

God Is Not...

I suppose it is inevitable, given who God is, and His place in the universe, that He will be either consciously or unconsciously misunderstood and mischaracterized. Some seem to think that by *thinking* God is this or that, that He *becomes* that.

By Aubrey Belue

As David says in the second Psalm, they "imagine a vain thing". Fools, according to Rom 1, "change the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man" and even worse. Nothing really changed! God "gave them up", and ruin was (and is) the result – He is still "God", with all that means. Our hope? Acknowledge Him as He is, and act accordingly.

He is not affected by what man thinks of Him! He is not a man! -- His thoughts are not man's thoughts, nor His ways man's ..(Isa 55:8,9). His reaction to sin and evil is not man's ...(Ps 50:21).

He is not a liar! - In fact, "let God be true, and every man a liar" (Rom 3:4).

He is not partial! - "there is no respecter of persons with God" ... (Rom 2:10)

He is not bluffing! When He says that those that "obey not the gospel" will enter everlasting punishment, that is not idle talk, nor to be explained away by man. **He does not fail in either His promises or His threats.** (Psa 19:7)

He does not tolerate half - hearted or lukewarm service! ... (Rev 3:15-18)

He does not adjust His laws to suit the individual. (Ezk 18:9)

There is so much that God *is*, and that makes our relationship with Him so desirable...but we must never forget what He is *not*.



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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You Better Watch Out, You Better Not...

By Dee Bowman



Thoughts to Ponder

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8)

The Devil is no fool. How often we underestimate his cunning and crafty nature. The Scriptures warn of his "wiles" (Eph. 6:11) and tell us of his devices (2 Cor. 2:11). "Wiles" have to do with the Devil's abilities--abilities to concoct methods, plans, strategies for deceiving us. He's good at it. Real good. "Devices" are the tools he uses to make his plans work, to cause us to move toward evil. He's good at that, too. Real good.

Peter tells us in **1 Peter 5:8**, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

This passage should lend a sense of urgency to our situation. It should tell us that we're at war and there's not time for civilian activities, only for constant vigilance and

Are there some things we can do to combat the devil? You better know it. God has provided an apt description of the enemy. He knows his plans, has intercepted his codes, and deduced his projects.

complete concentration as to the whereabouts and stratagem of the enemy.

Be sober. That means be serious about his possible invasion. He is.

Be vigilant. That means watch out. He lurks in the shadows, moves in the dark, skirts the periphery all the time, looking all the while for a chance to strike. Look out.

(Continued on page 2)

Lisa Carter (Luke's mother)	Jesse Godwin (Troy's father and Mac's grandfather)	Virginia Box (Sarah Norman's grandmother)	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)	Jamin Hymel (Chad's son)
Terri Moore (Joey's aunt)	Artina Hunt (Esther's friend's sister)	Betty Bradford	Hazel Gilliland and Sherry Carroll (Toni's relatives)
Ricky Tucker (Tyler's cousin)	Ermogene Laxson (Sara Lail's grandmother)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	William Smith (Ken Sullivan's brother)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Bernice Martin (Will Harris' great-grandmother)	Sasha Rozier (Makenzie Reynolds' cousin)	Eva Jean Cavender (Matt's grandmother)
John M. Rhodes and Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley (Toni Herd's family)	Howard Vaughan (Mary Ann's Granddad)	Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew)	Maria Aragon (Liseth's Mother)

June Birthdays

- 3-Philip Stephens
- 4-Alexander Nam
- 5-Cheyenne Redus
- 6-David Eison
- 7-Spencer Borden
- 8-Joanetta Lauderdale
- 9-Kay White
- 10-Joah Green
- 12-Orie Cecil
- 14-Jeremiah Johnson
- 17-Brooks Pender
- 17-Sarah Norman
- 18-James Long
- 22-Paul Tam
- 24-Justin Bice
- 25-Corey Hunt
- 26-Katie Gentry
- 27-Ada Owen
- 27-Kelli Huggins
- 28-Craig Davis
- 28-Julian Reid

News and Notes

- ☒ - Our VBS begins this week! Postcards are available to invite others on the "journeys of Paul."
- ☒ - The Ladies' class will not meet this week.
- ☒ - There will be a song service for all ages this Wed night. Our classes will not meet.
- ☒ - Please remember Elizabeth Barham's family as her grandmother, Frances Barham, is in hospice care.
- ☒ - Please pray for Toni Herd as she has returned to the hospital this week and is showing improvement.
- ☒ - We are happy to have a new Sister in Christ, Cristin Fuentes!
- ☒ - Please pray for Tyler Tucker's grandfather, Charles, who is in the hospital.
- ☒ - Please continue to pray for Ken Sullivan as he recovers from surgery.
- ☒ - Please pray for Mary Ann Roberts' sister, Tamora Cornelius, who has some testing being done on a vocal cord and lung.
- ☒ - Please pray for Makenzie Reynolds' cousin, Sasha, who is undergoing tests for unexplained health issues.
- ☒ - Audio is posted to www.auchurch.com

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

Find us on the Internet: www.auchurch.com and www.aubeacon.com

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Your adversary. He is the enemy. We best not associate with him. When we fraternize with the enemy we are apt to become like him. Best be careful about that. It's hard to recognize him when you look so much like him yourself. Be careful.

