

The Empty Promises of Atheism

Atheism stands opposed to the Bible, God's word (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Atheism claims the Bible is self-contradictory and harmful to man. Therefore, atheists reject it and try to get others to reject it as well. So, what does Atheism promise?

Atheism promises us a world without a Creator. In such a world men give homage to man, beast and nature (Rom. 1:18-32). It is a world in which human life is cheap, because, after all, man is just another animal. Abortion and euthanasia are accepted forms of population control, as well as a way to get rid of a "nuisance." Thankfully, the Bible tells us we are created in the image of God, giving us a deeper respect for all human life (Gen. 1:26-27).

Atheism promises us a world without definite standards of right and wrong. Everyone can do what is right in his own eyes (cf. Judges 21:25). In an atheistic world, man is the highest being, answerable only to himself. If a man wants to rape a woman, whose to say he is wrong? If a man wants to kill his neighbor and take his

By Steven F. Deaton possessions, whose to say he is wrong? Isn't one man's opinion as good as another's? Without a Supreme Being to set the stand of good and evil, man is left to his own devices. Thankfully, God has given us the Bible, the truth, by which we may be guided (Jn. 17:17; cf. Psa. 119:105).

Atheism promises a world without any hope after this life. It tells us when

we die, that's it--no afterlife, no paradise, no heaven--nothing. In this hopeless world, what is the point of doing good? Why not just act out of your own selfish desires? After all, if there is no heaven, there is no hell either. Thankfully, the Word of God teaches there is hope of a better life beyond this world (Mk. 12:18-27; Lk. 16:19-31; 2 Cor. 5:10).

Atheism promises nothing, except corruption and destruction. It's promises are empty: no God, no standard of right and wrong, no hope.



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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

Ten men banded together in love and unity can do what ten thousand separately would fail to do.

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

The Family Together

By Dee Bowman

Family. There's something warm and inviting about the word. It floods the mind with thoughts of home and hearth, of fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, aunts, uncles, grandma and grandpa. It conjures memories — memories of togetherness, of commonality, of all being in one place at the same time. It calls to mind picnics, ball games, holidays spent with loved ones. Family. It just says something special. And the thing it most especially says is "together."

Together. There is no such thing as family without together. No matter how the word is used — whether in regard to biology, or mathematics, linguistics, or physics — family always suggests something held together by a common bond.

The church is the family of God (Galatians 6:10; Ephesians 2:19). God is the Father, saints are His children. We are referred to as "sons of

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God" (Galatians 5:5-7).

There are things that bind families together — things like common goals, common interests, and even common struggles. The church is the same. All these things are both recommended and common in the family of God. Worship brings the family of God closer to the Father. Worship is filial (fatherly) devotion, an attitude of reverential respect, of

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Gospel Meetings this Week

Carlos Flores—Spanish Church Lagrange, GA with Greg Gwin
Sun. 9:30 AM, 7 PM, M-W 7 PM Sunday through Friday

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 Sullivanne'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—Clint 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.
- ☒ Here is the Delk's new address after their move: 23139 Tranquil Springs Lane Katy, TX 77494 Adam's New Cell: (281) 740-8897
- ☒ Congratulations to Jared and Sharon Ramsey and Craig and Paula Davis in their marriages yesterday!
- ☒ Here is the address for Craig and Paula: 2074 Felicity Lane Auburn, AL 36830
- ☒ Mike Morrow's mother died last week. For the next month his address is: 243 Toney Ave; Russellville, AL 35653 — His email is: mike.morrow@enc.cz

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

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love and high regard for the one who has given us life. When we direct our love toward our common Father, we become stronger in both our devotion to Him and our devotion to one another. We are told to "worship Him in spirit and in truth" (**John 4:24**). While this may refer to the attitude we are to have when we worship Him, I believe there is more to it than that. I believe He means we should reach down to the very depth of who we are and accord to Him the most reverent feelings of that inner being. In the ultimate reality, worship is the adoring reverence of the creature for the Creator, and that means our most fundamental feelings of love and devotion must be extended to Him. When that is the case, it is axiomatic that we also come closer to one another.

