

# The One Who Loved You Enough

By Greg Gwin

Can you remember who it was that taught you the gospel? Maybe it was a friend or neighbor. Perhaps it was a co-worker. For many of us it was our parents. No matter who it was, there's something we know about them. They loved you! They loved you enough to teach you the saving gospel of Christ.

Think about it for a minute. It would have been easier for your teacher (whoever it was) to simply keep quiet. It requires effort to teach others. You have to know the truth yourself. That means you have to spend the time to study and learn. Then, you have to be willing to speak up, to invest the time to teach, to expose yourself to the possibility of rejection. And, not a few have had to withstand the unpleasantness of being ridiculed for what they have taught.

Why did they do it? What motivated them into action? The answer is simple - they loved you! They loved your

eternal soul, and they were willing to do the work of teaching you because they did not want to see your soul lost forever in hell.

Now, what will you do? You have learned about the salvation that is in Christ. You have benefited from this knowledge in obeying the truth. Your sins are forgiven. You have the hope of heaven when you die. You have all the spiritual blessing that are in Christ Jesus.

Are you going to stop the chain of loving concern? Are you going to refuse to do for others as was done for you? If you do not teach the gospel to others, you are, in effect, saying that you don't love them enough. You are showing that you are unwilling to make the effort, to go to the trouble, to speak up to save them. You don't love them like you should.

Someone loved you. They loved you enough to teach you. Won't you show that same love to others? Think!



<b>Sunday 5:15</b> <b>Kid's Class at the Building</b>	<b>Tuesday 8 PM</b> <b>"Truth Seekers" at Student Center - Room 2310</b>
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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)
Virginia Crawford (Hunter's Sister-In-Law)	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)	Brenda Chandler (Mason Chandler's Mother)
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)	Marion Vanttal (Paula Davis' Uncle)

### 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

- All who are interested in helping in our VBS on June 18-21 please fill out a form in the foyer.
- Our new quarter begins April 1.
- R.J. Stephens is improving after his surgery.
- David Hartsell is improving after his surgery.
- Let us remember our expectant mothers in our prayers, Candy Long and Terria Burton.
- We will have our group meetings tonight!
- This week is spring break for the public schools. Let us pray for those who are travelling!

# 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

Agape love is profound concern for the well-being of another, without any desire to control that other, to be thanked by that other, or to enjoy the process.

**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

### Paul's Urgent Concern for Colossae; Three specific Defenses

By Warren E. Berkley

*"For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words." (Col. 2:1-4)*

Paul wanted God's people in Colossae and Laodicea to know of his urgent concern for them. Why? What was up? As you read further into the chapter you discover the specific threats to their faith that provoked the apostle's sense of urgency.

Here it means that the way of comforting each other was by solid Christian friendship, and that the means of cementing that was love. It was not by a mere outward profession, or by mere speculative faith; it was by a union of affection."

He knew there were deceivers in their area using persuasive words to dissuade people away from their faith in the deity and sufficiency of Christ. He was well aware of the aggressive campaigners of a false religious system, who would "cheat" Christians "through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ," (v.8). The

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apostle had in mind the threat from religious defrauders (v.18) who would make their appeals through "an appearance of wisdom and self-imposed religion," yet would enforce a "neglect of the body," (v.23). These were the specific threats Paul was concerned about, for those in the Lycos River Valley. The same kind of dangers abounds in our time.

How do you strengthen Christians against threats to their faith? You use teaching to get courage into their hearts, unity into their relationships and lead them on toward a fuller assurance of understanding. This is what every Christian needs today, as urgently as then.

### ENCOURAGED HEARTS

"...that their hearts may be encouraged..." The Word of God received in good and honest hearts will result in moral courage. Paul knew this is what they would need, so he was anxious to teach them carefully to build them up in internal courage. "These brethren needed to be strengthened or fortified inwardly to the end that they might both advance in the faith and be equipped successfully face the threat of false teaching," (Walton Weaver, Truth Commentaries, p. 404).

### UNITY

"...knit together in love..." This is not coerced unity (like a prison chain-gang). This describes people who love each other, and want to be together and work together in what is right. When a crisis

comes against a group, they generally either fall apart or they pull together. Paul, anticipating an intensive threat and temptation mounted by this false religion, wanted the Christians to pull together in unity. The approach of error should be answered by a united front. There is strength in unity. Albert Barnes has observed: "It means properly to make to come together, and hence refers to a firm union, as where the hearts of Christians are one. Here it means that the way of comforting each other was by solid Christian friendship, and that the means of cementing that was love. It was not by a mere outward profession, or by mere speculative faith; it was by a union of affection."

