

Mind YOUR Business

By Bill Lambert in the city.

One of the greatest problems with some people is their inability to keep out of the business of others. Some feel able to assess every situation regarding other people and then proceed to pronounce judgment concerning it. In most cases, they do not have all the facts. Many times their misinformation generates from innuendo and supposition. When Paul was in Jerusalem, the Jews tried to build a case against him based upon supposition. They accused him of polluting the temple by bringing a Gentile into it. They cried out, "Men of Israel, help: This is the man, that teacheth all men every where against the people, and the law, and this place: and further brought Greeks also into the temple, and hath polluted this holy place. (For they had seen before with him in the city Trophimus an Ephesian, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.)" (Acts 21:28, 29) They did not see Paul bring Trophimus into the temple, but merely supposed he had because they had seen them together

These people who bring judgment upon others are seldom willing to approach the ones they accuse in the presence of those whom they think ought to discipline the "guilty" party. Such is at least ungracious, and may even be dishonest.

Note the company the busybody keeps. "But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters" (1 Pet 4:15)

The busybody may claim that he is "just trying to help," and he does not see himself for what he is. He stirs up strife, and faithful people should not give him any audience. Note this from Solomon: "He who goes about as a slanderer reveals secrets, therefore do not associate with a gossip" (Prov 20:19 NAS).



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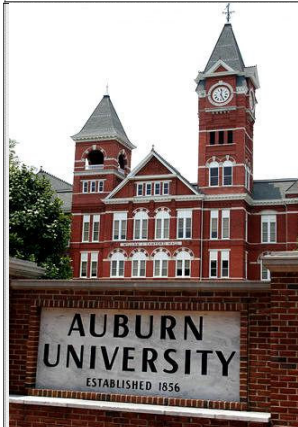


Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

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The Road to Higher Education

By Dee Bowman



We have several young people who are soon going away to college. Some have been home for the summer and are about to return for a new semester. We love you all and we're very proud of you. We miss you when you're gone.

The road you're about to travel is at once an exciting and dangerous one. The road to higher education is laced with great possibilities, while at the same time offering pitfalls you will want to avoid at all costs. I just want a few minutes of your time to suggest some things to help you as you travel this new road and are immersed in this new environment. Is that OK?

Of all the books you can study, none should delight your mind more than the word of the Lord. It's the first thing you need to live a happy life, first before any other book. When it's coupled with the good education you will no doubt achieve, it can bring you a totally satisfying life. Without it, you can never be truly happy. "I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy ways."

the question. And the answer is forthcoming. "By taking heed thereto according to thy word." No matter what you do this year, don't stray far from the word of God. Keep it close. It's your protection against evil inclinations and cultural temptations.

Seek the Lord whole-heartedly (vs. 10). "With my whole heart have I sought thee." Some changes are inevitable, but that doesn't mean everything needs to change. Some things need to stay as they are. You don't want

(Continued on page 2)

Thought to Ponder

There are no shortcuts on the way to spiritual maturity.

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

Classes:

Ladies Class -
Mon. 7 PM at the Davis' House
1635 Millbranch Drive

College Class and Singing -
Next Sunday Night (Aug 29) after
Services at the Tam's House

News and Notes

- Sara Chandler will have a procedure on Tues. to remove a kidney stone.
- Bob Simpson will have a MRI on Tuesday. He remains in much pain.
- Jimmy Weldon, Rusty Weldon's dad, continues in ICU.
- Debbi Coleman's uncle, Frank Johnson, is in ICU in B'ham and is improving.
- Trenton Anderson successfully had tubes placed in his ears.
- Those students who have indicated a willingness to place membership with us needs to meet with our membership committee.
- After every services Audio CDs will be available in the foyer of the sermon.

Sick

August Birthdays

Fran Snyder (Mother of Carla Humphrey)	Lori Holloway	Chick Wade	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
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.	Herbert Missildine (Toni Herd's Uncle)	

(Continued from page 1)

to change what you are. You're a Christian. You decide what you're going to do—and that's well and good—but plan to seek God with your whole heart, no matter your plans. Keep your faith above all keeping. No change is needed there.

Take the word with you (vs. 11). "Thy word have I hid in my heart." You'll be going some places that are new to you; and some of those new places are dangerous. Hide His word in your heart so that you are armed against the invasions of evil you no doubt will face. What a good way to begin this new time in your life—with His word in your heart.

Invite divine instruction (vs. 12). "Teach me thy statutes," he says. You will be getting considerable new information about how to live life in your new educational career, but you should not forget to invite some new instruction concerning your eternal career. Being a good Christian is more important than being a good engineer, or a good nurse, or a good anything else. Learn about Him and you get the best of all educations.

