

# Envy and Jealousy

By R. J. Evans

Envy and jealousy are often used interchangeably, but strictly speaking, the words denote two different emotions. Jealousy is the fear of losing someone or something to whom or to which a person is attached. Envy is a feeling of discontent and hatred of another person because of his advantages, possessions, etc.

In **Psalm 73:2-3**, Asaph stated, "But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped. For I was envious of the boastful, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked." Asaph admitted he envied the wicked in their prosperity, their strength in death, even their pride and cursing. It has been said that "malice rejoices at another's and jealousy begrudge another's success." Solomon said, "envy is rottenness to the bones" (**Prov. 14:30**). W.E. Vine defines envy as "the feeling of displeasure produced by witnessing or hearing of the advantage or prosperity of others."

In **Genesis 37**, we read of the envy and jealousy of the brothers of Joseph, which turned into hatred, causing them to sell their brother into slavery. Envy and jealousy are each listed as a "work of the flesh" in **Galatians 5:20-21**. And "those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God" (v. 21).

The writer of Psalm 73 was envious of the wicked "until" he

went into the sanctuary of God and then understood their end (v. 17). He came to realize that it only takes a "moment" for God to bring them low (v. 19). He learned that God is contemptuous of the wicked (v. 20). With this knowledge, Asaph reviews his past and expressed it in **verse 22**: "I was so foolish and ignorant; I was like a beast before You."

The Apostle Paul said that "love does not envy" (**1 Cor. 13:4**). Love and envy or jealousy cannot abide in the same heart. If we are Christians, then envy and jealousy must be put away! Paul gave instructions to "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others" (**Phil. 2:3-4**). When we have a genuine concern and interest in others, there will be no room left in our hearts for envy and jealousy.

Have we been envious or jealous of the prosperity and worldly success of the wicked and foolish? If so, may we gain strength to overcome these sins from the example of Asaph. "Do not let your heart envy sinners, But in the fear of the Lord continue all day long" (**Prov. 23:17**).



**Classes This Week**

<b>Monday 7 PM</b> Men's Class at the Davis'	<b>Tuesday 8 PM</b> "Truth Seekers" Student Center Room 2310	<b>Wednesday 12 Noon</b> Ladies "Proverbs" Class at the Rouse's	<b>Saturday Night</b> Kid's Classes 1-6th Grade 6-8PM Place: TBA 7th-12th 6:30-8:30 at the Normans
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**Sick**

Sam Cox (Friend of Anna Stallings)	Owen Mauldin (Seth and Summer Mauldin's Son)	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)
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)	Don Meadows (Ashley Miller's step-father)	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)	Ann Scaff (Hannah Morris' grandmother)

**January Birthdays**

- 1 - David Ogle
- 2 - Chuck Hunt
- 4 - Phillip Box
- 6 - Daniel Rogers
- 6 - Erica Seymore
- 7 - Hunter Collins
- 9 - Liseth Aragon
- 11 - Spencer Hall
- 11 - Shepherd Hall
- 18 - Scott Vaughn
- 21 - Jacob Jerkins
- 23 - Connor Godwin
- 25 - Caleb Daniels
- 30 - Ashley Tucker
- 31 - Jennifer Daniels

**News and Notes**

- ☒ - Please remember Glenn Weeks, Caralise Hunt's father, in your prayers.
- ☒ - Thanks to all who worked so hard to make the weekend study and our meeting with Bob Buchanon a success!
- ☒ - Makenzie Reynolds was baptized into Christ on Monday night!
- ☒ - We have slots on the Lord's supper preparation list and for hosting and teaching the kid's class.
- ☒ - Please remember Sam Cox. Friend of Anna Stallings in your prayers as he battles cancer.
- ☒ - Let us remember Nicole Pender in our prayers as she is an expectant mother.

# 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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## From Where I Stand

By Irven Lee



**Thoughts to Ponder**

If worship does not change us, it has not been worship. To stand before the Holy One of eternity is to change.

