

We NEED Doctrinal Teaching

It has been reported that American students are not doing well in important Math and Science studies. In fact, they rank 35th in the world on achievement tests in Math, and 27th in Science. However, it is also reported that the very same American students rank among the highest in the world regarding how they feel about their Math and Science abilities. This is direct evidence of the over-emphasis that has been given in recent years to the subjective matters of self-worth and self-esteem. Our educators have obviously worried too much about "feelings," and not enough about real learning.

We may be following the same mistaken agenda in our spiritual teaching. It seems that we have lost a sense of balance in our preaching and in our Bible class studies. We may be stressing certain "feel good" themes too much, while neglecting important instruction in matters of doctrine. The results tend to indicate this. We have a generation of Christians that

By Greg Gwin

don't know and can't explain simple doctrinal truths. Many would be hard pressed to explain what's wrong with instrumental music in worship, why we oppose church sponsored recreational and social activities, or what the Bible teaches about institutionalism and unscriptural church cooperative enterprises. Some could not even describe the simple New Testament plan of salvation, or prove that baptism is essential for the remission of sins.

Members of the Lord's church once had the reputation as "people of the Book." We knew and could defend the truth on a wide variety of Bible subjects. Members of various denominations dreaded, and even avoided, discussions with us because they knew that we knew the Bible and could answer their faulty arguments. Sadly, we've lost much of that reputation. Let's get back to teaching and emphasizing "all the counsel of God," while "keeping back nothing that is profitable" (**Acts 20:20, 27**).



Classes This Week

Sunday PM Singing at Samford Lawn at 7:45!	Tuesday 8:00 PM Truth Seekers in room 2326 of the student center	Thursday 7:00 PM Ladies class at Rachel Bobo's at 7:00 p.m. "Seasoning Your Words"	Thursday 7:00 PM Hispanic Bible class meets in adult 2 classroom at 7:00 p.m.
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Lisa Carter (Luke's mother)	Jesse Godwin (Troy's father and Mac's grandfather)	Nell Holcomb (Ben's grandmother, Joannetta's aunt)	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)
Madeline Morton (Greg Lanier's g'daughter)	Alexander Locke (Jeremiah's cousin's son)	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)	Arabelle Rich (Joannetta's aunt)	Sasha Rozier (Makenzie Reynolds' cousin)	Eva Jean Cavender (Matt's grandmother)
Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley (Toni Herd's family)	Howard Vaughan (Mary Ann's Granddad)	Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew)	Maria Aragon (Liseith's Mother)

September Birthdays

- 2-Denise Davis
- 3-Trenton Anderson
- 3-Larry Lauderdale
- 4-Kevin Anderson
- 10-BJ Winslett
- 10-Eleanor Weldon
- 10-Matthew Sullivan
- 11-Sheryl Fowler
- 11-Kimberlee Myers
- 12-Jared Johnson
- 13-Adam Saylor
- 14-Patsy Ogle
- 16-Brittany Bagents
- 17-Laura Weldon
- 21-Sarah Chandler
- 24-Wade Winslett
- 24-Lauren Johnson
- 25-Ashley Collier
- 28-Hallie Hall
- 29-Sandlyn Fultz

News and Notes

- ☒ - Tonight is singing night!
- ☒ - Please pray for our expectant mothers: Amanda Stephens and Cristin Chavez.
- ☒ - Please pray for Tim Morton, Greg Lanier's son-in-law as he is deployed to Afghanistan.
- ☒ - Naki's father-in-law, Billy Strickland, had successful surgery to remove cancer from his liver.
- ☒ - Please keep those in your prayers who are in the adoption process: Kevin and Jessica Anderson, Craig and Paula Davis
- ☒ - Sympathy is extended to Ashley Miller at the death of his step-father Don Meadows. Funeral was last week.
- ☒ - Please continue to park in the grass when possible at all services.
- ☒ - All 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**)

Be Thankful for God's Authority

By Doy Moyer

God is Creator. Because of Who He is, He has the inherent right to command and expect obedience. He has the right to tell us what to do, how to think, how to live, how to talk, and how to dress. Name it. God has the power to back it up. We, as His creatures have no right to kick back or demand answers from Him. Like it or not, we are under His authority. But now, why wouldn't we like it?

Rather than looking at this as some sort of drudgery, why not be thankful for God's authority? After all, if we wish to glorify God, we can only do so by recognizing the power that only belongs to Him.

"Sing to the Lord, all the earth; Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day. Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.

For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;

Grace means nothing unless it comes from one who has the power to give it. Sometimes grace is pitted against a stress on authority, but the two go together. It is true that authority can exist without grace, but it is not possible for real grace to exist without authority.

He also is to be feared above all gods.

For all the gods of the peoples are idols,

But the Lord made the heavens.

Splendor and majesty are before Him,

Strength and joy are in His place." (**1 Chron. 16:23-27**)

If we "seek the Lord and His strength" (**vs. 11**), then we are necessarily seeking Him in all His authority and power. Shall

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Thoughts to Ponder

For I know nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord.

(**1 Corinthians 4:4**)



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
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we love the Lord and despise His authority as if it is a burden to us? May it never be!

