

Are You?

By John Clark

Are you one of those who has drifted out of attending Bible class? We are all creatures of habit, good or bad. Form good habits and good things can happen - and of course, vice versa (Gal. 6:7-9). Has it become a habit for YOU to 'skip' Bible study but come to worship? Which of the following fits you?

1. I come to Bible study every once in a while.
2. I used to come but have quit.
3. I don't need to come. I know enough already.
4. I don't think it's important.
5. I really ought to come but I'm out of the habit.
6. I really want to come, but just haven't done it yet.

While you are pondering the categories let's see if you disagree with or dismiss the following Biblical principles:

1. Every Christian needs to grow. (2 Pet. 3:18)
2. God's word causes us to grow. (1 Pet. 2:2)
3. In time we should be able to teach others. (Heb. 5:12-14)
4. We should grow and help others grow by being together. (Heb. 10:24-25)
5. We have personal responsibility to share with others of our time, influence, talents, and knowledge. (Eph. 4:16)

It is said that the road to hell is paved with good intentions - never completed. The road to heaven is paved with good intentions; immediate action. and consistent effort. Why not get on the right road now? Start attending Bible classes regularly! The soul you save may be your own.



Classes This Week

Sunday 5:15 Kid's Class at the building	Sunday 5:00 Men's Training Class in College Classroom
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Sick				March Birthdays	News and Notes
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)	2 - Maddie Norman 2 - Angela Fowler 2 - Chase Harrison 3 - Shaun Oliver 5 - Amanda Barnes 7 - Josh Pender 8 - Carmen Herd 10 - Parker Godwin 10 - Pepper Humphrey 11 - Becky Harris 12 - Brad Hartsell 14 - Tyler Claxton 16 - Drew Martin 17 - Susan Sullivanne 18 - MaKenzie Anderson 20 - Jimmy Roberts 21 - Carter Hunt 24 - Jordon Toombs 26 - Jared Burton 28 - Shelby Freeman 29 - Rachel Simpson 30 - Amanda Stephens 30 - York Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Logan Young was baptized into Christ on Thursday night. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - We will have a congregational meeting at 3:30 on Sunday, March 24. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Jessica Shaver and Amanda Barnes have indentified with the University church! <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - If you are interested in helping to provide individual assistance as need arises please contact Jeff Jerkins for further information. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Let us remember our expectant mother, Nicole Pender, in our prayers. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Plans are being made to conduct a VBS on June 24-26 on the life of Joseph. Please make plans to attend and assist! <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Let us continue to pray for Glen Weeks.
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Joan Parker (Aurie Adams Grandmother)		
Emma Hettinger (William Herd's Mother)	Neal May (Manna Jones' Mother)	Roger Whatley (Daphene Whatley's son)	Andrew Hagewood (Friend of Sarah Norman)		
Betty Bradford	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Hannah Wilson (Friend of Mason Chandler)		
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 Roberts')		
Marty Meeks, Russell Dickerson (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Kathy Johnson (Erica Seymore's Aunt)	Toni and William Herd	Ann Scaff (Hannah Morris' grand-mother)		

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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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The Love of the Truth

By Jere E. Frost



Thoughts to Ponder

Those who have courage to love the truth will have courage to suffer for it.

The love of truth fires three great drives. First, it wants to know the truth. Second, it wants to align itself with truth. Third, it wants to exalt the truth. It is not a love for truth that does not possess these passions.

This article is not focused on whether one is right or wrong. It is not a study trying to determine truth on some doctrinal matter. It is rather concerned with the desire to be right. And they are different things. They have distinct effects. A man may be right on a subject but have no passion or love for it. He may only half-heartedly present it, defer to defend it, and find little or no pain if and when it is rejected. And likewise he may be wrong and have such a passion that he is ever talking about it, urging it upon others and defending it as the occasion arises with earnest fervor.

Martin Luther manifested a strong enough love for truth to break with his ancestors, his spiritual and hierarchical overseers, financial and social security, and to risk his life

“We are satisfied” replaces any continual search for truth. Such smugness implies that truth has been found, but the finder has no desire to share it with anyone by convincing them that it is indeed the truth. Nor does it deem that truth to be deserving of an earnest defense.

He studied for himself, reached convictions as to what he believed was the Will of God as set forth in the Scriptures. He boldly declared what he saw and held to be truth, both from the pulpit and in print. It cost him dearly. He who zealously believes and boldly preaches what is not popular is necessarily destined to be a controversial figure. Only the preacher who takes the generally accepted way can avoid fierce confrontations and be popular. He who avoids taking opposition to error or discourages the open and free discussion

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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

Check Us Out On the Internet: www.aubeacon.com

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of doctrine betrays either a lack of love for truth, or a love of popularity, or both.

