

Facing West

By James W. Adams

Apostasy is a peculiar creature. Like many things in nature, it can be stopped at its source before it has time to gain momentum or not at all. No fully developed apostasy in religion has ever been known to be stopped. An avalanche is often averted in the snow covered Alps by firing cannon shots into accumulations of snow and dissipating them before they join with other such accumulations and become a mighty, destructive avalanche crushing all in its path. Dams are constructed on the feeder streams of mighty rivers to control the water at its source in times of great precipitation. Once the great river is swollen by the waters of the flood, there is no escape from its devastation and ruin. A lighted match carelessly dropped in a wastebasket would do little harm if the resulting fire were put out then and there. A single bucket of water dashed upon it would quench it. However, allow it to go unopposed and it will become a raging, ravaging holocaust utterly impossible to control.

There are many preachers and teachers in the church of the Lord who profess to believe in and teach the authority of Christ, the inerrancy and infallibility of the Scriptures, the all-sufficiency of the church, and the absolute necessity of strict adherence to the Divine plan in all matters in religion. Yet, they effect to see nothing which is now being practiced by the churches at all antagonistic to these concepts. They continue to preach and teach the principles but refuse to make an application of them. We think these men are much like a man we heard about recently. He bragged that he arose the minute the first ray of sunshine touched his bedroom windowpane. Upon hearing him say this, a friend remarked, "That is terribly early to get up isn't it?" His classic reply was, "Not so early;

you see my bedroom window faces west!" We verily believe that the windows of many of the brethren face west. The day is going to be more than half gone before they awake to the realization that we are in the midst of a great apostasy. Then, it will be too late. The avalanche will be crushing down upon them. The angry waters of the flood will have leaped the levees. The tiny blaze of the lighted match will have become a leaping, roaring wall of flame searing all in its path. We remember how David Lipscomb was caricatured by our Digressive brethren a generation ago as an old man with a broom trying to sweep back the mighty tide of the ocean. The tide was the mighty wave of liberalism then sweeping the churches. The broom was the Gospel Advocate. The idea was that brother Lipscomb could as well sweep back the tide of the ocean with a broom as he could stop the tide of digression then sweeping the churches with the influence of the Gospel Advocate. That they were correct, history attests. Practically all the churches were swept into the tide of error. A new start had to be made. A remnant only was saved. So has it ever been. Present day Christians need to change their sleeping quarters from the west to the east side of the house. Should they do so, they would find the sun of digression and error already in their faces. **Gospel Guardian - Sept 1, 1960**



Sick			
Kevin Simpson (Bob Simpson's son)	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)
Donna Pridmore (Erin Miller's Mom)	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)	Dale Herd (Brother of William Herd)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Eli Williams	Emily Stallings (Anna's sister)	Madi Wise (Friend of the Robert's)
Diane Lewter (Kyle Lewter's mother)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkins' Dad)	Toni and William Herd	Amy Baswell Hall

- July Birthdays
- 3 - Nathan Rouse
 - 6 - Nathan Bradshaw
 - 6 - Katie Carter
 - 11 - Madi White
 - 11 - Chase Winslett
 - 11 - Clay Morris
 - 11 - Hope Walker
 - 14 - Laurel Jerkins
 - 15 - Bradley Seymore
 - 19 - Ben Holcomb
 - 25 - Yvette Rouse
 - 26 - Brandon Hester
 - 28 - Jacob Bradshaw

News and Notes

- ☒ - Lets keep in our prayers Fallon Hartsell as she is expecting twin girls!
- ☒ - There is a meeting at the Prattmont church with Bobby Graham this week through Friday.
- ☒ - There will be a weekly Tuesday night class at Ashton Guy's apartment on Tuesday Nights at 7:30. It will be held at Eagle's Landing Unit 62. Anyone is welcome!
- ☒ - Our new teaching quarter begins today!
- ☒ - Ray Davis had successful knee replacement surgery and the recovery is going very well!
- ☒ - We welcome David and Belinda Hartsell back to Auburn!
- ☒ - Remember Tim Morton in your prayers as he is deployed to Afghanistan for nine months.