Here, then, are some reasons we can be thankful for God's authority:

1. Because God's authority means He is the Judge, not me, or you, or anyone else. I don't have to worry about untangling all the sticky questions about eternity. I don't need to worry about pleasing other people, especially those in the world. I just need to concern myself with pleasing and glorifying Him based on what He has revealed (**2 Cor. 5:8-9; John 12:48**). Consequently, we may say with Paul, "to me it is a very small thing that I may be examined by you, or by any human court; in fact, I do not even examine myself. For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord" (**1 Cor. 4:3-4**). In the final analysis, each of us as individuals will stand before God. What others think at that point will be irrelevant.

2. Because God's authority is what gives power to grace. Grace means nothing unless it comes from one who has the power to give it. Sometimes grace is pitted against a stress on authority, but the two go together. It is true that authority can exist without grace, but it is not possible for real grace to exist without authority. Recall Jesus' healing of the paralytic in **Mark 2**. When he saw the man's faith, Jesus told him that his sins were forgiven. The people reacted by saying that only God could forgive sins, to which Jesus responded, "Why are you reasoning about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven'; or to say, 'Get up, and pick up your pallet and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on

earth to forgive sins'—He said to the paralytic, 'I say to you, get up, pick up your pallet and go home.'" (**Mark 2:8-11**) Without the authority inherent in Jesus, the man's sins would have remained. God's authority means that He can provide the grace needed to forgive sins. Without His authority, our sins would remain.

3. Because God's authority means He has the power to fulfill His promises. People sometimes promise what they cannot give. Think of the empty promises given by fallible people who strive for political power, or the disappointment we feel when someone promised something without the ability to deliver. This will never happen with God. Because He has all authority, He has complete control over the promises that He has given, and He will not disappoint. Therefore, we may have the same faith as Paul when promised that the ship he was on would not lose anyone: "Therefore, keep up your courage, men, for I believe God that it will turn out exactly as I have been told" (**Acts 27:25**). Paul began his epistle to Titus with these reassuring words: "Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago" (**Titus 1:1-2**). Our trust in God's promises is the reason we have hope as an anchor of our soul (**Heb. 6:13-20**). All of this is possible because of the authority of God.

God's authority should never be seen as a burden. Rather, we have every reason to be thankful for who God is and the authority He possesses and shows. "O Lord God of hosts, who is like You, O mighty Lord? Your faithfulness also surrounds You" (**Psa. 89:8**).



The Widow's Mites

By P. J. Casebolt

Comparing the widow's two mites with the gifts of the rich men, Jesus concluded, "Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all" (**Lk. 21:1-4**).

Rich men are condemned, not because they are rich, but because they trust in riches (**Mk. 10:24**), bestow gifts to be seen or praised of men (**Matt. 23:5**), or because they fail to "be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate" (**1 Tim. 6:17-19**). The gifts of the rich can be used for good, but so can the widow's mites.

Too often, we fail to "bestow more abundant honour" upon "those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble. . . . And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable" (**1 Cor. 12:22,23**). We need to remember that God has "set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him," and that all members of the body, the church, "are necessary" (**1 Cor. 12:18, 22**).

In our public assemblies, the preacher may be the most visible member in that assembly, because of the emphasis placed on preaching in the edification process, and the time set aside for such teaching. But that is not to say that the preacher is the most important member of a congregation, or that either he or the congregation regard him as such. If so, we need to rearrange our thinking.

Though invisible, Christ needs to be the central figure of our lives, and in our public assemblies. Christ "is the head of the body, the church" (**Col. 1:18**), and has promised, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (**Matt. 18:20**).

We need to give honor to the elders who oversee the flock at all times, and not just during the public assemblies of the church. Teachers need to be commended and appreciated for the many hours of time which they have devoted to study, class preparation, and actual teaching done. We pause from time to time and express our appreciation for "all those who have taken a

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public part" in the assemblies of the church, and well we should.

But we need also to recognize those who go about quietly in their daily lives ministering to the Lord and the needs of others, and may just as quietly come and sit in the public assemblies of the church, though they may not be seen in some public capacity. But they are there, they are seen, and without them, those who take an "active" part couldn't be very active without an audience. The widow's mites are needed as are the gifts of the rich, though the mites may only "seem" to be less honorable.

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During my stay in the hospital, and during recuperation from surgery, I received hundreds of cards and other expressions of well-wishing from concerned people. No two cards were alike -- some were large and elaborate with flowery decorations and verse, some were of medium size, and some were small with simple expressions of sincere words on my behalf. And the most appreciated cards were those where the sender took time to write a personal note.

One of the smallest cards I received was from a brother and sister of few worldly goods, who themselves had suffered in the flesh. There was a short, handwritten note in-side the card, written by an unsteady hand in slanted lines, and a misspelled word or two. All of the cards served their purpose, and I was moved and humbled by such an out-pouring of love and prayers on my behalf. I pray that the Lord will remember all for their good deeds, long after I, because of human frailty and forgetfulness, have forgotten the names and messages attached to each card.

But I cannot forget that one small card, containing the full expression of someone's heart. Like the widow's mites, that card has an honored place in the treasury of my heart. And if some of us can give no more, we can give our hearts and ourselves to others and to the cause of Christ (**cf. Rom. 12:1; 2 Cor. 8:5**).

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