

I'm Just Me

By Terry W. Benton

1. I'm not someone else. So don't compare me to someone else.
2. Don't hold it against me that I am not someone else.
3. God did not want me to be someone else so He made me different.
4. I am not better than you, nor am I worse than you. I'm just me.
5. I would hope I am better than I use to be but not yet as good as I am going to be.
6. I can be patient with you if you will be patient with me.
7. I believe you have great potential even though you are not perfect.
8. I expect you to believe in my potential for good even though I am not perfect.
9. I won't compare and contrast you with someone else if you won't compare and contrast me with someone else.
10. I believe God made you in God's image and didn't make

junk. I expect you to realize that I am not junk to God either.

11. I am just another human being, but all human beings are made to be loved. Therefore, we cannot love God and hate each other.
12. If we treat people with contempt or as worthless or as if they should not exist, then we are likely headed for hell.
13. The two most important commandments of God are that we love Him with all our hearts and love our neighbor as ourselves.
14. When we think we are too good for someone else, we are too good (in our self-deceived mind) for God who told us to love our neighbor, who is ANY human being, as ourselves.
15. I am a different neighbor, but I am your neighbor, and you are my neighbor. Guess what God expects us to think about each other?



Classes This Week

Sunday 5:15 PM Kid's Class at the Building	Sunday 7:45 College Singing at Samford Lawn	Monday 7:30 PM Evangelism Class with Ryan Hasty in college classroom	Monday 7 PM Ladies Class at Paula Davis' on "Widowhood" with Ruby Hall as guest teacher!	Tuesday 8 PM Truth-seekers in Student Center Rm 2225	Saturday 6-8 PM 1st-5th Grade class at TBA	Sat. 6:30 - 8:30 PM 6th-12th Grade class at Jarrod Johnson's
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Sick

Brad Marshall (Allie Hosey's Cousin)	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)	Jerry Foropoulos (Anna Jean's Uncle)
Jon Jon Henderson (Suzanne Stagner's cousin)	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 Perkin's Dad)	Toni and William Herd	Esther Foropoulos (Anna Jean's Grandmother)

September Birthdays

- 2 - Denise Davis
- 3 - Trenton Anderson
- 4 - Logan Dean
- 4 - Kevin Anderson
- 10 - BJ Winslett
- 10 - Josh Carter
- 10 - Matthew Sullivan
- 10 - Eleanor Weldon
- 10 - Keeley Porter
- 11 - Sheryl Fowler
- 12 - Jared Johnson
- 13 - Ashley Winland
- 14 - Patsy Ogle
- 16 - Brittany Bagents
- 17 - Laura Weldon
- 19 - Kayti Persall
- 21 - Sarah Chandler
- 24 - Wade Winslett
- 26 - Ali Ingram

News and Notes

- ☒ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mothers, Fallon Hartsell, Brittany Bagent, Shang Li and Jana Hall!
- ☒ - We rejoice in the baptism of Nosa Egiebor!
- ☒ - 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.
- ☒ - Remember Earline Dickerson, Heath Fowler's grandmother in your prayers.
- ☒ - Jim Bell lost his brother, Robert Bell, yesterday.
- ☒ - Cliff Parsons will be away for one month in LA.
- ☒ - We are thankful for the successful eye surgery for Barbara Weeks!
- ☒ - We encourage our members to park on the grass and to move up front to provide seating for our visitors.
- ☒ - Audio is immediately uploaded to www.auchurch.com. Also CDs are in foyer after each service.

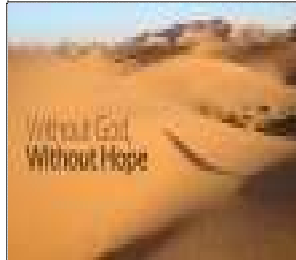
The Auburn Beacon



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

Without Hope

By Matt Adams



Thoughts to Ponder

For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died. **(2 Corinthians 5:14)**

Every life you meet today is going through some trial. Everyone you see has issues that they must confront on a daily basis, some great and some small; yet even the smallest of issues in our lives can seem insurmountable and make us feel like we have the weight of the world on our shoulders. Everyone has the opportunity to be freed from that weight, but not everyone takes advantage of that opportunity **(Matt.11:28-30)**.

Think about your own struggles; it can be seriously difficult some days to just make it through, can't it? However, if you're a Christian, think of the joy and peace you have because you can take it all to the Lord in prayer with the confidence He will hear you **(Jms.5:16; Phil.4:4-7)**. Recognize how you're even able to make it through each day, and who gives you the strength to face and overcome the issues of life. Think of the hope you have, that hope of eternal life, if you will but persevere faithfully to the end **(Rev.2:10; Phil.3:12-14)**. Hold on to that and recognize how blessed you are if you're truly being faithful to God. Let that lift your spirits and help you to press on serving Him the rest of your days, let come what may.

Through our Lord, we can not only face the issues of life; no, more than that, we can conquer them **(Rom.8:37-39)**! What a tremendous

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blessing!

