

"I Just Got Out of the Habit"

A habit is "a thing done often and hence, usually done easily...a tendency to perform a certain action or behave in a certain way; usual way of doing; as, he does it out of habit" (Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, p. 815). Folks sometimes speak of "going to church" as a good habit. And, when asked by others about their negligence, they respond: "I guess I just got out of the habit." Assembling together as God directs is surely good and it should be done easily. I can understand how habitual assembling with the saints becomes a regular course of one's life and, for those who do so regularly, it becomes a matter of ease and routine. However, it should not be done "out of habit."

By Jim R. Everett

When assembly time approaches, there should never be a question in the minds of the members about whether or not they should be there. It should be a foregone conclusion and commitment in every one's mind that every Christian should be at every assembly in order to worship

God. It never enters their mind to do otherwise. That can be classified as "habit," in the accepted definition but it is not done "out of habit."

Nothing should be more important to us than worshipping God (Matthew 4:10; Hebrews 10:25). The desire to worship makes it easy to prepare for assembling, because that is what we plan to do. I do not understand why some folks have a hard time arranging their affairs in order to assemble with fellow Christians. Neither do I understand why some never get to Bible classes or assembly worship on time. After all, they are always present and on time for the movies or recreational activities they plan. It may be that they conceive of worship as a good habit, but like eating liver and spinach, is not very enjoyable.

True worship springs from faith and love -- not ease.



Brad Marshall (Allie Hosey's Cousin)	Owen Mauldin (Seth and Summer Mauldin's Son)	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother)
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)	Audrey Barnett (Joanetta's sister-in-law)	Patsy Rhodes (Relative of Toni Herd)	Jerry Foropoulos (Anna Jean's Uncle)
Tom Davis (Walker Davis' Uncle)	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Yolanda Stewart (Michael Bassie's Sister)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	David Holcomb (Ben's granddad and Joanetta's uncle)	Rebecca Davis (Chuck Hahn's Niece)	Camden, grandson of Steve Pruitt (friend of Greg Lanier)
John M. Rhodes and Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley (Toni Herd's family)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkins' Dad)	Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew)	Rebecca Davis (Chuck Hahn's niece)

June Birthdays

- 3-Philip Stephens
- 7-Spencer Borden
- 8-Mac Searcy
- 8-Joanetta Lauderdale
- 9-Kay White
- 12-Orie Cecil
- 14-Jeremiah Johnson
- 15-Connor Watkins
- 17-Brooks Pender
- 17-Sarah Norman
- 18-James Long
- 22-Paul Tam
- 24-Justin Bice
- 25-Corey Hunt
- 28-Craig Davis
- 28-Clint Davis
- 29-Lisa Lanier

News and Notes

- ☒ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mother, Nicole Pender!
- ☒ - Elle Vaughn, baby daughter of Scott and Genna was able to go home!!
- ☒ - We want to thank all who made our VBS a success!
- ☒ - Audrey Burnett, Joanetta's sister-in-law will had successful surgery on Monday to remove cancer.
- ☒ - Sherry Weldon, Rusty's mother, had a successful heart procedure.
- ☒ - Walker's dad will undergo surgery this Wednesday for Spinal Stenosis. He is 85 and needs our prayers.
- ☒ - David Holcomb, Ben's grandfather and Joanetta's uncle, is home now and in hospice care.
- ☒ - Please continue to pray for Toni Herd's relative, Patsy Rhodes, who is now on life support.
- ☒ - Hannah Hollis has been diagnosed with thyroid cancer.
- ☒ - Owen Mauldin has returned home on Monday into hospice care. There is a possibility of addition procedures to help him.
- ☒ - There will be a ladies class this Thursday. At 7 PM at Denise Davis' on Heaven.
- ☒ - Brother Rouse will be in a meeting at Pine Lane in Birmingham this week.

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)

Volume 6, Issue 32

June 14, 2015

A Tale of a Sheep

By Fanning Yater Tant



BLIND FAITH
Because thinking is hard

Thoughts to Ponder

Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.
(Matthew 15:14)

It happened in Parrish, Alabama, about fifty years ago. J. D. Tant, Christian, was in the midst of a debate with Claude Casey, Primitive Baptist. Tant was pleading with Casey, with whom he had a number of debates during his lifetime, to give up his Primitive Baptist doctrine, and accept the simple gospel of Christ. Tant was convinced that Casey knew the truth, but was being held back from obedience by the influence of his brethren, and by the fear that he would be isolated from his long-time associates if he obeyed the truth.

