

A Reason for the Shadows

We sometimes speak of life amid the shadows. We refer to such things as sorrow and adversity, calamity and misfortune as shadows. Yet, we need to remember that the same God who made the sunshine also made the shadows. Yea, it is the brilliancy of the sunshine that produces the contrast of the shadows. Is there a value in shadows? Yes, verily, for who could appreciate the beauty of the sunrise were it not for the shadows of the night? To awake on a foggy morning with only the shadows of the misty clouds about us causes us to yearn for the crisp dawn with sun reflecting upon the western hills. Yes, shadows have their purpose.

And it is so with the shadows of pain, sorrow and adversity. The one who comes out of such

By Forrest D. Moyer shadows as these appreciates the light so much more than the one who has known only peace and prosperity. The pain of sorrow only intensifies the joy of contentment. The bitter cup of anguish makes the taste of comfort that much sweeter. We must learn to use the shadows to come to appreciate the sunshine.

When adversity comes, the end result of it will be determined by how we accept it and how we use it. We can lie down and wallow in the shadows of self-pity or we can move toward the sunshine. The choice is really ours. For as surely as there is a night, there also follows a sunrise. We can walk toward that sunrise and away from the night. Sunset may be coming, but the sunrise we'll see!



Matthew 28:18-20 "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

News and Notes

- Let's remember our expectant mothers: Joy Liu, and Amanda Stephens .
- Tam is away for several weeks visiting in China.
- We will be starting a new teaching quarter next Sunday.
- Brother Rouse will be having another Question Night in May. Please give any questions to him in writing in the next few weeks.
- Larry and Nathan Rouse will be away in Virginia from Monday through Friday. Larry will have some important opportunities to assist brethren there. Please remember him in your prayers.
- Let us remember all of our travelers for the holidays in our prayers!
- Audio CD's will be available in the foyer after each service.

Sick

Fran Snyder (Mother of Carla Humphrey)	Lori Holloway	Chick Wade	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz's Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Carrie Chavers (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	Jared Nixon	Philip Locke (Jeremiah Johnson's Uncle)
Ross Folmar	Grandparents of Mary Ann Roberts	Joe Perry (Anna Miller's Relative)	Toni Herd
Ed Mort (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	Kenn and Ellen Smith (Ken Sullivan's Parents)	Erlene Davis (Walker Davis' mother)	Daphne Whatley (Lisa Lanier's Mom)
Gerald White (Christopher's and Wesley's Father)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)	Bill Rhodes (Toni Herd's Uncle)	Mike Reed (Friend of the Long's)
Marty and Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Frank Johnson (Debbi Coleman's Uncle)	Herbert Missildine (Toni Herd's Uncle)	Jo Faust Williams (Manna Jones' friend)

December Birthdays

- 1 - David Ogle
- 2- Chuck Hunt
- 4 - Phillip Box
- 5 - Amber Adams
- 6 - Erica Seymore
- 7 - Hunter Collins
- 8 - Paul Coulston
- 10 - Megan Lee
- 11 - Spencer and Shepherd Hall
- 14- Roy Liu
- 21 - Jacob Jerkins
- 23 - Conner Godwin
- 24 - Melanie Daves
- 25 - Caleb Daniels
- 29 - Jonathan Cagle
- 29 - Matthew Persell
- 31 - Jennifer Daniels
- 31 - David Frame

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)**

Beware!

By Stan Adams



Thought to Ponder

False teachers often are being manipulated by the evil one and do not even know it.

We would use the term, we "watch out." The term speaks to the fact of impending peril, and issues warning, in order to avoid loss. It is used in **Colossians 2:8** -"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world and not after Christ." Again, we are warned by Christ in **Matthew 7:15** "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves."

In these two passages we are told to be careful and beware about what we are taught. We are warned that we can be led astray by those who appear to have our best interest at heart. Often, those we admire, can lead us into heresy and we may not even know it, because we are prejudiced by their good traits.

I have been a member of the church for 25 years and in a preacher's household for 37. I have watched and observed my father fret over having to deal with false teachers, I have watched

Error claims to be a learning process, but it never comes to a steady conclusion **(2 Tim. 3: 7)**. Error teaches by questioning, never takes a position that can be attributed definitely. It allows others to always wonder what the belief is.

him be demeaned, and be accused of lack of love because he stood his ground on Truth and would not back up. The observations of Christ and of Paul are very accurate and are still true. We should be ever aware of the possibility that we, or someone we love, may teach false doctrine and draw others away from their hope. In the time I have been a Christian. I have observed the tactics of false teachers, and have listened to sound brethren more seasoned than I am in their description of false teaching and its pattern.

(Continued on page 2)

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

(Continued from page 1)

Let us notice some attributes of false teaching.

False Teaching

1. Often portrays itself as uncertain. Error claims to be a learning process, but it never comes to a steady conclusion (**2 Tim. 3: 7**). Error teaches by questioning, never takes a position that can be attributed definitely. It allows others to always wonder what the belief is.

