

## A Restoration Highlight

By Hugh Fulford

According to the biography "J. D. Tant—Texas Preacher" by his son, Fanning Yater Tant, J. D. Tant and Ben M. Bogard engaged in eight debates with each other during the course of their careers. Their last one was near Greenwood, Arkansas in the fall of 1937. Among the propositions discussed was one that had to do with whether or not baptism of a penitent believer is for (in order to) the remission of sins and therefore essential to salvation. Tant affirmed the essentiality of baptism for the remission of sins; Bogard denied it.

Early in the debate Bogard took up the entirety of one of his thirty minute speeches trying to show that when the apostle Peter said, "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (**1 Peter 3:21**), all that Peter intended to convey was the notion that baptism is just a "picture" of salvation from sin. Arguing that Noah and his family were saved from the flood by faith only and then pictured their salvation in the waters of the flood, Bogard argued that the sinner is saved by faith only and then pictures his salvation by being baptized.

When Tant arose for his next speech, he replied, "My good friends, remember that baptism is just a 'picture.' Ben Bogard says it is . . . and that makes it so. Now, Ben says baptism is a 'picture.' That does not help Baptist doctrine at all; for it was Jesus Christ himself who said in **Mark 16:16**, 'He that believeth and gets his picture taken shall be saved.' And when those wicked people on Pentecost asked Peter and the rest of the apostles what they had to do, Peter replied, 'Repent ye, and get your picture taken, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.' And when Ananias came to Saul of Tarsus there in Damascus, he said unto him as recorded in **Acts 22:16**, 'And now why tarriest thou? Arise and get your picture taken, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.' So you can see, Ben, you, too, will have to get your picture taken or you can never be saved!" ("J. D. Tant--Texas Preacher," p. 467). (The above is excerpted from "Hugh's News & Views" of April 22, 2014).

|  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| Brad Marshall<br>(Allie Hosey's Cousin)                          | Owen Mauldin<br>(Seth and Summer Mauldin's Son) | Frank Hand<br>(Laura Humphrey's dad)        | Louise Pack<br>(Anna and Christopher's grandmother)      |
| Gloria Detmer and<br>Carol Dickerson<br>(Toni Herd's Sisters)    | Don Lanier<br>(Father of Greg Lanier)           | David Hartsell<br>(Holly and Brad's Father) | Kate Miller<br>(Daughter of Brandon and Erin Miller)     |
| Betty Mcareavey<br>(Mary Ann Roberts' mom)                       | Audrey Barnett<br>(Joanetta's sister-in-law)    | Betty Bradford                              | Jerry Foropoulos<br>(Anna Jean's Uncle)                  |
| Tom Davis (Walker Davis' Uncle)                                  | Quinton Addison<br>(April Jerkins Grandfather)  | Danny Weldon<br>(Rusty Weldon's brother)    | Yolanda Stewart<br>(Michael Bassie's Sister)             |
| Gerald White<br>(Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)          | Toni Herd                                       | Rebecca Davis<br>(Chuck Hahn's Niece)       | Camden, grandson of Steve Pruitt (friend of Greg Lanier) |
| John M. Rhodes and Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley<br>(Toni Herd's family) | Joe Perkins<br>(Scott Perkin's Dad)             | Aubrey Meeks<br>(Toni Herd's Nephew)        | Ellie Vaughn<br>(Scott and Genna's baby)                 |

### July Birthdays

3-Nathan Rouse  
6-Nathan Bradshaw  
8-David DeFoor  
11-Chase Winslett  
11-Madi White  
11-Hope Walker  
11-Clay Morris  
11-Kelsey Gallahar  
11-Caroline Meadows  
14-Laurel Jerkins  
14-Megan Ryan  
15-Bradley Seymour  
15-Winston Atnip  
18-Kerrie Hornback  
19-Ben Holcomb  
19-Jay Borden  
21-Tori Luther  
25-Betty Bradford  
25-Yvette Rouse  
26-Brandon Hester  
28-Jacob Bradshaw  
29-Hayden Phillips  
30-Brittney Arnett

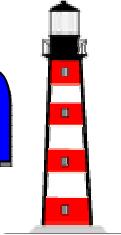
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### News and Notes

- ☒ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mother, Nicole Pender!
- ☒ - Please keep the Tam's in your prayers as they are away in China.
- ☒ - Also remember Carson Fowler in your prayers as he travels to Honduras.
- ☒ - Mary Ann's grandfather, Howard Vaughn, had pace maker put in successfully.
- ☒ - Please remember Hayden Phillips as he recovers from a broken leg.
- ☒ - Please continue to pray for the Mauldin family as Owen continues in hospice care.
- ☒ - Please keep Abbie Harrison in your prayers as she recovers from an extensive knee surgery.
- ☒ - Steve Gover, Patsy's brother, had successful surgery again and should return with Patsy this Wed.
- ☒ - The ladies class will be this Thursday. At 7 PM at the Biddle's home on "heaven"
- ☒ - Bethany Marchman's father, Garry, is waiting for a liver transplant.
- ☒ - Please continue to pray for Betty Bradford as she suffers with infection in her foot.
- ☒ - Please pray for Bethany Marchman's father, Garry, who is undergoing tests.
- ☒ - Please pray for Holly Law. She has returned home from the hospital.
- ☒ - Our new teaching quarter begins today!