My high school class celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in May of this year. As I look back down the hill it seems that that diploma was given to me only a little while ago. I lacked a few weeks being sixteen, and I weighed about sixty-five pounds less than my present weight of one hundred eighty. Money and jobs were not in abundant supply since the indescribable depression had settled down on every community in the land. I cannot now remember where I laid some object that I had in my hands a few minutes ago, but many of the events of those school days at the Murray High School are easy to see as I look back over my shoulder.

When I marched by to be given that diploma I had a future and now I have a past. It would have been impossible to describe my future on that big day fifty years ago. I now know what my future was in 1930 because it has become my past by this time. Nashville, Tennessee, Valdosta, Georgia, and Chattanooga, Tennessee were to be called home at intervals along the way, but most of my years were to spent in north-west Alabama. You young people who are finishing high school this year might also be surprised if you could see your future.

When the forty-eight seniors at Murray came to the big day, we made plans for a commencement

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service. We had finished something, and we were about to commence something else, but we did not know what we were commencing. We were pushed out into a world that knew poverty and hard work. What we would do or become was determined more than we knew by our parents, teachers, intimate friends, preachers, and habits of those days. Who knows how much the providence of God may have helped us? I wish I had known how great my debt of gratitude was in 1930 and had been more thoughtful and skilled in expressing it. I think I just took things for granted.

By nature I was a boy with dreams

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**Elders**  
Walker Davis  
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Larry Rouse  
(334) 734-2133

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday**

Bible Class .....9:30 AM  
Worship .....10:20 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

**Wednesday**

Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

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and optimism, so I did not feel afraid to commence whatever it was that I was to commence. Each day passed with some satisfaction and left hope for tomorrow. There must have been some days that did not qualify for such description but, honestly, I do not remember where or when they fitted into the picture, if there were those unhappy days. I was a timid boy without money or prestige and only a few people in the world even knew that I existed. That did not bother me. In my little world I had my hopes, and they could hardly be called ambitions, but they were enough as I anchor my soul so I gladly "commenced" the rest of my life after that commencement service.

My classmates and I never dreamed that the depression would give way to the most extravagant and wasteful generation that has lived on the earth. I could drive a T-Model Ford in those days, but I have seen better cars since. I then knew of no family with central heating that was thermostatically controlled. I had never seen a television. Houses were generally small, and bedrooms had no closet space. Can anyone estimate what percentage of the world's oil has been used in my generation? Those of us who have thought through the years that we were poor have lived with luxury as compared to the past and as compared with the possessions of people in other parts of the world. I think we just took things for granted while we went on consuming the world's natural resources.

Let me say to you young people that my past does not give me power to foretell your future. You are beginning (commencing) a journey into an entirely different world to that in which I have lived. I would be afraid to touch the button on a time machine to turn my age back to your age. I would be afraid to face the future if I were your age unless the time machine could give me the hope and optimism that were mine fifty years ago. Expect changes. Live life as it comes passing by and make the most of it. May God's blessings be upon you. My oldest grandchild is graduating from high school this year. Can any of you describe the world in which he may celebrate his fiftieth anniversary with his high school classmates?

The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has not changed in my life time, nor will it change during yours. High school graduates this spring, and all others, should take the Bible with them through

life's journey. Have reverence for it, knowledge of it, and a strong determination to follow its counsel regardless of what others may do. My generation has allowed our moral standards to be lowered very much. Divorce and all major crimes are much more common than when I got my diploma in 1930. Alcohol and other drugs are destroying more lives. Be wise and understand what the will of the Lord is. Ire knows best.

I make no boast of a perfect life. My hope of eternal life is based on grace and mercy even though I have tried to do right and to encourage others to do the same. It is a joy to me to see young people who are devout in this vulgar and skeptical world. Selfishness is not a part of the Christian's life. Let us remember this until the end.

One's life is a little like a book with many chapters. The book could end at the end of any chapter. If I live another decade, I will be able to see my grandchildren through school and married. I do believe these will be pleasant pictures to see. I would theta want to see their children and watch them grow up into wonderful young people. Let me die in hope for good things for them. My age and limitations in health let me know that the end of the last chapter in my case is near. Since family, brethren in Christ, and my hope of the crown have made my life pleasant, I am willing for the end to come. The chapter of helpless senility is one I do not desire to write. May the Lord spare me that period of life.

