



# THE SEVIERVILLE SOWER

*Sowing the seed (Luke 8:11) into the hearts of mankind.*

Sevierville Church of Christ | 208 Hicks Drive | Sevierville, TN 37862 | (865) 453-8009 | [seviervillecoc.org](http://seviervillecoc.org)

May 8, 2022

## Broken-Hearted Because of Lost Souls

*Roger Campbell*

Maybe it is a life of unbridled immorality. It might be a fellow defiantly refusing to accept the Lord's authority. Perhaps it is a person who has been swept away by false teaching. For others, it could be that indifference has taken root in their heart. Regardless of what the reason(s) might be, when a soul is lost, it is an immeasurable tragedy.

Sin stains the soul. Sin slays those who practice it. Sin separates its participants from the Lord. Sin slams shut the door to heaven. Yes, sin stains, slays, separates, and slams. Sin is one hundred per cent detrimental.

As we think about the horribleness of sin, we are reminded that our Father calls on all of His children to be tenderhearted (Eph. 4:32). Each of us has his/her own unique personality/character/makeup. Some Christians rarely show their emotions outwardly, but they have a tender, caring heart. Others among us tear up, blubber, and sob at the slightest provocation. Surely we all have this in common though: we are saddened by the fact that people live and die outside the Lord.

The God of heaven is devastated when humans refuse to submit to Him and accept His salvation. In speaking about the rebellious Jews of Ezekiel's generation, God said, *"...because I am broken with their whorish heart, which hath departed from me, and with their eyes, which go a whoring after their idols: and they shall loathe themselves for the evils which they have committed in all their abominations"* (Ezek. 6:9). Man's sin crushes God's heart.

Do you recall how Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem because its inhabitants would not accept Him as the Messiah, and by rejecting Him brought condemnation on their souls? As He approached the city in what some call His "Triumphant Entry," despite the excitement of some, His heart was broken. Luke's concise record says, *"And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it"* (Luke 19:41). A few days later, as He was drawing ever closer to the cross, the sadness in His heart sounded forth in these words: *"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her*

*chickens under her wings, and ye would not"* (Matt. 23:37)!

God's servants are broken-hearted too when people are lost. Jeremiah is labeled as "the weeping prophet" because we read about how his tears flowed due to the Jews' choice not to obey the Lord God (Jer. 9:1).

Have you ever paid attention to the following statement which the writer of the book of Psalms made to God? *"Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law"* (Psa. 119:136). It is not revealed whom "they" were or what specific transgressions they had committed, but the Psalmist's heart was devastated by their disobedience and what such did to their relationship with the Lord.

Among the early Christians, more than once we read about the apostle Paul being moved to tears because of false teachers and departures from the faith. As he was telling the shepherds of the church in Ephesus about a future departure from the truth, he reminded them that for three years he had warned them night and day with tears (Acts 20:31). While in chains in Rome, he wrote a letter to the saints in Philippi, warning them about enemies of the cross. As he brought up that unpleasant topic, he said he was weeping as he wrote (Phil. 3:18). He was broken-hearted because of sin and its affect on people's eternal destiny.

Some look at the masses of the world who are steeped in spiritual darkness and just seem to shrug their shoulders with the observation, "Well, it always has been like that; there is not much we can do about it." Perhaps others of us have become desensitized to sin. We see it and hear it so much that it kinda feels like it is no big deal. May God help us if we ever get to the point that we view sin as a small matter. And, God help us if [we] do not share His broken heart when people live and die separated from Him.

Compassion causes Christians to communicate to lost people what they need to hear, which is God's eternal, soul-saving truth. "Oh, will you not tell it, today?"

## Prayer Requests & Announcements

Please pray for Dave Barber who is suffering with neuropathy and its affects on his feet.

Tammie Fish's brother, Wayne Tart, had to be put on a ventilator for several days after complications from the flu.

Paul Rolend had to be hospitalized recently for congestive heart failure and other health issues.

Shirley Yeager recently saw an eye specialist who informed her there was no surgery he would recommend because she doesn't had sight in her right eye and any surgery on her left would be too risky.

Dawn Sutton will be meeting with her oncologist this week to discuss treatment. Also, her mother, Mary Shepherd, will need to be moved from Mountain Brook to a nursing home because she is not eating and has had several recent falls which required staff to call EMTs to get her up.

