

The Panoply Of God

By Alan Turner

The Bible says there is an ongoing battle between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness. The powers making war on us are spiritual entities, not flesh and blood (Eph. 6:10-18). From this it is clear that there are unseen spiritual hosts of wickedness at work behind the confrontations we experience here on this physical plane. If we do not guard our hearts, Satan has the ability to fill them with evil thoughts (Acts 5:3). If we do not gird up the loins of our minds so as to out-think, out-live, and out-die the unredeemed around about us, Satan can blind our minds and lead us astray (2 Cor. 4:4; 11:3). If we are not careful, Satan, through some "snare," will take us captive to do "his will" (2 Tim. 2:26). And what snare is this? The allure-ment of evil, of course. This does not mean Satan can force us to do his bidding against our wills, but that he can fool us or snare us through the "deceitfulness of sin" and "deceivableness of unrighteousness" (Heb. 3:13; 2 Thess. 2:10). Finally, the Bible tells us that Christians, even in the 21st century, must not be ignorant of Satan's "devices" (2 Cor. 2:11).

Of course, the good news of the gos-pel of Jesus Christ is not about Sa-tan's overwhelming us with his power. On the con-trary, it's one of victory over Satan and his angels / through the blood of Jesus Christ/. As faithful soldiers of the cross, we follow Christ, our captain (Heb. 2:10), onward and upward toward the final glorious victory that is ours in connection with all He has done, is doing, and will continue to do. To bring about this victory, our Captain has furnished us with a panoply of spiritual weapons that are "mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down argu-ments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:4-5). This means that as the Christian soldier moves for-ward to final victory in Christ, he need never lose the smaller battles along the way. For if we put on the whole armor of God, we can stand against ("resist") every assault of Satan and his cohorts so effectively that they will turn tail and run (Jas. 4:7).

Classes This Week

Tuesday 8 PM Truth-seekers in Student Center Rm 2310	Thursday 7 PM Men's class at Walker Davis'	Saturday 6-8 PM 6th - 12th grade at Matt and Jana Hall's house	Saturday 6:30 - 8:30 PM 1st-5th grade at TBA
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Brad Marshall (Allie Hosey's Cousin)	Jesse Godwin (Troy's father and Mac's grandfather)	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)	Wanda Price (Ada Owen's sister)
Betty Mcareavey (Mary Ann Roberts' mom)	Audrey Barnett (Joanetta's sister-in-law)	Betty Bradford	Hazel Gilliland and Sherry Carroll (Toni's relatives)
Tom Davis (Walker Davis' Uncle)	Joy Powell (Tori Luther's grandmother)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	William Smith (Ken Sullivan's brother)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	William Herd	Rebecca Davis (Chuck Hahn's Niece)	Ray Humphrey (Seth's dad)
John M. Rhodes and Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley (Toni Herd's family)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkin's Dad)	Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew)	Eleanor McKay (friend of Erica)

November Birthdays

- 2-Debbi Coleman
- 6-Troy Godwin
- 6-Bridgette Borden
- 7-Amy Godwin
- 8-Ashley Miller
- 9-Darla Hahn
- 9-Casie Spencer
- 11-Andrew Hahn
- 12-Randal Porterfield
- 13-Toni Herd
- 13-Emerson Daniels
- 13-Dylan Bartlett
- 13-Ronaldo Henriquez
- 15-Jon Hornback
- 16-Nicole Pender
- 16-Victoria Dunaway
- 16-Alexander Dunaway
- 23-Mary Ann Roberts
- 24-John Burns
- 25-Olyvia Winslett
- 25-Silas Weldon
- 27-Scott Fowler
- 28-Will Harris
- 30-David Simpson

News and Notes

- ☒ - Please pray for Esther Biddle who had successful hip surgery on Thursday and continues in the hospital in Columbus.
- ☒ - Gerald White continues to make progress at home!
- ☒ - Larry Lauderdale continues to recover from his surgery!
- ☒ - Remember Laura Weldon and her family in the death last Thursday of her grandfather, Tom Dial.
- ☒ - Please remember Betty Bradford in your prayers as she struggles with her health.
- ☒ - Please pray for Gerald "Brub" Coleman, Jon's dad, who will have corrective bladder surgery on Tuesday.
- ☒ - The flower fund low. See Mary Ann Roberts to make a contribution.
- ☒ - Hosts and teachers are needed for the monthly home classes (1-5th, 6-12th). Sign up sheet in foyer.
- ☒ - The flower fund low. See Mary Ann Roberts to make a contribution.

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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The Desecration of God's Marriage Law

By Dee Bowman



Thoughts to Ponder

And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,'" (Matthew 19:4)

God's marriage law, it seems to me, is based on three principles. The three are: 1) the law of origins; 2) the law of harmony; and 3) the law of order.

Disregard for these three basic marriage regulations has rami-fied in many different directions wreaking havoc on the home and family as God has defined it in His word. Adultery, fornication, homosexuality, child abuse--all are related to a disrespect for these three basic principles. Many other deviations which are more subtle, but just as danger-ous--things like feminism, the uni-sex movement, gang violence--may well be related to a disre-gard for these three basic parts of God's marriage law.

The law of origins

"In the beginning" as Jesus used it in **Matthew 19** is significant. It is at the heart of the law of ori-gins. "Have you not read," he said, "that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and shall

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cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be one flesh?" This is further amplified in the ninth verse when he said, after having been ques-tioned about Moses' allowance of divorce, "Moses, because of the harness of your hearts, suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so." I have denominated this as the law of origins.