"Claude," said Tant, "why don't you come out from this foolishness you have been preaching, and obey the gospel of Christ? You know the truth, and you ought to obey it. Now, you need not fear that your brethren will

It all becomes poignantly real to us today when we see the blind and unquestioning faith many of our own brethren place in the men whom they regard as "some-whets" in the church.

turn against you. They won't. They will follow fully in your steps; they have followed you blindly into error, and they will follow you without question if you will become a Christian. They remind me very much of the old fanner who had a ram in his flock that was terrible to butt. He would just go around butting things all the time. Every time the farmer got into the pen with his sheep, this

(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

E-Mail:

larryrouse@aubeacon.com

Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

Check Us Out On the Internet: www.aubeacon.com

(Continued from page 1)

old ram would lower his head, make a run for him, and butt him over.

Finally, the farmer got tired of this antics of the old ram, and decided to put a stop to it. So one day he maneuvered the ram out to the edge of a high cliff, and got himself in the position he was usually in when the ram got one of his butting urges on. Sure enough, the ram lowered his head and made a wild charge. Just in time the farmer jumped aside, and the butting ram went hurtling over the cliff. And immediately every sheep in the farmer's herd made a wild dash for the cliff and followed right behind the ram. The farmer tried frantically to stop them, grabbing for them in desperation as they rushed past him headed for the cliff. Finally, the last sheep had disappeared over the edge — and all the farmer had was a fistful of wool in one hand and a sheep's tail in the other!

"Now, Claude, your people will follow you, just like the sheep followed the old ram — so why don't you obey the gospel and lead this whole flock to Christ?"

This interesting incident from a long dead past was related to us recently by Brother Asa M. Plyler, in whose home we were visiting during a gospel meeting at Valley View congregation. Brother Myer had heard the discussion when he was but a lad.

It all becomes poignantly real to us today when we see the blind and unquestioning faith many of our own

brethren place in the men whom they regard as "some-whets" in the church. We heard Robert Jones say one time that if the elders of the big Texas church where he preached (Wichita Falls at the time) were to make an announcement some Sunday that they had carefully and prayerfully studied the matter of baptism, had talked it over with various brethren at Abilene Christian College, had gotten the opinion of a number of leading preachers among us, and they had all agreed that we had been making too much "fuss" over immersion as baptism, and that in the future it was the decision of the elders to leave the matter "optional" with each person as to whether he wanted to be immersed or sprinkled — if such an announcement were to be made, with appropriate expressions of concern for "holding firmly to the truth," ***nine-tenths*** of the time members of that congregation would "go along" with it, raising no disturbance or objection whatever! They would take the position that "if the elders, the brethren at Abilene, and the preachers" all agreed on this course, then that would be good enough for them!

And all any faithful preacher who opposed such would have to show for his labors would be a "sheep's tail and a handful of wool" when the ruckus settled down.

Gospel Guardian, July 29, 1971



The Pressure to Conform

By Doy Moyer

For all the talk in today's culture about being your own person and expressing yourself freely, there is tremendous pressure to conform. Culture doesn't want you to freely express yourself when it goes against worldly agendas. Be a free thinker, but you better accept gay marriage.

Don't be a lemming; think for yourself, but know that if you don't think the way we tell you to, then you will be labeled a bigot, homophobe, a hater, or worse, a "Christian."

This cultural pressure reminds me of the way the Romans allowed for freedom of religion. "You are free to practice your religion, but if you dare to interrupt our way of life, you will pay the price." The Pax Romana (Roman Peace) was based on forced conformity — as long as you did exactly what they told you, they'll leave you alone. Get out of step, and they will punish severely.

Christians should not be surprised (**cf. 1 Pet. 4**), so we need to see our way clear to at least three responses:

1. Do not conform to the world (Rom. 12:1-2). This will come with a price, but we must take up the cross to follow the Lord (Luke 9:23). The world will slander. The world will insult. The world will perse-

The Pax Romana (Roman Peace) was based on forced conformity — as long as you did exactly what they told you, they'll leave you alone. Get out of step, and they will punish severely.

cute. None of that should deter us from doing what is right. We must be more concerned with holiness than worldly acceptance.

2. Step up with the gospel (Rom. 1:16-17). The temptation is to make all of this a political response. We want to answer by political means,

perhaps thinking that if we can "get the right person in office," then our problems will be alleviated. This, however, will never be what fixes the problem of the world. Politics will always give us the ups and downs, and will never result in the salvation of souls. We need the gospel. Focus on that.

3. Step up with prayer. God's desire is that all will come to a knowledge of the truth, so we need to pray to this end (**1 Tim. 2:1-4**). We also need to pray for boldness that God will use us to proclaim His message, and that we may lead lives that will point the way to Christ (**cf. Col. 4:2-5**).

Let's bring the offer of God's grace full force into this world. Let's let our lights shine. Let's be the salt God has called us to be (**Matt. 5:13-16**).

