

Because It Is Right

Reward incentive motivation permeates our society. People respond to rewards just like little puppies do. Some parents think only in terms of rewarding their children, and they even reward them for being bad. When a parent says to a little child, "If you will quit throwing a temper tantrum, we will go get an ice cream as soon we get away from the Dr.'s office," he is rewarding bad behavior and the child quickly understands how to get what he wants. The "in thing" now in many churches is to offer physical rewards for being religious. That ranges from the "gospel of health and wealth" that says, "If you give \$100, God will give you \$1,000," to appealing to the fleshly appetites of entertainment to get people to come to "church."

Whatever happened to doing right because it is right? Surely, Jesus offers men rewards but those incentives have nothing to do with the sensual de-

By Jim R. Everett sires. In fact, he condemned those who followed him because they were fed -- "Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life," (John 6:29). The reward for righteousness is eternal life with God. God expects right behavior, because he is holy and we must be like him to share in spiritual life (1 Peter 1:15-16).

Christians are committed to a way of life that is righteous, because it is the right way to live. Sometimes the righteous life may offer a material advantage but that isn't why the Christian lives that way. At other times, being righteous may be a difficult road and the righteous may be mocked and persecuted. The disciple of the Lord does right when people speak well of him and when they do not -- his motivation is doing right, because it is the right thing.



Sunday 5:15 Kid's Class at the Building	Sunday After Services College Devo. And Singing at the Hall's. Ashley Miller will be teaching!	Monday 7PM Men's Class at the Davis'	Tuesday 8 PM "Truth Seekers" at Student Center - Room 2310	Wednesday 12 Noon Ladies "Parenting" class at Laura Humphrey's.
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Sick			
Richard Wood (Melanie Smith's Uncle)	Eli Williams (Friend of Sarah Norman)	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz's Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	Bill Rhodes (Toni Herd's Uncle)	Philip Locke (Jeremiah Johnson's Uncle)
R. J. Stephens	Neal May (Manna Jones' Mother)	Easton Alexander (Phillip Box's cousin's baby)	Andrew Hagewood (Friend of Sarah Norman)
Gaylord Huffman (Jennifer Daniel's Grandfather)	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Kathryn Crawford (Hunter Crawford's 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, Russell Dickerson (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Melissa Walker (Church Hahn's Cousin)	Ann Robinson (Sharon Bailey's Mom)	Betty Bradford

March Birthdays

- 2 - Chase Harrison
- 2 - Maddie Norman
- 2 - Angela Fowler
- 3 - Shawn Oliver
- 7 - Josh Pender
- 8 - Carmen Herd
- 10 - Parker Godwin
- 10 - Pepper Humphrey
- 11 - Becky Harris
- 12 - Brad Hartsell
- 14 - Tyler Claxton
- 17 - Susan Sullivanne
- 18 - Makenzie Anderson
- 20 - Jimmy Roberts
- 20 - Joy Liu
- 21 - Carter Hunt
- 24 - Jordan Toombs
- 26 - Jared Burton
- 28 - Shelby Freeman
- 29 - Rachel Simpson
- 30 - Amanda Stephens
- 30 - York Smith

News and Notes

- The Elders are asking all who are interested in a VBS in June to come to the building at 4 PM.
- Congratulations to the family of Oseas at the birth of Adal Richard Zacarius!
- If you would like to donate to the flower fund please see Yvette Rouse.
- Let us remember our expectant mothers in our prayers, Candy Long and Terria Burton.
- We will have our monthly singing tonight!
- We are working on correcting a problem with our audio recordings. We will not have CDs until then.

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)

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Thoughts to Ponder

If we divine a discrepancy between a man's words and his character, the whole impression of him becomes broken and painful; he revolts the imagination by his lack of unity, and even the good in him is hardly accepted.

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

The Rationale of the Tolerant

By Warren E. Berkley

The idea of sinking all our differences into a sea of "love" and sweet tolerance and uniting in division seems to be rapidly reaching every part of the religious world. Denominational bodies who have formerly harbored revenge are now skillfully defending latitudinarianism and independence of belief. Even some who have been enslaved Roman Catholics are now joining forces with Protestants to do what is called "preaching Christ." This denominational philosophy has grown swiftly in recent years until now the distinction between unity and division is nil.

One very natural outgrowth of this indulgent attitude is the conclusion that those who do not avoid controversy and are firmly devoted to contending for their convictions are merely "picking quarrels about doctrinal differences," and possessed with a tragic lack of "love." It is supposed (not demonstrated by any valid appeal to the Scriptures), that we who are followers of Christ must never be so bold and "self-righteous" as to

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deny or even question a religious belief and/or practice held by an honest and sincere person. In cases where we question or deny a practice, we are charged with judging, and told that we do not have the right to judge. With reference to this tolerant attitude, a few observations are in order.

Logic?

