

Behold the Heretic

The Greek word hairesis is translated "heresy" and "sect" in the New Testament. The close relative of the word is used in **Matt. 12:18** — a quotation from Isaiah concerning Christ — with no bad connotation. But hairesis obtained a bad character because of the harm done by self-willed choice — stubborn determination to "have my way or bust — something!!"

Vine's Expository Dictionary says. 'Denotes (a) a choosing. choice; then that which is chosen, and hence, an opinion, especially a self-willed opinion, which is substituted for submission to the power of truth, and leads to division and the formation of sects.... Such erroneous opinions are frequently the outcome of personal preference or the prospect of advantage.' (See "Heresy")

Heresy implies a standard or norm. The Jews called Paul an heretic, and from their point of view so he was. (**Acts 24:5, 14**). But with truth as the standard, Paul's teaching was certainly not heretical. In fact, it was the "sectarian" concept of the Jews that led them to call Paul a heretic. We have accepted the very root of sectarian-

ism when we call heresy all which does not conform to "our" party doctrine, or is not in "the mainstream of our movement." (**2 Cor. 10:12 -ff**)

Heresy has to do with doctrinal error — but, it is not simply an honest difference in understanding, even though the one differing be in error. We do not say this to excuse the error, nor to say that because it is "honest" it is no error. We just say that the error is not heresy while an honest, objective search for truth continues and the attitude is humble and submissive. Nor will a sect be formed while such attitudes prevail.

There is a vast difference in the opinionated, self-willed ravings of the sectarian spirit, and the firm conviction of an honest truth-seeker. Nor is "raving" a part of the definition. Many sectarians simply withdraw into their smug party shells, thinking to avoid the searching light of God's truth. But final judgment will roll the rocks (**Rev. 6:16 -ff**), and then "Behold, the Heretics!!"



Acts 17:30-31 - Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, ³¹because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

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
- ☒ Here is Jared and Sharon Ramsey new address: 360 Milano Lane #310, Melbourne, FL 32940
- ☒ All 6th Grade and below teachers and coordinators are to meet after services on We. In the 4th-6th grade classroom.
- ☒ Jon Coleman had a successful Cath. procedure and is at home.
- ☒ Remember Carmen Heard in your prayers for a safe trip home from California on Tuesday.
- ☒ Larry will be in a meeting in the B'ham area through Wednesday.

A weekly publication of the University church of Christ in Auburn, Alabama


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**)



Volume 1, Issue 34 June 20, 2010

Bible Detective



Thought to Ponder

A man of correct insight among those who are duped and deluded resembles one whose watch is right while all the clocks in the town give the wrong time.

Four Flaws in the Four Spiritual Laws

By Mark Roberts

Have you read the tract "The Four Spiritual Laws"? It was written by Dr. Bill Bright, the president of Campus Crusade for Christ. Approximately 1.5 billion copies of this tract have been printed and distributed all over the world. It was written to quickly and efficiently teach people how to be saved.

Unfortunately, "The Four Spiritual Laws" tract is badly flawed. A simple comparison between its teaching and the teaching of scripture reveals that "The Four Spiritual Laws" simply does not teach God's plan of salvation.

Here are the Four Spiritual Laws:

- Law 1:** God loves you and offers a wonderful Plan for your life.
- Law 2:** Man is sinful and separated from God. Therefore, he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life.
- Law 3:** Jesus Christ is God's only provision for man's sin. Through Him you can know and experience God's love and plan for your life.
- Law 4:** We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives.

What exactly does the tract mean "receive Jesus Christ?" How do you do that? We are not left to wonder:

- We Must Receive Christ - Jn 1:12**
- We Receive Christ Through Faith - Eph. 2:8-9**
- When We Receive Christ, We Experience a New Birth - Jn 3:1-8**
- We Receive Christ by Personal Invitation - Rev. 3:20**

Don't be fooled by the ideas of men. Read your Bible. Study these things carefully. Then obey God's simple plan for salvation today and become a New Testament Christian!

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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The tract goes on to say "You Can Receive Christ Right Now By Faith Through Prayer" and even includes a suggested prayer to ask Jesus to be the Lord of your life and receive Him by faith alone.

What could be wrong with this? A study of the Bible shows these laws are terribly flawed.

Flaw 1: "The Four Laws" forgets that faith works.

Read **Genesis 6:13-14**. Did Noah have faith? Yes! But did his faith alone save him? Could he have been saved by merely believing God without building the ark? Of course not. Noah's faith led him to obey God (**Gen. 6:22; 7:5, 16**).

Romans 1:5 speaks of our "obedience to the faith." Obedience and true faith in God always go together. You can't have one without the other (read **James 2:14-26**).

Where is this concept in the "Four Laws" pamphlet? The "Four Laws" says nothing about obedience, only faith!

Flaw 2: The pamphlet forgets baptism.

The New Testament teaches that water baptism is very important. It...

1. Puts you into Jesus Christ - **Gal. 3:27**
2. Saves you - **1 Peter 3:21**
3. Forgives your sins - **Acts 22:16; 2:38**

Baptism is so crucial because it is linked to Jesus' death, burial and resurrection (see **Romans 6:3-6**).

