

Preparing for Tomorrow's Trials

Trials and tribulations will affect us all. Many brethren go through horrifying ordeals, true tragedies by any standard, and must carry on with life afterwards. At times, what is perhaps most tragic is the aftermath of these trials—bitterness, division, depression—scars that can fundamentally change a person. These permanent wounds are not God's will for us. God has great use for the trials that assail his children, and we must prepare ourselves in advance, so that when these trials arrive, we can glorify God in our endurance. **(1 Pet. 1:6-7; Jas. 1:2-4)**

By Seth Buchanan

To prepare ourselves for trials, we must study God's Word. The Word persuades readers to believe in its power—it is the only true rock we have in this world **(Matt. 24:35)**. The best way to prepare for trials is to gain wisdom, and the only way to gain wisdom is through God's Word. There is no wisdom apart from Him **(Jas. 3:13-17)**. Understanding does not just happen. We ought not to deceive ourselves in thinking that attending worship once a week will give us a sufficient understanding of God's Word. We must learn from Ezra, and fully devote our entire lives to searching God's Truth. "For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the LORD and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel." **(Ezra 7:10)**.

To prepare ourselves for trials, we must submit to God's Will. It's not always possible to be absolutely certain of God's specific will in each scenario. That's why we must study God's Word, and understand what God expects from us as sons. Paul did not understand God's intention regarding the thorn in his flesh, but understood that his life was to be devoted to Christ, and that Christ's power was working in his suffering **(2 Cor. 12:8-10)**. Be obedient in the face of suffering, so that God can be glorified!

To prepare ourselves for trials, we must devote ourselves to prayer. Christ is the perfect example of preparation. He devoted his life completely to God's Word and to prayer, fully understanding the trials ahead. Our Lord did not wait until the garden of Gethsemane to pray to God, but sought seclusion throughout his recorded ministry, for the purpose of drawing closer to the Father. If we wait until we are thrown in the fire to develop healthy prayer habits, we will not escape.

Jesus Christ lived his whole life in view of the Cross, and prepared every step of the way so that he could obediently endure. We must prepare for our own trials! Please do not wait until it is too late.



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|--|---|--|--|
| 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

- ☒ - The ladies' class will be on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at Elizabeth Barham's house. Study is on Dorcas.
- ☒ - We rejoice that Toni Herd was able to go home from the hospital this week and has made good improvement!
- ☒ - Perry Hill Road will have a gospel meeting with Max Dawson Sun-Wed, June 26-29.
- ☒ - The Lagrange church is having a meeting with Don Wright June 19-24, Sun-Fri.
- ☒ - Our new quarter begins on Sunday, July 3rd.
- ☒ - Our monthly singing is tonight!
- ☒ - Mary Ann's sister, Tamora Cornelius, biopsies were negative. she will have an MRI this week.
- ☒ - Please keep Makenzie Reynolds' cousin, Sasha Rozier, in your prayers as they investigate her health problems.
- ☒ - Audio is posted to www.auchurch.com

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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Doctoring The Bible

By Cled E. Wallace



Thoughts to Ponder

Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. **(1 Timothy 4:13)**

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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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Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

There is no short cut to a knowledge of the Bible. Publishers of and agents for specially edited Bibles with fancy trimmings and helps of various kinds have reaped a considerable profit for themselves by raising false hopes in the minds of the gullible, who would like to have, and imagine they can get, a knowledge of the Book without much hard work. The price tags attached to such wares are far from modest and in some instances so ridiculous they reflect on the intelligence of the customer. When the Bible with "helps" costs considerably more than twice as much as the same Bible without the "helps," it ought to occur to somebody that too high a value has been placed on human help. Some books of the sort are helpful after a fashion but they contain no magic that will cause one to absorb knowledge from sleeping with one of them under his pillow. This is true even of the best ones.

A lot of sectarian and speculative propaganda is spread about with the help of these doctored, high-priced Bibles. Sales resistance is entirely too low among the brethren,

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and especially the sisters, when some of these talkative vendors ring the doorbell. When one is let in, he should be viewed with enough suspicion to give a healthy curiosity a chance to determine what he is and what he has. A very intelligent sister asked me to inspect a book she had bought from an agent for a financial consideration of several good American dollars. The agent got the money and she was laboring under the impression that she was getting just what the doctor ordered to help her and her household to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus

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Christ. What she got was "Bible Readings For the Home Circle." Sounds good, doesn't it? And it was mechanically very pleasing to the eye and had pictures in it. The agent of course did not tell the sister that he was a Seventh Day Adventist and the book was arranged for the spread of Adventist doctrine. When she found that out, was she mad!

There are a lot of people, too, who do not distinguish between the text of the Bible and the comments made upon it in some of these highly specialized editions. Some brethren proudly display their "Scofield" Bibles until somebody tells them that the Scofield part is the rottenest sort of premillennial propaganda, and then they nearly die from shock. Anybody who buys one of the things without knowing what he is getting is being sadly imposed upon. A lot of men who write Bible "helps" are in need of a liberal amount of help themselves, or past the point where any amount of it will do them any good. Brethren can at least take care not to pay out good money in exchange for such blindness on paper. "Our" own publishers are not too careful, conscientious or something, sometimes, when it comes to what is said about such works advertised in their catalogs. In one of them, I have seen the "Scofield Bible" praised as though it were almost inspired exegesis, instead of the pitiful, driveling web of fancy which it really is.