The Auburn Beacon



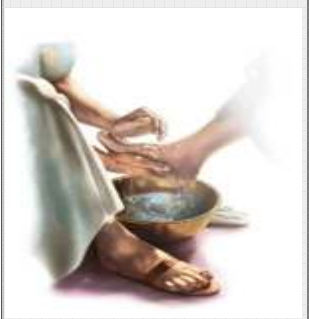
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Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. **(Matthew 5:16)**

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Jesus, the Humble Servant

By Barney Keith



Thoughts to Ponder
 "Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
(Matthew 20:28)

In the person of Jesus Christ one can see the meaning of true humility. It is unfortunate that some have a wrong concept of this admirable virtue. Humility is not an inferiority complex that causes one to shrink from action. It is not being shy or embarrassed in the presence of others. Nor is humility a reflection of weakness in one's character; rather, it is a sign of strength. It is not the lack of firmness in addressing an issue. Yet its firmness does not exhibit the arrogance and pomposity which sometimes accompany dealing with others.

The majestic Lord and Master of all, the Creator of the universe, the eternal God in human form casting himself in the role of a humble, lowly servant! It seems incredible that the king is serving his servants! This is the One who came "not to be ministered unto, but to minister"
(Mk. 10:45)

In Jesus we can see that humility is a lowliness of spirit that is deliberately adopted, taking a subordinate position voluntarily when an opportunity for service appears. Lowliness of spirit and the willingness to serve cannot be found in one whose vision has been blurred by a distorted sense of his own importance. Pride and ego are the opposites of humility.

ed in **Matthew 11:29**. The majestic Lord and Master of all, the Creator of the universe, the eternal God in human form casting himself in the role of a humble, lowly servant! It seems incredible that the king is serving his servants! This is the One who came "not to be ministered unto, but to minister" **(Mk. 10:45)**. His entire life and teaching show those words not to be hollow expressions, but true descriptions of his ministry.

Jesus Describes Himself

The Savior declared to his disciples, "I am in the midst of you as he that serveth" **(Lk. 22:27)**. "I am meek and lowly in heart," he stat-

Humility Manifested

(Continued on page 2)

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
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 Evangelist and Editor

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(Continued from page 1)

In the New Testament portrait of Jesus one can easily see the many indications of humility and service.

1. Observe the total absence of the pomp, splendor and glitter which human pride would have used to impress the world. He was of humble circumstance in his birth (**Lk. 2:7**). He was brought up in the home of a carpenter (**Mk. 6:3**). He was some-times even without a place to call home or a place to lay his head (**Lk. 9:58**). Our Lord willingly accepted such a lowly position. It may be in our day that the trappings of affluence and the desire to make a display before worldly men get in the way of our being like Jesus in serving others.

2. Note the Savior's willingness of talk to the "untouchables" about spiritual concerns. Many would not have condescended to teach such individuals. Jesus was not too proud to teach the Samaritan women some-thing that the self-righteous would have avoided at all costs (**Jn. 4:7-9**). Jesus had time for conversation with the women taken in the act of adultery when certain hypocrites brought her to him (**Jn. 8:3-11**). He was not ashamed to be found eating with publicans and sinners (**Matt. 9:11,12**). Let us learn from the lowly Jesus not to be so selective about those whom we are willing to teach. Let us learn from him that "the blessed gospel is for all."

3. Consider the fact that Jesus could make time for little children, even when his disciples considered it something of an imposition on his time (**Matt. 19:13,14**). Earlier he had called to to him a little child, using him as an example of that humility essential for anyone who would enter the kingdom (**Matt. 18:1-4**). A self-seeking person on the lookout for things to promote his own interests has no time for those who cannot do any-thing for him.

4. Think of the kind of person Jesus described in the Sermon on the Mount as being "blessed." Notice how much relates to the disposition we are discussing. The truly "blessed" (happy) man Jesus envisioned in-

cluded "the poor in spirit," "those that mourn," "the meek," "the merciful," "the pure in heart," "the peacemakers," and such like (**Matt. 5:3-12**). Only lowly-minded individuals would be concerned with those qualities. Those who promote today's culture of self-love, self-esteem and "do-you-own thing philosophy are not comfortable with the humble servant attitude Jesus required of his disciples.

Paul Uses Jesus As Our Example

When Paul urged the saints at Philippi to develop righteous attitudes toward one another, he said, ". . . in lowliness of mind each counting other better than himself, not looking each of you to his own things, but each of you also to the things of others" (**Phil. 2:3,4**). Immediately he cited the "mind" of Christ as an example of one who humbled himself to do what was in the best interest of others. He "humbled himself... even unto death, yea the death of the cross" (**Phil. 2:8**).

