

## Two Marked Men

Following the slaying of his brother Abel, Cain was driven out and became a fugitive and a vagabond. Cain complained that his punishment was too severe and thought that every one who found him would try to slay him. "And the Lord set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him" (**Gen. 4:15**).

Cain marked himself with disgrace and shame when he murdered his brother. It appears that God set a mark or sign upon him to prevent his being slain in vengeance. What that mark was we do not know. It served as a token of God's pity and mercy.

The great apostle Paul was also a marked

By Irvin Himmel man. He wrote in **Gal. 6:17**, "1 bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus." This probably refers to the scars, bruises, wounds, and fleshly signs of persecutions and hardships which he suffered for serving the Lord. Many of the Jews gloried in circumcision, a fleshly token of nationality, but Paul gloried in that which branded him as a servant of Jesus Christ.

Paul also was marked as belonging to Christ by holy living, keeping his body in subjection, and by the image of Christ that shone in his words and deeds. In this sense, every child of God should be clearly branded.



**Classes This Week**

<b>Sunday 5:15</b> Kid's Class at the building	<b>Sunday 5 PM</b> Men's Training Class at the building	<b>Monday 7 PM</b> Ladies "James" Study at the Rouses	<b>Tuesday 8 PM</b> Truth Seekers in Student Center Room 2310	<b>Thursday 10 AM</b> Ladies "Proverbs" Study at the Rouses	<b>Thursday 8 PM</b> Prayer Study at Stefan Richardson's
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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)	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)	Sandra Qadeer (Rafia Qadeer's mother)
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)	Kathy Johnson (Erica Seymore's Aunt)	Toni and William Herd	Kate Miller (Daughter of Brandon and Erin Miller)

**March Birthdays**

- 2 - Missy Toombs
- 3 - Jessica Shaver
- 4 - Julie Aragon
- 6 - Maci Guthrie
- 7 - Mary Catherine Burns
- 8 - Hannah Morris
- 8 - Laura Humphrey
- 10 - Stephen Richardson
- 14 - Jesse Roberts
- 14 - Kaylee West
- 15 - Karen Padgett
- 16 - Carson Fowler
- 18 - Spencer Sullivanne
- 18 - Taylor Godwin
- 18 - Joel Black
- 20 - April Jerkins
- 21 - Timothy Jones
- 23 - Anna Miller
- 24 - Bob Simpson
- 28 - Anna Stallings

**News and Notes**

- ☒ - Glenn Weeks passed away on Wednesday night and was buried on Saturday. Lets us encourage the family with the comfort God gives at the death of a faithful Christian.
- ☒ - Congratulations to Josh and Nichole Pender at the birth of their son, Tate David Pender on Saturday.
- ☒ - Congratulations to Keith Bailey at the birth of his grandson, Cooper Howell Bailey! Cooper was born 9 days ago and weighed 7 lbs. 1 oz.
- ☒ - Steven McCrary will be preaching tonight and leading the college devotional.
- ☒ - There will be a meeting after services tonight for those involved with the VBS.
- ☒ - Ryan Hasty will preach both services next Sunday as we are considering to have him work as a second preacher here.
- ☒ - Paul Earnhart will be at Perry Hill Road morning (10 AM) and evening (7 PM) this week.
- ☒ - Our new teaching quarter starts today!

# 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**)

## He Who Knows Not

By Irven Lee



**Thoughts to Ponder**

"He who knows not and knows that he knows not is simple, teach him. He who knows not and knows not that he knows not is a fool, avoid him. He who knows and knows not that he knows is asleep, awake him. He who knows and knows that he knows is wise, follow him."

In my high school days, my biology teacher kept some brief expressions of wisdom written on a small section of blackboard that was near the ceiling on the front wall of his class room. He left some of them there for several weeks before he would replace them with others. Five decades and more have passed, but they have not erased a few of those wise sayings from my mind. I may not remember the exact wording in every case, but the general thoughts still linger.

One of those expressions was about as the following words suggest: "He who knows not and knows that he knows not is simple, teach him. He who knows not and knows not that he knows not is a fool, avoid him. He who knows and knows not that he knows is asleep, awake him. He who knows and knows that he knows is wise, follow him." Do you fit into this picture somewhere? Try to find yourself.

Many things are involved in one's personality other than knowledge or the lack of it. The statements quoted above do not take into consideration the various attitudes and dispositions that may determine one's usefulness or his tendency to cause trouble. Meekness, humility, and unselfishness as well as pride, selfishness, and arrogance may be present to bless or curse any one of us. Knowledge is important but not all important. In this article we desire to

think of knowledge as suggested in the writing which the teacher placed on the board before us youngsters more than fifty years ago.

Are there some who know not and know that they know not? We all fit into this class. We may know somewhat on a few subjects, but we may know almost nothing about many other fields of learning. One who is a wonderful surgeon may know little about farming. Neither the farmer nor the surgeon may know any great amount about computers. It pays us all to keep enough humility to avoid being a "know-it-all" and to have respect for the knowledge and ability that others have.

Many are very much lacking in Bible knowledge. This is serious because one may perish spiritually for lack of knowledge of God (**Hos. 4:6**). Some who are not good Bible students can make erroneous statements about spiritual things and then affirm or contend for them with a dogmatic attitude that is very offensive. Such people can become great problems in the Lord's church. If they realized their lack of knowledge they could be taught, but those with deep seated prejudice are hard to teach. They are like concrete in that their minds are thoroughly mixed and well hardened. In a lifetime, a faithful and devout Christian who is well informed may have occasion to spend hundreds of hours trying to help men who

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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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are ignorant of the truth but who think they are certainly right. All of us need to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God so that we may open our hearts to more truth.