I can easily look back and see many events of the past, but I can look ahead only by the eye of faith. I find myself as hopeful as I was when I passed by the principal for my diploma and went back to my seat fifty years ago. The vapor of my life has appeared for a little while, and it must soon vanish. There will be a new generation moving ahead into the future. My hope is that that generation will accomplish more than my own has. Let spiritual values be appreciated more in the future. May there come a great awakening of interest in the Bible.

Life does not consist of the abundance of things possessed. Ideals, friendships, love, principles, hope, and heaven's approval are far more important than things. Happiness is a by-product of the abundant life, and it is not to be bought at the market place. The very best things of life remain with us in greater abundance after we have shared them with others.

Truth Magazine - July 17, 1980



## The Jewel of Consistency

By Bob Waldron

What a dilemma: on the one hand to see the proliferation of personality cults or to give up the beauties of ecumenism. There is an alternative. Reject denominationalism and make the Bible the sole rule in faith and practice.

In an article by George Cornell, AP religion writer, we learn that a Presbyterian scholar, Dr. Arthur F. Glasser, has discovered that religious tolerance indicates a spiritual vacuum. Sounds good! Let me quote. "We've become so mushy-headed and tolerant in America that people say any religion is okay, but the fact is that they can be demonic. Such relativism is the curse of Biblical faith." Several of his statements are worthy of circulation. "Many people are so jaded that they uncritically accept any idea that comes down the pike."

Much of what the dean of Fuller Theological Seminary had to say was addressed to the mass suicide in Guyana. "In all this tide of relativism, the flood of eastern cults and the assumptions that any religion is okay as long as it's sincere, we've tried to face the situation and say plainly that there is truth and there is error."

In my experience it is such a novel thing to hear such statements from denominational leaders that I would like to encourage this thinking among them. Therefore, I want to avoid the temptation of sarcasm and yet point out a few problems for denominational preachers and leaders who would reason in the manner of Mr. Glasser.

Let me quote once more: "Tolerance, in its best sense, is a virtue" and "we must allow for a measure of differences, listening to one another, and learning, a principle of the ecumenical movement." Frankly, this last statement, in the ecumenical context, means that whereas we should not be mushy-headed enough to tolerate the far-out cults, we should be mushy-headed enough to continue tolerating enormous differences on everything from organization to what is necessary for salvation.

Tolerance and ecumenism are like father and son. The grandfather is a lack of respect for the authority of the Bible. The existence of ecumenism demands tolerance. The movement the ecumenical unity has involved the discounting of more and more that might be important enough to differ over. In other words, when

there are vast differences between two or more parties, they can achieve togetherness in three ways. (1) One side can be converted to the other side. (2) Both sides can give up their positions. (3) Both sides can be converted to the truth. The ecumenical movement has been accomplished primarily by the second method. Such a course, however, creates more and more tolerance for different ideas and directly fosters as "anything goes" attitude. When this attitude boils over in the acceptance of such

cock-eyed cults as the Peoples' Temples, we are shocked. Trying to keep ecumenism alive while not tolerating cults is like trying to have a mild fatal illness.

Those denominational leaders who have taught that "one religion is as good as another" and "it doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are sincere" are going to have to count the cost. If they say it does matter whether one is sprinkled or immersed, whether one is "once saved always saved" or not, and whether one is born totally depraved or not. If, on the other hand, it does not matter which one of these positions one holds, then they will need to decide which of the possible following answers is the reason why. (1) Everything is true. There is no false doctrine. Two plus two is one, two, three, four, or whatever. One is saved by faith only as well as not by faith only. It is all true. (2) Everything is false. There is no truth. Anything one believes is false, so it does not matter.

If it does not matter what one believes, these are the only two valid possibilities why not. If we once grant that both truth and error exist, then they differ, men can tell the difference, and we cannot blithely ignore the difference.

What a dilemma: on the one hand to see the proliferation of personality cults or to give up the beauties of ecumenism. There is an alternative. Reject denominationalism and make the Bible the sole rule in faith and practice.

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