Using human reasoning and logic as their foundation, proponents of tolerance make their case. After all, they say, we are all different; and since achieving religious unity

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would be a colossal, if not impossible task, why not just settle for "peaceful co-existence" and stop all this disputing? But human wisdom in the form of "logic" was never intended to originate spiritual truth (**1 Cor. 1-2**). Any attempt, then, to contend against contending on this basis is invalid. But is their plea logical?

Consistency?

It is to be regretted that those who argue against arguing cannot see their own inconsistency. Actually, practicing what they preach would require that they leave us alone! Are we to suppose that the advocates of tolerance are opposed to all religious arguments except the one in which they are engaged? We are reminded of the double-minded, anti-legalist who binds his anti-legalism on others. He actually sets himself up as a standard and judge just as do the tolerant about whom I am writing. But their inconsistency goes further!

Selective Regard For Bible

As a finicky customer makes his way through the cafeteria line, so the tolerant folks make their way through the Bible. We are encouraged to insist on the letter of the law when it comes to morality, for example, but "doctrinal matters" are not nearly so vital. Stamp out drunkenness, fornication and dishonesty even if the effort involves exposing and rebuking sinners; but let folks believe anything they will concerning baptism, faith, the church, the Lord's supper and worship! And, oh yes be sure to pound away loud and long about the wicked party spirit, while placing little emphasis upon "unimportant truths" such as the work and organization of the church.

But, the Lord made no such distinction between "morals" and so-called "doctrinal mat-

ters." Paul said that he had, "shunned not to declare the whole counsel of God," and Jesus said that. "man liveth by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." (**Acts 20:27; Matt. 4:4**).

Self-Righteous

Among the several planks in the platform of the "leave everybody-alone" party is the charge that defenders of the truth are self-righteous. But, when we insist upon strict adherence to God's word are we demonstrating self-righteousness? If the term "self-righteous" means insisting on God's righteousness, yes! But that's hardly the idea. In fact, those who would have their own way while refusing to submit to God's righteousness are self-righteous (**Rom. 10:3**)!

Conclusion

There is only "one faith" (**Eph. 4:5**) and that faith is held by those who hear and obey God's word (**Rom. 10:17**). To suppose, then, that one can believe one way and another believe differently on matters revealed by God and both please God is to falsely assume that there is no "one faith" which is sufficient for all men. Jude wrote concerning the "common salvation," for salvation in Christ is enjoyed by those who, by their trust and obedience, share in "one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all," (**Eph. 4:4-6**). Those who are thus related to one another by their kinship with God, will feel a burning desire to instruct others in the way of righteousness, not to exalt themselves as "know-it-alls" filled with angry pride, and out of a real love for lost souls and out of a desire to please the God who has commanded that they, "contend earnestly" for the faith (**Jude 3**). Though this will entail the exposure of every false way, the honest man who is determined to serve God on God's terms will not be offended.



Mark These People

By Bill Hall

Quickly now - What type of people are to be marked by Christians according to the scriptures? Those who cause divisions and offenses contrary to Christ's doctrines? Yes, for so we are taught in **Romans 16:17**.

There is another type of person to be marked, however. "Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye

have us for an ensample" (**Philippians 3:17 KJV**). The word "mark" is not synonymous with the word "withdraw." According to W.E. Vine, the word means "to look at, behold, watch, contemplate." Those who are evil, then, are to be marked and avoided; while those who walk in God's way are to be marked and followed.

Godly elders should be marked. Elders are to be examples to the flock (**1 Peter 5:3**). They are to be men whose character is above reproach, who rule their own house well, who are hospitable, and whose sound teaching can convict the gainsayers. We know such elders, and their example is priceless. Even after such men have passed on, they are to be remembered: "Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow (a similar word to mark-BH), considering the outcome of their conduct" (**Hebrews 13:7**). Thank God for godly elders; mark them and follow their good example.

Godly women should be marked. If there are women in the congregation who stand out for their piety and humility, whose major attractiveness is their "meek and quiet spirit," who have

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adorned themselves with good works, who love their husband and children, who find joy and contentment in being a wife and mother and keeper at home, who feel no resentment toward their position of subjection to man, who have devoted their lives to doing God's will - and there are such women in every congregation - then mark these godly women

and follow their example. In these days when the women's liberation movement is affecting so many and actually intimidating many women who want to do right, it is wonderful to have godly women in the church who are able to lead the way and provide a role model for other women who are Christians. Thank God for godly women; mark them and follow their example.

Godly preachers should be marked. Not all preachers are godly, but most of the gospel preachers of our acquaintance are godly men whose lives speak as effectively as do their lips. They do their work, not as hirelings, but as men concerned for the truth and the souls of men and women. Mark such men and follow their example!

Godly parents, godly young people, godly older people, godly suffering people, godly dying people - the godly faithful! How sad that some are so blinded by the faults of the few that they cannot see the virtues of the many. Good people are all around us. Let's look for them, contemplate their good qualities, mark them, and follow their example.

