

GOING ROGUE



Joe's Rocking
Chair Greetings

I just finished reading Sarah Palin's book "Going Rogue." *Other than the Bible*, this book by far has been the best book I have ever read. The way the mainstream media treated her and all of the frivolous law suits filed to derail her from performing her day to day duties as Alaska's Governor, she appears to hold no bad blood. I would hope that I could have just half of her attitude.

For many months now, I have been looking for a connection to write about something that, shall we say, is on the hearts of many American Christians, that being the attitude of so many that are living in a relationship "living together" without the privilege of marriage. In our society today it seems difficult for many to recognize their actions as sin. Sins, like not telling the truth, taking God's name in vain, not trusting God to help us through difficulties, are just a few.

In our neighborhood, there at least 4 out of 15 homes, where people are living together without a care in the world of what the Lord tells us in the sixth commandment and these are considered conservative. Can you imagine what is happening all over our United States? Like someone once said, "I realize that I'm no choir boy." That statement does not excuse us to flaunt what God expects of us in His face.

A friend of mine, Norbert, taught Sunday school for 44 years and I always enjoy hearing some of the ways in which he presents a point.

When it's time for the Easter story and teaching the importance of the fact that Christ rose from the dead, thus giving us the assurance that we will also raise too, he would write two letters on the chalkboard. These two letters tell us that the tomb was empty.

In order to make a point about stealing, he would take a paper clip out of the teacher's desk, place it in his pocket. He said, "I'm going to take this home with me." He would then ask the children if they thought his actions were stealing. It took a few minutes for the idea to sink in, but the group would eventually agree, taking a paper clip is stealing and it is a sin, even an insignificant item as a paper clip.

The values that were instilled in us as children need an awakening. We can't realize strongly enough that God will not be mocked and His blessings, which we so freely enjoy, could all of sudden disappear.

In a recent sermon my pastor, through God's Word, encouraged me to realize that I'm no better than anyone else. As I look in the mirror the man that looks back at me is a sinner and needs God's forgiveness daily.

What's the answer? Do we just continue to try to satisfy our lusts, wants and living a loose life? Is there any hope for change? We all need to get to our knees and confess that we are sinners and look to Him for forgiveness and the warmth that only He can give while holding us.

Shall we say that to support this answer and to see our lives "grow in grace;" we need to also be in His Word regularly. Those that are, have found a book so rich with promises, hope and blessings.