

## A HAIRY REMINDER

Roger Shouse

A person between the ages of 20—30 has about 615 hair follicles per square centimeter. A person 50 years of age has around 485 hair follicles per square centimeter. Typically, most people have somewhere between 100,000—150,000 hairs on their head. By the way, the average hair loss for an individual is 50—100 hairs per day. As a result, there is no way you can tell accurately how many hairs you have (in fact, unless you are going bald, most of us don't really care). But God knows.

Jesus said: "Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Therefore do not fear; you are of more value than many sparrows" (Matt. 10:29-31). This passage reveals three interesting truths.

First, God knows more about us than we know about us. That is a humbling thought. When we sometimes feel like no one understands us or grasps our situation, we forget that God does. God knows your personality. God knows your strengths. God knows what motivates you. God knows when you stumble. God knows the real you. Therefore, when God declares something worthwhile, He knows what He is talking about. When God warns about danger, He knows what He is talking about. When God tells us that we should do something, we need to do it, because He knows us better than we know ourselves.

God is a God of detail. How insignificant are hairs and sparrows to us. Yet God is aware of them. He is a God of details. The motives, attitudes, and heart behind our actions are as important to Him as the actions themselves. It does little good to give, if you have left out the detail of being a cheerful. Singing fails if we neglect thankfulness in our heart. Let us be a people of details, as God is.

God cares about you. This is why Jesus referred to sparrows and hair. Christ was not sent to save the whales, the environment, or the endangered species, but mankind. Stress and worry often make us wonder if God cares. These two simple illustrations remind us that He does. -



## SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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"They...searched the scriptures daily..."—Acts 17:11

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## LEARNING FROM PETER'S MISTAKES

Michael Pickford

Peter had many virtues, yet many faults. Let's learn from his mistakes ...

**He Rebuked Christ.** When Jesus predicted His crucifixion, Peter rebuked Him (Mt 16:22). He focused on the temporary rather than the eternal (vs 23). Peter had more interest in Jesus living to be an old man rather than dying for the sins of the world. He needed to remember to fear God, Who can destroy both body and soul in hell rather than fearing men who could only destroy the body (Mt 10:28).

**He Slept.** Peter slept when he should have been watching and praying (Mark 14:37). This made him susceptible to temptation (vs. 38). It conditioned him to be weak which led to him forsaking (Mt 26:31) and denying the Lord shortly thereafter. Too often we neglect prayer in order to sleep or do other things. This sets us up for weakness during times of temptation. We should pray often to be delivered from the evil one (Matt. 6:13). The devil doesn't sleep, so we much always be watchful in prayer (1 Pt. 5:8).

**He Trusted A Sword.** Jesus condoned the carrying of a sword for personal protection (Lk 22:36), but a weapon is not to be misused. Peter misused his when he attacked those who came for Jesus (Mt 26:52-54). Did Peter want to prevent Jesus from fulfilling His purpose in dying for the sins of the world? Peter still had a worldly view of things rather than focusing on the eternal (Col 3:1).

**He Followed Afar Off.** After Jesus was carried away by His accusers, Peter followed along afar off, slinking in the shadows, fearing being captured himself. This was cowardice. The cowardly will have their place in torments (Rev 21:8). Do we cower away from letting the world know we are followers of Christ for fear of ridicule and mockery? We need courage to share the Gospel with others.

**He Cursed & Swore.** He did this in his denial of the Lord, but the wrongful use of the tongue will led to condemnation (Mt 12:36-37). Through the Lord's strength, we need to put away blasphemy, filthy language, and lying (Col 3:8-9).

**He Denied Christ.** Mt. 26:70. Again, he feared being crucified himself. In the face of ridicule, mockery, and persecution, we must confess Christ if we want Him to recognize and reward us on the last day (Mt 5:10-12; Mt 10:32-33).

**He Played The Hypocrite.** Gal. 2:11-14. Peter feared the Judaizers, so he neglected association with Gentile converts. He feared men, which leads to denying the Lord and our faith (Jn 12:42-43), and to perverting the Gospel (Ga 1:6-10). 🔍

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## COME WORSHIP WITH US!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00  
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00  
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00  
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES....7:00



- [www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
- Men's Business Meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday evenings following services.

# A BLANK PIECE OF PAPER

Mike Thomas

The story is told of an old man who kept a blank piece of paper on a stand near his front door for people to sign. He placed it there because he wanted to send a note of appreciation for everyone who visited him in his confinement. He knew how important it was to feel appreciated as a servant, having been one most of his life. Visiting the sick. Giving rides to those in need. Listening to a grieving friend. He had spent many hours and days doing what others would be doing for him, so he made the paper available to make sure no one was overlooked. But, unfortunately, no one came by.

When the man died, people came out in numbers to pay their respect to his family. They sent flowers, made meals and did all they could to show they cared. But amidst all the generosity was the blank piece of paper. The flowers smelled great and the people's presence made a difference, but the one thing the man needed most from his friends and brethren they failed to provide: an opportunity for him to write them a card of appreciation for coming to visit.

The Lord tells us to remember the orphans and widows in their distress (Jas. 1:27) and to care for brethren in need (Matt. 25:35-39). Jesus says we are to look at people in these conditions as if He Himself were the one in need. Would we let Jesus go unnoticed if He lay sick in the hospital, or was at home as a lonely widow, or in need as a falsely-imprisoned Christian, or in distress while trying to provide for his family? Would we be too busy for Him? Yet Jesus says of those who serve others, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me" (v. 40).

Do the widows, elderly and indigent in your life know you care? How about the Christians you see working hard and sacrificing for others? Do they know you appreciate their dedication to God? The Lord wants us to remember one another in encouragement (Phil. 2:29-30). Give your friends a call. Send them a note. Go by to visit. Tell your family you love them. Do all that you can to lift a soul, bear a burden, and show you care. Strive with all your might to leave no blank papers in the lives of those who know you. -

**Know That The Lord**

**He Is God!**

It is He who has made us,  
and not we ourselves.

-Psalm 100:3

## SERMON NOTES

Search the scriptures daily to see if these things are so.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11**

### DUTY LIST...

#### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Glen Isbell  
Reading: Psalm 13:1-6
- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Kenny Todd  
Serve.....John Nelson  
Serve.....Lynn Buttrey
- Closing Prayer.....Sam Miller

#### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table.....Michael Pickford

#### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Invitation.....Kenny Todd

**Thank You For Serving!**

### GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16;  
Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

**Obey Today!**

*Home Bible Studies  
Available Upon Request!*