

God Gives Both Law and Grace

For law to condemn anyone as a sinner, it must be given by the only One who has the power to give it. But once we acknowledge that such law is given by God, we must also acknowledge that it is not optional for us. How can we dare say that any law given by God is optional or unnecessary? That would be us making ourselves judges of God's law, and we have no such authority to act this way. It is not we who judge the law, but the law that judges us. This is why we need grace to begin with.

Yet the same One who gave law also gives grace. This alone should tell us that law and grace are not contradictory. It is when we isolate the law from grace that we begin to think that obeying that law can somehow justify us. If grace is removed, the only way to be justifi-

By Doy Moyer
 fied would be by law-keeping. But the law has already judged us as guilty, so justification this way is not possible.

Similarly, if we isolate grace from law, and thus ignore the law, we turn grace into a license to do whatever we wish, and such is a dire abuse of grace (Rom 6:1-2; Jude 4).

By keeping before us the concept that God is the One who has given both law and grace, we can avoid the abuse of either side. Respect God's law, for it is His, but know that justification is through God's grace, which also is His to give.



Classes This Week

Sunday 5:00 PM Singing Class in College Classroom	Tuesday 8:00 PM Truth-seekers Campus Study in Room 2225 in Student Center	Thursday 7:00 PM Ladies Class at the Rouse's Joannetta Lauderdale will teach "Is Your Zeal on Fire?"	Saturday 6 - 8 PM 1st-5th grade from 6-8 p.m. at TBD	Saturday 6:30 - 8:30 PM 6th-12th grade from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Roberts' house
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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)
Betty Mcareavey (Mary Ann Roberts' mom)	Kevin Simpson	Mark Dean (Father of Logan Dean)	Jerry Foropoulos (Anna Jean's Uncle)
Tom Davis (Walker Davis' Uncle)	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)	Austin Locke (Jeremiah Johnson's Grandfather)	Emily Stallings (Anna's sister)	Camden, grandson of Steve Pruitt (friend of Greg Lanier)
John M. Rhodes and Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley (Toni Herd's family)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkin's Dad)	Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew)	Johnny Richardson

April Birthdays

- 1-Rachel Hobgood
- 3-Jessica Shaver
- 3-Cameron Abernathy
- 4-Julie Henriquez
- 5-Tate Pender
- 8-Laura Humphrey
- 8-Hannah Morris
- 12-Becky Daniels
- 12-Austin Adams
- 14-Kaylee Searcy
- 14-Jesse Roberts
- 16-Victoria Dunaway
- 16-Carson Fowler
- 17-Daniel Cobia
- 18-Spencer Sullivanne
- 18-Taylor Godwin
- 18-Joel Black
- 20-April Jerkins
- 20-RJ Martin
- 23-Anna Miller
- 24-Bob Simpson
- 26-Latisha Redmon
- 28-Anna Stallings

News and Notes

- ☒ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mothers, Laura Humphrey and Nicole Pender!
- ☒ - Please continue to pray for Elle Vaughn, baby daughter of Scott and Genna, who now weighs over 2 pounds and continues to develop well.
- ☒ - Anne Morton will have minor surgery on Wednesday this week.
- ☒ - Tonight will be our monthly singing.
- ☒ - This year's VBS will be June 8-11. VBS topic: "Heroes of the NT"
- ☒ - Scott Perkins' dad, Joe, is being moved to a nursing home.
- ☒ - Michael Bassie's sister, Yolanda Stewart, began radiation treatment on Thursday.
- ☒ - Owen Mauldin has successful surgery last Monday and is home now.
- ☒ - Please pray for Rebecca Davis, Church Hahn's niece, who is battling cancer.
- ☒ - The latest audio is posted to www.auchurch.com and CD's are immediately placed 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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Involvement and Relevancy

By Irvin Himmel



Thoughts to Ponder

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:2)

Modern churches participate in numerous practices which are completely foreign to true New Testament doctrine. Promoters of such practices find consolation in the idea that they are getting involved, making religion more relevant and meaningful to modern man.

"Involvement" and "relevancy" are two magic words in today's language. They somehow put the stamp of approval on a wide variety of performances. Never mind about the apostolic church, we must relate to our own times. And do not waste time quoting scripture; just get in and participate. Wherever the crowd is swimming, the water is fine, so come on in, and remember that we need a contemporary church. If we do not get involved we cannot relate, and if we fail to relate we are doomed to wither and die!

Before we plunge into some new and daring adventure that may drown us in destruction and perdition, let us examine involvement and relevancy. Let us scrutinize, analyze, study, and ponder the implications of the terminology expressive of a common concept.

One is "involved" when he is drawn in as a participant. Christians are by the nature of their calling an involved people. Christ's followers are taught to be occupied with prayer, Bible study, teaching, exhortation, joint participation in divine service, good works,

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support of the gospel, worship, and righteous living. It is regrettable that some who wear the holy name of Jesus are not actively engaged in these important pursuits. Their lack of involvement is a detriment to their spiritual growth and to the advancement of the church of which they are members.

God's word warns that there are some things in which the Christian must not become involved. Here are some examples:

1. Fleshly Lusts. We are to "abstain" from unholy desires which war against the soul. (I Peter 2:11). This includes lasciviousness, revelings, drunkenness, drinking parties, and idolatries. (I Peter

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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

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4:2,3). Paul refers to such practices as "works of the flesh," (Galatians 5:19-21) and declares that to be involved in these things is to miss the kingdom of God.

