

The Yearning for Immortality

Man is not a sophisticated monkey, all dressed up with no place to go. He uniquely has an immortal spirit planted in his being by God. Solomon observed, "He set eternity in our heart...the spirit shall return to God who gave it" (**Ecc 3:11, 12:9**). God the Creator is "the father of spirits" so man is "the offspring of God" (**Heb 12:9, Acts 17:29**).

We believe in immortality and we try to prove it, not because we must prove it, but because man instinctively cannot help believing it. It is the hunger of the soul reaching out for the eternal God (**Acts 17:27**). "When God wants to carry a point

By W. Frank Walton with his children, he plants His arguments, in part, in man instincts" (Emerson).

Deep down, we know this life is not all there is. There is a spiritual reality beyond this earthly valley of tears and travail. The risen Christ of history assures us that our instincts are right. "Because I live, you shall live also" (**Jn 14:19**). Paul says, "We know we have...a home...eternal in the heavens" (**2 Cor 5:1**). We need not pillow our head on guesses when we die (J. Cook). Above the clouds, the sun is always shining in the light of God's presence.



Matthew 16:18 - And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Sick		
Fran Snyder (Mother of Carla Humphrey)	Lori Holloway	Chick Wade
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Rubye Johnson (Erica Seymore's Grandmother)	Jared Nixon
Ross Folmar	Dave and Betty Bradford	Johnny Adrian (Friend of Sullivanne's)
Ed Mort (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	"Grandmama" Odessa Wyatt (Dyle's grandmother)	Erlene Davis (Walker Davis' mother)
Gerald White (Christopher's and Wesley's Father)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)	Bill Rhodes (Toni Herd's Uncle)
Marty and Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Carrie Chavers (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	Joe Perry (Anna Miller's Relative)

August Birthdays
7—Erin Dallas
7—David Golden
8—Julia Daves
9—Elliot Weldon
10—Sarah Tam
11—Walker Davis
12—Jon Coleman
20—Caleb Law
22—David Crawford
27—Chip Freeman
28—Cole Johnson
28—Larry Rouse
29—Blake Edwards

News and Notes

- ☒ Let's remember our expectant mothers: Laura Weldon, Anna Miller, Nicole Pender, Joy Liu and Amanda Stephens.
- ☒ Let us continue to remember Dave Bradford in our prayers. You can send him cards and letters at: 664 Lee Rd 84, Auburn, AL 36830
- ☒ Anna Miller will be induced on Monday.
- ☒ Bob Simpson is having a difficult recovery from his surgery.
- ☒ Those who are interested in being a part of the home ladies classes should meet on the front pew after services on Wed. Night.
- ☒ Here is the Robert's address: Jimmy and Mary Ann Roberts, Jesse, Andy, Suzanna and Sarabeth 264 Tallyho Drive, Auburn
Hm—(334) - 209-1976, Cell (J) 404-791-8227 (M) 404-791-8228

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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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When the Kingdom of God Appears to Fail

By Larry Rouse



Thought to Ponder

A failure is not someone who has tried and failed; it is someone who has given up trying and resigned himself to failure; it is not a condition, but an attitude.

How often has a child of God despaired thinking that the kingdom of God was going to end with his generation? Elijah had concluded that he "alone was left" of the people of God and because of that God should take his life and end this lost cause (**1 Kings 19:4, 10**). God quickly reminded him that he had 7,000 who were faithful to him and then put Elijah back to work. (**1 Kings 19:18**).

Asaph, after looking at the prosperity of the wicked and the hard plight of the few that were righteous, was ready to conclude that serving God was not worth it. He said, "Surely I have cleansed my heart *in vain*, and washed my hands in innocence" (**Psalms 73:13**). Fortunately, when he entered the sanctuary of God to worship, he saw the world as God did. Because of this eternal view he was now very thankful to be part of the faithful few. He writes, "When I thought *how* to understand this, It was too painful for me—Until I went into the sanctuary of God; *Then* I understood their end" (**Psalms 73:16-17**).

The Lord has given us His word and through it we can determine those who have "the spirit of truth and the spirit of error" (**1 John 4:1, 6**). It is with these people we should stand and it with these people that we should build.

God's kingdom. Concerning the church Jesus would build, He plainly stated that "the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (**Matt 16:18**). When Isaiah prophesied of the coming Messiah and His reign, he plainly stated that this kingdom would never end. He writes, "And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end" (**Isa 9:6-7**).

Gloom and Doom—Cases in Point

Over the years I have heard brethren lament the dwindling of a local church, or the departure of a new generation

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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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into apostasy, or even the general worldliness of the professed Christians they have observed. I have heard some say that "churches of Christ are going to become extinct!" In another case I heard a man who had left the Lord's church quoting growth statistics to convince others that a return to the Bible alone would not work. He boldly proclaimed that "these churches are dying on the vine because of their legalism." Should we become discouraged by our own impressions of the church around us? Should we surrender to the spin of men with self-serving agendas?