John Carr will be receiving radiation treatment for his thyroid cancer when new equipment at the Thompson Cancer Survival Center in Sevierville is ready for service.

Brian Carver, a friend of the Ruiz family, has had cardiac failure and kidney failure as a result of chemo treatments to shrink a tumor that is inoperable.

Savannah Plants, the one year old daughter of a co-worker of Terri Carr, was diagnosed with leukemia and recently started receiving chemo treatments twice a week.

Linda Shidell's friend, Arlene Sweet, was recently diagnosed with breast cancer. She will be starting chemo which will be followed by radiation treatment.

Continue to pray for the Christians in Ukraine.

### Continue to Remember...

Chris Bender, John and Helen Carr, Connie Duncan, Dennis and Marty Danilchuk, Lindsey Johnson, Shirley McKnight, Sue Moore, Lyn Morris and her brother Joe Cochran, Paul and Ellen Ostrander, Joanne Roark, Sue and Bobby Roberts, Shirley Yeager, Natasha Costello, Becky Day (Lenwood's sister), Penny Douglas (John and Helen Carr's niece), Becky Duncan (Joe and Connie's daughter-in-law), Adam Lane (son-in-law of Vickie Price), Harlie McClung (John and Helen Carr's 12 year-old great-granddaughter), Anita Ogle (Sherry Simms' friend), Casie Rains (friend of the Hansens), Paul Rolan (Mary Kate's brother), Betty & Frankie Simms (Scott Simms' parents), Wayne Tart (Tammie Fish's brother).

**Fellowship night: May 20, 6:30**

**Monthly afternoon song service: May 29**

**Ladies' class meal: June 2, 5:30**

**Fellowship lunch: June 5**

## Evangelism Materials

Extra supplies for our evangelism work are freely available in the supply room to our members. Instructional books, DVDs, and Bible study materials are available. We also have a variety of cards for our Compassion Card work.

## Weekly Assemblies

**Sunday:** Bible Study ..... 9 a.m.  
Worship ..... 10 a.m.  
Worship ..... 1 p.m.

**Wednesday:** Bible Class ..... 7 p.m.

**Thursday:** Ladies' Class ..... 6:30 p.m.

## How to Erode Our Faith

*Ralph Clevinger*

Water movement is one cause of soil erosion, which may result from flooding, rainwater runoff or melting snow. The water takes soil from one place (e.g., a riverbank or a mountain top) and deposits it somewhere else (e.g., a delta). As the soil gets moved from one place to another, some areas lose soil while other places are built up. Erosion may result in fertile soil being washed downstream. Farmers and gardeners living upstream need to replace their soil, while people downstream benefit from the erosion upstream. Water movement is not the only cause for erosion, for wind also does its part, too. In either case, soil does not do anything to cause or to prevent erosion. Soil is affected by weather and does not have any control over whether it gets moved or stays in place.

Our faith also can either grow, or it can erode away. We often read and hear about ways to grow our faith. We may even start to engage in activities that help our faith. However, we can also engage in activities that result in the erosion of our faith. How often do we think about sabotaging our faith? What kind of activities cause our faith to erode away?

**Not Paying Attention to God's Word** – The writer of Hebrews penned, "Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away... how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation..." (Hebrews 2:1, 3a NKJV). If we do not give the utmost attention to God's teaching, then, we will not be grounded in the faith, and we will drift away from our Lord.

**Not Attending Church Services** – The same penman encouraged, "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24-25). The writer warned about drifting away and encouraged the readers to assemble with one another. When we neglect the assembly, we cut ourselves off from our greatest support system – our brethren.

**Not Letting Sin Bother You** – Listen again to the writer of Hebrews, "For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries" (Hebrews 10:26-27). It is one thing to fall short and to sin, but it is another matter altogether for one to sin and it not bother him anymore. We must not commit sins without regard for what God thinks about it.

When we fail to safeguard our hearts and minds, the cares, worries and ways of the world steal away our faith. All we have to do for our faith to erode away is **nothing**. Just live as if God does not care about our manner of living and our faith will erode completely away.

### Elders

Randy Hansen, Robert Moore, Kevin Ruiz, and Jerry Sutton

### Deacon

Lenwood Johnson (finance)

### Preacher

Kevin Ruiz