

# Get Thee Behind Me, Satan...

Full of enthusiasm and passion, devoted to his Lord, willing to “take a chance”, you’ve got to love Peter. But Peter made some big mistakes! Seeing himself as the Lord’s protector, anxious to prove his love, quick to jump to His defense, humble to make correction when wrong, sometimes too confident in his own abilities, sometimes too ready to inject his own notions into God’s plan -- we identify with him, because we see a lot of “us” in him.

In fact, our usual thinking is to “go easy” on him, because his “boo boos” were matters of the head, and not of the heart. Even here (**Matt 16:21-23**) his mistake came from his great love for Jesus. (After all, “loving God” is the “main” thing, and God’s grace covers your imperfections if you do.)

Jesus did *not* go easy on Peter! At this moment, the Lord identified him with His “Adversary”, and

By Aubrey Belue

reacted accordingly. Would “Satan” be welcome in heaven? Why did Jesus react so strongly? Because, in effect, Peter was challenging God’s own plan. For God, Jesus *had* to die... To Peter, “Lord, be it not so unto Thee”...He looked at it as men do, and questioned God’s wisdom and will. Setting aside the logical disconnect – Peter had just finished confessing that Jesus was the Son of God (who cannot die) – in that moment, *because* his way (the “things of men”) was contrary to God’s way, Peter “stood on the other side” (**Obadiah 1:11**)! Attitude did not enter into it! Jesus did not judge his intentions, but what came out of his mouth. Do you imagine he regards us any differently, or lets *our* intentions override the plain truth? Later, Jesus indicated He could not use Peter, until he was “converted” - **Lk 22:31**.



**Classes This Week**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Sunday 5:15</b><br>Kid’s Class at the building | <b>Thursday 10 AM</b><br>Ladies ‘Proverbs’ class at Laura Humphrey’s |
|---|--|

**Sick**

|  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| Sam Cox<br>(Friend of Anna Stallings)                      | Owen Mauldin<br>(Seth and Summer Mauldin’s Son) | Frank Hand<br>(Laura Humphrey’s dad)        | Sandlyn Fultz<br>(Davis Fultz’s Sister)              |
| Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson<br>(Toni Herd’s Sisters) | Don Lanier<br>(Father of Greg Lanier)           | David Hartsell<br>(Holly and Brad’s Father) | Joan Parker<br>(Aurie Adams Grandmother)             |
| Emma Hettinger<br>(William Herd’s Mother)                  | Neal May<br>(Manna Jones’ Mother)               | Roger Whatley<br>(Daphene Whatley’s son)    | Andrew Hagewood<br>(Friend of Sarah Norman)          |
| Betty Bradford   | Quinton Addison<br>(April Jerkins Grandfather)  | Danny Weldon<br>(Rusty Weldon’s brother)    | Sandra Qadeer<br>(Rafia Qadeer’s mother)             |
| Gerald White<br>(Christopher, Anna and Wesley’s Father)    | Meredith NeSmith<br>(Jessica Anderson’s Cousin) | Emily Stallings<br>(Anna’s sister)          | Madi Wise<br>(Friend of the Robert’s)                |
| Marty Meeks, Russell Dickerson<br>(Toni Herd’s Nephews)    | Peggy Theis<br>(Timothy Jones’ grandmother)     | Toni and William Herd                       | Kate Miller<br>(Daughter of Brandon and Erin Miller) |

**May Birthdays**

- 2 - Emily-Anne Rouse
- 3 - Paula Davis
- 4 - Cadence Pittman
- 10 - Ian Norman
- 11 - Caleb George
- 11 - Scott Perkins
- 12 - Daphene Whatley
- 13 - Jana Hall
- 13 - Anna Grace Long
- 15 - Bryce Daniels
- 16 - Shawna Harris
- 19 - Madison Seals
- 22 - Sarah Holliday
- 24 - Andy Roberts
- 25 - Chuck Hahn
- 26 - Fallon Hartsell
- 28 - Candy Long
- 31 - Rachel Tolliver

**News and Notes**

- ☒ - Let us remember our upcoming VBS (June 24-27).
- ☒ - Our brother Anthony Nelms passed away on Saturday and was buried on Thursday. Let us remember his family in our prayers.
- ☒ - Caralise Hunt’s grandmother, Nettie Weeks, passed away on Tuesday
- ☒ - Elizabeth Wiggs lost her grandmother this week.
- ☒ - Leah Northcutt was baptized into Christ on Monday.
- ☒ - Brother Rouse will be preaching in New Jersey next weekend.
- ☒ - There will be a workday on Sat. May 18th from 8-12.

