

# Sometimes you have to run for your life

There was a man who worked all his life and saved as much as he could. He loved money more than anything. Just before he died, he said to his wife, "When I die, I want you to take all my money and put it in the casket with me. I want to take my money to the afterlife with me." His wife promised she would.

At his funeral, just before the undertakers closed the casket, his wife put a box in the casket. The undertakers shut the casket and rolled it away. The wife's friend said, "I know you weren't foolish enough to put all that money in there with that man." She said, "I can't lie. I promised him I would put that money in the casket with him." "You mean to tell me you put that money in the casket with him?" her friend asked. "I sure did," said the wife. "I wrote a check."

Today, we pick-up on last week's column about putting other things before God in our life. Paul admonishes in 1 Corinthians 10:14,



## steve rains

• moments from calvary

"Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry." In other words we need to run for our lives from the things that would try to replace God from being number one.

Last week we established the issue Paul is getting after in this text is, what do you value most in your life? Whatever you value most in your life is the driving force of your life. So what is in the driver's seat?

If you value your liberties more than God, then that will be the driving force in your life. What you value most will determine your decisions, not to mention your destiny. Today, let's look at four things that happen in a person's life when they allow something other than God to

be first in our life.

Matthew chapter 6 gives a good reference for this first one. When we allow something other than God to be first, we stop

serving God. You say, "Steve, you are starting early today. You are making me a little uncomfortable with that statement." People will say, "I went to church today, what more do you want?" This is so much more than church! A person can go to church every week of their life and their heart can be as cold as ice towards the things of God, and if that is the case, what have you gained?

I am pretty sure God isn't that impressed with attendance if He doesn't have your heart. When we let things in the place of God, ultimately we will stop serving God. A good question to ask ourselves, is, "Are these decisions God based or me based?"

Jesus knows human nature. After all He was right there when the universe was created. He is God very God!

Matthew 6:24 says, "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

The word service implies full time service. You can't serve money full time, and serve God full time. When we allow other things to control our life, then our service to God is stopped. Let's be honest we have all seen that in our life haven't we?

Another thing that happens is we lose the ability to discern the issues of life. We lose the ability to keep first things first and we become like the thing we worship. Psalm 135:15-16 tells us that. That is one of the reasons God wants us to worship Him, because He wants us to become like Him. To be good, perfect, holy, full of peace, righteous,

and loving.

A third reason not to allow something to replace God in your life is you forfeit peace. Sinful nature is never satisfied, it never has enough, and human tendency is to try to provide for ourselves all the things we think we need. Matthew 6:25-27 gives us great perspective on this. Just a few verses down from there Jesus says, "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Isaiah 26:3 offers this incredible exhortation, "You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because He trusts in you."

I don't have time to go into the last reason to flee, but you've seen it throughout the pages of Scripture and family histories recount it as well. When we allow something other than God to be the most important thing in our life our family suffers. Here is the reality we all know, but don't like to own up to

all the time. You and my decisions affect other people.

Let me ask you — what is in your life that is worth hanging onto and forfeiting the blessing of God. A Poet said it this way: "One by one God asked them of me. All the things I valued most. Till I was empty handed and every glittering toy was lost, and I walk earths high grieving in my poverty till I heard His voice inviting, "Lift those empty hands to me." I turned my hands to heaven till He filled them with the store of His riches till they could contain no more. At last I comprehended with my mind — stupid and dull that God could not pour His riches into hands that were already full."

Steve Rains is the pastor at the Calvary Gospel Church, Fourth and College. Go to the church's web site at [calvarygospel.net](http://calvarygospel.net) or e-mail Rains at [calvarycolumn@st-tel.net](mailto:calvarycolumn@st-tel.net).

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## The Goodland Star-News & the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce and Ambassadors welcomes Blending Moments™

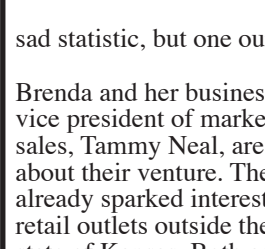
A new greeting card line for blended families launched in April, 2008. Blending Moments™ is headed by President & Creator, Brenda McCants, and Vice President, Marketing & Sales, Tammy Neal. Blending Moments™ cards send humorous yet meaningful messages to family and friends of blended families.

Brenda began developing material fourteen years ago in the hopes that she could create a greeting card that would honor the blended family. The greeting cards are illustrated with great "blending" tools and foods and each have their own matching envelope. She and her husband had first-hand experience blending four children. The illustrations are based on cooking utensils and food because step-families are "blending" and "cooking" all the time. The whisk logo depicts the ongoing blending of step-families.



cover-greeting card

Brenda speaks from her heart, "It is difficult on a family to go through divorce or death of a spouse... however, there are some situations that are out of our control and divorce happens". Statistics tell us that over 60% of all American families are labeled "blended" whether from a death of a spouse or divorce. "It is a sad statistic, but one our society has to address.



Brenda and her business partner, vice president of marketing and sales, Tammy Neal, are excited about their venture. The pair has already sparked interest from several retail outlets outside the region and state of Kansas. Both are so very grateful to The Almond Tree for supporting the launching of Blending Moments™ and are proud they started with a venue in their hometown of Goodland, Kansas to do this.

For more information and additional products soon to be available from Blending Moments™, reach Brenda and Creative Consulting/Blending Moments™ or Tammy Neal with Sales & Marketing, at PO Box 446, Goodland, KS 67735 ([brennm@st-tel.net](mailto:brennm@st-tel.net) or [tneal@st-tel.net](mailto:tneal@st-tel.net)) or call 785-890-5379. Business hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mountain Time. National Step-family Day is September 16th.