When the apostle was seeking to stir the Christians at Corinth to perform a service toward their needy brethren in Jerusalem, he reminded them of what Jesus had done for them. "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might become rich" (**2 Cor. 8:9**). The mind of this humble servant moved him to act in behalf of lost men. The "richest" Being in the universe voluntarily became "poor" to bring "true riches" to those whom sin had rendered destitute.

What Should This Mean To Us?

Jesus has set the example. His disciples follow him in manifesting a servant attitude. Let us never be too proud to serve where we are needed. Let us avoid the self-righteousness that would prevent our counting "other better than himself." Let no lost person be deemed so far beneath our dignity that we will exclude him from the number who need to be taught the saving truth. If the King of Kings and Lord of Lord could humbly serve others, how can his followers do otherwise?



The Search for True Happiness

By Dee Bowman

Men seek after many things - discovery, conquest, attainments of various sorts are the things that make the most demands on our time. But the thing most sought after by people everywhere is happiness. People want to be happy. No matter the territory or tongue, city or state, nationality or political philosophy—the great quest is to be happy. The slave sees it as freedom, the wanderer sees it just over the next rise, the daydreamer sees it as tomorrow, the young see it in age, the aged in youth. Businessmen see it in more business, buyers in affordable products. Happiness is the continual pursuit.

Did you know that happiness is measured mostly by what happens? It's so. Fact is, the two words are akin. When life's situations are trouble-free and pleasurable, we are happy; when they're not, we're not happy. When flat tires or dead batteries invade the start of the day, or we had a fuss with somebody - we're not happy. And the complexion of a day can change instantaneously—sometimes drastically—with the advent of some good or bad piece of news.

So, you see, happiness depends on externalities for both its existence as well as its continuance.

We sometimes confuse happiness and blessedness as being the same. In some modern translations of the New Testament the word happy is used to translate what is in the older renditions rendered blessed. But they are not the same. There is a primary difference between the two. In the Bible, "makarios" is the Greek word used to mean blessed. As I understand it, the word is a much stronger and more definitive term than our word happy. It means an exalted state of bliss—such a bliss that arises out of the knowledge of a person's having God's approval. Only when I define it this way can I explain the statement of Jesus when He says in the 'Sermon On The Mount', "blessed are ye when men shall revile you and persecute you and say all manner of evil against you falsely for my name's sake. Rejoice and be exceeding glad..." (**Matthew 5:12**). Surely that's not happiness, do you think?

Blessedness occurs here based on suffering "for my sake," an indication that Christ approves of your difficult state of affairs. So, one may be blessed, while in a very unhappy situation or circumstance.

The state of blessedness also has a practical aspect. As we have seen, it can take place in the most unusual of situations. Take for example Jesus' statement "its more blessed to give than to receive." That statement

in no way plumbs with man's conception of what it takes to be happy. All around us we see evidence that get is the key to happiness, not give. And yet Jesus' statement is highly practical and makes good sense to those who have learned the joy of doing good to others, even as did He. By seeking the best interests of others, one can find a state of exalted pleasure, one that brings what must of necessity be described as "true happiness."

Some have deduced that true happiness comes from being in control—by being the boss. If we can just get to where we bark the orders and decide the courses of pursuit, then we'll be happy. Many a person has "reached the top" only to find that "the top" is not what it was cracked up to be. How can we be disappointed when we thought that being boss was the way to happiness? Well the reason is quite simple, actually. Man is fitted for service. He operates at the peak level of his purpose of living when he voluntarily puts himself at the disposal of his fellows—even when he is boss. True happiness is measured by service, not by being served. "He that is greatest must be servant to all" (**Matthew 23:11**). Only by a recognition of this simple but powerful truth can we find that heretofore elusive happiness we've been seeking so feverishly.

And could I make one more observation? Entertainers and professional sports figures have such a strong influence on our lives. We are seemingly of the notion that if we had the notoriety and acclaim of these special folks, we would be happy. Do you know a famous person? Is he happy? I doubt it. Even if you find one who is happy, it is not on account of who he is, but what he is. Even famous people are constantly seeking of anonymity—they could be happy if they could just be alone for awhile. And note this: a prideful person cannot ever have any constancy to his happiness because his reputation and power are never quite enough to make it so.

Someone has said, "Happiness is a state of mind." There's maybe some truth to that, but I rather think true happiness is measured by knowing you are recognized by the Father. There is genuine happiness in just knowing who and what you are and why you're here. It will be found in the realization that you are being the best who you are you can be and that you are putting whatever you have at the disposal of others that they may benefit from your love and respect— for God and for them.

