

# When They Go Out From Us

“They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, in order that it might be shown that they all are not of us.” (1 John 2:19)

Among Christians, often a new group will pop up teaching and practicing things vastly different from the apostles’ doctrine taught in the congregation(s) from which they came. We are shocked and rightly so. But in most cases these folks were “not of us” long before “they went out from us.” It usually happens after they have failed to win enough support within the congregation(s) where they formally attended to take over. They have now shown the world where their hearts had been for sometime.

All of this demands diligence on the part of overseers and other knowledgeable Christians to be begin to deal with the problems when there are initial signs that they are “not of us” in their thinking. Instead, often the church’s leadership, instead of dealing

By Edward O. Bragwell, Sr. forthrightly with it by corrective teaching and discipline, they prefer to not rock the boat, thus allowing the leaven enough time to work its way through a larger portion of the whole lump.

The Lord gives the responsibility to elders to shepherd the sheep and to watch for their souls. Instead, in too many cases, elders are mostly concerned with balancing the church’s budget and directing the church various “programs.” They have neither the time nor knowledge to spot and correctly deal with the wolves among them. They resent and/or ignore warnings from knowledgeable Christians outside their congregation who are aware of what “is going on” with some of their members. These elders and other knowledgeable men should be able to get a handle on the problem long before it becomes self-evident that they “are not OF us” when they “went out FROM us.”



Classes This Week				
<b>Sunday 5:15 PM</b> Kids Class in Auditorium	<b>Sunday 8 PM</b> High School - College Devo at Savannah Spohn's	<b>Monday 7 PM</b> Men's study at Walker Davis' house	<b>Tuesday 8 PM</b> Truth Seekers class in Student Center Room 2216	<b>Thursday 10 AM</b> Ladies Class on "Good Homes" at Paula Davis'

## 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)	Kate Miller (Daughter of Brandon and Erin Miller)
Emma Hettinger (William Herd's Mother)	Neal May (Manna Jones' Mother)	Andrew Westphal	Andrew Hagewood (Friend of Sarah Norman)
Betty Bradford	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Martha Godwin (Troy's mother)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Patty Herd (William's sister-in-law)	Emily Stallings (Anna's sister)	Madi Wise (Friend of the Robert's)
Marty Meeks, Russell Dickerson (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkin's Dad)	Toni and William Herd	Tom Davis (Walker Davis' Uncle)

## October Birthdays

- 1 - Aiden Hahn
- 2 - Suzanne Nichols
- 3 - Jennifer Hasty
- 4 - Jordan Corneil
- 6 - Jessica Anderson
- 8 - Heath Fowler
- 11 - Mason Chandler
- 12 - Stacy Norman
- 14 - Grant Smith
- 17 - Abbie Buchanan
- 20 - Keith Bailey
- 20 - Evan Pender
- 20 - Olivia Hillard
- 22 - Meredith Bragwell
- 22 - Christopher White
- 22 - Hunter Crawford
- 24 - Sarabeth Roberts
- 24 - Suzanna Roberts
- 24 - AJ Price
- 25 - Josh Sutton
- 25 - Bethany Bradford
- 26 - Palmer Daniels
- 28 - Anne Morton
- 29 - Belle Johnson
- 29 - Matt Hall
- 31 - Kitty Tam

## News and Notes

- ☒ - Sandlyn Fultz had back surgery last Thursday and is scheduled to have leg surgery this Thursday.
- ☒ - David Hartsell is involved in rehab at Northport Hospital following his hip surgery.
- ☒ - Caleb Gandy's grandmother, Sarah Lanier, died and was buried on Tuesday.
- ☒ - Elizabeth Ann and Alexander Calvert lost their grandfather, Wilson Calvert.
- ☒ - Be sure to visit [www.auchurch.com](http://www.auchurch.com) for al audio files and more!

A weekly publication of the University church of Christ in Auburn, Alabama

# 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)

Volume 4, Issue 49 October 13, 2013



### Thoughts to Ponder

Not as I will, but as thou wilt. To be able to say these words and truly mean them is the highest point we can ever hope to attain.

**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

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**Larry Rouse**  
Evangelist and Editor

## When I Was Baptized

By Larry Rouse

We do not forget great turning points in their lives. It may be the memory of meeting and falling in love with the one that eventually would become our mate. It could be the loss of a parent whose memory continues to inspire us to serve God and never quit. These and other critical points in our lives should both humble us and inspire us to draw more closely to the God that provides for us beyond what we could ever know (Rom 8:28).

The greatest turning point for any of us is the day that we entered into fellowship with the God of heaven. This was a point of our turning from our sins and finding the forgiveness that makes a relationship with God possible (Acts 3:19, 26).

I often think back to the situations that led me to that decision to turn to Jesus Christ. It is good for me to remember the rejoicing and the new direction that I found in my life. It was like I myself had died and come back to life (Rom 6:2-5). This turning point transformed my life and led me down paths that I never thought I would take. To this very day my life is filed with newness and an awareness that my future paths are determined by a living faith which looks for doors of opportunity that the Lord may place before me.

### Why our memory is important

Over time we can drift from our relationship with God to the point that we are

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caught up in a mindless and heartless “going through the motions.” A living faith must continually be growing, adding, and fighting or it is dead. Peter points out why some fail to add to their faith. “For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins (2 Peter 1:9). What do you remember about your forgiveness?”