The "Four Laws" teaches you can be saved without baptism, advocating a prayer and faith alone approach. This simply is not the teaching of the scriptures.

No passage of scripture promises the non-Christian that he can pray and receive forgiveness of sin. No passage of scripture says that you can pray "into Jesus Christ." No passage says prayer can save you. All of these vital functions are ascribed to baptism, not prayer!

Flaw 3: The tract forgets that the N.T. specifically teaches that faith alone cannot save.

The "Four Laws" says that to be saved you need only believe in Jesus Christ. What does the Bible say?

"You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only" **James 2:24**

Once again we see how scripture puts faith and obedience together, while "The Four Laws" artificially and arbitrarily divorces them.

Who should we believe -- a booklet written by a mere man, or the inspired word of God?

Flaw 4: The tract forgets that God's grace doesn't exclude man's obedience

Many seem to think that there are only two choices: be saved by your actions and doing, or be saved completely by God's grace.

This is why so many oppose baptism. They believe that baptism is an attempt to earn or merit salvation. This is false. The Bible never sees obedience and grace opposing each other.

Read **Hebrews 11** and notice how these men and women of faith responded to God's grace by obeying the Lord. Their obedience didn't earn salvation but was absolutely necessary to being saved.

Likewise, you cannot earn salvation today by doing good works. But you must do what God has said if you want to be saved. These works of obedience demonstrate our faith and love for God. Won't you do what God says so you can be saved today?

What must I do to be saved?

- Believe in Jesus Christ - **John 3:16**
- Repent of past sins - **Luke 13:3**
- Confess Jesus as the Son of God - **Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:10**
- Be baptized in water for the forgiveness of your sins - **Acts 2:38; 22:16; Mark 16:16**

Don't be fooled by the ideas of men. Read your Bible. Study these things carefully. Then obey God's simple plan for salvation today and become a New Testament Christian!



Leaving an Apostate Congregation

By Mark White

Many of our brethren across the country are sore distressed by the state of affairs in churches of Christ today. To say that many churches are undergoing change is a gross understatement of the situation. Radical changes in thought toward the authority of the Scriptures are allowing many churches of Christ to take very liberal views toward the work and worship of the church. With the "new hermeneutic" as their license (which denies that the New Testament reveals a pattern for our organization, work, and worship) the movers and shakers of institutional churches of Christ are leading their people toward the wholesale acceptance of a myriad of innovations and compromises with denominationalism. Our brethren are "re-thinking" such issues as instrumental music in worship and the role of women in the leadership and worship of the church.

Additionally, many brethren are abandoning "book, chapter, and verse" preaching and teaching for a modernistic higher criticism which seized the pulpits of denominational churches many years ago. Moral issues such as social drinking, mixed swimming, divorce and remarriage, immodest dress, etc. are no longer preached about in sermons lest we appear too strict and legalistic. Even the plan of salvation is under serious attack. Many leading, influential elders, preachers, and professors are not too sure there is a "plan" as we have preached it. Baptism is being "re-thought" in some circles, and it appears that before long the necessity of immersion for the remission of sins may be abandoned altogether.

Within many of the churches troubled by these issues are some brethren who sense strongly that the church is "leaving" them. They see these changes as apostasy, but it is hard to break long-standing ties with friends and family and leave such rank infidelity to the Lord Jesus Christ and His will. They know the church is not what it should be doctrinally, nor is it even moving in that direction. The preaching is no longer distinctive and could be served up in any denominational

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pulpit in town. They have tried to warn the elders, the preacher, their friends and anyone who will listen. But they are considered "old-fashioned", "non-progressive", "anti", and even "legalistic." Eventually, the elders no longer listen to them. The preacher berates them for trying to hold on to a "1950 mentality." Each passing week brings more compromise, additional innovation, and bolder liberalism. What must concerned brethren do if they cannot get the church to listen to the truth?

A Case In Point

King Jeroboam of Israel introduced the apostate worship of idolatrous golden calves in an effort to keep the northern tribes from going to Jerusalem for worship (**1 Kings 12:26-33**). He even appointed non-Levites to his new "priesthood." Unable to stop such apostasy, many Levites had no other recourse but to leave Israel and flee to **Judah (2 Chron 11:13-17)**. Remaining faithful to God meant separating from their homes and friends with whom they had previously worshipped. Doubtless it was painful to do this, but it resulted in the strengthening of Judah (v. 17). Men and women who stand for the truth always strengthen the people of God who are like-minded.

When John heard the announcement of the imminent destruction of "Babylon," he heard another angel warn, "*Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.*" (**Rev 18:4, 5**). While opinions vary regarding what "Babylon" is in this symbolic passage, the warning is clear that God's people must flee from Babylon or perish with her. Even Lot was warned to leave Sodom or be destroyed with the salacious city (**Gen 19:13, 14**).

It is no different today. God's faithful people must no longer promote apostasy by tolerating it. "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord "

