

# The Effect of the Gospel

The gospel of our Lord is "the power of God unto salvation" (**Romans 1:16**). It has been often observed that the word translated "power" comes from a Greek word which is similar to the sound of our word "dynamite."

No one can remain the same after exposed to God's dynamite - the gospel. If he believes it and applies it to his life in humble obedience, it will save him from sin and further advance him along the road to spiritual life. On the other hand, if he rejects it, it will have a disastrous effect in his present life and in Eternity. It has been our unpleasant experience to see men who are horribly scarred and deformed by various kinds of explosions. But the effects upon the life of an individual who mishandles or rejects the gospel explosive are far more terrifying. These mis-

By Bob West

erable souls are seen hobbling through life with shattered convictions, a heart insensible to love, a seared-over conscience, silent and unaccusing, and a will so accustomed to choosing evil that it seems incapable of any other choice.

So, you see, the gospel has a two-fold effect. The light that emanates from it can melt our hearts like wax. But at the same time, that light can harden a rebellious heart as the hardest clay. WE have heard the gospel. It has changed our lives - one way or the other! We need to ask ourselves: What effect has the gospel had on me?



## 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)	Mark Dean (Father of Logan Dean)	Andrew Hagewood (Friend of Sarah Norman)
Betty Bradford	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Bob Cannon (Friend of Holly Law)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Eli Williams	Emily Stallings (Anna's sister)	Madi Wise (Friend of the Robert's)
Lisa Carter (Josh and Luke Carter's mother)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkins' Dad)	Toni and William Herd	Amy Baswell Hall

## August Birthdays

- 2- Emma Miller
- 2 - Heath Donahue
- 4 - Will King
- 7 - Joey McGee
- 7 - David Golden
- 9 - Elliot Weldon
- 9 - Troy Swenson
- 10 - David Hartsell
- 11 - Walker Davis
- 12 - Jon Coleman
- 13 - Brendan Kirby
- 14 - Elizabeth Wiggs
- 15 - Kalee Reid
- 16 - Cade Smith
- 18 - MaKayla Chittam
- 19 - Brettlyn Currier
- 20 - Caleb Law
- 24 - Sophie Hall
- 25 - Emily Jones
- 27 - Chip Freeman
- 28 - Larry Rouse
- 28 - Cole Johnson

## News and Notes

- ☒ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mothers, Fallon Hartsell and Brittany Bagent!
- ☒ - Congratulations to Mac Searcy + Kaylee West and Nathan Bradshaw and Madison Seals as they were married this weekend!
- ☒ - There will be a special ladies class on Mon, Aug 18 at 7 PM at the Rouses. Jean McPherson will be our visiting teacher!
- ☒ - There is an evangelism class on Tuesday Night at 7:30 at Eagle's Landing Unit 62.
- ☒ - Remember Tim Morton and also Matthew Cavender, a new student to be with us in January, in your prayers as both are deployed to Afghanistan.
- ☒ - The meal list for our upcoming meeting is in the foyer.
- ☒ - Angela Fowler's grandmother is in critical condition in Mississippi.
- ☒ - Jon Jon Huddleston, Suzanne's cousin, has been diagnosed with leukemia.
- ☒ - Remember our gospel meeting with John Gibson, Aug 24-28! Cards are in the foyer.

# 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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## Confusion and Transgression

By Sewell Hall



### Thoughts to Ponder

This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

(Acts 24:16)

Have you ever heard anyone say, as an explanation for some sinful action, "I have become so confused I don't know what is right anymore"? As a rule, the person who says such a thing is one who has had clear convictions but has acted, or is about to act, contrary to them.

This must be what the Holy Spirit was saying about Eve in **1 Timothy 2:14**. "Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression."

To say that she was deceived is not to say that she was ignorant. She quoted perfectly what God had said: "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat of it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die' (**Genesis 3:2-3**). She was deceived when she thought there could be any valid reason for disobeying God.

We cannot know how long Adam and Eve avoided the forbidden tree. With so many other trees from which to eat, there was no need to eat of it. There is no evidence of confusion

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regarding the right and wrong of eating or the wisdom of abstaining. They were happy ignoring it.

But along came Satan to draw Eve's attention to the tree she had been avoiding. He drew her attention to the beauty of the fruit and somehow convinced her, perhaps by eating of it himself, that it was good for food. If he did eat of it, the fact that he did not die surely gave support to his contention that she would not die. One can see the confusion mounting. The arguments she had considered conclusive against eating were rapidly being

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**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:  
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matched by arguments for doing so. Which arguments were valid? Both seemed to be.

