

# Three Men Rebel Against Hypocrisy

By Bill Hall

Three men rebel against hypocrisy, but they vary greatly in their reactions.

The first man turns to total moral abandonment. He throws off all restraint as he gives himself to the fulfillment of every fleshly desire. "Self" becomes his god. He hardens himself to the tears of his family as he goes out to do what he wants to do. His "justification" for his shameful conduct: "At least I'm not a hypocrite!"

The second man goes to the opposite extreme. He is fed up with the weakness and hypocrisy that he sees in all the churches, and he is not going to be like such people. He will become a Christian and from the beginning "he's going to live with it." He will be an example of what a Christian really ought to be. To him, the cure for hypocrisy is perfection.

The third man wants to avoid hypocrisy in his life, but at the same time, he has a deep sense of his own imperfection. So he takes on no air in infallibility, but sets out to be genuine. His genuineness soon becomes apparent to others. He does not claim perfection, but he strives for perfection. As he worships God, he does not claim to be perfect as a worshipper, but when the singing begins he gives his heart to what he's doing; when the prayer is led, he listens and makes the prayer his prayer; during the supper he meditates on the suffering of the Lord; and throughout the sermon he participates in a study of God's word; if his mind wanders, he brings it back; and when the worship period

ends, he asks God to forgive him for his failure and to accept his worship in spite of his imperfection. When he goes to his job, he does not claim perfection among his fellow workers, but they know that he will try to give eight hours of work for eight hours of pay; that he is trustworthy; that he is pure in speech and life; and that if he is ever overcome by pressure around him to sin, he will humbly seek the forgiveness of those who have been wronged.

He is the same in the home. His family respects him because he is genuine and does not claim strength and goodness beyond reality. His family sees his faults, but his one redeeming quality that enables him to maintain their respect is his ability to say, "I'm sorry." In every area of his life, he walks humbly before his God and his fellow man.

Our third man has found the true cure for hypocrisy. The first man, if he does not repent, will someday be a miserable wretch, his life completely torn and shattered. The second man is headed for disillusionment. His goals are unreal; his outlook is totally wrong. But the man who "walks humbly with his God" and is wholly free from guile and is a blessed man indeed. His life and his attitude with God is what God wants it to be and he lives in hope of heaven.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3).



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	Easton Alexander (Phillip Box's cousin's baby)	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, Anna 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)	

July Birthdays  
 3 - Nathan Rouse  
 11 - Madi White  
 12 - Aurie Adams  
 15 - Bradley Seymour  
 16 - Nathan Smith  
 23 - Drew Haley Smith  
 25 - Yvette Rouse

News and Notes

- Let us remember Matthew Johnson, David Golden in our prayers as they are deployed overseas.
- Tim Morton is here for one more week before returning to a new post.
- 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.
- We are expecting a very large number of new students this fall! Lets be praying and preparing to do our part in the church here.
- There is a study at the Rouse's on Tuesday at 7 PM on Instrumental Music.

# 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 37 July 17, 2011



## A Letter From a Disenchanted Young Intellectual

By Ed Harrell

Dear Brother Dr. Harrell,

Since you have a Ph.D. degree in something (I forget what, but anything will do), I am sure you will be able to sympathize with the problems I am having with the ignorant brethren in the church where I was raised. The main problem is the preacher who is not only ignorant but extremely dogmatic. He thinks he solves every problem by quoting the Bible (which his crude mind has somehow managed to commit to memory), and, unfortunately, this seems to satisfy the ignorant members of the church. My friends and I have repeatedly pointed out that one can prove anything by quoting the Bible, that Brother Simple (the minister) is totally incapable of understanding the Bible since he is not a student of Greek, Hebrew, Aramaic, Coptic, Rumanian, Hungarian, Gaelic, and the other fourteen essential languages, and that even if he was right, he has a very bad attitude about it.

There is a law of common sense (which they probably do not teach at Podunk) which states that it is impossible for one to leave from a place which he is not at. There is also a truism which says you cannot improve that which is perfect. Your problem is that Christ made the church perfectly and you cannot improve it.

felt begrudgingly compelled to agree that his view of the Bible seemed to make sense. Of course, I was sure from my studies in high school that the church was in general a pretty ignorant lot, but not until my college experience did I realize what a bunch of clods are in the Church of Christ.

After a year at Podunk State, I am now quite confident in my own superiority and feel it my duty to lead my brethren out of their ignorance. My year at Podunk (which is reputed to be the third best university in the world--just behind Chester Arthur International University and Trade School and Northeast Central County Charity Junior College) has opened

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### Thoughts to Ponder

The whole history of the world is discovered to be but a contest between the wisdom of God and the cunning of Satan and fallen men. The outcome of the contest is not in doubt.

**Do You Have a Bible Question?**  
 Call (334) 734-2133 or  
 E-mail:  
[LarryRouse@aubeacon.com](mailto: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

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my eyes to the extreme wisdom of human wisdom. Professor Hotshot, who they say knows everything in the world (I think this report is probably true since he knows more than I do), gave a brilliant series of lectures on his system of nonreligious philosophy until he was fired for incompetence. Dr. Reprobate was unfortunately only in the middle of his lectures on the inferiority of Christian ethics when his two children committed suicide, he was arrested on a morals charge, and his wife beat the daylight out of him.

