

Who Cares? So What?

Is there a "right" and a "wrong"?? Is there "truth" beyond which is "error;" things authorized, beyond which are things unauthorized? Is there a standard by which such is established? We discourage a hasty answer; and suggest some careful soul-searching, before you commit yourself to something you do not really believe, for the consequences are tremendous.

By Robert Turner

Ability, responsibility, and accountability; these are inseparable concepts, each supporting and necessitating the others. Even if God is removed from the scene, man must respond and give account of that response to his fellow-man, and to himself. Failing this, his existence is utterly without meaning. Put God into the scene---you can't keep Him out---and responsibility becomes awesome.

There is the choice between man as his own final authority, and God his Maker and Superior. At this point it is important to recognize that if God is the final authority, a revelation of "truth and right" can not be subject to man's feeling or approval. It must be approached objectively, and we may safely assume that God would make His will understandable to His creatures. (Who made man's "mind"?)

Not impossible---responsibility is linked with ability; not terrifying---for the "fear of God is reverence for a loving Father; but awesome none the less. Its burden is cushioned by the "good news" of His love, mercy and sacrifice on our behalf; and by "the recompense of the reward."

Then, there is the choice between man as a robot his will, words, and actions predetermined -- so that God is just playing games with Himself; or, man as a free moral agent. Walk with care! Walk with care! For with free will there is responsibility, and there must be final judgment.

So that when one stops to think about it--and brother I do hope you will stop to think about it--we can ill afford the popular "Who Cares?" or "So What?" attitude. Nor can we allow an emotional "love to blind us to the realities of divine authority. It is false peace that ignores one's need to know and conscientiously follow the word of God.



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 - Orrie 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
- 26 - Chris Wilson
- 28 - Craig Davis
- 28 - Clint Davis
- 28 - Allison Chandler
- 29 - Lisa Lanier

News and Notes

- Betty Bradford continues to recover from her surgery.
- We welcome Clay and Emily Jones with us as new members! Contact Info: 1963 Rock Ledge Ct; Auburn, AL 36832 Clay - 334-312-1393 ; Emily - 813-416-9604
- 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.
- Bob Harkrider will be in a meeting at the Southeast church in Montgomery through Friday 7 PM weekly services.
- Congratulations to our high school grads - Spencer Sullivanne, Caleb Law and Carmen Herd.
- Let us remember the relative of Jared Burton who was in a recent car accident.

A weekly publication of the University church of Christ in Auburn, Alabama

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)**

Volume 2, Issue 31

June 5, 2011

When I Was Baptized

By Larry Rouse



Thoughts to Ponder

In baptism we are initiated, crowned, chosen, embraced, washed, adopted, gifted, reborn, killed, and thereby sent forth and redeemed. We are identified as one of God's own, then assigned our place and our job within the kingdom of God.

We do not forget great turning points in their lives. It may be the memory of meeting and falling in love with the one that eventually would become our mate. It could be the loss of a parent whose memory continues to inspire us to serve God and never quit. These and other critical points in our lives should both humble us and inspire us to draw more closely to the God that provides for us beyond what we could ever know **(Rom 8:28)**.

The greatest turning point for any of us is the day that we entered into fellowship with the God of heaven. This was a point of our turning from our sins and finding the forgiveness that makes a relationship with God possible **(Acts 3:19, 26)**.

I often think back to the situations that led me to that decision to turn to Jesus Christ. It is good for me to remember the rejoicing and the new direction that I found in my life. It was like I myself had died and come back to life **(Rom 6:2-5)**. This turning point transformed my life and led me down paths that I never thought I would take. To this very day my life is filled with newness and an awareness that my future paths are determined by a living faith which looks for doors of opportunity that the Lord may place before me.

Why our memory is important

Over time we can drift from our relationship with God to the point that we are

The day of my baptism was the day that I died. It was a day similar to that of the prodigal son who, because of an utter disgust over his aimless life, came back to his father with nothing to offer but his willingness to be a slave. He just wanted to be with the father that loved him!

caught up in a mindless and heartless "going through the motions." A living faith must continually be growing, adding, and fighting or it is dead. Peter points out why some fail to add to their faith. "For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins **(2 Peter 1:9)**. What do you remember about your forgiveness?

A time of darkness and hopelessness

One cannot come to God without first seeing their need. I can remember the masquerade of living in the world and giving the appearance of happiness. The world did provide a series of escapes and highs that left my basic needs unmet. The world's "purpose" was found in short term pleasure that changed depending upon the desires of the moment **(1 John 2:15-17)**.

