get into fights. They will have unwanted pregnancies followed by indiscriminate abortions. They will ruin their health, their reputation, and their future. They will get arrested, molested, and finally digested by the corruption of the world. Most importantly they will lose their immortal soul to the devil’s hell. All in the name of **fun!**?

If this is your definition of **fun** I hope *you never get to have any of it*. The truth is there are many wholesome things we can do for recreation that have no destructive consequences. Parents need to expose their children to true fun. We need to get involved with them in good clean play time. They need to see we are not adverse to having a good time. We just do not want to waste our life doing wickedness that the world has mislabeled as **fun**.

*Ron Roberts*