

About This Election

Prior to 1971, a person had to be 21 years old in order to vote; so 1964 was the first presidential election in which I was permitted to participate. Admittedly, this election cycle is proving to be different (and more divisive) than any in my lifetime; but a study of history will show that by God's grace our nation has actually survived even worse campaigns and some despicable and corrupt presidents. The extreme distrust of and dislike toward the only two candidates who have a chance of winning the election have divided our nation, but we must make sure that this election does not divide our brethren. Public discussions (especially on social media) show that brethren are certainly not in agreement about participation or non-participation in this year's election. The aforementioned dislike and distrust of the candidates is even more noticeable among brethren and has elicited spirited debate about what should be our response. Opinions range from voting for the "lesser

By Al Diestelkamp

of two evils" to opting out of the election process altogether. It is not my place or intent to tell you which candidate to vote for or whether to vote at all. Instead, I would like to remind you that it is not the outcome of this election which will determine the demise or exaltation of our nation. What will exalt our nation is righteousness (**Prov. 14:34**). Many of us must face the fact that no matter which candidate is elected, unless God intervenes, we may have to give honor to one whom we consider to be "despicable," or "corrupt"—or both (**Rom. 13:1-7**). God is ultimately in control. As spoken by the prophet, "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding" (**Dan. 2:20-21**). He has the power to do with presidents what He did with kings.



Classes This Week			
Sunday Evening college devo at hall's house, Douglas Bethea teaching	Monday 7:00 PM men's class at Walker Davis' home	Tuesday 10:00 AM ladies' class at the Rouse's house on "Seasoning your Words"	Tuesday 8:00 PM Truth Seekers in room 2326 of the student center

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)	James Palmer (Rachel Hobbard's grandfather)

- November Birthdays**
- 1-Paulina Zacarius
 - 2-Debbi Coleman
 - 6-Troy Godwin
 - 6-Bridgette Borden
 - 7-Amy Godwin
 - 8-Ashley Miller
 - 9-Darla Hahn
 - 11-Andrew Hahn
 - 12-Randal Porterfield
 - 13-Toni Herd
 - 13-Emerson Daniels
 - 13-Dylan Bartlett
 - 13-Ronaldo Henriquez
 - 16-Nicole Pender
 - 16-Alexander Dunaway
 - 18-Alaina Bagents
 - 23-Mary Ann Roberts
 - 25-Olyvia Winslett
 - 25-Silas Weldon
 - 27-Scott Fowler
 - 28-Will Harris
 - 30-David Simpson

News and Notes

- ☒ - Please pray for Abbie Harrison's grandmother, Jean Buchanan, who is suffering with cirrhosis.
- ☒ - Please pray for our expectant mothers: Amanda Stephens, Brooke Perkins and Jenna Vaughn.
- ☒ - Those interested in signing up to teach or assist teachers next year in the 1-yr-old through 5th grade classes please see Jared Johnson.
- ☒ - Please keep those in your prayers who are in the adoption process: Kevin and Jessica Anderson.
- ☒ - Please pray for the Moreno's in the visa process...
- ☒ - Please continue to park in the grass when possible. Also be sure to move forward and provided seats for visitors in our services.
- ☒ - All audio is immediately posted to www.auchurch.com

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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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They Shall Walk and not Faint

By Fanning Yater Tant



Thoughts to Ponder

"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint." (**Isa. 40:31**)

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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Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

It was Isaiah who wrote, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint." (**Isa. 40:31**). There are only a few moments of high drama in life; most of it is commonplace and ordinary. And the real test of the Christian comes not in the moments of high drama, but in the everyday, often monotonous and dreary round of ever recurring chores and responsibilities. Probably most of those who read this paper would, under the right circumstances, be willing to suffer martyrdom rather than surrender the Christian's hope and heritage. We can, indeed "mount up with wings as eagles," under great excitement and tension; we can "run, and not be weary," for a short space of time...

But to walk, day after day after day; to live in some desolate and hopeless environment, bereft of Christian friends and associates; to perform the drudgery, the same unbroken sequence of tired days and weary nights, the same melancholy schedule of activities — how this can erode the soul and deaden the senses! It was this terrible monotony of life which had brutalized the real spirit of man in Millet's famous painting, and which

caused Edwin Markham to write of that peasant character: "Bowed upon the weight of centuries he leans Upon his hoe and gazes on the ground, The emptiness of ages in his face, And on his back the burden of the world."

