

“Jesus is My Savior and not My Religion”

This is a catchy phrase that is making the rounds among professed Christians that is quite troubling. The sentiment is expressed by many on the internet in charts, videos and other ways.

The message conveyed is subtle. It subtly suggests that there is a disconnect between accepting Jesus as Savior and accepting Him as Lord. The idea what Jesus is all about His saving the soul without giving us any “rules” to keep. Another way of putting it, accepting Christ is to accept His gift of salvation without having to follow Him with acts of worship and service in obedience to His commands.

The website “dictionary.com” defines RELIGION as “a set of beliefs concerning the cause,

By Edward O. Bragwell, Sr. nature, and purpose of the universe, especially when considered as the creation of a superhuman agency or agencies, usually involving devotional and ritual observances, and often containing a moral code governing the conduct of human affairs.”

The life that Jesus requires as Lord of my life and His grace teaches fits this definition. The “set of beliefs” that I hold concerning the nature and purpose the universe as His creation involves “devotional and observances” (acts of worship) and it contains His “moral code governing the conduct of human affairs.” The is “pure and undefiled religion.”

Jesus is my Savior AND my Religion

Sunday 5:15 Kid's Class at the Building	Sunday Evening College Devo and Singing at Phillip Box's house	Monday 7 PM Ladies Class on James at the Rouse's House	Tuesday 8 PM "Truth Seekers" at Student Center - Room 2310
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Sick				October Birthdays 1 - Aiden Hahn 2 - Suzanne Nichols 6 - Jessica Anderson 8 - Heath Fowler 9 - Seth Edwards 11 - Mason Chandler 12 - Stacy Norman 14 - Grant Smith 17 - Abbie Buchanan 20 - Evan Pender 20 - Olivia Hillard 20 - Keith Bailey 22 - Meredith Bragwell 22 - Hunter Crawford 22 - Christopher White 22 - Chris Davis 24 - Sarabeth Roberts 24 - Suzanna Roberts 24 - A. J. Price 25 - Bethany Bradford 25 - Josh Sutton 26 - Palmer Daniels 26 - Sarah Sutton 29- Belle Johnson 29 - Matt Hall 31 - Kitty Tam	News and Notes			
Sam Smith (Ken Sullivan's brother)	Eli Williams (Friend of Sarah Norman)	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz's Sister)		☒ - Will King was in an automobile accident on Saturday and is in UAB hospital.			
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Jeffery Miller (Friend of Walker Davis)		☒ - R. J. Stevens passed away yesterday.			
Emma Hettinger (William Herd's Mother)	Neal May (Manna Jones' Mother)	Roger Whatley (Daphene Whatley's son)	Andrew Hagewood (Friend of Sarah Norman)		☒ - Sandlyn Fultz has surgery on her legs on Thursday and is now at home.			
Pat Webb (Friend of Jared Johnson)	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Diane Hudson (Josh Hudson's grandmother)	Arline Harkrider (Nichole Pender's Grandmother)		☒ - Let us remember out expectant mothers in our prayers, Emily S. Jones and Nicole Pender.			
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)	Emily Stallings (Anna's sister)	Madi Wise (Friend of the Robert's)		☒ - Let us remember the family of Lori Holloway in our prayers as she was buried yesterday.			
Marty Meeks, Russell Dickerson (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Frances Fultz (Davis Fultz's grandmother)	Judy Nichols (Suzanne's Mother)	Owen Mauldin (Seth and Summer Mauldin's Son)		☒ - Perry Hill Road will have a meeting this week with different speakers.			
				☒ - We will have a singing tonight!				
				☒ - The names of potential deacons has been submitted to the church last Sunday night. There will be 2 weeks left for questions and objections.				

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

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Elders
Walker Davis
(334) 703-0050
Larry Rouse
(334) 734-2133

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday
Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM
Wednesday
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

E-Mail:
larryrouse@aubeacon.com

Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

“I Alone Am Left”

By Andy Sochor

After contending with the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel and proving to the people the power of God, Elijah was forced to flee from the wrath of Jezebel. He then spoke to the Lord at Horeb about what was troubling him.

“Then he came there to a cave and lodged there; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’ He said, ‘I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away’” (1 Kings 19:9-10).

Elijah had just been a part of a decisive victory for the Lord over Baal on Mount Carmel. But despite this, he was in such a depressed state that he wished the Lord would take his life (1 Kings 19:4). He was focusing

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on the challenges, hardships, and persecution before him, while being convinced that there was no one else who was of like-mind, striving to serve the Lord.

As Christians, we may also feel isolated from others and, as a result, face what seems to be a daunting task of enduring the hardships that will come for servants of God (2 Timothy 3:12) without aid, comfort, or encour-

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agement from others. We may feel as though we are alone in standing for the truth while everyone around us seems to be compromising, apostatizing, or wholly apathetic about contending for the faith. During such times, it is important to remember a few points.

