

# Truth

By David Sargent

Recently in traffic court, a man who received an expensive parking ticket for illegal parking testified that a uniformed officer had given his OK for the man to park there. The Judge asked the man if he would recognize the officer if he ever saw him again. The man replied that he would. The judge then said, "Good. When you see the officer again, tell him he owes you \$57."

The point: Just because an authority figure offers a judgment about a matter has no bearing on whether it is true or false - right or wrong. Truth is Truth! It is independent of opinion, polls, and presentation.

In his book *Up from Slavery*, Booker T. Washington explained that during the period following the Civil War, many people became teachers thinking it would be an easy way to make a living. One such fellow went from village to village, teaching for awhile and receiving pay for it. As he entered one town, the people asked if he taught that the earth is round or flat. He replied that he was prepared to teach either way.... based on the preference of a majority of his patrons!

Truth is NOT determined by survey, despite our modern at-

tempts to make it so. Ultimate truth is found in GOD ALONE! God has revealed the truth in His Word (**John 17:17**).

**The truth is... We have a SIN problem!** "For ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (**Romans 3:23**). "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

**The TRUTH is... We CANNOT solve our sin problem with good works!** Trying to be a person of good moral character is commendable, but insufficient to erase the stain of sin from our lives. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is NO other name under heaven... whereby we must be saved" (**Acts 4:12**).

**The Truth is... God LOVES us despite our sin!** "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

**The Truth is... We MUST accept God's offer of salvation on His terms!** We WILL enter eternity without God and without hope unless we have responded to Him on to His terms (**John 3:36; Acts 2:38; 22:16**).



### Classes This Week

**Thursday 7 PM**  
Evangelism Class at the Building

### 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)	Bill Rhodes (Toni Herd's Uncle)	Philip Locke (Jeremiah Johnson's Uncle)
Amber Moseley (Toni Herd's niece)	Grandparents of Mary Ann Roberts	Joe Perry (Anna Miller's Relative)	Jerry Sandlin (Megan Lee's Grandfather)
Richard Call Seth Humphrey's Uncle	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Erlene Davis (Walker Davis' mother)	Mary Smith (Nathan Smith's Grandmother)
Gerald White (Christopher's and Wesley's Father)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)	Dale Herd (William Herd's brother)	Larry Alexander (Friend of Phillip Box)
Marty and Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Frank Johnson (Debbi Coleman's Uncle)	Dale Wilkes (William Herd's Uncle)	Easton Alexander (Phillip Box's cousin's baby)

### June Birthdays

- 1 - Kenlee Burton
- 3 - Phillip Stephens
- 9 - Kay White
- 11 - Hannah Alexander
- 12 - Orié Cecil
- 12 - Riley Jones
- 12 - Madeline Morton
- 13 - Marcus Harrell
- 14 - Jeremiah Johnson
- 17 - Wesley White
- 17 - Sarah Norman
- 17 - Brooks Pender
- 22 - Seth Buchanon
- 22 - Paul Tam
- 25 - Corey Hunt
- 28 - Craig Davis
- 28 - Clint Davis
- 28 - Allison Chandler
- 29 - Lisa Lanier

### News and Notes

- Betty Bradford had emergency surgery Saturday and remains at EAMC recovering.
- We welcome Clay and Emily Jones with us as new members!
- Let us remember Matthew Johnson, David Golden and Tim Morton in our prayers as they are deployed overseas.
- Let us remember Jared Burton and Chris Davis as they undergo treatments.
- Let us remember our expectant mothers in our prayers: Anne Morton and Jana Hall.
- Sandlyn Fultz, Davis' sister, had back surgery and is home recovering.
- Bob Harkrider will be in a meeting at the Southeast church in Montgomery through Friday.

# The Auburn Beacon

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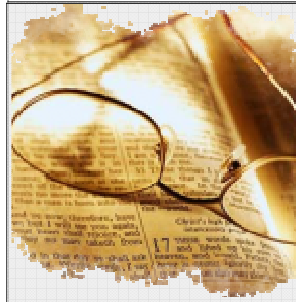
Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (**Matthew 5:16**)

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## Are the Gospels Part of the New Testament?

By Wayne Jackson



### Thoughts to Ponder

I know of a world that is sunk in shame,  
Where hearts oft faint and tire;  
But I know of a Name,  
A precious Name,  
That can set that world on fire:  
Its sound is sweet, its letters flame.  
I know of a Name, a precious Name,  
'Tis Jesus.

Jesus Christ taught that a person who divorces his or her marital companion and then marries another is living in a state of adultery—unless the divorce was initiated by an innocent victim whose trust had been violated by the sin of fornication (**see Mt. 19:9; cf. 5:32**).

The implication of this statement, of course, is this. The innocent victim does have the right to sever the breached marital union—by means of divorce. And should the victim so choose, he or she has been granted the privilege of entering a new union.