Now, think for a moment what it would be like to have none of this. Think of what it would be like to go through life without hope, without the assurance of heaven, without the peace that comes from praying to our Lord and knowing He will hear and answer. Think deeply of the impact of being separated eternally from God, instead spending eternity in a devil's hell "where the worm dies not and the fire is not quenched" **(Mk.9:42-50; Rev.21:6-8)**.

Do we have that overwhelming flood of despair and trembling within when we consider this reality, this promise from God to the disobedient? Do we tremble at the thought of how that used to be,

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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
E-Mail:
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and still could be, us (1 Cor.6:9-11; 1Cor.10:12; Rom.6:1-11)? Good. We need to tremble at this thought.

Now, apply that to every soul you meet today who is walking around without the Lord. Think of every person who has either not heard or not obeyed the word of God; tremble for their souls. That's a lot of lost souls, my friends. So, so many dying and dead in their sins. What effect does this knowledge have on you and me? Do you tremble, does your heart break for them?

Yet, what do we do?

Do we walk around selfishly keeping that hope and peace within, refusing to extend that blessing to others, giving ourselves the false hope that we're saved when in reality we're condemned for not speaking the truth in love to them? Do we claim love for God, but then refuse to give others what they need the most - the saving message of Jesus Christ? Do we call ourselves Christians, but yet refuse to hold ourselves and others accountable to the standard which He set?

Consider this:

"When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you shall surely die!' and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. Nevertheless if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul." **Ezekiel 33:8-9 NKJV**

And this:

"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." **Matthew 28:18-20 NKJV**

It is evident from these verses that we have a lot of work to do, friends. Knowing God's word as we do, do we honestly think God will let us slide if we refuse to take the saving message of the gospel to the lost?

We have a responsibility to teach the truth, the

hearers have a responsibility to obey it. It is incumbent upon all of us that we carry the gospel to the lost and that we follow it diligently ourselves; for if we do not, we shall surely be lost eternally. Give others hope, give them the opportunity to have salvation, give them the words of life, show no partiality, demonstrate your love to God and all of His creation by spreading the gospel. Save your own soul, and strive to save the souls of others. Knowing what we know, knowing what our Savior did for us all, how can we *not* speak about Him (**Acts 4:19-20**)? The world will hate us, the world will speak ill of us, but our Lord will be pleased if we will but humbly obey Him. Serve God faithfully and spread the message of Jesus Christ to all until this life is over, then go home to your reward. May the following hymn convict us and move us to action:

You Never Mentioned Him To Me

When in the better land before the bar we stand,

How deeply grieved our souls will be;

If any lost one there should cry in deep despair,

"You never mentioned Him to me."

O let us spread the word where e'er it may be heard,

Help groping souls the light to see,

That yonder none may say, "You showed me not the way.

You never mentioned Him to me."

A few sweet words may guide a lost one to His side,

Or turn sad eyes on Calvary;

So work as days go by, that yonder none may cry,

"You never mentioned Him to me."

CHORUS:

"You never mentioned Him to me,

You helped me not the light to see;

You met me day by day and knew I was astray,

Yet never mentioned Him to me."



Satan's Blinders

By Eric Reynolds

If the devil can get someone headed in the wrong direction, I imagine his next move is to insulate that person from any calls to turn back. Some common deceptions that harden us against the truth:

1) "Anyone who criticizes me is a 'hater.'" Instead of hearing what they have to say, I'll just assume they are bitter, jealous, etc.

2) "Those who rebuke me are hypocrites." This dismisses any rebuke because of flaws (real or imagined) in the rebuker.

3) "Admonitions are attacks!" Those who criticize are seen as the enemy, and their words are personal attacks. I must shield myself from their hurtful words (and any truth they might contain).

4) "Only God can judge me." Who do these people think they are, trying to correct me? They should focus on themselves and leave me alone.

5) "True friends are those who support me." I will choose to focus on the opinions of those who agree with me.

If someone adopts these attitudes toward admonitions, they will be impervious to correction. Isn't that exactly what the devil would want? Here are five truths from God regarding criticism (quotations from the ESV):

1) "Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy" (**Prov. 27:6**). Someone who agrees all the time might not be our friend. A true friend says what we need to hear, even if it hurts.

2) "And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the

But it may also be that the very one I think is my enemy is being a true friend, reaching out with the truth to turn me from heading in the wrong direction. How can I know? By listening to their words and then evaluating myself based on God's word to see if the criticism is valid or not.

word of men but as what it really is, the word of God" (**1 Thess 2:13**). If a criticism is founded in God's word, we should accept it regardless of who the messenger is.

3) "Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth?" (**Gal. 4:16**). Just because someone says something we don't want to hear does not make them an enemy. The important question is: are they speaking the truth?

4) "Preach the word; be

ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching" (**2 Tim. 4:2**). Preaching the word includes not only encouragement but also reproof and rebukes.

5) "My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death" (**James 5:19-20**). We are our brothers' keeper.

It could be that someone who is criticizing me is indeed just an enemy, attacking me with hateful, false words. But it may also be that the very one I think is my enemy is being a true friend, reaching out with the truth to turn me from heading in the wrong direction. How can I know? By listening to their words and then evaluating myself based on God's word to see if the criticism is valid or not. It may just be that God is using that person to help me.