# 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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### Thoughts to Ponder

Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.  
**(Matthew 18:18)**

Jesus did not come into the world to stay physically. When he offered his blood as a sacrifice for sins, once and for all, his divine mission in the world was finished. In the shadow of the cross, Jesus said in prayer to the Father, "I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do" (**John 17:4**). Then he added in verse 11, "And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee." Notice that statement "but these are in the world." Jesus had chosen twelve ordinary men to train to do his work when he would no longer be in the world. He had chosen Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Thaddeus, Simon, and Judas. Judas later betrayed him and in a moment of remorse, committed suicide. Matthias was chosen to replace him. A few years later, Paul was chosen, out of due season, to serve as an apostle to the Gentiles.

Jesus sent them on a limited commission "to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (**Matt 10:6**). This anticipated a much larger task to which they were sent later. In the prayer of Jesus in **John 17**, our Lord said, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world" (**John 17:17-18**). After his resurrection Jesus said to them, "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you" (**John 20:21**). That brings us to the very meaning of the word "apostle." An apostle is one sent. He is one who goes on the business of the one who sends him. The relation of the apostles to divine authority is seen from several vantage points.

### 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:  
[larryrouse@aubeacon.com](mailto:larryrouse@aubeacon.com)

Larry Rouse  
Evangelist and Editor

### Binding and Loosing

Jesus said to all of the apostles, "Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (**Matt 18:18**). The New American Standard Version translates the tense of the verbs with great accuracy as follows: "shall have been bound in heaven" and "shall have been loosed in heaven." This conforms to **Psalms 119:89**: "Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven." We cannot escape the force of this. The apostles would be involved in the work of making known the settled will of God in heaven. Their work was of the greatest importance and their word to be respected.

### Guided by the Spirit

These men would not be left to their own devices in such an important work. "It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you" (**John 16:7**). Earlier Jesus had said "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (**John 14:26**). Later Paul said "But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things yea, the deep things of God . . . Which things we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Spirit teacheth . . . But we have the mind of Christ" (**1 Cor.2:9 -16**). What the apostles taught as they were guided by the Spirit was not human wisdom. It was the word of God "settled in heaven." Sins Remitted and Sins Retained

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Jesus appeared in the gathering of his apostles who huddled behind closed doors in fear, his first appearance to all of them except Thomas since his resurrection earlier that day. After saying, "As my Father hath me, even so send I you" . . . he "breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Spirit: Whose sins ye remit they are remitted unto them; and whose sins ye retain, they are retained" (**John 20:21-23**). When Jesus "breathed on them" and said, "Receive ye the Holy Spirit," he employed a fitting gesture to indicate what would occur when the Spirit would come upon them to lead and guide them into all truth. Inspiration means "God breathed." Jesus "breathed on them." I know he did not then and there impart the Spirit as their guide for later in **Acts 1:8** he said, "Ye shall receive power after the Holy Spirit is come upon you." It was not until Pentecost that they began to speak "as the Spirit gave them utterance" (**Acts 2:4**). But what Jesus said to them is urgent. As they would go forth to speak under the direction of the Holy Spirit, they would present the terms on which God would remit sins. He charged them to go and preach the gospel to every creature and said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved and he that believeth not shall be damned" (**Mark 16:15-16**). On Pentecost Peter said, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (**Acts 2:38**). The terms of the Great Commission were to be preached in all the world until the end of the age. Upon obedient faith to that message delivered by them, lost men and women would have their sins remitted. But those who refused the message would have their sins retained. They would not be forgiven. What an awesome task these men had.

#### **On Thrones - Judging**

To these men Jesus said, "In the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (**Matt 19:28**). First, notice that the time of the "regeneration" is when the Son of man sits upon the throne of his glory. That time is now. Peter announced that he is seated at the right hand of God exalted (**Acts 2:33**). The "regeneration" is the time when people are being regenerated - born again. Jesus said all who enter the kingdom must be "born of water and the Spirit" (**John 3:5**). Paul called this "the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit" (**Titus 3:5**). They would judge over the "twelve tribes of Israel," the entirety of God's people. In the Old Testament the tribes were divided and scattered. But the apostles would have power to declare the terms of divine pardon to the entirety of people who would serve God. Those who speak from thrones speak authoritatively and we ought to listen.

