

Those "Other" Sinners

“And John answered and said, ‘Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name; and we forbade him, because he followeth not with us’” (Lu. 9:49).

Answered what? The word may mean, “began to speak” but Vine says always “where something has preceded, either statement or act to which the remarks refer.” The Harper-Bagster Lexicon says, “in N.T. to respond to certain present circumstances.” What “brought on” John’s remarks about the man he had “forbidden”?

The preceding verses show that the Disciples had been disputing about who among them should be greatest, and Jesus had rebuked them for their pride (See Mk. 9:33-37). John is not named specifically, but other passages say James and John accompanied their mother when she asked Jesus to seat them in high positions in His kingdom (Matt. 20:20-f). Was the woman alone in her desire for greatness? I believe the sons must share the blame and that John (perhaps James, also) was enough involved in the arguments about greatness that Jesus’ rebuke carried a special “sting.”

By Robert F. Turner

Is it not a well established trait of human nature that when the sermon fits, we try to change the subject? Our personal defense is to launch our own attack upon someone else. If, in this new battle, we can make our former critic an ally, perhaps he will forget all about the fault he saw in us. The shoe fits--so we try to find a different shoe, for someone else.

When John felt the sting of the Lord’s rebuke to pride, he “answered” by saying, in effect, “Master, we (James also?) saw this ‘outsider’ doing wrongly, and we really jumped on him. We let him have it!”

Even if John’s judgment was right and his actions respecting the second man justified, this would not remove John’s fault. How embarrassing to discover he was again wrong. Jesus said, “Forbid him not....”

Will we never learn--a second error does not correct the first--we cannot grow by causing others to appear smaller--and, final judgment is on an individual basis, by One who sees and knows our very thoughts.



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

A very large majority of churchgoers are merely unthinking, slumbering worshipers of an unknown God.

The Futility of Communicating With Subjectivists

By Tim Nichols

Those who are frequently “misunderstood” are also those who frequently *misrepresent*. This is a principle that is taught in the scriptures (1 Tim. 6:3-5; 2 Tim. 3:6-7; 4:1-5; Tit. 1:10-13) and observed in the real world. It is the result of a breakdown of rational thinking more than simply a deterioration of communication skills. It is the fruit of subjectivism. Words are assumed not to actually signify anything in these days of relativism. As a result men feel free to construe the words of others in any way they choose. They are frustrated when others attach fixed meanings to their own words. These are two sides of the same coin.

In “the old days” two men would approach a question or a problem with something in common. They both believed that truth existed and they usually believed that the truth they were seeking could be found.

but they both believed it was out there, independent of what they chose to think. They both disputed about the evidence with the mutual hope of finding the truth. Today, many in our culture have been “educated” (propagandized may be more accurate) to believe that all truth is relative. When we who yet know that truth exists and can be found attempt to speak with those who have lost this awareness we are simply not

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Group Meetings will be Tonight After services!

Sick

Fran Snyder (Mother of Carla Humphrey)	Pam Dial (Laura Weldon’s Mother)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd’s Sisters)	Ruby Johnson (Erica Seymore’s Grandmother)
Ross Folmar	Dave and Betty Bradford
Ed Mort (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	“Grandmama” Odessa Wyatt (Dyle’s grandmother)
Gerald White (Christopher’s and Wesley’s Father)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier’s)
Marty and Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd’s Nephews)	Carrie Chavers (Friend of Sharon Bailey)
Johnny Adrian (Friend of Sullivan’s)	Lori Holloway
Chick Wade	Jared Nixon

June Birthdays

- 3—Phillip Stephens
- 9—Alex Thompson
- 9—Kay White
- 11—Hannah Alexander
- 12 - Riley Jones
- 12—Ashley—Baker
- 13—Marcus Harrell
- 14—Phillip Bailey
- 17—Sarah Norman
- 17—Brooks Pender
- 17—Wesley White
- 22—Paul Tam
- 22—Seth Buchanan
- 25—Corey Hunt
- 28—Craig Davis
- 28—Allison Chandler
- 29—Josh Hudson

News and Notes

- ☒ Let’s remember our expectant mothers: Laura Weldon, Anna Miller, Nicole Pender, Joy Liu and Amanda Stephens.
- ☒ We welcome Phillip Box as a new member here! His address is: 2002 Lee Road #137 Auburn, AL 36832
- ☒ The Spanish church will be having a meeting June 6-9.
- ☒ The LaGrange church will have a meeting with Greg Gwin June 6-11.
- ☒ Here is the Rouse’s new address: 1174 Terrace Acres Dr. Auburn, AL 36830
- ☒ Carmen Heard will be visiting in California until June 22.
- ☒ Mike Morrow’s mother died Friday morning.