# 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**

Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

**Elders**  
 Walker Davis  
 (334) 703-0050  
 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  
 E-Mail:  
[larryrouse@aubeacon.com](mailto:larryrouse@aubeacon.com)

**Larry Rouse**  
 Evangelist and Editor

## Do Something For Someone Else

By Dee Bowman

The human character never functions at a higher level than when it is involved in doing for others. In what is often described as the Golden Rule, Jesus spoke of doing for others as you would have them do for you. In His great commandment concerning discipleship, Jesus spoke of self-denial as the key element. The so-called greatest commandment of all, says that love your neighbor is like unto the love of God.

Giving is the highest essence of human endeavor. “Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friend” (**John 15:13**). The Epistles are replete with charges that Christians should place the good of others before themselves (**Philippians 2:4; Romans 12:10, etc.**). Selflessness is a fitting description of our Savior who gave Himself for our sins.

It doesn’t have to be something big. Sometimes just a smile to say “I care.” Sometimes just a hug or a pat on the shoulder to say, “You’re special.” Sometimes just a simple smile or a “hello” or an “I understand” will do. Do something for somebody else. It all adds up. It all adds up to good.

Conversely, all sin is in some way connected to selfishness. Commands are disobeyed out of a selfish intention and that results in sin. Selfishness is at the root of all sin.

Care for one another is a sign of love. Looking past warts and imperfections toward usefulness and concern is a sign of love. Love promotes cooperation between those who genu-

*(Continued on page 2)*

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(Continued from page 1)

inely care for Christ and His cause and prohibits useless wranglings and senseless quarrels.

Two elderly women suffered incapacitating strokes. One's left side was paralyzed, the other's right. Each had before been an excellent pianist, but was denied the privilege of playing on account of the stroke. The director of a nursing home where they were lodged knew of their common interest in the piano and introduced them. Soon they were making beautiful music—together, one playing the left hand, the other the right. Unselfishness promotes unity, makes bad situations good, brings happiness out of adversity.

There is no better way to actualize selflessness than to do something for someone else. It gets you outside of yourself. It projects you into the situations around you and, if motivated by love and concern, makes every circumstance and every situation better. And most of the time it costs nothing. And even if it does cost something, more often than not, it's worth the expenditure.

I ran across this years ago. Let me share it with you.

“The word is encumbered with sorrow  
and care,  
With longing for happiness everywhere.  
If then you could lighten the burden of life  
And lessen its toil and its worry and  
strife,  
Do something for somebody else.

We rush madly on in our daily careers,

And each take his measure of smiles and  
tears.

We flippantly mingle the bad and the good,  
Nor seemingly care for the fact that we  
should,

Do something for somebody else.

Each play his small part in life's feverish  
game,

And scrambles for honor and riches and  
fame;

Grows selfish and craven and full of dis-  
trust.

Yet if we could truly be happy, we must,  
Do something for somebody else.

Oh, you who are full of complaining and  
fears,

Who think but of self through the slow-  
moving years.

Pray let me describe for life's fevers and  
chills,

Its mental and moral and physical ills,  
Do something for somebody else.

Do something for somebody else and forget  
Your own petty troubles—why worry and  
fret?

Let love in your heart be forever enshrined;  
He loves most who gives most of self to  
mankind.

