



Norwood Christian Grapevine

I am the vine; You are the branches... John 15:5

THE WART

BY DAVIS WATSON

Mom and Dad came up with a plan to build a deck on the back of the house. They hired a contractor; he came over, took measurements, worked up plans and cost estimates. There was just one problem. It was The Wart. It stopped the deck!

Just like life. We plan, we begin to work the plan and The Wart of our lives stops everything.

The Wart as my dad liked to call it was the ugly concrete stoop which was attached to the house. There was nothing wrong with this stoop. It was functional, it supported our weight when we stepped out the back door; it was perfectly formed with nice square edges allowing us to step down to the ground. It was constructed to meet the building code. The only problem with this stoop was that it was in the way of our plan to build a deck. As long as The Wart was there, we could not build the deck.

My Dad had a plan and that plan involved his two teenage sons and a sledgehammer. One morning he came to us and said, "Take this hammer and break down The Wart so we can build the deck." He gave us the hammer and expected us to beat

the stoop into submission by nightfall.

I love my dad. This was going to be the best, most fun job ever! Nothing is more fun than to beat on something until it is destroyed. It was really fun for the first fifteen minutes until we found out that The Wart had other plans. Its plan was to resist our hammer blows! As hard as we could beat it, the stoop returned our hammer blows undamaged. The only place we could inflict any damage to the stoop was at its edges and then only little chips would fall off.

Just like life. We try to beat The Wart of our lives into submission, but only little chips of life fall off.

After the first hour, this fun job became work and we wanted to quit.

Just like life. Life is fun when it goes our way but when The Wart makes life difficult we want to quit.



My brother and I looked at what we had done and said, "We cannot continue beating on this stoop; we have a life to live!" But my mother said, "If you want a life to live tomorrow, you better get the job done today!"

Just like life. We have The Wart but we do not want to deal with it.

With our mother's words of "encouragement", we returned to the stoop with another plan. Our original goal was to build a deck, not to destroy the stoop! We thought, "Is it possible for us to move the stoop?" No, in our own strength it was too heavy; yes, only with God's help.

Just like life. If we try to move The Wart doing it our own way we fail. If we allow God to work through us we succeed.

My brother and I looked at the stoop and we looked at the nice sandy soil it was sitting on. We said, "Can we dig beneath the stoop and let it fall into the hole?" We could then work with God's law of gravity to move the stoop! Now, the fun began again! Digging in the sand was a breeze. We dug a hole bigger than the stoop but it wouldn't move.

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Just like life. Even when we are doing it God's way, we may experience difficulties.

We looked at our stoop. It was fully suspended in midair and all it had to do was fall into the hole! We thought, "Maybe it needs a little help?" So we jumped up and down on it. We got it to move a little; but it still did not fall.

Just like life. We jump up and down on The Wart but it still doesn't work the way we want it too.

We again looked at our stoop and the progress we made. We were so close. What was keeping us from our goal? It was God protecting us from harm. God must have said, "You stupid boys! Don't you know gravity kills. Here you have an entire concrete stoop weighing a ton suspended in midair and you are jumping up and down on it!"

Just like life. God sometimes protects us from our stupidity.

We knew about gravity and we asked ourselves, "How can a one ton stoop be suspended in midair? What is holding it up?" It was being supported by the building code. The building code requires that a concrete stoop be attached to the dwelling by several pieces of rebar. In our jumping up and down on the stoop, we exposed just enough of this rebar to see that it was embedded in the

concrete foundation keeping it from falling into the hole.

Just like life. God's code helps to keep us from harming ourselves and the ones we love.

We got out the hacksaw and began to cut the rebar. We cut the first one and the stoop slowly began to drop. We cut the second piece and it dropped further and by the time we got to the third piece the rebar stretched just enough for us to cut it without harming God's two stupid kids. The stoop filled the hole completely, we covered it up with sand and that is where The Wart resides today. May it rest in peace!

Just like life. We all have our Warts. Sometimes we have to live with them; sometimes we can remove them; sometimes we can overlook them. But if we do any of these in our own strength, we could very well hurt ourselves or those we love. Only when we do it with God's strength, His guidance, and His leading can we hope to deal with The Wart in our lives so that we can rest in His peace.

NEWSLETTER HELP!!



Please contact Chris Lawrence at 327-4380 if you are interested in helping with layout of the monthly church newsletter.

SUNDAY SERVANTS

May 1

Communion Prep: Kathy R.
Greeters: **open**
Comm. Servers: Shera N. & Kathy S.
Comm. Meditation: Jerry P.
Sound Booth: Zack C.

May 8

Communion Prep: Ted & Fay E.
Greeters: Dick & Kathy N.
Comm. Servers: Nick C. & Dick N.
Comm. Meditation: Davis W.
Sound Booth: Heather L.

May 15

Communion Prep: Betty G.
Greeters: Howard & Betty G.
Comm. Servers: Howard & Betty G.
Comm. Meditation: Ernie C.
Sound Booth: Thomas L.

May 22

Communion Prep: Kathy R.
Greeters: Kate D.
Comm. Servers: Davis & Mary W.
Comm. Meditation: Jerry P.
Sound Booth: Zack C.

May 29

Communion Prep: **open**
Greeters: **open**
Comm. Servers: Dick & Kathy N.
Comm. Meditation: Ernie C.
Sound Booth: Thomas L.

May 2011



From the end of the earth I will cry to You, when my heart is overwhelmed; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For You have been a shelter for me, a strong tower from the enemy. ~ Psalm 61:2-3 (NKJV)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM	2 Board Meeting 7PM	3	4	5 Praise Team 7:30PM National Day of Prayer	6 <i>Dick & Kathy Nelson—Annv.</i>	7
8 Breakfast 9AM Diggles Concert 10AM Worship 11AM Mother's Day	9	10	11	12 Praise Team 7:30PM	13	14
15 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM <i>Jim Newport</i>	16	17	18 <i>Ken Lawrence</i>	19 Praise Team 7:30PM	20	21
22 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM	23	24	25	26 Praise Team 7:30PM <i>Harold & Ruth Bolin—Annv.</i>	27	28
29 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM	30 <i>Dick Nelson</i> Memorial Day	31 <i>Howard Greager</i> <i>Tom & Terri Gabarron— Annv.</i>				



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11 AM ~ Worship Service

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Mother's Day Breakfast and Concert

Mark your calendars for a very special Mother's Day, Sunday May 8th. We will begin with a breakfast at 9:00 a.m. where the men will cook breakfast for the ladies. At 10:00 a.m. the Diggles Family will present a concert. The Diggles were with us last year on Father's Day and are returning to help us celebrate Mother's Day this year. Worship service will be at 11:00 a.m.

