

St. Andrew's (JKP) Monthly Newsletter  
*April, 2012*

Edification: You're walking across the kitchen floor and you step square into a puddle of... something. What's your initial reaction? *"Who spilled....something on the floor?"* You step out of the shower dripping wet and reach for an empty towel rack to find it - well, empty. What's your first thought? *"Who used the last towel?"* You find sweaty, room temperature baloney on the counter attracting flies. What's your first question? *"Can I still eat fly covered, sweaty baloney..."* or *"who left the baloney out to spoil?"* When we come across something amiss, when we find things not as we expected we often look to point the long finger of blame. It seems to be human nature. It seems natural, almost necessary to do so. Often it can be rather routine frustrations such as an ignored spill or sweaty baloney. Sometimes though that which doesn't go as planned can be very painful and the finger of blame can be quite piercing and grave. Such as this; when kids that have been raised in a Christian home their entire lives either abandon the faith altogether or display studied apathy towards the faith of their parents who's to blame? Is it simply the unregenerate nature of the child? Is it a failure at some, or many levels of the parent? Is it the company they keep? Is it the culture? Is it the hypocrisy they saw in the church or in us? We've probably all heard and maybe believed at least one if not more of these statements of blame. But we typically come away unsatisfied with these answers. This isn't like stepping onto a wet kitchen floor or reaching for an empty towel rack. This is the soul of our child. This involves his or her eternal destiny. This is no baloney. So who's to blame?

*"I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"- Psalm 122:1*

Encourage: The O.T. is well-populated with unfaithful children from believing homes. One of the saddest cases is that of the prophet Eli. His sons, Hophni and Phinehas were busy in the family vocation of the priesthood. Here's how 1Samuel 2:12 describes these men; *"Now the sons of Eli were corrupt; they did not know the LORD."* Eli did rebuke them, but not to the full extent of the law. God however brought these 2 corrupt sons to a sudden violent end. Eli himself didn't escape the judicious hand of God in death. So it must be the fault of overly indulgent, sentimental parents (fathers) that *"corrupt"* children do not *"know the Lord"*. Certainly a man with greater fortitude and resolve would do better. A man like Eli's successor, Samuel; He'd raise-up godly young men. Samuel's sons were ordained judges in Beersheba. Here's what 1Samuel 8:3 says regarding the sons of Samuel; *"his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes and perverted justice"*. There goes that theory. Now who's to blame? The old adage that *"there's plenty of blame to go around"* simply doesn't soothe this excruciating reality of covenant children becoming covenant breakers. What answer could? There's only one, and while it may not make us feel better it will aid us in *possessing our souls in patience*. In Lamentations 2:19 Jeremiah directs; *"lift your hands toward [the Lord] for the life of your young children"*. It isn't about blame. It's about the sovereignty of God. He will have mercy upon those whom He will. And as for those upon whom He won't - what can be said? Will a man blame God?