One rather bizarre quibble that attempts to negate the right of remarriage (under any circumstance) alleges that the affirmation of Matthew's Gospel cannot be employed to justify a second union following divorce. The reason offered in defense of this notion is that the "Gospel accounts" allegedly are not a part of the New Testament! Supposedly, they represent Old Testament legislation, hence the testimony of

During these days, certain instructions pertaining to the coming kingdom of Christ were taught by the Lord and his apostles. Of course, the formalities of the Mosaic regime were still in force technically, and would remain so until the Law was finally "nailed to the cross" (**Col. 2:14; cf. Eph. 2:14-15**).

the four Gospel records is irrelevant to the "remarriage" controversy unless the "divorce" concession is specifically replicated in the Acts-through-Revelation portion of the New Testament.

The novelty of this theory is demonstrated by the fact that it finds virtually no support by competent Bible scholars. The fallacy of the dogma may be demonstrated in several ways.

The New Testament is perfectly clear in its teaching that, commencing with the ministry of John the Immerser, a new era of instruction was being progressively imple-

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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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mented by divine authority. This time frame constituted a “transitional” period. During these days, certain instructions pertaining to the coming kingdom of Christ were taught by the Lord and his apostles. Of course, the formalities of the Mosaic regime were still in force technically, and would remain so until the Law was finally “nailed to the cross” (**Col. 2:14; cf. Eph. 2:14-15**).

For example, Jesus declared: “The law and the prophets were until John: from that time the gospel of the kingdom of God is preached, and every man enters violently into it” (**Lk. 16:16**).

Though this is not the place for a detailed exegesis of this passage, the text clearly indicates that a preparatory course of instruction, in view of the approaching kingdom, was initiated by the ministry of John. That new body of information contained many truths that would become applicable and obligatory with the inauguration of Christ’s regime, as such commenced on the day of Pentecost.

To contend that the teaching within the Gospel accounts is not applicable to those of the Christian age would reflect a manifest absurdity. Christ taught, for example, that men must satisfy the conditions of the “born again” operation in order to enter the kingdom (**Jn. 3:3-5**).

That this process had an after-Pentecost application is obvious from the following facts. The Lord’s kingdom did not arrive until Pentecost (**Mk. 9:1; Acts 1:8; 2:4**), and the saints of the post-Mosaic period throughout the Middle East had undergone this “birth” procedure in obtaining their salvation (**cf. 1 Pet. 1:1-2**).

Hence, the “new birth” procedure taught by Christ in the “Gospels” had a **post-Gospels application**.

Then consider the following admonition from the Son of God.

“And if your brother sins against you, go, show him his fault between you and him alone: if he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he hears you not, take with you one or two more, that at the mouth of two witnesses or three every word may be established. And if he refuses to hear them, **tell it to the church**: and if he refuses to hear the **church** also, let him be unto you as the Gentile and the publican (emphasis added).”

Here is a context that can have no application **until** the day of Pentecost and the establishment of the church. This fact alone destroys the baseless assertion that nothing in the Gospel narratives is applicable after the advent of the Christian age (unless repeated in Acts through Revelation).

Finally, the context of **Matthew 19:3ff** makes it absolutely clear that the Lord’s teaching regarding divorce and remarriage was not a part of the law of Moses. In fact, Christ contrasts his impending law with that of the previous regime.

Under the Mosaic system, loose practices relative to divorce were permitted due to the “hardness” of the nation’s hearts. Jesus noted, however, “but from the beginning it has not been so” (**v. 8**). The divine ideal had never changed, and in the coming Christian age the laxness of the previous administration was to be terminated, being replaced by a loftier code of marital conduct.

And so Jesus declared, “And I say unto you, whosoever shall divorce his wife, except for fornication, and shall marry another, is committing adultery: and he who marries her when she is divorced is committing adultery” (**v. 9**).

This is **Christian doctrine**, not Mosaic legislation.



## Broken

By Emily-Anne Rouse

Through all of this, we see one common thing. God has a plan. No matter what the situation is, we can have faith that God’s promises will remain *unbroken*.

“When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.” (**Genesis 3:6**)

God had only set one rule for Adam and Eve. That rule was *broken*. When that first sin was committed, man separated himself from God. That bond was *broken* for the time being.

“Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.” (**Genesis 6:5-6**)

“All that generation also were gathered to their fathers; and there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD, nor yet the work which He had done for Israel.” (**Judges 2:10**)

Years past and still God’s people couldn’t see their sin. With each sin, His heart was *broken*. He cried out, “Oh that they had such a heart in them, that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always, that it may be well with them and with their sons forever!” (**Deuteronomy 5:29**)

God had a plan from the very beginning. He knew that His people would sin. So He sent His only Son to die.

“But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities;

The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.” (**Isaiah 53:5**)

**The Son of God was broken for you and me.**

When He died, the veil was torn. The old law was nailed to the cross and was *broken* so that we might have a relationship with God!

When Christ died, those who knew Him were horrified. Their hope was *broken*. Who could kill the Son of God? But through all, we see that God had a plan.

“...knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him.” (**Romans 6:9**)

That bond between Christ and death was *broken*! Jesus walked out of the tomb and took the keys with Him. With the resurrection, all doubt is *broken* and we can be assured that Jesus is the Son of God.

Instead of the sacrifice of the lamb, God now asks that we give Him our *broken* hearts, that He might restore them.

“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.” (**Psalms 51:17**)

Through all of this, we see one common thing. God has a plan. No matter what the situation is, we can have faith that God’s promises will remain *unbroken*.