It mattered to Luther whether or not you agreed with what he taught. He had no "let's not argue re-ligion" view, for he esteemed the truth as valuable enough to both fight and die for it. He sought no tepid compromise. Those who took up the struggle with Luther learned early that they had not joined some social club. They had no incentive to be there simply because they had friends there. The appeal was to Scripture and the deep conviction of the heart. He rejected a great deal of what he had been taught by his religious teachers, for he could not find it in the Bible. He deemed it more important to be personally right than to violate his conscience to go along with whatever the Roman hierarchy said. In a single word, he was in no sense a traditionalist. As all honest Bible students do, he taught himself out of many errors. The same spirit also promotes healthy controversy, that is, a vigorous discussion of Bible principles and applications. After all, this spirit has already challenged the generally accepted doctrines it "inherited," measured them by God's Word, found them wanting, and rejected them. Why then would it think it a strange thing that its conclusions are challenged by others and subjected to the same rule it has used?

Personally, I have a great respect and admiration for Luther and other reformers that I do not have for the Lutheran Church and the major protestant bodies that resulted from the reformation. There is a distinct reason.

Luther was in the arena, testing and being tested, advocating the supremacy of Scripture, and accordingly changing his position commensurate with his increasing understanding. In the Lutheran Church Scriptures are subordinated, an official catechism spells out the official position and constitutes the

final authority. "We are satisfied" replaces any continual search for truth. Such smugness implies that truth has been found, but the finder has no desire to share it with anyone by convincing them that it is indeed the truth. Nor does it deem that truth to be deserving of an earnest defense. In effect it says, "If you dissent from the church's position, go and join the church of your choice." And the whole tenor of Protestantism is that it does not matter what you choose—one is as good as another. There is not conviction. There is no persuasion. There is no pointing to Scripture.

Now I have used Luther as the example here for several reasons. First, because of his prominence and the genuine respect I have for him as a man. Second, because I disagree with all my heart with some of his conclusions. I am persuaded he was wrong. But I am also persuaded that, were he alive, he would not say he was "satisfied" and focus his energies on organizing or running his religious movement while refusing to challenge others or be challenged by what the Word of God says.

The real essence of being a Christian is not finding a "church home" or joining some organization. It is following Christ and pursuing truth. Everything else is secondary or, put another way, is an effect as opposed to a cause. I am a member of the body of Christ and work and worship with a local church as a result of my personal understanding of certain Scriptures. I am not the converse, namely, a member of a religious organization and pleased to go along with certain doctrines and to maintain fellowship independently of plain Bible authority.

Love for truth! — those who do not love truth will certainly perish in error of one kind or another (**II Thessalonians 2:10**). Worse than any single error they embrace is the lack of love itself! Let us dedicate ourselves to the seeking, following, and exaltation of divine truth.



Drawing Strength From the Courage of Others

By Bill Hall

How thankful we should be for wonderful examples of courage that spur us on to greater strength in the Lord's service.

Paul was just such an example: "And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear" (**Phil. 1:14**). These brethren, formerly timid and reticent, were drawing strength from the courage of Paul.

Other examples abound. Stephen's plea, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge," surely had for its source of strength the forgiving spirit of the Lord (**Acts 7:60**). The Thessalonian church found a source of strength in the example of the churches in Judea (**I Thess. 2:14**). The Philippian church, a model of courage and conviction, could no doubt trace much of its strength back to the wonderful example of patience and equanimity demonstrated by Paul and Silas while in their midst. The Hebrew Christians were admonished to "remember them that had the rule over you, men that spake unto you the word of God; and considering the issue of their life, imitate their faith" (**Heb. 13:7**).

Christians of this generation are similarly drawing strength from the courage of others. Young men who refuse to miss services of the church to play on a ball team; young women who refuse to be seen in public in

These all share a common spirit with the great characters of the Bible: they see in their temptations, trials, afflictions, and persecutions a special opportunity to be like Christ, to demonstrate their fidelity to Him, and to provide a source of strength for those who might be weak and wavering around them.

scanty attire; businessmen who would lose their jobs rather than compromise their convictions; women who continue to adorn themselves in "meek and quiet spirits" whatever the sophisticated world thinks or says of them; sick people who bear their afflictions with patience and faith; elderly people who continue to attend worship

when they are hardly able to go anywhere else; dying people who demonstrate how Christians ought to die; all are sources of strength and courage for others as they face similar circumstances. These all share a common spirit with the great characters of the Bible: they see in their temptations, trials, afflictions, and persecutions a special opportunity to be like Christ, to demonstrate their fidelity to Him, and to provide a source of strength for those who might be weak and wavering around them. They seize the opportunity and stand, and all of us are stronger because of them. Of these courageous people this world truly is not worthy.

Are we, however, to be always on the receiving end of the strength of others? As we draw strength from the courage of others, we must in turn become sources of strength and courage. Others look to us. In the words of Charles Wesley, each of us has a "charge to keep," and "God to glorify," a present age to serve."

