

Can we Have Too Much "Positive" Preaching?

We readily acknowledge the importance of positive preaching. Brethren need the "comfort of the Scriptures" (**Romans 15:4**). Paul sent Tychicus to the Ephesians so that he could "comfort your hearts." Timothy was dispatched to Philippi (**Phil. 2:9**) and Thessalonica (**1 Thess. 3:2**) in order to comfort the brethren. Clearly, this kind of positive encouragement is essential. The Bible has much to say about it. No one denies this.

There are, however, some among us who are determined to only preach positive things. They want to specialize in positive preaching and to emphasize only those things which (they claim) are designed to "build up" the hearers. They will not deal with controversial topics, and they refuse to spend time rebuking the sins and weaknesses that exist in men's lives.

This "positive" approach fails to present the whole counsel of God (**Acts 20:27**), and at least two serious consequences will follow:

By Greg Gwin

1) Christians will not be admonished to root out the evil that is in their lives. We must "put off the old man" (**Colossians 3:9**). We will never become the "new man" that we ought to be (vs. 10) until we have been instructed adequately in this regard.

2) Christians will become conditioned to only want this sort of teaching and preaching. After having a steady diet of positive emphasis, brethren will lose all tolerance for forceful preaching on important doctrinal and moral issues. The apostle Paul anticipated such a scenario: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears" (**2 Tim. 4:3**).

We are not at liberty to be "specialists" in only one aspect of the work. If we emphasize the positive while neglecting the negative, we have not done "the work of an evangelist" (**2 Tim. 4:5**). Our job involves both the positive and the negative. We are to "reprove, rebuke, and exhort" (**vs. 2**).



Sunday 5:15 Kid's Class at the Building	Sunday After Services College Devo and Singing at the Robert's House, Nathan Smith teaching!	Monday 7 PM Ladies Class at Denise Davis'	Tuesday 8 PM "Truth Seekers" at Student Center - Room 2310	Wednesday 12 Noon Ladies Class on "Parenting" at Laura Humphrey's at the Rouse's	Thursday 7 PM College Study at Bob Simpson'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)	Stephen Freeman (Phillip Box's Friend)
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)	Betty Bradford	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)

- April Birthdays**
- 2 - Missy Toombs
 - 2 - Melanie Smith
 - 3 - Sharon Bailey
 - 6 - Maci Guthrie
 - 7 - Mary Catherine Burns
 - 8 - Laura Humphrey
 - 10 - Stefan Richardson
 - 14 - Kaylee West
 - 14 - Jesse Roberts
 - 16 - Carson Fowler
 - 18 - Spencer Sullivan
 - 18 - Joel Black
 - 18 - Taylor Godwin
 - 20 - April Jerkins
 - 21 - Timothy Jones
 - 23 - Anna Miller
 - 24 - Bob Simpson
 - 29 - Lottie Kate Smith

- News and Notes**
- Let us be working towards our VBS on June 18-21!
 - Let us remember David Hartsell and his family in our prayers. The doctors believe they know the cause of his unconsciousness.
 - Let us remember our expectant mothers in our prayers, Candy Long and Terria Burton.
 - New Address:
Josh and Haley Hudson
500 Webster Road, Lot 255
Auburn, AL 36832
 - Our monthly singing will be tonight!

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**)

Failing to See the Value

By Alex D. Ogden



Thoughts to Ponder

Joy is an unceasing fountain bubbling up in the heart; a secret spring the world can't see and doesn't know anything about. The Lord gives his people perpetual joy when they walk in obedience to him.

Here is an interesting conversation between a Swedish peasant woman and her persistent visitor.

"Does your son in America never send you any money?" was asked of a poverty-stricken old Swedish woman. "Never!" was the bitter answer. "He writes often and speaks of sending money, but never a bit have I seen from him. I am getting old and poor and soon I must die or go to the poorhouse. Yet he is rich and prosperous. Such is the ingratitude of children!"

"Is there never anything in the letters?" asked the persistent visitor. "Oh, yes, he always sends pictures; but I do not need pictures; I need money."

"Have you saved those pictures?"

"They are all pasted on the wall in my bedroom. Would you like to see them?"

"Certainly," answered the visitor. When she looked into the bare

When we fail to see the value of God and His word and all that He has given us and given us to do, we place ourselves into spiritual poverty. Such poverty cannot enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Let us see the value in all God has given us and become spiritually rich.

little room she saw pasted on the walls a small fortune in American paper money.

She had a room whose walls were covered with a small fortune in American money but she failed to see its value. She had a son who loved her and wanted to help her even though he was far away, but because she failed to see the value in the "pictures" which he kept sending, she became bitter toward him.

Isn't that like people today?

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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	

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Those things which are worth most are valued least. Because of general prosperity in this life we have become a people who fail to see the true value of things of a spiritual nature.

Many of our day regard the word of God, the Bible, as a good guide to living a good life, but they fail to see that the word of God will make us "*wise unto salvation*" (**2 Tim. 3:15**). The Bible is not just a good guide to living a good life, it is **THE** guide to living **THE** life (that is, eternal life with the Father in Heaven). Only in God's word can we find what we must do to have eternal life. Faith in Jesus as the Son of God is necessary (**Jn. 3:16**). But faith in Jesus is not enough. Obedience to the will of the Father is necessary (**Jn. 3:36; Mt. 7:21**). Those commands of the Father in connection with salvation include repentance from our sins (**Acts 17:30**), confession of our faith (**Rom. 10:10**) and baptism in water (**Acts 2:38**). The Bible leads us to eternal life. It should thus be regarded as very valuable.