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



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

Ask about our home Bible Study Groups!

Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

Check Us Out On the Internet: www.aubeacon.com

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on the same page. When we present evidence for the existence of God, the inspiration of the Bible, the truthfulness of specific Bible doctrines, and the rightness and wrongness of certain human actions, we are met with befuddled looks by those who stand on no foundation and believe that none exists. While we love those who are thus adrift without anchor or rudder we are often frustrated in our attempts to find some "common ground" that will serve as a basis for study and communication.

When a subjectivist says that, "You are a dirty, stinking skunk!" he may appear shocked that you did not construe his words to mean that, "You are an immaculate, charming sweetheart." In his mind you are responsible for knowing what he meant and that what he meant was not definite and rigid. You are guilty of unfair judging when you take his words to have a discoverable design. With him, meanings are flexible rather than fixed. This can be frustrating when we are on the receiving end of "communication" with a subjectivist, but it is much more bearable than when we are on the sending end.

The subjectivist feels free to take your words to mean anything he chooses and to tell others what he has "perceived" you to say. When you say, "Please ask any questions that you may have," he feels perfectly free to tell others that you have said, "Do not ask any questions because I am not willing to answer them!" When you say, "Please make the best possible argument for the thing you believe," he broadcasts that you have said, "Shut up! You're wrong!" These are examples drawn from

actual experience.

We have heard enough straw men quoted by subjectivists to supply the need of every corn field in the world. While we might as well give up trying to convince the subjectivists, we need to call them to account for the sake of those who hear their claims. We have been told that "nothing can be questioned in churches of Christ." When we ask what question they are not permitted to ask, they are at a complete loss. They have no real response because we are delighted to have questions. A few have revealed their actual mentalities by saying, "But they claim to have the answers!"

And this is the problem for the subjectivist: **"answers!"** He hates all things presented as absolute facts. He repudiates the very idea of undeniable truths. He paints the whole realm of ideas gray so he can select what he chooses from the whole to color either black or white at will. He cannot maneuver well in an environment with fixed boundaries and immovable obstacles. There he loses his freedom to manipulate, exploit, negotiate, and orchestrate. The Bible does not present a problem for the subjectivist because of what it specifically teaches. His problem with the Bible is that it specifically teaches. His problem with the church and her teachers is not really **what** is taught. His problem is **that** specific things are taught as inflexible truth. His battle is not really with the specific doctrines that he seems to attack. It is with the notion that specific doctrines can be settled once and for all. This places him perpetually at odds with God's people who are always prepared "to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints" (**Jude 3**).



Children's Influence Upon Parents

By Bill Hall

Children can influence their parents just as parents can influence their children. The following story about an imaginary couple may have been duplicated in the lives of many of our readers.

George and Mary were a wonderful couple as they began their life together. Throughout their youth they had received strong teaching concerning worldliness, and their conduct showed the effects of that teaching. They had been taught faithfulness in attendance, and they never missed a service for "anything." In character and conviction, they were blameless.

This young couple failed, however, to instill into the hearts of their children these same convictions. Consequently, as the children reached their teens, they began to put pressure on their parents to let them do what all the other young people were doing. Gradually the will of the parents was broken down, and they began to permit their children to do things they never dreamed their children would ever do.

Rationalization came easy for George and Mary. "After all, the Bible is not specific in these matters," they thought. "The Bible says 'modest apparel', but it doesn't define modesty." "And, they're only planning to go to the dance; they aren't planning to dance." "We can't say 'no' to everything," they said. When Junior began to show unusual athletic ability, the question of attending services became a problem. At first they took Junior out of games

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and brought him to midweek services, but then the team began to depend more and more on him. The play-offs came, and the team's only hope in the play-offs was for Junior to play. George and Mary gave in. And once they had given in, they had no more argument for the future. Junior never missed another game to "go to church."

George and Mary often found themselves on the defensive in Bible classes. They began to argue for their children's behavior. And, the more accustomed they became to their children's actions, the more innocent their actions seemed to be. Eventually, their own conduct became affected. They reached the point where they thought nothing of missing on Friday night during a meeting to see Junior play ball. Mary even adopted some of the daughter's dress habits, although remaining sufficiently "discreet" to stay in the good graces of the brethren. Yes, George and Mary are still in good standing in the church, and their change has been so gradual that many fail to realize that they are not the strong Christians they formerly were. What happened to George and Mary? Instead of bringing their children "up" in the nurture and admonition of the "Lord", their children brought them "down" in the nurture and admonition of the devil. "

Our children may do wrong, but they must not do wrong with our permission. We do not seek anger, but repentance. Parents, would your names fit in the place of "George" and "Mary" in the above story?

