

PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Thus Saith the Lord

MOVING AWAY

By Jeff Sweeten

As the older couple traveled home one evening, the wife looked across the old bench seat of the '60 model Ford F-100 pickup and, in a derisive tone, said, "Do you remember when we used to sit in this truck and cuddle as we drove down the highway." Then, abruptly, she turned back to her blank stare at the darkness through the front windshield. After a few moments, her husband responded dryly, "Well, I haven't moved."

I suppose there are times when we can barely escape the introspection of a moment and wonder how things would have been had we not made some of the decisions that molded our life. It is interesting, however, how quickly we are able to justify and rationalize our motivations by riding on the backs of others' conduct and treatment. It seems it is always someone else's fault and owning our actions is always rife with qualifiers that mitigate our poor choices. Nevertheless, at some point down the line, we have to embrace the fact: we are where we are largely by our own volition.

God tried to break through the obstinence of Israel's rebellion with a final note of common sense at the end of His condemnation by stating:

"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear." Isaiah 59:1-2 It's not rocket science. God does not change (Malachi 3:6) and if your relationship with God has gone sour, it's not God's, your family's or anyone else's fault; you basically cannot blame anyone but you!

So, what is the obvious and simple solution to the relationship issue? YOU go back to God! The father of the Prodigal Son Parable did not dive into the pig pen to save the son; the son "came to himself" (Luke 15:17); he owned his predicament and went home.

If your life is miserable and empty, it is because you have departed from a potentially abundant life (John 10:10) with decisions that separated you from God. And... know this... God is not coming into your life to chase you down and drag you, kicking and screaming, back to righteousness with the Redeemer. It's your choice.

JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!

SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Class • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study • Contact the minister at 254-370-4130