Being together as a family brings us closer to the Father. He is the focal point of our assembling. When we sing together, we bring honor to His name. "I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the understanding also" (**1 Corinthians 14:15**) carries the same responsibility as the worship to which we earlier alluded — there must be a reaching down to the essence of who we are when we sing praises to Him. **Colossians 3:16-17** begins with "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly," a sure indication of the need for the deepest respect we can muster before we even begin to sing praises to Him. Also, as we are told to teach and admonish "one another" in songs, hymns, and spiritual songs, the command closes with the enjoinder that we sing "with grace in your hearts to the Lord." Worshipful prayers brings us closer to God. As we each come closer to Him in our personal prayers and supplication, we come to

be closer to one another, praying to the same Father, seeking the same blessings, extolling the same Savior. The Lord's Supper, served in the assembly of the saints, brings us together so that we can "consider one another to provoke unto love and good works" (**Hebrews 10:23- 25**). Worshiping together promotes an intimate relationship with the family.

Family love is never better or more to be desired than in the church of our Lord Jesus Christ. Love is the divine mucilage, it binds us all together in Him (**Colossians 3:14**). That love originated in Him, and is radiated to us; we ought therefore to radiate it to one another. "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God" (**1 John 4:7**). There's togetherness in that. Nothing brings us closer to Him than love for one another, born of love for Him. It makes peace possible. It solidifies unity. It emboldens hope. It gives security to a proper direction. It makes motive high and noble. Furthermore, to love the brethren is to be like the Father. "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently" (**1 Peter 1:22**). We are brethren. We each belong to God our Father. Brethren love brethren.

The family together is a beautiful sight. Think about the pictures you have seen of families together — paintings, portraits, photographs — they all speak to togetherness, to a common love, and to a common devotion to a common father. The family together is what the church of our Lord is all about. Let us be careful that we don't diminish its beauty by being derelict and neglecting the family together. I love my family, don't you?



The Grudge Holder

By Dan S. Shipley

The grudge-holder suffers from an unusual kind of wound. Although his grudge is related to a past conflict with another, it is a wound that is self-inflicted. Remarkably, its healing is hindered in not being desired. In fact, grudge holding is actually a cherished spirit of resentment; a welcomed feeling of ill will toward another. You might say the grudgeholder is glad to be mad at someone.

One thing you will never see is a happy grudge-holder. His mind is forever troubled because the object of his grudge becomes the object of his thinking. He continually rehearses and relives his mistreatment—perhaps even magnifying it. With each recollection comes more bitterness and resentment, if not self-pity. Harboring a grudge defiles the heart, poisons the thinking and produces misery. The grudgeholder will be hard put to "rejoice in the Lord" as encouraged in **Phil. 3:1**—because "as he thinketh in his heart, so is he" (**Prov. 23:7**).

Jesus taught that the "things which proceed out of the mouth come forth out of the heart..." (**Matt. 15:18**). The grudge in the heart soon translates to words in the mouth and to the detriment of many. As the grudge-holder vilifies and speaks evil of his brother, he sins against God (**Jas. 4:11**), hurts himself, hurts his brother, and hurts those he tells. But it gets worse.

Grudges can easily become the wedges of division. As the tongue advertises the grudgeholder's grievances in search of sympathy and allies, some are apt to be influenced and preju-

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diced — especially family and friends. Their thinking and conduct toward the perpetrator of this "great injustice" are adversely affected and, thus, others become involved in a way that threatens unity in the church. As Paul said, "...a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump" (**1 Cor. 5:6**). Many churches have been made to suffer unnecessary and irreparable harm through the influence of grudge-holding brethren.

None is more deceived than the Christian who thinks he can hold a grudge without jeopardizing his soul. Calling it something else doesn't remove the problem. Even when it may not be all that apparent, we can be tempted to harbor a deep-seated kind of resentment and bitterness toward others. We must be honest with ourselves. God says to put away ALL bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and malice (**Eph. 4:31**). Do we believe it? Do we do it?

Finally, no matter how justifiable the grudge may seem, it is always an expression of contempt and hate. God commands us to love one another (**Jn. 15:12; 1 Jn. 3:11; 4:7**)—even enemies (**Matt. 5:44**). The grudge condemns; love forgives. "Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (**Eph. 4:32**).

Forgiveness—man's greatest blessing—how desperately we need it, yet the grudge-holder would forfeit it by withholding it from others. Brethren, let's get grudges out of our hearts and out of the church!