He returned for the final two lectures, but he somehow seemed to be lacking in the old zip. But all in all the year was a great success. The professors assured us each day that they held ancient licenses which allowed them to utter nothing but the truth and that so long as we followed them two paces to the rear and applauded at proper intervals, they would make us in their own image. In fact, they told us that after one year we could go to our homes and act as if we knew everything--although they made it clear that we did not know so much of everything as they knew, but that we probably knew enough of it to make the people at home who knew they did not know everything think that we knew everything.

Now, this is my problem. The people in this church do not think that I know everything. Furthermore, they seem totally indifferent to the fact that I think I know everything. Brother Simple continues to deal with every issue with the same simple references to the Bible. Of course, I have had little time to study the Bible while under the strict regime of trying to learn everything at Podunk (in addition, of course, to a little fun and games). I must confess it is a bit discomfoting to have Brother Simple (who Professor Hotshot assures me is an ignorant bigot, and I believe no one knows an ignorant bigot better than Professor Hotshot) repeatedly give simple Bible answers which make my sophisticated questions seem ignorant. All of which simply confirms the belief of these ignorant people that they have access to a divine wisdom just because they know what the Bible says, and that I (and this makes me the maddest) do not know everything.

One brother even suggested that Prof. Hotshot did not know everything, and that if he knew anything, he would know that he did not know everything.

My questions are: 1. Should I leave the church or stay and try to improve it? 2. How can I refute Brother Simple's Bible arguments? 3. Can one be a Christian with the simple attitude of these people?

Your intellectual friend,

I.M. Smart

Dear young brother Smart (Is that your full name?),

1. There is a law of common sense (which they probably do not teach at Podunk) which states that it is impossible for one to leave from a place which he is not at. There is also a truism which says you cannot improve that which is perfect. Your problem is that Christ made the church perfectly and you cannot improve it. On the other hand, one has to recognize it to be in it, so you cannot leave it. If you have any inclination to be religious, and to go to heaven, I recommend that you try to find the church of Christ. You might begin by looking at the church where you were raised--they sound pretty good to me.

2. Refuting the sublime wisdom of the Bible is very difficult. Some - mostly those who talk rapidly, giggle frequently, and blow smoke-rings - refute the Bible with cute and urbane sophistry. But one has to be very clever to do this effectively, and so I would not recommend this to you. I always recommend to someone in your position that he study the Bible. You would find yourself able to refute anyone who teaches it incorrectly, to answer many questions which you did not know existed, and it might even change your spirit.

3. You are absolutely right to perceive that only one with a right attitude can go to heaven. Paul described it as the "mind of Christ" in **Phil. 2:5**. Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount spoke of the "poor in spirit" and the "pure in heart." (**Matt. 5:3, 8**). He told his disciples that they would have to become as little children. (**Matt. 18:3, 4**). I commend to you this spirit which furnishes the wisdom of the ages to all those who will listen to God. - **Vanguard, Feb 1975**



## Are You in the Path of the Storm?

By Steve Klein

The powerful destructive force of Hurricane Ivan was witnessed by many in Alabama and Florida this past week. Thousands upon thousands fled coastal areas to avoid the storm's path. But a few foolhardy individuals did not. Some actually traveled great distances in order to get in Ivan's way and experience its fury firsthand. We're made to wonder about the sanity and sense of those who would make such a choice. Yet, in the spiritual realm, many make similar choices everyday.

In **Proverbs 1:27-30**, Wisdom warns that those who reject her have chosen a disastrous destiny indeed. They have placed themselves in the path of a terrifying storm with little hope of rescue. Wisdom says,

*"When your terror comes like a storm, and your destruction comes like a whirlwind, When distress and anguish come upon you. 28 Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me. 29 Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD, 30 They would have none of my counsel And despised my every rebuke."*

My friends, when we reject instruction, correction or rebuke that is based in the wis-

Be wise. Flee the storm. Listen carefully and humbly to rebuke. Make corrections in your life where they are needed. "Rebuke is more effective for a wise man Than a hundred blows on a fool" (**Proverbs 17:10**).

dom of God, we are choosing to be destroyed by the storms of life.

But it is so easy to dismiss criticism and rebuke. We rationalize our actions. We justify ourselves. We may do this whether it is that we've been told that we need to attend assemblies of the church more faithfully, or

study our Bibles more frequently, or stop smoking, or stop speeding, or stop gossiping or any other of 1,000 rebukes we might need to hear. All too often we choose to stay in the path of the storm.

A day before Ivan hit, the weather was beautiful. It might have been easy for those in Ivan's path to convince themselves that no storm was coming -- that they could continue as they were, where they were. If that's what the news and media outlets had been saying, many would have stayed. It is easier and more pleasant to be told what we want to hear. But, "It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise than for a man to hear the song of fools" (**Ecclesiastes 7:5**).

Be wise. Flee the storm. Listen carefully and humbly to rebuke. Make corrections in your life where they are needed. "Rebuke is more effective for a wise man Than a hundred blows on a fool" (**Proverbs 17:10**).

