

## Paper Bait — Paper Mouse

By Bob West

You have probably heard the story of the fellow who was out of cheese, so he baited the mouse trap with a *picture* of a piece of cheese. The next morning the trap was sprung, having captured a *picture* of a mouse!

This reminds me of the efforts made by religious teachers (including some of my brethren), who try to attract souls to Christ without the real gospel. Instead, they substitute recreation, entertainment, and other social events in the hope of drawing large numbers who can then be "trapped" into becoming Christians. At least two things are wrong with this practice.

First of all, reaching the lost is not some kind of trapping expedition where the quarry is the unsuspecting sinner, who must be "baited" or "suckered" into accepting the Gospel.. While it is true that Jesus wants His disciples to be "fishers of men" (**Matthew 4:19**), most of the fishing done in that area had to do with nets, not fancy and deceptive baits. Jesus said, "Go and preach." He did not authorize us to sneak up on or entrap sinners.

In the second place, the real, unadulterated gospel is the only means God has given us to attract sinners. It alone is the "power of God unto salvation" (**Romans 1:16**). The knowledge of God is, according to our Master, sufficient to draw sinners to Christ (**John 6:44-45**). The use of some phony, worldly "bait" will, like the story above, result in snaring phony, worldly converts. We still reap what we sow. Sowing carnality is not likely to bring forth spirituality.

If we are faithful and diligent in forthrightly proclaiming the gospel to the lost, those with good and honest hearts will receive the word with gladness and be saved. Those who reject it cannot be saved by worldly means. This is God's original, simple, and effective plan for reaching mankind. Who are we to suggest that we can improve upon the Divine plan by using the world's methods. We need to be satisfied with God's provisions which are more than adequate to accomplish His purposes.

### Classes this Week

Kid's Class at the Building at 5:15 All Are Invited	Ladies' Class at the Building on Monday Night at 7:00	Ladies' Class at Manna Jones house at 10 AM	Thursday Night Class at Jillian Petty's on Acts at 7 PM	1st—8th Grade Class at Aurie Adams Friday Night 6-8
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### Sick

Fran Snyder (Mother of Carla Humphrey)	Pam Dial (Laura Weldon's Mother)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (William Herd's Sisters)	Matt Tenold (Toni Herd's Friend)
Adriana Mininno (Haley Chittam's Cousin)	Dave and Betty Bradford
Ed Mort (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	"Grandmama" Odessa Wyatt (Dyle's grandmother)
Blake Whatley (Hunt's neighbor)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)
Marty and Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Carrie Chavers (Friend of Sharon Bailey)
Wes Bowen	Chick Wade
John Freeman (Chip Freeman's Father)	Lori Holloway

### News and Notes

- ☒ Let's remember our expectant mothers: Laura Weldon, Anna Miller and Nicole Pender.
- ☒ Susan Sullivan had successful knee surgery and is recovering.
- ☒ Amy Godwin's father, Jack Carter, died last week. Please remember the family in your prayers.
- ☒ Thanks for all who worked so hard to clean up the building and yard.
- ☒ If you wish to donate to the flower fund please see Patsy Ogle.
- ☒ Several items that have been left in the building have been taken to our old resource room.
- ☒ Audio CDs of Today's Sermon will be immediately available.

# The Auburn Beacon

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (**Matthew 5:16**)

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### Thought to Ponder

He who does not praise God while here on earth shall in eternity be dumb.

**Do You Have a Bible Question?**  
Call (334) 734-2133 or E-mail:  
[LarryRouse@aubeacon.com](mailto:LarryRouse@aubeacon.com)



### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday

Bible Class ..... 9:30 AM  
Worship ..... 10:20 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Classes ..... 7:00 PM

**Ask about our home Bible Study Groups!**

**Larry Rouse**  
Evangelist and Editor

### Delighting in God

By Gary Henry

The Grand Canyon of the Colorado River. Never have I stood before its awesome vastness and its exquisite beauty without being moved spontaneously to say, however inadequately, how glorious it is. And I have never failed to hear others burst forth in words of wonder. Indeed, one would pity the person who either failed to delight in such grandeur or was incapable of sharing his delight.

C. S. Lewis has reminded us, in his inimitable way, that enjoyment not only overflows into praise, but that the praise is an important part of the enjoyment. Delight is incomplete until expressed, as any young lover knows. And the worthier the object, the more intense is the desire to enjoy and praise. Since God is the most worthy of all praiseworthy objects in the universe, we have here a clue to the joy of worship.

It may well be true that the chief end of man is "to glorify God and

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enjoy Him forever." If so, God's command to glorify Him is actually an invitation to enjoy Him, since the glorifying is part of the joy. If the enjoyment of the Grand Canyon is somehow not complete unless we praise it, how much more is that true of Him who could make the Grand Canyon! Thomas Carlyle has said that "wonder is the basis of worship." He was right. And one would be pitiable indeed who either was not filled with wonder before God or did not experience joy in the expressing of that wonder through worship.

*(Continued on page 2)*

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(Continued from page 1)

How exactly would we define "worship?" It is the expression of loving reverence and honor, the combination of adoration and veneration. As we have already hinted, it has very much to do with God's *worth*. Interestingly enough, our English word "worship" descends from the Old English word "weorthscipe" which literally meant "worth + ship." Practically speaking, worship is the expression of tribute to God's "worth" – His praiseworthy nature, attributes and works. The worshipper *praises* God, *glorifies* God, *honors* God.

The Bible is chock-full of worship to God. Consider just two examples. In Revelation 5:13, the innumerable hosts in heaven and earth are pictured worshipping God in these words: "*Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!*" And in **1 Timothy 1:17**, there is one of Paul's frequent doxologies (the Greek word *doxa* means "glory"): "*Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*" In all such passages, the common denominator is the praise of God..