2. False teaching is often done by those who view themselves as the free-thinkers of the day (Acts 17:21). In this passage we see the Athenians were forever interested in "some new thing." One who teaches false doctrine often sees himself as an innovator, one who rejects all the "traditional ideas," and is willing to mold for himself some new doctrine. Many of the young men I went to school with followed this pattern and are now in apostasy.

3. False teaching is deceitful. It does not advertise itself as dangerous and often on the surface seems innocent. When it is discovered for what it is and is challenged, it often goes underground until conditions are safe to surface again. Those who followed Holt, Ketcherside, and Fudge were told not to reveal what they believed all at once, but to keep people wondering and unsure. **Matthew 7:15** tells us that it appears as innocent as a lamb.

4. False teaching turns people against one another. It divides, shatters and splinters until a full path of destruction is laid. Then, sadly, there are some sad soldiers on the edges of the battlefield, who stand and wring their hands, and wonder what happened, and remember when someone admonished them to stand or be consumed, but it is too late!

5. False teaching would like for every is-

sue to be a "matter of judgment." It would have you believe that vital issues that are matters of doctrine are minor points, and that "we all come out at the same place anyhow, so what is the big deal?" Does that sound to you like your Baptist friend, when spoken to about baptism? He will say, "We both believe in baptism, what difference does it make, whether or not it is for remission of sins?," The live and let live philosophy is gendered by false teaching. Sympathizers with false teaching often are "milktoast" Christians who will not agree with the error, but will not take an active stand against it. This makes them a partaker of the evil deeds accomplished by false doctrine (**2 John 9-11**).

6. False teaching often portrays itself as being misunderstood. "You didn't hear me right", or "I didn't mean it." We all know that as humans we will slip and misspeak, occasionally, but when we develop a pattern of telling folks we have been misunderstood, we are either involved in false teaching, or do not know what we are talking about, and ought to keep quiet and not advertise our doubts as doctrine. Much harm is done in the church because Christians get together to "study" and all that occurs is a mass pooling of ignorance, with everyone leaving more confused than when he came, but "feeling good," because we have "studied without the shackles of tradition."

All Christians should beware of false doctrine and be unafraid to oppose it. In order to do this we must be studious (**2 Tim. 2:15**). We must be aware of the tactics of error, and be unafraid as David was when he met Goliath. When error is espoused, it is a slap in the face of our Savior, who died to bring us salvation and hope, not confusion and uncertainty. That should make us upset! I have never been accused of liking a fight. I have always done what I could to avoid one, but that does not mean indignation cannot come to the front when Truth is challenged. Beware! and put your armor on! (**Eph. 6:10-18**).



"Bound to Give Thanks ... For You"

By Steve Klein

Could it be that we are taking the faith, love, encouragement and work of our brothers and sisters in Christ for granted? Let's remember to thank God for one another!

Teaching little children to pray can be a wonderful and sometimes amusing challenge. I recently read about a little three year old girl named Kelli who, when saying her nightly prayers with her mother, would thank God for every family member, every friend, and every pet animal (current and past). For several weeks, as she finished her prayer, Kelli would add, "And all girls." Finally her mother asked

her, "Kelli, why do you always add the part about all girls?" Her response: "Because we always finish our prayers by saying 'All Men!'" You have to admit, "all men" and "amen" do sound alike. Kelli wanted to make sure the girls were included too!

I wonder if the Lord thinks that teaching adult disciples to pray is also a challenge. In **1 Timothy 2:1**, the apostle Paul exhorts that "giving of thanks be made for all men" (and yes the word "men" here includes girls). Have we learned this lesson? Do we thank God for all men? Do we even thank Him for any men?

Writing to the Thessalonians, the apostle Paul asserted twice that he was "bound" to thank God for the Thessalonians.

"We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other" (**2 Thessalonians 1:3**).

"But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth" (**2 Thessalonians 2:13**).

The word "bound" in these passages implies duty or obligation. We have a very special responsibility to give thanks to God for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Over and over again Paul mentions giving thanks

to God for fellow Christians, and he gives several reasons for doing so:

For their faith and love.

"Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers" (**Ephesians 1:15-16**).

"We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints" (**Colossians 1:3-4**).

"I thank my God, making mention of you always in my prayers, hearing of your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints" (**Philemon 4-5**).

For encouraging and supporting him in his efforts to serve the Lord.

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now" (**Philippians 1:3-5**).

For their work and labor in the Lord.

"We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father" (**1 Thessalonians 1:2-3**).

I fear that somewhere along the way, many of us have gotten out of the habit of thanking God for others. Could it be that we are taking the faith, love, encouragement and work of our brothers and sisters in Christ for granted? Let's remember to thank God for one another! As you count your many blessings, remember that some of God's greatest blessings are not things; they're people!

