

# The Soul of Obedience

By Robert F. Turner

Remember the old story about the man who was going on a journey, and asked his son to lay out the farm according to his instructions? Corn was to be planted in this field, beans in that, the garden here, a shed built there. The boy put the corn where his father wanted it, and the beans where the father said. But he changed places for the shed and garden. When his father returned and objected to his son's disobedience, the boy argued he had done half of what his father ordered; but the father said, "No, you did nothing in obedience. It is obvious that you only put the corn and beans where you did, because you thought they should go there."

We might well ask ourselves the question, "WHY do we live as we do? Is it out of respect for God and His laws, or are we simply following a pattern of mores that we approve, and which represents no higher authority than our own traditions. The motive for obedience is an aspect of law that has been somewhat ignored.

In Paul's arguments on law versus faith (Romans and Galatians) he certainly does not rule out law. He says faith establishes law (Rom. 3:31); and he says the law is "holy, just and good" (7:12). Its weakness was by virtue of its subjects, men (8:3); but even then, it served to bring them unto Christ — aware of their need for mercy and forgiveness (Gal. 3:24).

One cannot accept the existence of God and ignore the expression of His will; and acknowledging the relation of creature to Creator imposes an obligation to submit to His hand (Rom. 1:20-21; 9:20-21). There is a close correlation between keeping the commands of God and abiding in God, and He in

us (Jn. 14:23; 1 Jn. 2:3-6).

Christ is the "author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him" (Heb. 5:9); and saving faith is an obedient faith (Jas. 2:24) "which worketh by love" (Gal. 5:6). The principle here is not that of law meritoriously obeyed (which would demand perfection) but because obedience from the heart demonstrates our attitude toward Him who made and gave the law. How else could the breaking of one law make a man "guilty of all"? James explains, "He that said, Do not commit adultery said also, Do not kill" (Jas. 2:10-12; 4:10-11). To select from all God said those parts we approve and are willing to obey, assumes a position above that of God. It is to imagine ourselves judges OF the law, hence OF God, instead of realizing we are subject to and are judged BY the law, hence BY God. Without the proper attitude toward God, no obedience (?) is acceptable to Him.

Some have suggested these Bible approved motives for obedience: fear of punishment, appreciation of our position as clay to Potter, and varying degrees of love for God. Paul says, "the love of Christ (our recognition of His love for us) constrains us" (2 Cor. 5:14). However you list them, they start with faith "that God is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Heb. 11:6). Perhaps we are failing to elicit more obedience to God because we do not work hard enough at preparing the soil, or stirring proper motives.



# 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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## GODLY WOMEN

- ✓ Fear God
- ✓ Dress Modestly
- ✓ Are Meek & Quiet
- ✓ Help The Poor
- ✓ Don't Gossip
- ✓ Are Sober, Discrete & Chaste

### Thoughts to Ponder

Love looks through a telescope; envy, through a microscope.  
  
Love does not keep a ledger of the sins and failures of others.

## Thank God for Godly Women

By Phil T. Arnold

A few weeks ago our own brother George Bittner was talking with me and reflecting on the beginnings of this congregation. The main point that he stressed was the role that godly women had played in the early days of this church. He said that probably very few people in the congregation today realized what a vital role those women had played, godly women who stood firm and committed, often without their husbands, to allow this congregation to "get off the ground" and succeed. I would add to that not only in the beginning but throughout the history of this congregation even to its present, godly women have continued to play a significant role in seeing this congregation continue and experience success. Shamefully we fail to acknowledge this as often and rightfully as we should.

that there are radical feminists who cry for change and want to break down all barriers of distinction between women in the church. men and women. But there may also be those women who perhaps have been swayed to listen to these cries at least in part by the unfulfilled expressions of appreciation for their contributions to the cause of Christ in the local congregation. Certainly, no Christian serves God rightfully if he does so to receive the praise of men (John 12:42-43; Matt. 6:1-8; Gal. 1:10; 2 Cor. 5:9).

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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)	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)	Bonnie May (Wife of Ben May)
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)

### November Birthdays

- 1 - Holly Allamel
- 2 - Debbi Coleman
- 6 - Troy Godwin
- 6 - Lauren Ledford
- 7 - Amy Godwin
- 7 - Leah Donahue
- 8 - Ashley Miller
- 9 - Darla Hahn
- 11 - Andrew Hahn
- 12 - Randal Porterfield
- 13 - Toni Herd
- 13 - Emerson Daniels
- 13 - Dylan Bartlett
- 13 - Ronaldo Henriquez
- 15 - Jon Hornback
- 16 - Nicole Pender
- 16 - Alexander Dunaway
- 16 - Victoria Dunaway
- 20 - Craig Bassett
- 23 - Mary Ann Roberts
- 24 - John Burns
- 25 - Silas Weldon
- 25 - Olyvia Winslett
- 27 - Scott Fowler
- 28 - Will Harris
- 29 - Tyson Dembowski
- 30 - David Simpson

### News and Notes

- ☒ - The Kids class will meet at 5:15 this afternoon!
- ☒ - We welcome our new members: **Dave and Allie Hosey, son Adam Cliff and Kelsey Parsons, Caleb Gandy**
- ☒ - Several of our members will be travelling to the funeral of Adam Smelser, Scott Smelser's son to be held in Gettysburg, PA.
- ☒ - Ken Sullivan is awaiting further treatments for his heart.
- ☒ - Remember Geneva Blasingame, Joel Dembowski's grandmother in your prayers for several health issues.
- ☒ - We extend sympathy to Daphene Whatley at the loss of her sister.

