

What Did Jesus Really Say?

Christianity is centered upon Christ. As disciples, we are committed to being "followers", not "thinkers". Our highest ambition should be to learn and do as He directs – not as we think, or what seems good to us. This is true for several reasons, not the least of which is the simple fact that He taught us to obey Him. Because He IS our Savior, and our Head, it is both appropriate and essential for us to do so. There is a direct connection between obeying Him and divine blessings. Only in obedience do we demonstrate the attitude He demands, "Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things that I say"? (Lk 6:46)

There is nothing casual about true service and submission to Him, and if we intend to be true disciples, we must diligently determine what He said. So often we hear, "it doesn't make any difference what you believe", or "there are many ways to heaven", or "one church is as good as another", etc. – from those who claim to be His disciples. The question is: Where in all the words of Christ can such ideas be found? It is obvious that such claims have greatly eroded our concern for resting our faith in His words. Men no longer feel any urgency about the real teaching of Je-

By Aubrey Belue, Jr. SUS.

What did Jesus really say about such notions as mentioned above? Well, He said, "strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, that leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it". (Mt 7:14). He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the father but by Me." (Jn 14:6). He said, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him. The word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day". (Jn 12:48). He said, "but in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men...every plant that my heavenly father hath not planted shall be rooted up..." (Mt 15:7, 13) In the light of what He really said, and because we claim to be His disciples, at the very least we should not be saying the opposite! After all He has done for us, and out of our professed love for Him, we must admit that He deserves better!

Let us do Him the courtesy of not "putting words in His mouth", and if we claim to be His disciples, let us seek to learn and follow what He really said!

Sunday 5:15 Kid's Class at the Building	Monday 7 PM Men's Class at the Walker Davis' House	Tuesday 8 PM "Truth Seekers" at Student Center - Room 2310	Wednesday 12 Noon Ladies' Class at the Rouse's
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Sick				October Birthdays	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)		
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)	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 ☒ - Paula Davis' uncle had successful surgery on Wednesday. ☒ - Anna Stalling's uncle, Joey Stephens, was given a good report after being admitted to the hospital. He is now a home! ☒ - Let us remember out expectant mothers in our prayers, Emily S. Jones and Nicole Pender. ☒ - All are invited to sing at 2:00 this afternoon at the Arbor Springs nursing home. ☒ - The names of potential deacons has been submitted to the church. There will be 1 week left for questions and objections. ☒ - Audio CD's will be available in the foyer immediately after each service! Pass these out freely.
Emma Hettinger (William Herd's Mother)	Neal May (Manna Jones' Mother)	Roger Whatley (Daphne Whatley's son)	Andrew Hagewood (Friend of Sarah Norman)		
Pat Webb (Friend of Jared Johnson)	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Diane Hudson (Josh Hudson's grandmother)	Arline Harkrider (Nichole Pender's Grandmother)		
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)		
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)		

"A Jewel of God in a Swine's Snout"

By Truman Smith



Thoughts to Ponder

"As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion" (Prov. 11:22).

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

It would not be uncommon, when passing a hog farm to see one or more pigs with a metal ring in its nose. The reason is, these animals use their noses to dig or root-up things. They also find that their nose is quite handy in digging out a place in the mire in which to wallow. But because some are a little too handy at rooting under the fence and getting out, the owner will often have them "ringed" as a preventative; all of which brings us to the words of Solomon: "As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion" (Prov. 11:22). Thus, while it would not be out of the ordinary to see a ringed pig as we've described, what would be very highly inconsistent would be to see "a jewel of gold" in the nose of a pig. If we were to see that, we'd probably think that farmer fell up a tree!

At the end of a normal school day, an attractive and healthy looking girl, evidently barely in her teens, is walking across the school campus with some other

Upon seeing this item in the paper, we immediately met with her privately and warned her of the sinfulness of such competitions, the bathing suit contests, etc. To this girl's credit, she was able to change her mind and refused to take that direction in her life.

girls toward the parking lot; she walks with grace and dignity, then suddenly lights up a cigarette, takes a puff, and blows the smoke away from her with much force, trying to appear smart and independent; then they ride away toward town. Here is a girl with such promise! She has not yet experienced the damage the smoking will do to her health, how it will effect her skin complexion, wrinkle her face, rob her of a feminine voice, shorten her breath, ruin a possibly

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beautiful singing ability, etc. Such a sight is “as a jewel in a swine’s snout”!

A young, reasonably attractive lady, a member of the local church whose parents and grandparents are doting on her to grow up and some day meet a fine young man, a faithful member of the Lord’s church, is gradually drawn into the company of her peers and begins to experiment with illegal drugs; the sight of which is “as a jewel of gold in a swine’s snout”!

Parents often take note of their daughter’s beauty, popularity, talents, good grades in school, obeyed the gospel at a tender age, etc. Soon she is encouraged to go out for twirling, pep squad, dancing, ballerina, band majorette, show business or such. Little does she realize that when she begins to go in such a direction and dress (or undress) for these parts that in God’s eyes she is “as a jewel of gold in a swine’s snout”!