(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)

The world also had a “carrot and stick” approached to keeping you “in line.” If you were to be accepted by others in the world, then you must accept that there are no real standards and no real “truth.” I learned very quickly that in order to have associations with some people I had to accept their “personal lifestyle” and even become a partaker in it. “In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you” (1 Peter 4:4).

It did not take me very long to realize that a life with no standards is a life with no purpose. Also I came to realize that those in the world who claimed to be my friends, were in fact ruled by the “god of this age”, and were walking in darkness too (2 Cor 4:4). I sadly knew that they would discard me in a moment.

The bright light of a living faith

Within my own heart I knew that God existed and that He ultimately could erase the pain of an aimless life if I could but find Him. I remember praying a simple prayer to God on a beautiful starry night. “God, please let me come to know You.” This was a serious prayer for light. As I would come to know later, our God will always answer such a prayer (John 7:17, Acts 16:9-10).

My search began with a daily reading of the Bible. As I read, I came upon verses that deeply touched me as they attested to the power of a living faith. The optimism of Paul in the face of adversity astounded me.” For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18). This was a verse that I read and reread, marveling at how real purpose and joy can be found regardless of outward circumstances. Was it possible that I might one day have such a faith?

The day of my death

As I continued to read the Bible, I came to see how men received Jesus into their lives. My reading of the book of Acts helped me see how people like me were able to turn from the world to serve a living God. Conversion was no casual process. It was a death! “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Gal 2:20).

Without exception I found that men that would come to Christ had to surrender all. Those at Ephesus that became Christians burned their books of magic and

gave up the practice of it which had an enormous monetary consequence for them (Acts 19:19-20). Did they complain about this? No, they would speak as the apostle Paul would about the things he gave up for Christ. “Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ” (Phil 3:8).

It was the love of God that showed me that I needed to deal with the issue of my own sin before God. Jesus died on a Roman cross to provide the only possible sacrifice for my sin. It was good news indeed to know that God has provided that which I could never provide on my own. “For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom 6:23).

How was I to receive this free gift? As I read through the book of Acts I plainly saw the answer. “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins... (Acts 2:38). “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). Every time one came to believe and turn to Christ in the book of Acts, they were baptized immediately (Acts 8:34-39, 16:30-34).

The day of my baptism was the day that I died. It was a day similar to that of the prodigal son who, because of an utter disgust over his aimless life, came back to his father with nothing to offer but his willingness to be a slave. He just wanted to be with the father that loved him! “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants” (Luke 15:18-19). God responded to my death just like the father of the prodigal did, with a full restoration of fellowship and great rejoicing (Luke 15:20-24).

Why I need to remember

What a joy it is to remember the escape from a terrible slavery to a present life in the grace of God! I need to remember both the darkness of the past and the power of a life with God. “For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom 5:20-23).

What do you remember?



Yes You Can

By Don Truex

To be happy in the work of the Lord is to cultivate a real sense of *belonging*, to legitimately feel that *you* are a vital part of the work.

One question asked with frequency is, “What Can I Do As A Member Of This Local Congregation?” That is truly a fine inquiry and manifests a spirit that is much needed today.

To be happy in the work of the Lord is to cultivate a real sense of *belonging*, to legitimately feel that *you* are a vital part of the work.

To be active in the work of the Lord is to have *concern* for that work and a genuine *love* for those who share in that same work with you.

There is much that you can do today to share the good message of salvation that has graced your life. You Can:

- Concentrate, one on one, in leading a soul to salvation.
- Entertain a group of members in your home in order to cultivate better friendships and relationships. Take a personal interest in and responsibility for thee peace, harmony and growth of the church family.
- Invite a friend or family member to Bible study and Worship. Countless people are sincerely searching for truth and would cherish and accept your interest in them.
- Take an active interest in the visitors to our services. Greet them with warmth and friendliness. Talk to them, Sit with them, encourage them. Never allow

them to merely be lost in a sea of humanity and thus leave feeling that their presence is not important and valued.

- Through a card, visit, or call, encourage those members who are absent from our assemblies. Absenteeism is a symptom of a deeper need which must be addressed immediately.

- Write a note of appreciation to someone who has truly influenced your spiritual life.
- Forgive someone who has set himself to be your enemy. Ask God to help you rise above anger, revenge and ill-will. Pray for that enemy and do him good. Always conduct yourself as a Christian in both word and action.
- Do something thoughtful for a sick or homebound person. What better way can one illustrate love for those less fortunate than ourselves?
- Make a special effort to show hospitality to someone who has lost a loved one or is struggling with some grave personal challenge.
- Pray every day for the saints and the Kingdom of God on earth.

You see, there is much *you* can do in using this day to the glory of God and the betterment of His Son's kingdom.