[www.blendingmoments.com](http://www.blendingmoments.com)

## Worship warms the heart

**Calvary Gospel Church**  
**Pastor:** Steve Rains, Ben Coats, youth pastor  
 Fourth & College • 890-3605  
**Sunday:** Kid's Church: 10:30 am  
 Morning Service: 10:30 am  
 Evening Service: 5:00 p.m.  
**Wednesday:** Royal Rangers Missionettes 6:30 p.m.  
 Adult mid-week service: 7:00 p.m.  
 Youth @ the Rock House: 7:00 p.m.  
 Small Group Ministries meets through out the week.  
[www.calvarygospel.net](http://www.calvarygospel.net)

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help**  
**Pastor:** Father Norbert Dlabal  
 307 W. 13th • 890-7205  
**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**  
 4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment  
**Mass Schedule:**  
 Saturday: 6 pm, Sunday: 10:30 am  
**Spanish Mass:**  
 Sunday: 12:30 pm

**Word of Life**  
**A Foursquare Church**  
 10th & Clark • 899-5250  
**Pastor:** John Coumerilh  
**Associate Pastor:** Ben Coumerilh  
**Sunday:** Worship Celebration  
 and Kids' Church: 10:30 am  
**Life Groups - call for times and locations**  
[www.wordoflifegoodland.org](http://www.wordoflifegoodland.org)

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 Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70  
**Pastor:** Perry Baird  
 890-3375  
**Sunday:** Worship Service: 9 a.m.  
 Sunday School: 10 a.m.  
 Evening Service: 6 p.m.

**Bible Baptist Church**  
**Pastor:** Clifford Middlebrooks  
 Fifth & Broadway  
 890-7368  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9 a.m.  
 Morning Service: 10 a.m.  
 Evening Service: 6:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday:** Evening Bible Study: 7 p.m.

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**  
 1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO  
 (719) 346-7984  
**Sacrament Meeting:** 10 a.m.  
**Sunday School:** 11:15 a.m.  
**Priesthood/Relief Society:** 12 a.m.

**Iglesia Del Dios Vivo**  
 La Luz Del Mundo  
 Spanish Speaking Church  
**Minister:** Esteban Ortiz B.  
 1601 Texas • 899-5275  
**Daily Prayer:** Sunday thru Saturday: 5a.m. & 6 p.m.  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 10 a.m.

**United Methodist Church**  
**Brewster:**  
**Pastor:** Dorine Chambers  
 Worship Service: 10:45 a.m. CST  
 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. CST  
**Winon:**  
**Minister:** Sheryl Johnson  
 Worship Service: 9 a.m. CST  
 Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

**First Christian Church**  
 (Disciples of Christ)  
**Pastor:** Rev. Ted Amos  
 Eighth & Arcade • 890-5233  
**Sunday:** Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.  
**Sunday School:** 9:15 a.m.  
**Activities:** Junior High & High School Youth Groups, Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups, Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship  
**Special Notice:** Handicap Accessible, Hearing Assistance Equipment and Infant and Toddler Nurseries Available

**Kanorado United Methodist Church**  
**Pastor:** Leonard Cox  
 399-2468  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9 a.m.  
 Worship Service: 10:15 a.m.

**Church of the Nazarene**  
**Pastor:** Bob Willis  
 Third & Caldwell  
 899-2080 or 899-3797  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.  
 Worship Service: 10:50 a.m.  
 Evening Service: 6 p.m.  
**Wednesday:** Evening Service: 7 p.m.

**First United Methodist Church**  
 1116 Sherman 899-3631  
**Pastor:** Rev. Kasey Crosby  
**Saturday:** Worship: 5:30 p.m.  
**Sunday:** Adult Classes: 9:15 a.m.  
 Worship: 10:30 a.m.  
**Wednesday:** Wednesday Nite Live  
 5:45 - 6:45 p.m. Simple Supper "Free will Offering  
 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Classes for all ages

**Goodland Bible Church**  
 109 Willow Road • 899-6400  
**Pastor:** Chad DeJong  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
 Morning Worship: 10:45 a.m.  
 Evening Worship: 6 p.m.  
**Wednesday:** AWANA (Winter) and prayer: 7 p.m.

**First Baptist Church**  
**Pastor:** Travis Blake  
 Bateman's Funeral Home, 211 E. 11th  
 890-3450  
**Sunday:** Sunday School for all ages:  
 9:30 a.m. (Child care provided)  
 Morning Worship: 10:30 a.m.  
**Thursday:** Bible study 9:30 a.m.  
 Wheatridge Center

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
 13th & Center  
 Church 890-2115 or Rectory 890-6969  
**Priest:** Father Hal Lycett  
**Holy Eucharist:** 10:00 a.m. Sunday  
 10:00 a.m. Thursday  
**Morning Prayer:** Daily, 8 a.m. Thursday and Sunday  
 For emergencies 890-6969

**Harvest Evangelical Free Church**  
 104 E. Hwy. 24 • 890-7918  
**Pastor:** Brian Fugleberg  
**Sunday:** Worship: 10:30 a.m.  
 Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
**Wednesday:** Junior high 6:30 p.m.  
 at Fugleberg's, 708 Washington  
 Senior high 6:30 p.m. at church

**Seventh Day Adventist Church**  
 1160 Cattletrail  
**Pastor:** Mike Larson  
**Saturday:** Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m.  
 Worship Service: 11 a.m.

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church**  
 13th & Sherman • 890-6161  
**Sunday:** Christian education/fellowship:  
 10:15 a.m.  
 Worship Service: 9 a.m.  
**Wednesday:** Confirmation: 6 p.m.

**Church of Christ**  
 401 Caldwell  
 890-6185  
**Sunday:** Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.  
 Worship Service: 10:45 a.m.  
**Wednesday:** Bible Study: 7 p.m.

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