

# “I’m Too Busy for Church”

It is Sunday morning—time to assemble with the saints of our Lord. Believe it or not, for many, this is a moment of decision. There are so many things around the house calling your name—lawn mowing, repairing the thing-a-majig, washing the car, etc. As all of these things flash through your mind, the Lord calls. You may actually find yourself asking, “Whose call do I heed?”

Do you decide on Sunday morning, or evening, or Wednesday evening, whether or not you are “going to church?” Do you find that chores around the house, fishing, hunting, watching sports, working, or other things, win out over the Lord? What a shameful predicament many place themselves in!

It is shameful because, some day, when the Lord returns again, you will have to explain to Him why you said, “I’m too busy for church.” It is written, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the

body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad” (2 Cor 5:10).

Though it is true that attending church is not the ‘end all’ of Christianity, it is nevertheless commanded (Heb 10:24-25). Any Christian who must ask himself at the appointed time if he is going to assemble with the saints needs to realize the dilapidated condition of his soul. For the convicted, faithful, zealous Christian, such an appointment is automatic! There is never a doubt, only the faithful fact that he will be there when the saints meet!

When one is too busy to go to church, what they really say is: “I’m too busy for my brethren (Heb 10:24-25)” and “I’m too busy for the Lord (Eph 1:22-23; Mt 25:40, 45).” If one is too busy for these, he is too busy for heaven! The next time you find yourself thinking, “I’m too busy for church;” remember what that translates into—“I’m too busy for heaven!”



**Gal 5:22-23 (NKJV)**— But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Sick		
Fran Snyder (Mother of Carla Humphrey)	Lori Holloway	Chick Wade
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd’s Sisters)	Carrie Chavers (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	Jared Nixon
Ross Folmar	Bob Simpson	Joe Perry (Anna Miller’s Relative)
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)	Please Contact Yvette to add a name to this list.	

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

- Dave Bradford’s funeral was yesterday. Let us remember the family in our prayers.
- Erica Seymore’s grandmother, Rubye Johnson, was buried on Tuesday.
- Rusty Weldon’s dad had his gall bladder and appendix removed in surgery yesterday.
- The 1st-8th grade class will be at the Rouse’s Friday Night from 6-8PM
- Address for John Burns: 1259 Britnee Ct. (Mailing Address: PO Box 1074) Auburn, 36831; Ph. (334) 787-2064
- Ladies classes in the homes will be on Mon. Evening and Wed. mornings this year. Please see Yvette or Denise to be a part.
- We extend a welcome to our students returning to school! Please fill out a visitor card if you are new here.

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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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## A Christian is a Spiritual Optimist

By W. Frank Walton



### Thought to Ponder

At any moment in life we have the option to choose an attitude of gratitude, a posture of grace, a commitment to joy.

### Do you consider your basic outlook in life as an optimist or a pessimist?

Optimism is defined as: “a disposition or tendency to look on the more favorable side of events or conditions and to expect the most favorable outcome” or “the belief that good ultimately predominates over evil in the world” (Random House Unabridged Dictionary). Pessimism is defined: “the tendency to see, anticipate, or emphasize only bad or undesirable outcome, results, conditions, problems, etc.” and also “the belief that the evil and pain in the world are not compensated for by goodness and happiness” (ibid).

A pessimist will try to justify their pessimism by saying, “I’m just a realist.” I counter this by an optimist is a “constructive realist,” who doesn’t ignore problems but always sees good potential or possibilities. A pessimist sees more limiting problems than opportunities. I believe the Bible teaches that you cannot be a strong believer in God and be a spiritual pessimist.

The 10 spies that discouraged the Israelites from entering Canaan were spiritual pessimists! They saw obstacles (strong and giant Canaanites with heavily fortified cities) instead of opportunities of faith to trust God’s power to take the land (Num 13:28-33). They said, “We are not able...they are too strong for us!” Their pessimistic outlook caused them to negatively exaggerate

We learn the power of love from our amazing, loving God (1 Jn 4:7-8). Love for others is sacrificial goodwill, to always act in another’s best interest. A spiritual optimist will believe that love is the most powerful force in the world.

reality and see themselves as tiny, weak grasshoppers. Such negativity breed pessimistic grumbling and a defeatist attitude among the people (Num 14:2-4). They wanted to “play it safe” and regress, instead of make progress.

Yet, Caleb and Joshua were spiritual optimists! They lifted their outlook to take Almighty God into account! “We shall surely overcome it....If the LORD is pleased with us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us....Do not fear the people of the land, for they will be our prey. Their protection has been removed from them, and the LORD is with us” (Num 13:30; 14:8,9). Spiritual optimism thinks, “The odds don’t count if God is on our side! God is greater than any obstacle we face.

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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 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

Check Us Out On the Internet: [www.aubeacon.com](http://www.aubeacon.com)

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Although we may have differ personality types and innate dispositions, our personality traits are molded and uplifted by Biblical faith, hope and love.

**1. Optimistic Faith in God.** In 1 Samuel 17, young David had optimistic faith in God. He confidently believed he could defeat Goliath, the Philistines' giant champion who dared one Israelite to fight him. "Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has taunted the armies of the living God" (1 Sam 17:36). Yet, King Saul's army was filled with spiritual pessimists in facing Goliath's challenge. They were "dismayed" and "afraid" to take him on (1 Sam 17:10-11,24). This pall of negativity had Saul telling David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him" (1 Sam 17:33). Their pessimism thought Goliath was too big to hit, while David's optimistic faith believed he was too big to miss. Remember, "can't" never accomplished anything.

