



# BEACON

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4850 Saufley Field Road; Pensacola, FL 32526  
850-455-7595

## A Recipe for Failure

*Marvin L. Weir*

God has done everything that is possible for men to succeed in this life and enjoy an eternal home in Heaven. He “so loved” that He gave “his only begotten Son” (John 3:16). Christ proves His love for lost humanity by dying on Calvary’s cross and shedding His blood so men might have forgiveness of their sins and “redemption through his blood” (Rom. 5:8-9; Eph. 1:7). The grace of God has been freely offered, but men must obediently respond to God’s Will to be recipients of His marvelous grace (Mat. 7:21). The devil, on the other hand, “as a roaring lion” seeks to wreak havoc with people’s happiness in this world and destroy souls throughout eternity (1 Pet. 5:8; Mat. 25:41). One can resist the devil and the broad way that leads to destruction if he so chooses (Jam. 4:7; Mat. 7:13), but such a choice requires determination, repentance, sacrifice, obedience, and continued effort. It is a sad commentary on today’s society, but these five ingredients are lacking in many people. Although the devil has recipes designed to doom men’s souls, there is one recipe that is tremendously successful among both young and old. Let us make sure that we understand and avoid partaking of this favorite recipe of the devil.

**The first essential ingredient—always blame someone else for your sins!** Satan will see that it is convenient to blame others for your sins. When God queried Adam about eating of the forbidden tree, he replied, “The woman whom thou gavest

to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat” (Gen. 3:12). God next asks Eve, “What is this thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat” (3:13). God told king Saul to kill Amalek and

utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass (1 Sam. 15:3).

King Saul did not obey, although he boasted that he did (15:11, 13). When asked by Samuel about the “bleating of the sheep...and the lowing of the oxen” (15:14), Saul sought to excuse himself and blame others. He said:

They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto Jehovah thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed (15:15).

God did not accept the excuses of Adam, Eve, and Saul, and neither will He accept men’s excuses today for doing wrong and seeking to blame others. Mark this truth down well—other people are not responsible for one’s sins! Each person chooses to sin when he is tempted and then “is drawn away by his own lust, and enticed. Then the lust, when it hath conceived, beareth sin: and the sin, when it is fullgrown, bringeth forth death” (Jam. 1:14-15). One cannot evade being responsible for his actions! The Bible clearly states that “each one of us shall give account of himself to God” (Rom. 14:12). When people

begin blaming others for their sins, the devil knows it is a recipe for failure.

**The second essential ingredient—compromise with the world and those who desire to do evil!** Pilate is a classic example to avoid in this area. He knew Jesus was innocent, and he also “knew that for envy they [the Jews] had delivered him” (Mat. 27:18). However, Pilate sought to **compromise** by having an innocent man “chastised” and then released (Luke 23:16). Pilate desired to satisfy both what was right and the envious crowd, and such cannot be done. People today want to go to Heaven while holding on to the world. They participate in what they know to be **worldly** activities, dress like the world, talk like the world, and act like the world. Some want to worship (?) God, while being entertained. Others profess their love for God while making it clear that they will not worship and serve Jehovah with all their heart (cf. Mat. 22:37). One can never “give place to the devil” (Eph. 4:27) and glorify God!

**The third essential ingredient—straddle the fence and wash your hands of the situation!**

Most folks today probably believe they are not against Christ, even though they refuse to obey His will. Yet, the Lord says, “He that is not with me is against me” (Mat. 12:30). When Pilate saw that he could not appease the crowd by releasing Jesus instead of Barabbas (27:17, 21) and

that a tumult was arising, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this righteous man; see ye to it (27:24).

Pilate was destitute in moral courage and steadfast convictions. The same thing afflicts so many people today. One cannot exhibit moral courage while refusing to participate in the battle. A Christian **must** put on the Christian armor (Eph. 6:11-18) and go to war against the devil and the world. To know to do good and to do otherwise is to sin (Jam. 4:17). **Do not partake of the devil’s recipe for failure!**

*Blossom, TX*

## The Moon: A Strong Argument for Creation

*Heath Rogers*

Have you ever wondered where the Moon came from? Those of us who believe in the Bible know the answer to this question. God created the moon on the fourth day (Gen. 1:14–19). However, atheists must come up with other explanations that do not include God.