In connection with the Lord's plan for our salvation some have failed to see the value of baptism. Denominationalist regard baptism as "an outward sign of an inward grace." To them it has no connection at all with salvation. There is not a passage in the N.T. which says baptism is "an outward sign of an inward grace" but there are many passages which connect baptism with salvation (**Mk.16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Rom. 6:3,4; Gal. 3:27; 1 Pet. 3:21** and others). We can understand the value of baptism only when we understand that in baptism we contact the blood of Jesus Christ which washes our sins away (**Rev. 1:5; Acts 22:16**). Since in baptism we contact Christ's blood which cleanses us (**1 Jn.**

1:7), we must be baptized to be cleansed and, therefore, baptism is something of great value with respect to our salvation. Many will be lost since they fail to see the true value of baptism.

Some of our own brethren fail to see the value of regular attendance at worship services. The feeling is that once a week is enough. Some are even teaching you don't have to attend any services in the local congregation since, according to them, there is no authority for the local church. When we understand the things we are to do while assembled together we can see the value of attending all the services. Those assemblies which fall on the first day of the week are important because at these services we are to partake of the Lord's Supper (**Acts 20:7**) and contribute into the local common treasury (**1 Cor. 16:1,2**). Also at these services, and during services on other days of the week, we teach the word of God (**cf. Acts 20:7**), pray to the Father (**Acts 2:42**), sing songs of praise to the Lord (**Eph. 5:19**) and exhort one another unto love and good works (**Heb. 10:24,25**). If we question the value of the assemblies in the local congregation, we question the value of all the things just mentioned, things which are dictated by our Lord to be done while we are together. There is great value in each of these things and, therefore, great value in assembling with our brethren at every service.

When the Swedish peasant failed to see the value in what her son sent her, she in essence placed herself into poverty. When we fail to see the value of God and His word and all that He has given us and given us to do, we place ourselves into spiritual poverty. Such poverty cannot enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Let us see the value in all God has given us and become spiritually rich.



False Goals - Solid Truth

By F. Yater Tant

Setting out to "prove" the non-existence of a Supreme Being, they now come up with more and more evidence pointing to just such an Intelligence. Seeking evidence for one point of view, they come up with evidence pointing in exactly the opposite direction.

It is amazing to discover how much of the world's great store of solid and demonstrated truth has come from the base and ignoble impetus of false goals. Ponce de Leon was led to Florida by his search for a nonexistent Fountain of Youth. Coronado made a long and fabulous journey through the plains of Kansas and the west, collecting a vast store of information about the area, all in search for the mythical Seven Cities of Cibola. Columbus would not have ventured on his great voyage of exploration had he not been looking for a new passage to the riches of India.

All of which simply leads into a few comments we want to make about an article by Garrett Vanderkooi. There can be little doubt that the acceptance of the evolutionary hypothesis by a vast number of those who embraced it was emotional rather than intellectual. They were not qualified by any stretch of the imagination to make a rational, intelligent analysis of the evidence for and against the proposition; they simply believed what they wanted to believe. Acceptance of the theory was an act of pure faith, and was motivated by the desire to find some basis on which God could be excluded from the universe. In all likelihood this motivation was subconscious and unrealized by most of those whom it influenced. But the first chapter of Romans is most explicit in assigning such motivation to those "did not like to retain God in their knowledge."

Thus, for nearly a century "evolution" was the fair-haired darling of certain ones who "professed themselves to be wise." Huge segments of the scientific world began generally to accept it as a settled and established fact. High school and college text-books began to speak of it much as they spoke of the rotundity of the earth and the movement of the planets. "Evolution" explained life upon this earth, in all its varied forms and manifestations. God was no longer needed; modern man had outgrown him. Divinity could be relegated to the folklore and mythology of ancient ignorance and superstition. Jehovah and Zeus and Jupiter could all occupy the same remote realm of primitive precursors of enlightened and liberated mankind. They belonged to the dim and ignorant childhood of the race. The marvelous development of "science"

would soon have an explanation for all natural phenomena, and mankind would be freed from the shackles of ignorance which had fettered him for so many millennia. And, lo! look what happened. The very field in which it was expected to find indisputable proof of the origin of life (biochemistry) now gives increasing and overwhelming evidence that there can be no explanation. No explanation, that is, apart from some initial action on the part of an intelligent Being! Not only so, but the more research is done in all related fields, the

more it becomes apparent that science as such can NEVER come up with a satisfactory answer to the existence and perpetuation of life. Note this sentence from the Vanderkooi article, "The weakness of the evolutionary hypothesis is recognized and acknowledged by some members of the scientific community; it is become more common to find doubts and reservations concerning the theory expressed in the scientific literature."

Setting out to "prove" the non-existence of a Supreme Being, they now come up with more and more evidence pointing to just such an Intelligence. Seeking evidence for one point of view, they come up with evidence pointing in exactly the opposite direction. It has always been this way. In chasing after a will-of-the-wisp, one may catch sight of a fixed star. The cause of truth is often served by base and ignoble motivations. Ancient kings kept great numbers of men studying the stars. They did it in hope of discovering (and using to their own advantages) the powers of the celestial world. But out of these studies came a vast store of information in the field of astronomy. Chemists for centuries were subsidized by kings and men of great wealth in the hope they could discover the elixir of life and the philosopher's stone. They failed; but what a great debt the world owes to their studies. And so the "evolution-egomaniacs" have moved heaven and earth trying to prove the non-existence of God — and are uncovering a veritable mountain of evidence to the contrary. Truly, God "hath not left himself without witness." - Gospel Guardian, 1971