A good many of the songs in our hymnbooks are songs of worship, and they are intended to be joyous songs in which we give expression to our delight in God. (Incidentally, a "hymn" is a song of praise, in distinction to other types of spiritual songs.) "Worthy Art Thou" is a good example of a human effort to "give to the Lord the glory due His name" (**Psalm 96:8**). The joy of singing such songs is the joy of the creature in the act of appreciating and expressing the worthiness and glory of his Creator. It is the most "natural" of the joys that can

be experienced by a human being.

Now, it is undeniably true that the joy of worship must be kept within the bounds of God's own pleasure. He has taught us that His thoughts are higher than ours (**Isaiah 55:8-9**) and we ought not to think *any* expression of joyful reverence *must* be honoring to Him. Jesus was emphatic when He taught that those who *truly* worship do so "in spirit and in truth" (**John 4:23-24**). When, however, a Christian does worship like that, he knows the joy that naturally flows from praising the Most Praiseworthy.

Now here is our point: this uplifting joy of worship is and ought to be a *personal* thing, a *daily* experience. The joy that Christians have together when they assemble as a congregation for worship is a very special treasure. (To minimize or neglect it may mean being lost.) But the child of God does not have to wait until he goes "to church" to experience the joy of worship. He can enjoy that every day he lives. He can joyously sing and pray, as did Paul and Silas even in prison in **Acts 16:25**. He can joyously meditate upon the praises of God and His word, as did the "blessed" man in **Psalm 1:2**.

When he makes personal worship a way of life, the Christian finds joy to be just one of several benefits: closer fellowship with God, spiritual strength and maturity, and more meaningful congregational worship. As he sets aside specific daily times of personal devotion and praise, and as he allows himself spontaneously to praise God throughout the day, the Christian discovers the joyous goodness of fellowship with God. And when he does, he is getting but a foretaste of heaven, where the joy of worship will be complete and unending!



## Put Up Thy Fist, Brother

By Cled Wallace

A brother of ours in the flesh and in the Lord has written a personal letter to the man who heaped personal abuse on the editor of the Bible Banner in an article which exceeds in bitterness anything that has come under my observation. The guilty wretch, of course, published the letter, assumed a grotesque air of injured innocence and piously proclaimed to his readers that he was being persecuted just like his Lord was. Now, as to the letter, I have some observations of my own to make about it, inasmuch as it has been published, even if it does involve

a rebuke to a beloved brother. The letter was of that kind which we all feel like writing at times, but should never mail. He called the misguided and soured author of the article "a liar" and expressed an unmistakable and fervent desire to twist his nose and otherwise mess up his countenance. Now, I cannot agree to that. The feeling, under the circumstances, is no doubt a natural one, especially in a magnificent giant who has had army training, but remember, son, that we are not in that sort of a fight. We have become partakers of the divine nature and fists and clubs and abusive language are definitely **out**. If any literal blood is shed in this conflict it will be **ours**, not **theirs**. A lot of our friends are like to feel some applause rising within them for the personal sentiments expressed by this brother of ours and what I am saying is for their benefit as well as his.

In the first place, you should not have called him a liar. It was bad strategy and so unnecessary. I am not prepared to attack the accuracy of your remarks along that particular line, but then, why tell him? He knows the facts as well as you do and your telling him what he already knew added nothing constructive to the controversy. A man of his type of thinking would not even resent the insult, but be filled with glee over the fact that you were mad enough to "match adjectives" with him. It gives him a feeling of importance to know that he was able to get under your skin like that. Your letter reveals a loss of poise on your part which is unlike you, and which I do not like to see, as much as I appreciate your natural feeling and affection for us. Another thing, you are old enough to know, and have been around enough to

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know, that when a man gets as mad as the fellow is you wrote that letter to, you just, naturally can't expect too much of him in the way of telling the truth. He just couldn't if he wanted to, and he just naturally can't want to in that explosive frame of mind. So your first mistake was in calling him a liar. You are entitled to your personal opinion, but you should have kept it to yourself, or at least a little closer home.

In the next place you are clearly wrong in your expressed desire to twist or mash some blood from his proboscis. Remember what hap-

pened to Peter when he sliced that fellow's ear off. Peter possibly didn't aim to. There is a suspicion that he aimed to cut his head off and the fellow dodged. Anyhow the affair didn't tickle the Lord a little bit. He put that fellow's ear right back on. We don't want **anybody**, much less somebody in the family, going around knocking somebody's face out of plumb because of **anything** he says about us. If I could be there and had the power to straighten it back up, it might not be so bad, but then I can't do that you know.

Another thing, your judgment has not kept apace with your anger. Just think a little son. You've got sense. Diagnose his trouble, the man you wrote that letter to, and incidentally gave him a cue for a martyr act. The first thing that ought to occur to you, being a man of judgment when you are not writing a fool letter like that, is that blood-letting is not even a remedy, much less a cure, for the trouble he has. You can't reach it with your fist or twist it out of him. Even a chiropractor couldn't cure him. There is nothing I know of that could help him except "the love of God shed abroad in our hearts through the Holy Ghost" and he has been repeatedly exposed to that and it didn't take. Of course your letter didn't do any good either. So unfold those doubled up hams of yours, stick them in your pockets, clear the cob-webs from your brain, lift your chin and smile, even disdainful like will be pardonable, and abuse won't hurt you, even as it is not hurting us. We are not afraid of what our friends will think, and we **don't care** what our enemies do. — **Bible Banner - May 1941**