I knew a young man who was working with his hands several hours per week in order to pay his way through school. He had a willingness to work, but he would gladly volunteer to do things which he could not do. The things he did might be such that it would take a second person much time to tear out before the job could be started. Zeal and willingness to work are not enough. It takes some "know how." It would have been better if the first person had taken time to learn what he was doing before he rushed in where he could only make things worse.

There are those who know not and know not that they know not. These are the very people who can lead a faction in bringing some unscriptural doctrine or practice into the Lord's church. "They have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God" (**Rom. 10:2, 3**). This is the very picture of factionalism within the church. These leaders in digression may be bold, shrewd, and capable leaders of men, but they have not done their home work in Bible study. They are ignorant of God's righteousness, while they look at humble people who have carefully studied the Bible so that they cannot follow along in their digression and consider them ignorant and unlearned.

Some are quick to criticize and discourage others who are trying to develop their talents when the critics themselves cannot do as well as those they discourage. Some who have great ability seem not to realize that they do, so they hold back while people with less ability push themselves into positions of responsibility to the embarrassment of the church. If one is invited to the feast, the Lord would advise him to take a lower seat and be invited to take a higher place. This can be misused. The man who knows and knows not that he knows needs to be awakened to his ability and step forward humbly to carry his part of the load. An inexperienced song leader who has ability needs experience, help, and encouragement. The thing he does not need is sarcastic criticism from a poor song leader who has had much experience. So it is with humble people who are trying to learn to speak before an audience. Help may

come from good students of ability, while cutting and hurtful remarks may be made by people who have pride without skill.

The skilled song leader need not boast. The good elder is not an egotist. The able speaker may be humble. The rich man need not make a display of his wealth. The self righteous may thank God that he is so good and not like the publican over there. The publican may obtain mercy as he prays with an earnest and humble heart that realizes his need of forgiveness (**Luke 18:9-14**). It seems that the most ignorant may be the most dogmatic and the egotist may have little on which to base his pride. It may be hard for each person to see himself as others see him. It takes great humility and much Bible study for one to see himself as God sees him.

It is wonderful for a congregation to have a good number of humble men who have studied and exercised their senses to the extent that they can and will boldly and effectively uphold the right and lead the body in the way of truth. These men know and know that they know the will of God for they have spent much time in diligent study (**Heb. 5:12-14**).

The scribes and many other Jews knew to expect a Messiah, so they could tell that He was to be born in Bethlehem of the tribe of Judah and of the house of David, but they had so many false concepts that had grown out of their own desires that they did not recognize the Christ when He did come. They had overlooked passages like **Isaiah 53** which pictured a suffering Savior who was like the lamb rather than like the wolf. When the meek and lowly Man from Nazareth came along they mocked, scourged, and crucified Him. How do you think we would have acted if we had lived then and had been taught by the scribes and Pharisees? They all had access to the teachings of the great prophets who were holy men who spoke as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance (**2 Pet. 1:21**). They also had false teachers; so many were led by the doctrines of men. Let us all examine ourselves whether we are in the faith (**2 Cor. 13:5; 2 Pet. 2:1-3**). It is not unusual to have men who speak evil of the way of truth. We need to follow the Lord in His teaching and in His manner of life. The scribes and many other Jews knew not and knew not that they knew not. They had deep seated prejudices rather than knowledge so that even the Master Teacher found their eyes closed, ears stopped, and hearts hardened so that they could not be taught (**Matt. 13:15; 21:31, 32**). The ignorance of some allows them to boast of their knowledge when they should be very ashamed of their lack of knowledge when truth was within easy reach.



## The Danger of Having Been Here longer

By Gary Henry

"Better a poor and wise youth than an old and foolish king who will be admonished no more" (**Ecclesiastes 4:13**).

*Just as there are special challenges for those who are young in the faith, there are also some for the older. One of these is the pride that comes from comparing ourselves to those who are our juniors, spiritually speaking. "May God help us to avoid thoughts such as these: "But I have been here the longest. I have worked harder. Someone else is being favored."*

Pride is especially dangerous because of its subtlety. It can take many different forms, some of which are extremely hard to see when we are the ones who are guilty. If we think only of blatant egotism and arrogance, we may judge ourselves to be free of pride, but we need to think twice. It may be that some of the attitudes we classify as "spiritual maturity" are actually forms of pride, nicely disguised as the virtues of strength and wisdom.

For example, it's hard for experienced Christians to keep satisfaction with their experience from sliding off into the swamp of *smugness*. Perhaps we would never say so, and perhaps we're clever enough to keep others from knowing we

The patronizing, "mature" smile with which you listen to criticism from your juniors is probably a sign of pride, and you may need to listen to Solomon: "Better a poor and wise youth than an old and foolish king who will be admonished no more." Hasn't pride closed many an older ear?

think this way, but inwardly we may feel a warm, condescending glow of ever-so-subtle superiority when we think how little others have suffered. "When they've been around as long as we have, they'll see things differently," we sigh, congratulating ourselves for being

older.

If you think you're not troubled by this particular malady, ask yourself this question: how willing am I to be corrected by someone with far less experience than I? The patronizing, "mature" smile with which you listen to criticism from your juniors is probably a sign of pride, and you may need to listen to Solomon: "Better a poor and wise youth than an old and foolish king who will be admonished no more." Hasn't pride closed many an older ear?

Whether we're young or old in the faith, it's a good idea to minimize the amount of time we spend making comparisons. It really doesn't matter whether we are ahead of or behind someone else in life's experience. We won't have been in heaven for five seconds before we realize how absolutely silly such comparisons are. The only gap that matters is the gap between us and God!