Walketh about. He is not passive. He doesn't work a forty-hour week, nor does he take any time off. He's always on the job, working to do us harm. Where is he? Right now.

As a roaring lion. A lion stalks his prey for days until such a time as he finds it in a vulnerable position. Then he lets out a gargantuan roar, thus freezing the prey in its tracks. It's easy from there on. There's a place where you can no longer turn back, folks. Be careful how close you allow him to get.

Are there some things we can do to combat the devil? You better know it. God has provided an apt description of the enemy. He knows his plans, has intercepted his codes, and deduced his projects. He'll help us if we'll just pay close attention to what He says.

We are not ignorant of his devices (2 Cor. 2:11). God knows. We don't--not yet anyhow. We must learn. We need to read the Bible, study the word, search the scriptures. They will inform us of his wiles, how he works. We can know, but only if we want to. Do you want to? It sure helps to know.

God will provide a way of escape (1 Cor. 10:13). But God's faithfulness to

provide does not equal our having the information automatically. We must look for the way of escape. It's in His word. Remember Jesus. "It is written" was his answer to the Devil's temptations. It's ours as well.

Resist him and he will flee (Jas. 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:9). Resistance is hard. It takes resolve. It takes steeling your nerve. It takes hurting sometimes. But resistance is the key to conquering the Devil. He can't win if you resist.

Give no place to him (Eph. 4:27). You can't keep the Devil from wandering through your mind now and then but you don't have to give him a place to stay. Kick him out. Make him go someplace else. Tell him he's not welcome. If you give him a room, before long he'll own the house.

Don't let him win the war, even if he wins a battle now and then (2 Pet. 2:26). Because he's likely to win some doesn't mean you have to just give up. Repent and start again. Repent and get up. Repent and pray God for help.

Repent and regroup. "And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will" (2 Pet. 2:26). That ought to restore your broken spirit. You can still get out of there. You can still run. Just do it.

I hate the Devil. I mean I hate him! Don't you? And I don't know for the life of me how you could possibly have any trouble with him when he's over at my house nearly all the time.



A Godly View of Sin

By Sewell Hall

"What happened to sin?" This question, occasionally asked these days, can be answered with another question: "Whatever happened to God?" When people lose sight of God, sin cannot be far behind.

The World's View Of Sin: -- Worldly people usually have in mind some vague definition of sin. In their view murder is sin because it hurts other people. If you asked the average person to name a sinner, he might well name Saddam Hussein; look how many people he has hurt! On the other hand a psychology professor I knew insisted that sexual relations between two unmarried consenting adults is no more than a handshake if no one gets hurt.

Some take another step to call things sin if they hurt the one who does them. These days some people think of smoking as sinful because it harms the body. At the same time, drunkenness is winked at as long as one does not harm himself or drive under the influence.

Things may be thought sinful once they become socially unacceptable; speaking against homosexuality is just about the most heinous sin some people can imagine. Illegal things are considered sinful if one is caught and, if not, they become clever. And, of course, anything that makes you feel bad about yourself is probably a sin for you.

Notice that all of these involve horizontal relationships. Sin is defined in purely human terms. The only authority acknowledged is human authority. The guilt or innocence of any action is judged by its visible and foreseeable effect on people here and now. God is not in the picture.

The Godly View: -- As godliness is defined, however, everything is judged in reference to God. The word sin, as used in the Bible, is "missing the mark." Crime is missing the mark set by men: sin is missing the mark set by God (1 Jn. 3:4). Murder is sin, not because it is illegal or because it hurts someone but because God has forbidden it. The mark God has set may be missed by going beyond it (1 Jn. 5:17; 2 Jn. 9) or by coming short of it (Jas. 4:17; Rom. 3:23).

The act by which "sin entered into the world" (Rom. 5:12) was an act that few people in our godless age would call sin. In fact, I am asked sometimes, "What do you think that Adam and Eve really did?" Well, what they really did was eat a piece of fruit (Gen. 3:6),

and it was sin because God had forbidden it. Whether men see anything wrong in their action is beside the point.

When God told Abraham to offer his son on an altar (Gen. 22:2), he would have sinned if he had failed to obey. His faith was demonstrated in his willingness to do what God said, regardless of his own human sense of right and wrong.

Fornication, idolatry, adultery, homosexuality, covetousness, drunkenness, and extortion were socially acceptable in Corinth, but the Holy Spirit through Paul insisted that those practicing such things would not "inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Cor. 6:9,10). "Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience" (Eph. 5:6).

Even worship can be sin if it is not what God desires (Matt. 7:21-23), and a failure to worship is also sin (Jas. 4:17).

God And Sin: -- Once God is brought into the picture it becomes clear that sin is man's greatest problem. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men..." (Rom. 1:18). What man on his own can escape the wrath of God? Since sin is an offense against God, only God can forgive it. And forgiving sin is not easy even for God. It cost Him the life of His Son.

The just penalty attached to sin by a just God is death; consequently, justice demands that the penalty be paid if sins are to be forgiven. If the sinner paid it he would be forever separated from God. But "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (Jn. 3:16). He allowed His Son to be "cut off out of the land of the living for the transgression of My people, to whom the stroke was due" (Isa. 53:8).

Whenever we are tempted to sin, even in ways that the world considers innocent, we should ask with Joseph, "How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" (Gen. 39:9). And when even the world pronounces us guilty, we still must confess to God along with David, "Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight..." (Psa. 51:4).