Had Adam been nearby, or had God spoken again, she might have been reminded once more of the strong reasons for rejecting the fruit. But as it was, the voice of God grew weaker in her memory as the desirability of the fruit was magnified by Satan's glib lies. All that was needed to tip the balance was the final suggestion of an apparent virtue in eating—the thought that she would become like God. Never mind the legalistic prohibition; surely one could not be blamed for wanting to be like God.

"She took of the fruit and ate" (**Genesis 3:6**). Tragic words! Tragic consequences! Consequences reaching down through countless generations even to us!

The great mistake of Eve was in allowing herself even to begin thinking about disobedience. This was the mistake of Achan when he first saw the Babylonian garment (**Judges 7:21**), of David when he first saw his beautiful neighbor bathing (**2 Samuel 11:2**) and of Judas when he first thought of betraying Jesus. It is the same mistake each of us makes—men and women alike—whenever we sin.

The Bible says as much: "Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death" (**James 1:14-15**).

There is ample defense available. If we are wise enough to meditate on God's laws in such circumstances (**Psalms 119:11**), and to ask Him for deliverance (**Matthew 6:13**), He will, with the temptation, "also make the way of escape" (**1 Corinthians 10:13**).

But all too often, in the name of open-mindedness and objectivity, we feel we are obligated to

look at the other side, to consider the "arguments in favor of" sin. We may even be so foolish as to parrot the existential line: "I must get away to myself and sort things out." If this means getting away for Bible study, meditation and prayer, fine! But this is seldom what it means. As a rule, what it means is: "I want to be left alone to rationalize my way through the sin that entices me without having to reason with those who would logically or scripturally expose my folly."

Such conflict between conscience and passion, between logic and emotion, between authority and anarchy, between flesh and spirit will indeed produce confusion—confusion bordering on insanity. But it is a confusion for which we are responsible. It is the peculiar malady of "those who perish because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved" and who "did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (**2 Thessalonians 2:10, 12**). It is never surprising when such a person, "being deceived," falls into transgression.

In Jesus' day, "there was a division among the people because of Him" (**John 7:43**). They were confused by the contradictions between His claims and the accusations of their rulers. Jesus stated clearly who would not be confused: "If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak of My own authority" (**John 7:17**).

Wanting to do God's will, will save us from the confusion, deception and transgression into which our mother fell.



## The Lord's Church in Your Community

By Edward O. Bragwell, Sr.

There are many churches in many places which have no bowling club, no softball team, nor do they sponsor a Boy Scout troop. The physical property of these churches includes a very modern place for assembly and worship, with class rooms for Bible Study; but in all of this widespread plant there is no kitchen, no banquet hall, no gymnasium, no party room.

Your first thought may be, "What strange churches! What strange people!" Perhaps. However, many of these church members are your neighbors and enjoy their food, recreation, and entertainment just as much as everyone else. But the church building is not used as a civic or social club. By now you may be asking, "Then what does this congregation offer me? What does she offer the community in which you live?" These are fair questions and demand fair, open answers.

The church was established by Jesus Christ the Son of God, to fill a need, to do a work that no human institution could possibly perform. We deplore the fact that denominations have smothered the real purpose of the church beneath civic, social, and domestic affairs. Upon reading **Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 3:10-11; 5:25; and 1 Timothy 3:15** we need to be impressed with the sacredness of the church. She can have no trivial purpose, nor is such assigned to her by the Word of God.

But some say, "We live in the 21st century. The church must meet the needs of today!" Exactly so! We have many fine civic and social organizations which can meet the physical needs of our community, and we as individuals need to

Our primary concern is with the spiritual needs of mankind - his need is for God, for forgiveness of sins, for genuine God-satisfying worship, for the pureness of conscience that can come only from living, working and worshipping according to the directions of the Word of God.

support and promote all wholesome efforts to better the lot of mankind in this life. But this 21st century is woefully lacking in emphasis upon the soul of man, and his eternal welfare. Yes, the church must meet the need of today - the very greatest need of all being the peculiar and distinctive benefit offered mankind by Christ - the salvation of their soul.

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for forgiveness of sins, for genuine God-satisfying worship, for the pureness of conscience that can come only from living, working and worshipping according to the directions of the Word of God.

As a people we know we are not perfect, "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves; but measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. But we will not boast of things without measure, but according to the measure to reach even unto you" (**2 Corinthians 10:12,13**).

We make no plea of greatness on our part, but pledge ourselves to strive diligently to follow the rule of God, the divine message. We speak where the Bible speaks, and are silent where the Bible is silent.

Visit with us and we will welcome your honest investigation of the church of Christ in this community.