Yet, we're thrilled to hear of David's optimistic faith in the face of a threatening giant: "This day the LORD will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the LORD'S and He will give you into our hands" (1 Sam 17:46-47). The faith of David, who "became mighty in battle (Heb 11:32,34)," is enshrined in faith's hall of fame to help motivate us to grow in optimistic faith. David believed the odds don't count if God is on your side.

A spiritual optimist will believe and rely on the Scriptures that encourage us to have unlimited confidence in the power and promises of God. "With God, all things are possible" (Matt 19:26). The believer can do great things through God: "All things are possible to him who believes...I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Mk 9:23; Phil 4:13). We serve the true and living God who has infinite power: "Nothing shall be impossible with God" (Lk 1:3). Although there are a multitude of many more such scriptures that would choke the most stubborn pessimist, we can raise our belief level by looking away from our limitations and looking up to Almighty God in optimist faith!

We all have menacing giants to face, like worldly

temptation, religious false doctrine, stubborn problems and discouraging obstacles. Yet, optimistic faith in God confidently believes they can be defeated! We believe God's message of saving souls by preaching the everlasting gospel can work today just as it did in the first century. We believe if Jesus can change our lives for the better, that He can do the same for others. We believe God's plan of reaching the world through autonomous churches of Christ can work. God's plan will work if we will work God's plan.

**2. Optimistic Love for Others.** We learn the power of love from our amazing, loving God (1 Jn 4:7-8). Love for others is sacrificial goodwill, to always act in another's best interest. A spiritual optimist will believe that love is the most powerful force in the world. It can change bitter relations into better ones. "Love...believes all things, bears all things, hopes all things. Love never fails"(1 Cor 13:7-8). Love for others will believe the best, not the worst. Love will not grow cynical or bitter, but will endure others faults to achieve, in love, a higher good for them.

When Jesus died on the cross, his costly sacrifice seemed to be mostly unappreciated. Yet, His loving sacrifice has drawn sinful men to God through the years, just as He predicted (Jn 12:32). His example will motivate us to act with such optimist love (1 Jn 3:16-18). Christ-like love can heal relationships. Love can encourage others to do better. Love can turn conflict into a constructive learning experience.

**3. Optimistic Hope for the Future.** People often commit suicide because they feel, based on current circumstances, that life isn't worth living. In despair, they want to escape overwhelming burdens and the discouraging futility of "hopeless" situations. The optimistic Christian, despite the current outlook in the valley of depression, will hang on to God's vision of hope.

Hope is confident expectation in the future promises of God. Through the gospel of Christ, we are assured that "it is impossible for God to lie" (Heb 6:18). The hope of forgiveness through Christ's sacrifice tells us God has invested a fortune to bring us safely to His eternal home. Hence, "we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast" (Heb 6:19). Hope lifts our outlook past the storms of life with our current problems. Whatever pain or perplexity we face, they will one day pass away in the clear, unclouded day of eternity. Hope anchors us to an eternal perspective. As C. S. Lewis observed, "All that is not connected to eternity is eternally out of date."



# The Perfect Fool

By Steve Klein

No one likes to be thought of as a fool. Yet, according to the Bible, the world is full of fools. The Scriptures even describe a number of ways to become a fool.

Here are seven ways to be a fool:

## 1. Doubt the resurrection.

The resurrection is a difficult concept for mortals to understand. Some find this reason enough to doubt that there will be a resurrection. By doubting the resurrection, they have an excuse to live in pleasure and moral foolishness. The apostle Paul observed that "if the dead do not rise" we could well say, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!" (1 Corinthians 15:32). Notice that doubting the resurrection leads to poor direction in this life. Given the fact that Christ rose from the dead, it is foolish to doubt the resurrection just because we do not understand how a dead person can come back to life. Paul notes that "someone will say, 'How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?'" He calls the person who would ask such doubt-filled questions a "foolish one" (1 Corinthians 15:35-36).

**2. Build your life around worldly accomplishments and prosperity.** In Luke 12, Jesus told of a rich man who was so prosperous that he had to build new barns to store all of his stuff. The rich man said to himself, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." "But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'" (Luke 12:19-20).

**3. Despise instruction.** "Fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Proverbs 1:7). They think they know it all, when in fact they have a lot to learn. "But fools hate knowledge" (Proverbs 1: 22). This

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kind of fool is commonly found in the home in the form of a teenager who will not listen to his father's instructions. "A fool despises his father's instruction" (Proverbs 15:5).

**4. Enjoy starting arguments.** "Any fool can start a quarrel," and so every fool seems to enjoy doing so (Proverbs 20:3). Truly, "A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calls for blows" (Proverbs 18:6).

**5. Make light of sin.** Fools mock at sin (Proverbs 14:9).

Sin is funny to fools. They don't see the seriousness of it. So they laugh at filthy jokes, take pride in drunken parties, and brag about getting away with breaking laws or committing sexual immorality. "To do evil is like sport to a fool, but a man of understanding has wisdom" (Proverbs 10:23).

**6. Act like you're always right and everyone else is wrong.** "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes" (Proverbs 12:15). "A fool has no delight in understanding, but in expressing his own heart" (Proverbs 18:2). "He who trusts in his own heart is a fool" (Proverbs 28:26).

**7. Act as if you will never have to answer to God.** Fools commit many sins, "Yet they say, The LORD does not see." They are only kidding themselves. The God who created the eyes and the ears sees and hears all. "Understand, you senseless among the people; and you fools, when will you be wise? He who planted the ear, shall He not hear? He who formed the eye, shall He not see?" (Psalms 94:7-9).

The number seven is thought to be the number of completion or perfection. If a person is a fool in all of the seven ways listed above, I suppose that would make him the perfect fool. Hopefully, we can all see the folly of that.