God had a plan for man and wom-an from the outset, one which He expected should govern the rela-tionship for all time. Notice that at the beginning and from the begin-

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(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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ning it was God's law that a man--one man--should leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife--one woman. Why God allowed divorce during the time of Moses I don't know. I do know--and that for a fact--that from the beginning it was not so. Think of all the trouble which has been caused by unconcern for the law of origins.

The law of harmony

There is a basic difference between unison and harmony. Unison means being in agreement in exactly the same way (in music, singing exactly the same notes). Harmony means a simultaneous combination which makes for agreement. In music, it is the pleasing combination of notes which make a chord. It means to be "in accord."

We need to realize that God never demanded "unison," but He did command "harmony" in marriage. Men, together, are unison. Women, together, are unison. Men with men is not harmony. Women with women is not harmony. A man and a woman together in God's arrangement make harmony. Compare the idea of "they twain shall become one flesh." They didn't start out as one, they became one. That's harmony. Notice, too, "what God hath joined together let not man put asunder." They are conjoined in a harmonious relationship. Life consists of interlocking opposites. Marriage is the most beautiful one of them.

When Paul says, in **I Corinthians 7:5**, "Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a season," he speaks to this harmonious relationship. The term translated "with consent" is from a Greek word *sumphemi* which is where we get our word "symphony," a together sound. The law of harmony is basic to God's marriage law.

The law of order

Paul states God's law of order in **I Corinthians 11:1-2**. "Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them unto you. But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God." This is an ordinance--what has been ordained. God is the prior person, Christ next, man, then woman. You can no more mess with this order with impunity than you can violate the law of gravity. Punishment follows the disregard for either. It's just that the payoff is immediate in the latter and is delayed in the former.

In order for the marriage relationship to function as it should there must be respect for this role order. It's a law, not a wish, and a law always has some punitive measures attached to it or it isn't a law. Make no mistake about it, you violate this law and you'll pay.

The law of order is illustrated beginning at **Ephesians 5:21**, ("submitting yourselves to one another in the fear of the Lord") and amplified through the rest of chapter five and into chapter six. As it relates to man and woman it is briefly stated in such commands as "Wives submit yourselves to your own husbands as unto the Lord, for the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church...." And "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it." This is a practical commentary on **I Corinthians 7:1-3**. It's God's law of order at work.

Conclusion

To disregard these three laws is to invite sure disaster. The immediate punishment is seen in the loss of hearth and home and its ensuing detrimental effect on society. The eternal disaster will be even more devastating.



Are We "Committed" in Our Marriage?

By R. J. Evans

Commitment is the cement which keeps the bricks of marriage in place. Sadly, many couples in our selfish, self-indulgent culture do not make a genuine commitment when they marry. I believe the Scripture gives four basic, clear principles that define the necessary commitment for marriage. Too many among us approach marriage concerned only with self—"what's in it for me?" Commitment demands something other than that.

With these truths as our constant companions, the strong winds of adversity and trials will never blow our marriage apart. "Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate" (**Matt. 19:6**).

ans. He told them: "For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ" (**2 Cor. 2:2**) But then notice his deep concern for them in the next verse: "But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ" (**V. 3**). Likewise, he earlier gave them proper instruction, "lest Satan should take advantage of us" (**2 Cor. 2:11**).

1. Commitment between marriage partners begins with a deep trust in one another (1 Cor. 13:7). This means that we do everything possible to maintain trust. Nothing is done to violate the promise, the vow, or in any way destroy the priority of the two remaining "one flesh" (**Gen. 2:24**). Trying to make one's spouse jealous is foolish, juvenile, and can be a precursor to serious marital problems.

2. A solid marriage demands deep devotion to one another (Eph. 5:22-25). This takes the commitment from a promise to a passion. It means that we cannot live the promise without total effort to meet the needs of our mate. It means that we would never abuse, use, or take advantage of our spouse. We protect and provide for one another—supplying each other's needs. When our spouse is sick, we care for them with deep devotion and loving concern. In such a marriage, we each fulfill our God-given roles. (**1 Cor. 7:1-9; Eph. 5:22-29; Col. 3:18-19; Titus 2:1-6; 1 Pet. 3:1-7**).

Also, a devoted husband or wife will not indifferently sit by and allow someone else to use, manipulate, mistreat, or take advantage of their spouse. This is especially true of a husband toward his wife since he is primarily her provider and protector (**Eph. 5:25, 28-29; 1 Tim. 5:8**). This principle is illustrated in Paul's attitude toward the Corinthi-

3. A happy home is where the husband and wife are dependent on one another (Gen. 2:18). Here there is developed a strong sense of mutual need and dependence. The husband and wife see the other as strength to their own weakness—a God-given complement (**Gen. 2:18, 23**). No one will be allowed to come between the husband-wife relationship—not parents, grandparents, children, in-laws, or friends. Also, jobs, hobbies, outdoor activities, sports, etc. should never be allowed to drive a wedge between a husband and wife.

4. An unshakable determination to succeed is the standard equipment in the home that is outfitted for a lifetime of happiness. Just as the Apostle Paul pressed toward the goal of heaven (**Phil. 3:14**), the faithful couple presses on toward making their marriage a success. Nothing happens without complete effort. If we will make it work...it will work. More than that, it will be to God's glory and our joy.

With these truths as our constant companions, the strong winds of adversity and trials will never blow our marriage apart. "Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate" (**Matt. 19:6**).