God is with us – Elijah knew that God was with him, from the answer by fire on Mount Carmel (**1 Kings 18:36-38**) to the food and water that was miraculously provided him while he fled from Jezebel (**1 Kings 19:5-6**). We can be encouraged knowing that the Lord is with us as well and will not forsake us (**Hebrews 13:5-6**). Even if God is the only one with us, we do not need to despair. Paul said, “If God is for us, who is against us?” (**Romans 8:31**).

We may become more of a target – Being alone (or appearing to be alone) made Elijah an obvious target as his enemies sought his life. We know that “all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (**2 Timothy 3:12**). But one who is (or appears to be) alone makes an especially attractive target for the enemies of Christ. The wise man spoke of the strength of numbers and, by implication, the vulnerability of isolation: “And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart” (**Ecclesiastes 4:12**).

There are others who are faithful – The Lord told Elijah that there were “7,000 in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal” (**1 Kings 19:18**). The fact that Elijah was unaware of such faithful individuals did not mean they did not exist. Just because we may not be aware of such faithful brethren, that does not mean that there

are not others who are striving to serve the Lord, live holy lives, contend for the faith, and follow the pattern found in the New Testament.

We can (and must) remain faithful – Elijah was faithful when he was alone against the prophets of Baal (**1 Kings 18:22**). He was still “zealous for the Lord” (**1 Kings 19:9**), even though he was isolated from other like-minded brethren. Isolation may make our lives more difficult, but it does not make our service to God impossible. God’s commands for us are “not burdensome” (**1 John 5:3**). He expects us to remain faithful to Him, despite difficult circumstances (**Revelation 2:10**).

Whether we have plenty of like-minded brethren around to provide encouragement, or we are (or feel like we are) alone to face the challenges before us, we are able to handle whatever might come. Remember what Paul wrote:

“No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it” (**1 Corinthians 10:13**).

We know that God is faithful. Therefore, we know that we can handle every challenge, difficulty, or temptation that might otherwise lead us give up our faith in God. Rather than falling in the face of life’s trials, we can (and must) endure and become complete (**James 1:2-4**). Do not lose heart! Continue to serve God in faith and you will be rewarded by Him in the end (**Revelation 2:10; 2 Timothy 4:7-8**).



When Should We Oppose Departures?

By Gardner S. Hall

We all admit that departures from the Lord’s way should be opposed. At least, we all say we do.

When should our opposition begin? Should it begin the minute unauthorized devices are introduced? Or should we wait until they have led to much greater apostasies? Should one cry out the moment he sees the danger or wait until many see it?

If one warns as soon as he sees danger, he will be misunderstood, and good people will accuse him of jealousy and persecution against his brethren. Some will call him an old grouch and a faultfinder, a mote hunter.

Should this deter him? Not if he loves the church and the souls of men more than himself and popularity. John the Baptist lost his head because he condemned sin. How many talked Herod’s conduct over the back fence but dared not to do anything? Paul fought the encroachment of Judaism from its incipiency and his fight brought him into conflict with Peter (**Gal. 2:11-21**). Peter was saved by Paul’s bold reproof, and no doubt many others were. He could have waited till the error had built great strongholds, and allowed many more to be lost.

Many thought David Lipscomb was straining out gnats when he opposed societies and instrumental music. But the element of the church that introduced these innovations was on its way to modernism. It was not so easy for many good men to see then what the end would be; but we who have seen the outcome recognize the foresight and wisdom of Lipscomb. In the present institutional battle, those who are truly awake can already see that to be acceptable to the institu-

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tional brethren one must not simply accept church related orphan homes. There is a big package in which these homes are wrapped and one must accept the whole package.

The innovations of this generation will not be the last ones. They will multiply rapidly in the next generation; extreme will follow extreme. If I accept the present innovations but then get my eyes

shocked open by the flood of new ones soon to come, then begin opposing them, I will really be called a crank. This is what a few will do, whereas the masses will be swept away in the apostasy. If I do not oppose the first ones, I will be responsible for some who will begin sliding downward and never stop until they hit the bottom.

All Christians ought to study. But all who lead or teach certainly should study and be sure they are safe leaders and teachers (**James 3:1**). They should be able to discern the Scriptural from the unscriptural, that which has New Testament authority from that which is of man (**Mk. 11:30**). They must be able to see, not only for themselves, but for great numbers who lack the power of discernment – the ones Paul speaks of as simple, or innocent (**Rom. 16:18**).

Blessed is the church whose elders test every move by the Scriptures and cry out against everything not backed by divine precedent or authority.

It is unfortunate when a church has leaders who receive everything with open arms, provided it is big and is launched by big men. — **The Sword of Peace, January 1963**