Brother Larimore was wont to say that a fairly intelligent human being of either sex, was very well equipped to increase his knowledge of God, if he had a good text of the Bible, a good English dictionary and a good Bible dictionary. There is some wisdom here. This is no argument against the reading of good books, or the use of any "helps" that are helps. It does add up to this. There is no way to really learn what is in the Bible without reading and studying the Bible itself. Few students are capable of passing an examination on any subject, history for instance, after only one casual reading of a text and listening to a

few lectures. The text must be read, re-read and studied. So it is with the books that make up the Bible. And dealing with the Bible after such a fashion yields tremendous and pleasing results. A student should read the gospels until he knows the life of Christ. He should read the book of Acts until he knows the history of the early church. He should read the epistles until he knows what the Lord expects of His church and His people.

If he reads these things often enough, he will know them just like he knows other things he is interested in enough to read about. Some brethren can tell us where Joe Louis landed every punch on Lou Nova and which fist he used, who can't quote a memory verse at a prayer-meeting. There are two reasons for this. In the first place, they are not at prayer-meeting and in the second place they do not know the memory verse. It isn't lack of ability, it is lack of interest.

This is really a serious matter. "Wherefore be ye not foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is." (Eph. 5:17) "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." (Col. 3:16) The prevailing ignorance of the word of God on the part of large numbers in the church is both amazing and appalling. I still think we know more about the Bible than our religious neighbors do, but that just goes to show what I think about how little they know. It is my conviction that if an ignorant brother with a fairly good mind would pick out one book in the New Testament, start with a few interesting facts about it, and then read it over and over until he knew it, he would be so proud of himself and feel so good otherwise that he would keep up the good work and really find out what growth in grace and knowledge means. Reading the Bible should not be viewed as a task, or drudgery. The pleasure it affords is commensurate with the profit it yields. There is no short cut to a knowledge of the Bible. The man who knows it was not born that way. He got that way by keeping company with the Book and behaving himself intelligently while he was at it.

Bible Banner - October 1941



What Does Your Heart Want?

By Dee Bowman

The Bible, because it came from God and is for man, gets at the very heart of who and what we are. It doesn't dilly-dally; it tells us what we need to know about ourselves without venire or camouflage. It plays no favorites and excludes no one.

Most folks reject such notions, mainly because they've never really studied the Bible. They have a passing knowledge of it, but they don't see it as the most important book in their lives. They sort of tolerate its message and pay lip homage to Jesus as its main character, but they don't take the time to know either the message or the Man. They may even subscribe to the need to worship occasionally but they don't look to the Book for the information they need to know about worship, when and how it is acceptable. To them the Bible is for weddings and funerals, Christmas and Easter, little else.

One reason for this hesitancy to keep in contact with the Bible is that it requires something of you. In fact, it requires quite a lot of you. The Bible imposes on our "freedoms" and retards our "want-to's." If you read it, it will bring you to conviction and charge you with change. It will condemn your actions and probably inhibit your "fun." Furthermore, the Bible calls for adjustment—immediate adjustment. It cries out to its reader, "why tarriest thou?" (Acts 22:16) It calls for action today - right now - not after awhile.

With these thoughts in mind, may I just rephrase some questions the Bible asks, either by actual interrogatives or by implications? What are your real interests? Notice, I said what are your real interests, the ones you actually put first in your life. Not, mind you, the ones to which you will readily admit, to which you will give intellectual agreement, but the ones that you are actually pursuing with diligence? We will all admit that we are to "seek ye first the kingdom of God" (Matt. 6:33), but there are lots of people who admit that who are seeking something else first—just lots of them. Where is your real focus, your real goal? What is your first hope? What regulates all that you

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do? How do you spend your time, effort, talent, even money?

What are your real motives? In other words, what causes you to do what you do? God said, "thou shalt love the Lord thy God..." (Deut. 6:5). Love should be the motive for all that we do - no matter the situation. We all know that, don't we? But is that what our real motives are - in the love of God? Do we seek to bear one another's burdens in the same way He bore ours? When someone says something that rubs you the wrong way is your motive one of restoration or retaliation? What determines your course of action? Is it love? "Love suffers long and is kind" (1 Cor. 13:4). Are you? Do you?

What are your real goals? Again, we all know intellectually what is the right answer to that question. But we sometimes get our priorities mixed up and spend our energies in the pursuit of worldly things. Someone has said we tend to give a first rate dedication to a second rate cause. Instead we should "seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God" (Col. 3:1). The only goal that makes any sense is a heavenly one. We know from experience that we will not long be here, that even if we live our "three-score and ten" we will soon pass from this place. What then? That alone should be sufficient grounds for us to look for something better, something that guarantees us a longer existence not damaged by the ravages of time.

I'm aware that these are not the kind of questions you would like to hear. "How are your grandkids?" is much more pleasant. So is "How's the new job going?" or "Are you feeling better now?" And all these are legitimate questions, ones that we do well to entertain. But the greatest questions of all are those whose answers have eternal implications, the ones which, if answered properly, will result in our eternal life in heaven.