Don't be ashamed of who you are (vs. 13). It's easy to get caught up in this new life. And it's easy to just follow along with others, some of whom don't share your convictions. Don't let that happen. It's important that you make it known early on that you are different. Don't be ashamed. Be glad about who you are and let others know. Declare it with joy and without timidity.

Don't be dismayed at the discipline of God's word (vs. 14). It's easy, when

you've just been loosed from the rules of home and you're in charge of your life, to be a little loose about the discipline of God's word. Instead of treating the word of God with rejoicing, you may feel somewhat hemmed in by it. Remember, God's word never requires anything or restricts anything that is not for your good. "I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies," says that you understand its discipline to be for your good.

Keep in mind the really important things in your life (vs. 15). No matter how good the education you get, it's not as important, nor is it as functional, as is knowing and loving God and His word. "I will meditate on thy precepts," the psalm says. Don't get so busy with your new life that you don't take time to contemplate the eternal, to muse about the spiritual, to remember what has true value and lasting consequences. Meditation takes time. Take the time.

Delight in His word and don't forget its influence in your life (vs. 16). Of all the books you can study, none should delight your mind more than the word of the Lord. It's the first thing you need to live a happy life, first before any other book. When it's coupled with the good education you will no doubt achieve, it can bring you a totally satisfying life. Without it, you can never be truly happy. "I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy ways."

We love you, gang. We're proud of you—every one of you. You continue to be a joy to all of us. As you leave, please remember who you are, from whence you are come, and where you're going. And come home again soon.



Microwave Religion

By Craig Thomas

Undoubtedly today's world has many "conveniences": cell phones, instant pudding, remote controls, drive through restaurants, and microwave ovens. There's nothing inherently evil about conveniences, but living in such a world can lead us to develop unhealthy spiritual attitudes. Below are some examples that if practiced, lead to "microwave religion."

We live in a society without self-denial. But it is impossible to live a moral life without self-denial (**Titus 2:11-12**). Even Paul said he had to "discipline" his "body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified." (**1 Cor. 9:27**)

Salvation without sacrifice.

Jesus said, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me." (**Luke 9:23**) But about the only thing that differentiates most "Christians" from people of the world is that their name is on a church roll somewhere and they show up once in awhile for a worship service (maybe!). You can't have salvation without sacrifice! Jesus asks for our sacrifice, not occasionally, but "daily"!

Remission without repentance. Repentance is perhaps God's hardest command. Repentance is more than saying you're sorry (**2 Cor. 7:10**). It requires us to change our mind and our behavior (**Matt. 3:8**). Repentance is an absolute requirement! "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (**Luke 13:3; cf. Acts 17:30**). "God...now commands all men everywhere to repent," that's you, that's me, that's everyone! (**Acts 17:30**)

Righteousness without obedience. Many people excuse themselves of obeying God, "I'm just human!" they cry. But the Bible says, "Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments." (**1 John 2:3**) Claiming to know God without keeping His commands makes us a liar! (**1 John 2:4**) Jesus is "the author of eternal salvation" to "all who obey Him" (**Heb. 5:9**) and His commands are not "burdensome"! (**1 John 5:3**)

Morality without self denial.

We live in a society without self-denial. But it is impossible to live a moral life without self-denial (**Titus 2:11-12**). Even Paul said he had to "discipline" his "body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified." (**1 Cor. 9:27**) Are we greater than the humble apostle? Nay, we must practice the same!

Growth without diligence. Unfortunately most Christians remain spiritual "babies" (**Heb. 5:12-14**). Peter said we must "give all diligence" to "add" certain things to our faith (**see 2 Pet. 1:5-7**). If we fail to do so, he said we are "shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins." (**2 Pet. 1:9**) Are you growing or forgetting?

Knowledge without study. The amount of Bible knowledge possessed by most Christians is truly pitiful! Evidently they don't realize God said, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." (**Hos. 4:6**) We need to be diligent students of God's word (**2 Tim. 2:15**). Otherwise we'll fall too! (**Eph. 4:11-14**) How are your Bible study habits?

Truth without controversy. By its very nature truth is controversial. But in our "politically correct" world few are willing to "earnestly contend for the faith" (**Jude 3**). Does the truth make you squeamish? Remember, "Good preaching sounds reveille, not taps." What about your religion? Is it true to God's book? Is it the religion taught by Jesus and the apostles? Is it sacrificial, obedient, and self-denying? Or, is it a religion of convenience, a "microwave religion"?