### A time of darkness and hopelessness

One cannot come to God without first seeing their need. I can remember the masquerade of living in the world and giving the appearance of happiness. The world did provide a series of escapes and highs that left my basic needs unmet. The world’s “purpose” was found in

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short term pleasure that changed depending upon the desires of the moment (**1 John 2:15-17**).

The world also had a “carrot and stick” approached to keeping you “in line.” If you were to be accepted by others in the world, then you must accept that there are no real standards and no real “truth.” I learned very quickly that in order to have associations with some people I had to accept their “personal lifestyle” and even become a partaker in it. “In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you” (**1 Peter 4:4**).

It did not take me very long to realize that a life with no standards is a life with no purpose. Also I came to realize that those in the world who claimed to be my friends, were in fact ruled by the “god of this age”, and were walking in darkness too (**2 Cor 4:4**). I sadly knew that they would discard me in a moment.

### The bright light of a living faith

Within my own heart I knew that God existed and that He ultimately could erase the pain of an aimless life if I could but find Him. I remember praying a simple prayer to God on a beautiful starry night. “God, please let me come to know You.” This was a serious prayer for light. As I would come to know later, our God will always answer such a prayer (**John 7:17, Acts 16:9-10**).

My search began with a daily reading of the Bible. As I read, I came upon verses that deeply touched me as they attested to the power of a living faith. The optimism of Paul in the face of adversity astounded me.” For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (**Romans 8:18**). This was a verse that I read and reread, marveling at how real purpose and joy can be found regardless of outward circumstances. Was it possible that I might one day have such a faith?

### The day of my death

As I continued to read the Bible, I came to see how men received Jesus into their lives. My reading of the book of Acts helped me see how people like me were able to turn from the world to serve a living God. Conversion was no casual process. It was a death! “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (**Gal 2:20**).

Without exception I found that men that would come

to Christ had to surrender all. Those at Ephesus that became Christians burned their books of magic and gave up the practice of it which had an enormous monetary consequence for them (**Acts 19:19-20**). Did they complain about this? No, they would speak as the apostle Paul would about the things he gave up for Christ. “Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ” (**Phil 3:8**).

It was the love of God that showed me that I needed to deal with the issue of my own sin before God. Jesus died on a Roman cross to provide the only possible sacrifice for my sin. It was good news indeed to know that God has provided that which I could never provide on my own. “For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (**Rom 6:23**).

How was I to receive this free gift? As I read through the book of Acts I plainly saw the answer. “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins... (**Acts 2:38**). “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (**Acts 22:16**). Every time one came to believe and turn to Christ in the book of Acts, they were baptized immediately (**Acts 8:34-39, 16:30-34**).

The day of my baptism was the day that I died. It was a day similar to that of the prodigal son who, because of an utter disgust over his aimless life, came back to his father with nothing to offer but his willingness to be a slave. He just wanted to be with the father that loved him! “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants” (**Luke 15:18-19**). God responded to my death just like the father of the prodigal did, with a full restoration of fellowship and great rejoicing (**Luke 15:20-24**).

### Why I need to remember

What a joy it is to remember the escape from a terrible slavery to a present life in the grace of God! I need to remember both the darkness of the past and the power of a life with God. “For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (**Rom 5:20-23**).

What do *you* remember?



# The Fall and Rising

By Terry Benton

“Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” (**Luke 2:34-35**)

### Jesus caused many in Israel to fall.

He set the standard of righteousness so much higher than the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees and made many open comments that offended them. (**Read Matthew 5-7; 23**). Jesus was destined to force a decision that would mean that if you were not willing to put the Lord first, you could not be His disciples (**Luke 14:25f**). Because Jesus did not come to fit what people wanted in a Messiah, He became a rock of offense to many but the chief cornerstone of conviction for others. Truly Jesus was destined for the fall of many in Israel. Even today people who can’t work through the controversy of Jesus and decide to take a stand, that very fact is to their own spiritual fall. Jesus is controversial and forces a committed decision. He divides families where some know Jesus is worth standing for while others do not see that value in Jesus.

### Jesus caused many in Israel to rise.

Think how controversial Peter’s first sermon in **Acts 2** was among the Jews. Yet, while many Jews were committed to the fall from

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Jesus whom God had made both Lord and Christ, yet only 3,000 Jews were raised in status before God. Jesus was destined for the rising of thousands more who took a stand for Jesus in the midst of controversy. They were raised to sit in heavenly places in Christ. They entered into the kingdom of light and righteousness and had now become the true Israel of God. Those who will con-

fess Jesus and stand up for His word are the ones that God was partnership with (**2 John 9-10**). These are a royal priesthood and a holy nation whose spiritual sacrifices mingle with the sweet aroma of Jesus’ sacrifice. They are not perfect, but they are forgiven and set apart from the world and equipped with mighty armament for the fight of faith. Jesus was destined for their rising.

We decide if we want to work through the controversy of who Jesus is. If we don’t we are already on the list of the fallen. If we do we are destined for the rising of others who see the faith we hold in the midst of a crooked generation and it emboldens them to also take a stand. We cannot keep quiet about such a controversial figure as Jesus, for He must be confessed and His faith defended. He is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel. We must give everyone a chance to decide if they will be among the fallen or among those whom Jesus elevates. On which side of this great controversy will you be found?