#### **Ambassadors for Christ**

Paul said, "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God" (**2 Cor 5:20**). In the same context, where Paul defends his apostolic work, he said that Christ had committed to "us the minis-

try of reconciliation" (**v. 18**) and "hash committed unto us the word of reconciliation" (**v. 19**). Those who had the work of reconciliation and who had the word of reconciliation (the service and the word by which lost people could have peace with God), were the same ones who were the "ambassadors for Christ." An ambassador represents the power that sends him forth. He is equipped with the necessary credentials to establish his identity as an authorized representative of those who sent him. Their credentials were the miracles, wonders, and signs they were given to use. Paul said, "Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds" (**2 Cor 12:12**). To refuse an ambassador is to insult the power that sent him. Indeed Jesus said, "He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me" (**John 13:20**). Refuse the apostles and you have refused Jesus Christ who sent them. Further, to refuse what they said by inspiration is to refuse the Holy Spirit who guided them to say it.

#### **Treasure in Earthen Vessels**

It is in this vein that we must consider what Paul wrote in **2 Corinthians 4:7**: "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." Please notice the preceding verse. "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (**2 Cor 4:6**). The "earthen vessels" of this context were the apostles, those ordinary men whom Jesus chose for such extraordinary work. The "treasure" placed in those vessels, was the "light" of divine inspiration of verse 6. How did that light get into these vessels? God commanded it to shine out of darkness. The mystery of Old Testament times was finally to be illuminated. As prophecy was said to be a "light shining in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star appear in your hearts" (**2 Pet. 1:19**), even so now the divine light of inspiration was shined into the hearts of these vessels of earth to equip them for their work as the Lord's ambassadors. This light was the light of the knowledge of Jesus Christ. It reflected the glory of God "in the face of Jesus Christ." The excellency of the power was not of Paul nor the other apostles, for the light was divine. It was the message of heaven entrusted to these ambassadors.

What they taught by inspiration is just as much the will of Christ as what Jesus said in the sermon on the mount. Hear Paul one more time: "If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that write unto you are the commandments of the Lord" (**1 Cor 14:37**). Let's face it folks, if we "major in the gospels and minor in the epistles" we are going to minimize what the Lord Jesus gave his apostles to say through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We must not reject those whom our Lord sent.



## **Through God We Will Do Valiantly**

By Matt Adams

"Give us help from trouble, For the help of man is useless. Through God we will do valiantly, For it is He who shall tread down our enemies." Psalm 60:11-12 NKJV

Do you know what it is to be delivered by God? If you're a Christian, that answer is "Yes!" and you know the beauty of being delivered out of the hand of your adversary. You have your own battles and I have mine. Some may have battled addictions, others a lifestyle, while others deal with various other sins which gets its claws into you and refuses to let go. Perhaps you're currently enslaved to a sin and think there's no way out. There is only one sure way out of our sin, and that is with the Lord.

Make no mistake, our adversary is strong, he is a mighty foe, yet our Lord is stronger and mightier than all. With the Lord is deliverance, hope, strength, trust, joy, and life. With our adversary is certain death, destruction, sorrow, fear, lies, and hopelessness.

While we recognize the stark contrast between satan and God and we understand the benefits of a life in service and submission to God, our practice of serving Him may be lacking in one area or another at any point in time. Do we see life as a battle? Are we fighters? Do you have the spirit of a warrior, the skills of a soldier, the battlefield mentality that you will face your enemies & fight valiantly, striking them down to ensure no chance of his return? Will you strike down your foe - the one who seeks to viciously take your life - or are you trying to give him a hug & make nice? Who, exactly, is this adversary?

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world." 1 Peter 5:8-9 NKJV

The devil is our adversary, he is the one whom the Lord shall tread down!

Consider that our adversary seeks to devour us, not nibble, not play, not catch and release...devour! Now, does that sound like someone we want to serve, be-

friend, and play nice with?! We'd have to be out of our minds to say yes! Yet, how often have you and I tried to make nice with this roaring lion, trying to minimize his ferociousness, trying in vain to justify giving in to the temptations he sets before us, somehow deceiving ourselves that he's some domesticated house cat rather than a ferocious roaring lion? Satan desires to rip us to shreds! Satan desires our eternal destruction! Satan is not to be our friend. Sin is serious, but how seriously do we take it?

As we all know, our sin separates us from our Father and our Savior. Sin takes us away from God's Divine protection. Sin destroys us from the inside out. But there is hope for the Christian. Satan is our foe, this is true, but through the Lord can we soundly defeat him. Notice again the confidence of the Psalmist:

"Through God, we shall do valiantly. For it is He that shall tread down our adversaries."

God never loses! This word, valiantly, means "bravely courageous" or "heroic". What a magnificent thought! Our Lord will give us the power to be valiant in this battle!! Look into God's word and just observe the many times He used someone whom the world cast off, against odds that were seemingly insurmountable, and against foes that were incredibly fierce and ruthless; yet don't we see how handily the Lord defeated His adversaries? How God utterly destroys those who stand against Him? Is it really a question which side we should join and stay on throughout our lives?

Our God is a Mighty God, He rules over all and we're in His army. Brethren, let's stand with God and daily render the death blow to our adversary the devil. Satan wants us to be destroyed for eternity, but he's no match for our God and the soldiers of the cross:

"Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." James 4:7 NKJV

Fight on, friend.