Once we knew a young teen-age girl, a member of the local congregation where we were preaching at the time, who was told by some that she had an attractive figure and was pretty enough that she should make her bid for “beauty queen.” Her picture appeared in a local newspaper, along with a write-up of her aspirations in that direction. She envisioned herself competing for Miss Texas, and perhaps even Miss America! Upon seeing this item in the paper, we immediately met with her privately and warned her of the sinfulness of such competitions, the bathing suit contests, etc. To this girl’s credit, she was able to change her mind and refused to take that direction in her life. Rather, she completed high school (we do not recall if she attended college or not, but possibly did) and fell in love with a young man, a member of the same congregation, and in time married him. The last time we saw her, she was very happily

married and had made a fine mother to their children. It is our firm and settled conviction that this lady escaped being “as a jewel of gold in a swine’s snout”!

What are we talking about here? In each of the above cases, we can see that it is a blessing from God to have the beauty and talents (**Acts 17:28-29; Jas. 1:17**) that many girls have. Especially is this true when the beauty is inward! But how contradictory or inconsistent with such attractiveness it is for such young ladies to take up such a life that is of a worldly character! It is completely incompatible with such God-given beauty! Such a life is not becoming to “women professing godliness” (**1 Tim. 2:10**). Peter said: “But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price” (**1 Pet. 3:4**). When any young, beautiful, and talented lady aspires to any such worldly activities, it is often nearly impossible to talk them out of such a pursuit. However, we have a responsibility to help our youth to make wise decisions, especially in matters of such importance that might place them in a position where temptation to go wrong is increased. Even at best, they are faced with enough pressure from friends and peers to fashion themselves according to the world that they need all of the help that mature and good people are able to provide without being pushed into such. This is particularly the responsibility of godly parents, in which the father must take the lead. Paul said: “And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (**Eph. 6:4**).

So, young people, parents, grandparents, and relatives, remember the words of **Proverbs 11:22**: “As a jewel of gold in a swine’s snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion.” Don’t ever encourage a young lady to be a contradiction “as a jewel of gold in a swine’s snout.”



Let Me Not Wander From Your Commandments

By Bryan Gibson

“With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments” (**Psalms 119:10**). Impressive, yes, but even more impressive when you consider all that David had to go through, all the things that could have easily made him wander. So take a few minutes to compare your attitude to the one expressed here by David. Would any of the following cause you to wander from God’s commandments?

David was no stranger to the pull of the world, which explains why he made this plea to God: “Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it. Incline my heart to Your testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way” (**Psalms 119:35-37**).

When brethren rebuke you. David’s afflictions took many forms, including the rebuke he received from the prophet Nathan (**2 Samuel 12**). Afflictions didn’t drive him away; they made him cling more closely to God’s commandments. “Before I was afflicted, I went astray, but now I keep Your word...It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes” (**Psalms 119:67, 71**).

When worldly people make fun of you. And make fun of you they will, if you consistently do the right thing (**1 Peter 4:4**). David faced that, too, and here’s what he said about it: “The proud have me in great derision, yet I do not turn aside from Your law” (**Psalms 119:51**).

When persecution gets even worse—when enemies lie about you, seek to destroy your name, or maybe even try to kill you. Would any of these cause you to wander from keeping God’s commandments? David experienced all these things (**Psalms 119:61, 78, 85-88, 95, 109-110, 157, 161**), and yet it did not diminish his resolve. “But I have not forgotten your law...but I will meditate on your precepts...but I did not forsake your precepts...but my heart stands in awe of Your word...yet I have not strayed from your precepts”—David made all these statements in the midst of heavy persecution.

When filled with sorrow and grief—due to sickness, the death of a loved one, the unfaithfulness of a loved one, etc. Again, listen to David who experi-

enced many occasions of sorrow. “My soul melts from heaviness, strengthen me according to Your word...trouble and anguish have overtaken me, yet Your commandments are my delights” (**Psalms 119:28, 143**).

When God seems so far away, when you get to the point that you ask, “When will you comfort me”? (**Psalms 119:82**). David certainly knew that feeling, because he was the very one who asked that question. But look at the very next verse: “For I have

become like a wineskin in smoke, yet I do not forget Your statutes” (**Psalms 119:83**).

When the world seems so attractive, when it appears to offer more than Christ does. David was no stranger to the pull of the world, which explains why he made this plea to God: “Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it. Incline my heart to Your testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way” (**Psalms 119:35-37**).

When “smart people” seem to have better answers, when their explanations seem to make more sense than the explanations found in God’s word. As for David, well, let’s just say that he was less than impressed. “You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies...I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep your precepts” (**Psalms 119:98-100**). David was wiser than any of these men, because he knew God’s wisdom.

Bottom line; don’t let anything diminish your resolve to keep the commandments of God. Don’t let anything shake your confidence in God or in His word. “Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven...The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever” (**Psalms 119:89, 160**).