### Elders

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(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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But no one should be taken for granted. No one likes to have his efforts and labors ignored. The lack of recognition and honor that has been given to godly women in the church has perhaps become a fertile soil for the seeds of change being sown in an effort to alter the divinely authorized role of women in the church. The call for women to be held up in leadership positions within the church and to lead in public assemblies is no longer merely being heard in denominations, but is now being heard among many of those wearing the name church of Christ. While no abuse or failure in the past could ever be pointed to as cause for rejecting the divine pattern for the present, we need to recognize and acknowledge the rightful role that godly women have and do play in the Lord's church.

In today's church, the women outnumber the men in most local congregations. In fact, many congregations would not exist at all if it were not for godly women. This is not to say that godly men have not and do not contribute to the success of the church, but so many times it is godly women who have been the source of spiritual maturity in their homes and in the church. Many husbands have sinfully abdicated their role as spiritual leaders in the home and in the church. In so many cases, godly women after the pattern of Lois and Eunich (**see 2 Tim. 1:5; 3:14-15**) have been the source of godly teaching, training, and example that has helped shape the next generation for servants and workers in the Lord's kingdom. Many of us can personally look back upon godly mothers and other godly women who have greatly influenced us to arrive at our current positions of faith and service in the Lord's church. Yes, the Lord's church would be in quite a fix without the efforts of such godly women.

Many a man in the Lord's church today can also point to his godly wife as the source of his conversion. The persistent, faithful teaching and example of a godly woman has introduced many a man to the Lord. And many of us men in our current positions of service also realize the difficulty it would be for us to carry on that service without the faithful support of our companions who do all to hold up our hands and encourage us in all things that are right. Yes, we men would be in a terrible way without godly women!

Yes, we must resist the attempts to conform the Lord's church to the ways of the world. Yes, the Lord has made a distinction between the role that men and women are to have in the home and in the church. Yet, while there may be a difference in function there is no difference in value. While a woman's leadership role in the church is limited, the in-valuable work that she may do is virtually limitless. Women may teach Bible classes of children, young women, and ladies (**Tit. 2:3-4**). Women may teach privately those that are lost (**Acts 18:26; Matt. 28:18-20**). Women are especially adept at the work of benevolence and seeing to the needs of others. There are an endless number of things that women may engage in to further the cause of the Lord and serve in his kingdom. Without their efforts, any local congregation (this one included) would be greatly handicapped.

So let us thank God for godly women. Let us ever acknowledge their irreplaceable and priceless role in the kingdom of Christ, and never be guilty of placing a stumbling block before them by minimizing or overlooking their value. Any man who is never discouraged when their service is not rightfully acknowledged. Nor may they ever be tempted to abandon the glorious state to which the Lord has called them for the cheap counterfeit being touted by the world.



## “How Long?”

By Stephen Rouse

"Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore He exalts Himself to show mercy on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for Him." (**Isa. 30:18**)

In Isaiah's day, the people of God were constantly being oppressed and threatened by the nations around them. When suffering seems to be unjust or unnecessarily prolonged, it is not uncommon for the righteous to cry out, "How long, O LORD?" (**Ps. 13:1-2**)

In times of trouble, Israel would have felt the urge to question God as to why their oppression was so lengthy. Had God forgotten them? Did He hear them? Would He ever answer their cries for relief? However, there is another factor in oppression that we all must consider before questioning the Commander of all things. Did the people themselves have anything to do with incurring the oppression?

The LORD had been urging Israel over and over again to accept His deliverance, but "[they] were unwilling" (**Isa. 30:15**). They had stubbornly resisted every offer for mercy and deliverance because they desired to walk by sight and take matters into their own hands by making sinful military alliances with the nations around them. So the reason for God's seeming disinterest was not God at all but the unyielding pride of the people themselves.

Does this pattern sound familiar? We all have the tendency to act just like Israel and turn to our own power and our own petty methods. We trust in what we can see, rather than walk by faith. Instead of receiving God's persistent opportunities to repent, we take the deceptive bait of Satan and reject the salvation God offers. Often our predicaments are nothing more than the just result of our own failures to turn to the right Savior.

Are you righteously waiting for God's deliverance, listening to His voice and walking by faith? Or are you stubbornly asserting your own will and crying to God for deliverance when God is really waiting on you to clean up your life?

However, there is wonderful news even if our track record is dismal. In **Isa. 30:18**, the Lord reveals Himself to be a patient God. His earnest desire is like that of a father wishing to give good gifts to his children. God wants to forgive us!

Our sinful practices keep us from being the recipients of His good favor. As long as we continue in our selfish will, God will not extend His mercy to us, for to do so would be contrary to His justice. So the one waiting turns out to be

God, not us.

At the time when we are most inclined to shout to the heavens "How long, O LORD," in reality God is looking down on us, asking, "How long, stubborn child?"

The following verses (**Isa. 30:19-33**) vividly describe the blessings God has in store for those who repent and turn to Him: God will hear their cry (**vs. 19**), reveal Himself (**vs. 20**), give them guidance (**vs. 21**) and help them clean out their lives (**vs. 22**). The voice of the LORD is alluded to numerous times in His deliverance of His people from their oppression (**vss. 27, 28, 30, 31 and 33**).

What a moving picture of God's answer to His people when they choose Him over their self-willed substitutes! Where do you find yourself in this picture? Are you righteously waiting for God's deliverance, listening to His voice and walking by faith? Or are you stubbornly asserting your own will and crying to God for deliverance when God is really waiting on you to clean up your life?

Praise God for His patience! But also know that He will not wait forever to see you return. Make things right while it is still today, and God will graciously grant you His mercy and guidance. How long, stubborn child, how long?