"Whittling" on God's End of the Stick

We need to remember what burden God has placed upon us and what burden He has not. The Lord wants me to walk by faith and to spread God's word to all who will hear (**1 Cor 3:5-7**). It is not my job to determine the numbers who are faithful or to be responsible for the welfare of God's people everywhere. God is the one who knows who are His, and He can well take care of them! Is it not written, "Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: 'The Lord knows those who are His'" (**2 Tim 2:19**)?

The Lord has given us His word and through it we can determine those who have "the spirit of truth and the spirit of error" (**1 John 4:1, 6**). It is with these people we should stand and it with these people that we should build. Do we really understand what it means to be a child of God?

Our Confusion Over Names

We tend to take shortcuts in determining who men really are and where they actually stand. Rather than interact, discuss and apply the scriptures, men would rather place labels on people and churches and end further struggle. While I believe that "churches of Christ" (**Romans 16:16**) are a Biblical designation for local assemblies of God's people, I must never assume that wearing the right name makes one a child of God.

A true stand for the Lord is something that each individual must do themselves. No one can do it for them, including their parents. As you look at God's people in the Bible or in church history,

you will find that departure comes when a new generation arises that "did not know the Lord" (**Judges 1:10**). What happened in the time of the Judges has repeated itself in various times in history and will also be found in our times.

What should I do when "churches of Christ" begin to change the plan of salvation, compromise the scriptures, and bow to the denominational Baal's of our day? What I need to do is serve God with confidence and work with others who also are walking by faith.

Do Not Transfer the Failures of Men to God

Why should I quit serving God over the failures of men? If God has placed me in a time of apostasy and worldliness, then I can be a Daniel rather than a Demas (**2 Tim 4:10**)! God used Daniel to rebuild after a great apostasy where God Himself described the remaining faithful as a "remnant" (**Isa 10:22-23**). When men fail to serve God, I need to have a faith that will stand with God. I can have a great confidence in spite of the pull and ridicule of men. The apostle Paul reminds us, "Let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: 'That you may be justified in your words, and may overcome when you are judged'" (**Romans 3:4**).

Know Your Limitations

We must constantly remind ourselves of our limited sight. My view of the world and of the church can change drastically when I depend on my own reality. Problems will inevitably arise with some that are close to me in this life. Yet, it does not necessarily follow that brethren everywhere are going bad. I need to understand that God looks at the whole world! Conditions in the United States, or in any particular part of the country, do not represent what is happening in other places.

What Has God Given You to Do?

When we learn to trust God day by day, we will find that the "yoke" He has lays upon us bearable and doable (**Matt 11:28-30**). There are many things out of my control that I should leave to God, trusting that He alone can handle them. Let each of us always look to our God, for He has given us His promises and they will never fail.



Time to Panic?

By Bryan Gibson

The economy has dominated the news lately, and the news has not been good. No need to rehash the details here -- the media has done a good enough job of that. Like everyone else, I'm not happy about it and it has already had adverse effects on me. But, knowing that "one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses" (**Luke 12:15**), I don't plan to spend too much time stewing over it. Wall Street may be in a panic, but I'm not, and here are just a few of the reasons why.

Let me first say that I don't buy into all the doom and gloom forecasts for the economy. I do believe the economy will rebound, but let's just say for arguments' sake that things get worse, perhaps even far worse. I'm still not going to panic because I know God will provide me with the things I need - IF I seek first the kingdom and His righteousness (**Matthew 6:33**). David said, "I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread" (**Psa. 37:25**).

Secondly, if I am reduced to the necessities of life, my attitude must be one of contentment, not panic. "And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content" (**1 Tim. 6:8**). Hopefully, I will learn, as Paul did to be content "in whatever state I am" (**Phil. 4:11**). Perhaps I will even learn the lesson so eloquently expressed by the prophet Habakkuk:

Secondly, if I am reduced to the necessities of life, my attitude must be one of contentment, not panic. "And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content" (**1 Tim. 6:8**).

"Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the labor of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; though the flock be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls - yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation" (**Habakkuk 3:17-18**).

Thirdly, economic hard times may turn out to be

good for me spiritually. If I can't buy as many things, if I can't go as many places, I may just give more attention to the things that matter most. Many of us have seen our stocks decline in value but there are other riches that are not subject to the ebb and flow of the market - the "exceeding riches of His grace" (**Ephesians 2:7**), or the "unsearchable riches of Christ" (**Ephesians 3:8**). In other words, I'm not going to panic if I become poor, because I will still be rich (**Proverbs 13:7**). I'm very aware of what the Bible says about the uncertainty of material riches (**1 Tim. 6:17; Proverbs 23:5**), but it's hard to think that way when my investments seem secure. Believe me, I understand now just how insecure they can be, and maybe, just maybe, that will cause me to put more trust in God.

"Trust in Him who will not leave you, whatsoever years may bring...build your hopes on things eternal, hold to God's unchanging hand" (Hold to God's Unchanging Hand, Jennie Wilson, EL. Eiland).