2. Works of Darkness. "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." (**Ephesians 5:11**). The same chapter mentions fornication, covetousness, foolish talking, jesting, and uncleanness. No one involved in these sins "hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God."

3. False Teachings. John wrote that if one comes and does not bring the doctrine of Christ, "receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds." (**II John 9-11**). To be involved with a false teacher so as to lend him support is to share in his evil deeds.

4. Unrighteousness. Paul asked, "What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?" A child of God cannot be involved in the practice of anything unrighteous. Rather than be drawn into participation with infidels, idolaters, and the like, we are warned to "come out from among them, and be ye separate." (**2 Cor. 6:14-18**).

In short, the Bible teaches us to "abstain from every form of evil." (**I Thess. 5:22, NASB**). To be involved in the practice of evil is to forfeit our eternal inheritance. Therefore, before becoming involved in any given situation, the Christian must be sure that he will not compromise the truth, give support to false doctrine, or be led into sin.

A thing is "relevant" if it bears upon, or applies to, the case in hand; it is pertinent, applicable, or related. The dictionary says relevance "implies a traceable, significant, logical connection."

The gospel of Jesus Christ is, and always will be, relevant to man's spiritual needs. The gospel relates to the drunkard, the dope addict, the fornicator, the liar, the thief, the murderer, the slanderer, the immoral person, the hypocrite, the false teacher, the warmonger, the infidel, the lover of money, the factionist, the idolater, the reprobate, the boaster, the sorcerer, the profane man, the talebearer, the prostitute, the lawbreaker, the adulterer, the unbeliever, the blasphemer, the glutton, the rioter, the mocker, the homosexual, the busybody, and all others in engaged in sin. The gospel is applicable

to all such people because it is God's power to save them from sin.

God has given to the church the responsibility of preaching the gospel to the lost. The church is necessarily involved with sinners in reaching them with the soul-saving message. But the church must be cautious not to become involved in sin while trying to convert the sinner. The church must not throw aside the authority of Jesus while attempting to persuade men to submit to the rule of Christ. The church cannot adopt practices and methods which have no traceable, significant, logical connection with the scriptural performance of its divine mission.

Jesus became involved with publicans and sinners in order to relate his teaching to their lives. However, our Lord did not become a publican and the disciples were not advised to take up tax-collecting so they could reach more publicans and no instructions were given for the church to establish a "publican mission," a "publican club," or even a "half-way house for publicans."

Paul was much involved in turning people from idols to the living and true God. The great apostle did not try to relate to the idolaters' by urging young people in the church to sing hymns to the tune of licentious songs, or to have devotionals in the temple of Diana at Ephesus, or to set up a sex information center to try to reach understanding with the priestesses at Corinth, or by inviting a heathen priest to speak in the assembly of the saints.

In their zeal to involve the church in that which relates, many have participated in things from which they should have abstained. Relevance requires reproof of evil. Involvement with the sinner does not justify engaging in sin.

What is the relevancy of light to darkness? How may light become involved with darkness? The answer is simple: Light shines to dispel darkness.

Before getting involved, ask yourself: Involved in what? Before accepting something which is supposed to relate, ask yourself: To what does it relate?



Is That Really True?

By Gardner Hall

"The New Testament actually has very little to say about congregational worship or organization!"

This type of statement is becoming popular in a number of circles and a brief review of it is in order.

1. It Is An Exaggeration. It would be true to say that more of the New Testament is dedicated to expressions of God's love and the need for personal holiness and responsibility than to congregational activity. However, to say that the New Testament has "very little" to say about it is an exaggeration. A number of chapters deal directly with congregational worship and organization: 1 Corinthians 11-14; 1 Timothy (most of the book), good portions of 2 Timothy and Titus and James 2:1-12 are a few sections that come to mind. There are many more indirect references to collective worship and church organization.

2. The Quantity of References Doesn't Necessarily Reflect The Importance of The Matter At Hand. There are very few direct references to the Lord's Supper in the New Testament. Yet, who would deny that it is a key element of the Christian's life and his fellowship with others? To say that the Lord's Supper is of little importance because of the paucity of direct references to it would be a major blunder.

3. What Is The Purpose Of This Type Of Statement? Is it repeated to imply that how we organize ourselves in local bodies and how we worship collectively is of little im-

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portance? If so, what is wrong with organizing ourselves with presiding bishops, regional bishops, archbishops or even a pope? What would be wrong with holy water, Latin mass, the rosary, etc? If how we worship collectively is of little importance, what about fog machines, laser shows, screaming rock bands and other elements of entertain-

ment-oriented worship? Are we willing to accept all the consequences of implying that church organization and congregational worship are of relatively little importance? Sometimes we just throw out statements without considering the results of taking them to their logical conclusions.

I think I understand some of the concerns of many who make such declarations. Yes, there are some who emphasize external acts of worship and yet seem to show little concern for the inner man. A few are grouchy or just plain mean.

Yes, Pharisaism is a legitimate danger. Yet in our concern for one error, let's not commit another by implying that it doesn't matter so much how we worship collectively or organize ourselves. That's the type of thinking that led to Romanism and modernism. Let's not go down that road again.