Do something for somebody  
else.” (Anonymous)

And could I add something else? It doesn't  
have to be something big. Sometimes just a  
smile to say “I care.” Sometimes just a hug  
or a pat on the shoulder to say, “You're  
special.” Sometimes just a simple smile or a  
“hello” or an “I understand” will do. Do  
something for somebody else. It all  
adds up. It all adds up to good.



## Drinking From the Waters of Marah

By Lance Blackburn

In **Exodus 15:22-26**, the children of Israel find themselves traveling three days in the Wilderness of Shur. For these three days, they are confronted with a very real problem for so great a number of people: they can find no water. We can imagine the concern this would raise: these people are not simply an army of soldiers marching to battle. Their number included their wives, their little ones, the old and infirm, as well as all of their animals and possessions (**Ex. 12:37-38**).

Finally, they come to a place called Marah, and there is water there. Yet a harsh reality sets in: this water is too bitter to drink. Indeed, the name, Marah, means, “Bitter.” Immediately, the children of Israel resort to an unfortunate habit that we see in them time and again: they start complaining. They complain against Moses (**15:24**), but there is more to it than that; since Moses is simply leading them according to the Lord's will, they are really complaining against the Lord Himself (**16:7**).

Perhaps the saddest part of this complaining is that it comes on the heels of some incredible displays of God's power. The ten plagues have ravaged Egypt, showing her just how false and worthless her gods are (**12:12**). The Red Sea has been parted to allow Israel to cross over on dry land; then, when Pharaoh's army foolishly tried to follow Israel, they have been utterly destroyed (**14:26-30**). One moment, the people are singing songs of praise unto the Lord; the next, they are complaining bitterly against Him and His servants.

Surely we can learn some lessons from this.

There will be many waters of bitterness for Christians to face in this life. As individuals, we will be tempted and tried; Satan will work diligently to frustrate and discourage us. Troubles will come upon our families: sickness, death, disobedient children, etc. As congregations of the Lord's people, we will be assaulted by false doctrines, weak morality, and apathy. When these things come our way (and they will!), what will we do? How will we respond?

We can respond like Israel did when they faced bitterness: by complaining about it. “*That's so unfair!*”; “*God must not even care!*”; “*Why does this have to happen to me, I'm a good person?*” We can seek to blame others for our misfortunes and get so caught up in the misery of the moment that we totally ignore all the bountiful blessings of God that are around us. Israel was good at that sort of thing. Forget the miracles, forget the manna, and

forget all the special laws and the opportunity to be His own holy people; Israel liked to ignore all of *those* things, and instead focus on what was wrong at that particular moment. It would be easy to follow their poor example, because *complaining is easy*.

Or, we can follow the example of Moses. When the bitterness came, when hardships arose, and when all the blame was dumped on his shoulders, what did Moses do? “*So he cried out to the Lord...*” (**15:25**). Moses went to the only One who could truly handle any situation. Moses did not just live through the plagues, the parting of the Red Sea, and the other great signs of God's power: he learned from them. They built his faith. Moses understood that God had not brought the children of Israel out of Egypt simply to abandon them on a whim: God was trustworthy.

Do we really trust God like He deserves? When has He ever failed? When did His plans ever get crushed by the bitterness of this world and left undone? Never.

So we shouldn't expect Him to start failing us now. Now, this does not mean that everything will go exactly the way that we want. It does not mean that hardships will not still come to us. What it **does** mean is that, no matter what we face, the God of Heaven will see us through it, if we will just cast our burdens upon Him. “*Cast your burden on the Lord, and He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.*” (**Psalm 55:22**).

The cure to not drinking and giving in to the waters of bitterness is simple: drink of the waters of life instead. We are dying of thirst, though we may not even realize it. Our souls need salvation, and the only way we can have that is by drinking of the water of life that Jesus offers (**John 4:1-15**). “*And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.*” (**Rev. 22:17**). Notice that the Lord offers the water of life freely, but He will not force it upon us. “*Whoever desires, let him take the water...*”

Will you obey Him today? For that is the only way we can accept the gift He offers: obedience to Him. “*He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned*” (**Mark 16:16**). Have we been obedient to this? If not, then how can we say that we faithfully serve Him?