In an article titled “Earth’s Moon is Rare Odd-ball” (SPACE.com, Nov. 20, 2007), Dave Mosher points out the fact that our moon is unique when compared to the moons of other planets. In his article, he explains how some scientists believe our moon came into existence. Shortly after the sun formed about 4.5 billion years ago, scientists think a vagrant planet as big as Mars smashed into an infant Earth and ripped off a chunk of our home’s smoldering mantle. The rocky, dusty left-

overs fell into orbit around our wounded planet, eventually coalescing into the moon we see today.

Mosher continues, “The scenario is unique among other moons in the solar system, which formed side-by-side with their planet or were captured by its gravity.”

Indeed, our moon is an oddity. Of the four inner planets (those planets closest to the Sun), only Earth and Mars have moons. The outer planets have numerous moons. The two moons orbiting Mars (believed to be asteroids that were captured by the planet’s gravitational pull) are very small compared to the size of our moon. If one were to examine the solar system, our moon certainly would “stick out” like a sore thumb.

However, science has proven that this planetary oddity plays a vitally important role in sup-

porting life upon this planet. The moon is primarily responsible for our tides. The tides generate a large-scale circulation that keeps the oceans from becoming stagnant.

The tides also allow nutrients from the continents to be flushed out into the oceans, keeping them nutrient-rich and able to support life. Any scientist will tell you that life is dependent upon water. The moon has a positive impact upon the largest bodies of water on our planet. Also, in 1993, it was discovered that the moon is responsible for stabilizing the tilt of the Earth's axis. This tilt of 23.5 degrees is what gives us our seasons. In the summer months, the northern hemisphere is pointed toward the sun. Six months later, it is pointed away from the sun. Because of the stability of this tilt, we can expect the seasons to change throughout the year. Farmers know when to plant and can expect a growing season and a harvest.

If this tilt were not fixed, we would have prolonged periods of extreme weather. No one would be able to grow food. In fact, with extreme tilts in the earth's axis, large areas of the planet would be in total darkness for months, or even years, at a time. Imagine the effect of the North Pole temporarily relocating to someplace like Chicago!

The moon gives our planet the stability that it needs to sustain life. What the scientific community calls "unique," the Bible-believing Christian sees as evidence for a Creator. The evolutionist explains our moon's formation as the result of a planetary collision, an accident, a mistake. I suggest that, instead, God gave our unique planet exactly what it needed for it to sustain life. Not only are we "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psa. 139:14), but so is our planet, along with its moon.

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## What Does It Mean to Become a Christian?

When one obeys the Gospel we become a Christian. To be a Christian means that our past sins have all been forgiven and we are now in Christ. If you make a success of your Christian life, Heaven will be your home someday. When one has obeyed the Gospel, he must then continue "stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42). We must not walk according to our former manner of life, because "if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Cor. 5:17). Our desires and affections are different from what we had before we became a Christian:

To win and hold men, the church must lift high the standard of what it means to be a Christian.

*Author Unknown*

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth (Col. 3:1-2). Thus, we come to be what God would have us to be.

Peter gives very specific instruction as to how a Christian may gain that final entrance into the heavenly kingdom:

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.... For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 1:5-11).

*Author Unknown*

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Michael Hatcher's YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/user/52MichaelH>

God had one son on earth without sin,  
but never one without suffering.

*Augustine*

## Sick

### Remember in your prayers:

Bill & Peggy Crowe

Nancy Travis

Linda Worley

Carla Burleson

Bill & Pam Busch

Linda Parks

Phyllis Brantley

## Please Remember

August 30

Fifth Sunday Dinner after the morning  
service. Singing and a devotional service  
at 1:00 pm.

### Defender and Beacon

### Available Via Email

Send your email address to:

[bellviewcoc@gmail.com](mailto:bellviewcoc@gmail.com)

## Weekly Services

### Sunday

Bible Classes for all ages — 9:00 a.m.

Morning Worship Service — 10:00 a.m.

Afternoon Worship Service — 1:00 p.m.

### Wednesday

Bible Classes for all ages — 7:00 p.m.

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Pensacola, FL 32526

850-455-7595

Michael Hatcher, Editor

[bellviewcoc@gmail.com](mailto:bellviewcoc@gmail.com)



## Bellview Church of Christ

**Bishops:** Paul Brantley  
Michael Hatcher

**Minister:** Bill Busch  
Tim Cozad