### MATURITY IN UNDERSTANDING

"...the full assurance of understanding..." Christians who are knowledgeable in the Word can be "quicker on the draw" when approached by false teachers and defrauders. In view of the danger in the area of Colossae and the seductions they would have to answer, Paul wanted them to have a rich and deep understanding; to have the capacity to properly and quickly distinguish between truth and error.

These are three defenses every Christian should seek: encouraged hearts, unity in love, and maturity in understanding. Preachers, teachers and elders need to present the Word of God in such a manner, these defenses are promoted. Every Christian should study and apply the Word of God with steadfastness, so that the enemy simply cannot find his entrance.



## "I Don't Know if I Can Make It"

By Chris Carter

I'm discouraged. *I'm not going to give up*, but I am discouraged. Am I struggling spiritually? Truthfully yes, but it's not because I'm wallowing in sin (*though I know I have much room for improvement*). It's because the greater majority of the studies, sermons and bulletins I hear and read are centered upon a seemingly endless stream of warnings, admonitions, pricking the heart and calls for self examination, and of a truth, I can't live on a steady diet of this stuff.

How could I possibly be hurt and offended when someone warns me of the dangers of sin? Don't I want to avoid sin? Of course I do! I want to be as good at any aspect of godly service, conduct and living as I can be, but I'm beginning to doubt my ability to make it. I am fully aware that the men who teach and preach are trying to help us all aspire to and maintain a state of righteousness, but I also remember that we are to do as Paul instructed in *Philippians 2:12* "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling". Without a doubt I ultimately am responsible for my own spirituality, but other influences can make it more difficult.

You see, I know myself. I know my struggles, my deficiencies, and my failures. I know all too well how weak I can be. There are times when I've worked hard to correct some spiritual defect and think I've triumphed over it, only to fail later in that very point, which shames me deeply. It's neither the way I want to be spiritually nor the intent of my heart, but I know I have failed God, so I repent, ask His forgiveness, pick myself up and move forward until some semblance of confidence is restored and I feel capable and useful again.

When I go to church though, a place where I should be strengthened, edified and be able to experience times of refreshing, I hear a nearly constant stream of admonitions, warnings, heart pricking and promptings to examine my spiritual walk, level of faith, commitment, personal nature, whether or not I've given myself to God fully or if I'm focused, centered, zealous, hungry, diligent, effective, prayerful, humble, and on and on. Even the bulletins contain nearly the same things, and I wonder if many who preach and teach see only a great spiritual lacking among the brethren instead of the potential we represent. My point is this; the bar of righteousness can be raised so high that it can seem unattainable, rendering what are meant to be easy yokes and light burdens into things that are difficult and heavy.

From the newest Christian to the most experienced elder,

everyone has room for improvement, and any Christian would be wrong to ignore obvious sin in another. But if someone is found caught up in unrighteousness they would be better served with individual study than trying to preach them back into righteousness by constantly tugging at their heart from the pulpit. I'm not suggesting that preaching be limited to kool-aid and candy canes, nor that the service be turned into some kind of pep rally. I'm talking about remembering the rest of the church, and providing the strong meat of instruction necessary for everyone. A preacher may reason that everyone can benefit from harsh preaching, but such emphasis reduces the bible to being used like a rolled up newspaper on an untrained puppy. "Bad Christians! Bad!!"

Let me cite this example. One man can preach on David going up against Goliath, and present it two different ways. One would be to relate the event, comment on David's remarkable faith, his disdain for Goliath and his desire to stand for God. He could then say "Let us be the same way for God, and go forth as soldiers of righteousness in His holy name, under whose mighty hand we cannot fail!" This approach provides a bit of real history, a demonstration of righteous faith, an example of what happens to Gods opponents and encouragement for us to be brave and stand as David did.

He could also relate the same event and ask "Do we have the same faith as David? Would we stand for God the same way? Do we demonstrate the same level of commitment as David did, or are we weak and fearful as was Israel?" Neither method is wrong when correctly applied, but the difference is unmistakable. The latter prompts the listener to soul search, (*nothing wrong with that*) and an emphasis on this approach may influence us to question what we are to God and what He is to us. Too much of this can actually tear us down. We end up focusing on our deficiencies (real or imagined) and not on God who can strengthen us.

If we are to be taught from Gods word, it must be taught in its fullness. All of it matters, and all of it should be utilized (*2<sup>nd</sup> Tim 3:16*). If the emphasis of teaching and preaching frequently excludes history, encouragement, confidence and assurance, and is limited mostly to our being warned as if we were just a bunch of misbehaving children who will be in trouble when dad gets home, that's how we'll remain. We'll always be recruits, never soldiers. We'll stay in boot camp, and never even *want* to see frontline service.