The apostle Paul felt no such weariness of life. He could write to the Corinthians, "but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." (**2 Cor. 4:16-18**). The child of God lives in eternity — now. He is daily in the company of the great saints of all ages. His earthly tasks are unimportant, one way or the other, in themselves; they are given worth only as they are done in the service of God. All of us are familiar with the story of the two brick-masons who were asked by a passerby what they were doing. Said one, "I'm laying bricks," but the other said, "I'm building a cathedral to the glory of God."

"How can you live in Goshen? Said a friend from afar. This is a wretched little place Where people talk about tawdry things

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And plant cabbages in the moonlight... But I do not
live in Goshen, I answered.

I live in Greece Where Plato taught and Phidias
carved.

I live in Rome Where Cicero penned immortal lines
And Michelangelo dreamed things of beauty.

Do not think my world is small Because you find me
in a little village.

I have my books, my pictures, my dreams, En-
chantments that transcend Time and Space.
I do not live in Goshen at all, I live in an unbounded
universe

With the great souls of all the ages For my com-
panions."

Those lines from "Goshen" by Edgar Frank, give
the key to great living. Every one of us lives in two
worlds, one outer, one inner. We cannot control the
outward world. It has fires and floods, earthquakes,
and wars, and famine. But the inner world, the
world of the spirit, is within the reach of every man.
We may walk with Moses and Abraham. We may
walk the dusty, rocky hills of Judea, or go through
the flower strewn fields of Galilee with Jesus Christ
as our guide and companion. In all that we do, if we
are serving Christ, there is beauty and glory.

The quotation from Isaiah is climactic and not anti-
climactic in its description of those who "wait ea-
gles; and to walk and not faint is even more difficult
than to run and not be weary. For the mounting up,
and even the running, call for quick, short bursts of
energy; but the walking — walking — walking —
through long and lonely days, through hours of dis-
couragement and despair, often in pain and suffer-
ing, this is that which tries a man's soul. And only
those who "wait upon the Lord" can measure up to
what is required.

From the prison cell in Rome (or perhaps from his
own hired dwelling while under house arrest) Paul
wrote his "thank you note" to the saints at Philippi.
It is perhaps the most joyous book in the entire
New Testament. The key word in it is the word "joy"
or "rejoice." Out of one of the darkest and bleakest
hours of his life this beautiful short epistle bursts
forth like the song of a meadowlark whose small
heart is about to break with the sheer joy of living. It
is contagious. No one can truly read this epistle
without in some way catching Paul's spirit of cour-
age and optimism. He is a happy man!

Many of you who read these lines will remember C. R.
Nichol. We ran across a story about him some years
ago which may be apocryphal but which is quite in
character for him, and which is worth re-telling. One
day in his old age he was in a certain town holding a
meeting, and chanced to be walking the few blocks
from his hotel to the church building for the morning
service. He was dressed immaculately (as usual) with
the ever present rose bud pinned to his lapel. As he
walked with head thrown back and jaunty stride, he
was softly whistling a lilting happy tune. One of the
brethren stopped him on the street, and said, "Brother
Nichol, you look like you own the does!"

The Christian never forgets that. He is the child of a
King! his father owns the world! No wonder he can
walk, and not faint; no wonder he can write, "I rejoice
in the Lord greatly;" no wonder he can say, "We've had
a good life; and when the time comes, we are ready to
go." This is not the exulting cry of a martyr about to be
burned at the stake; this is not spoken in the high dra-
ma of Caesar's court as multitudes look on. This is the
word of a humble servant of Christ. He is not facing a
ravenous lion in the Roman arena amid the screaming
excitement of a vast throng. Rather, in the very ordi-
nary affairs of life, perhaps in sickness, or loneliness,
or isolation from loved ones, he is aware of his eternal
destiny. The world may look upon his life as the very
epitome of trivial and commonplace drudgery; but he
remembers the word of his Master, "whosoever would
be first among you shall be your servant." And he is
neither ashamed nor unwilling to have his lot cast in
the lowliest and most humble occupations of earth if
only therein he can serve his Master.

It was the blind Milton who wrote:

"When I consider how my light is spent,
Ere half my days, in this dark world and wide,
And that one talent which is death to hide
Lodged with me useless, though my soul more bent
To serve therewith my Maker, and present
My true account, lest he returning chide,
"Doth God exact day-labor, light denied?"
I fondly ask. But patience, to prevent
That murmur, soon replies, "God doth not need
Either man's works or his own gifts.
Who best Bear his mild yoke, they serve him best.
His state is kingly; thousands at his bidding speed,
And post o'er land and ocean without rest;
They also serve who only stand and wait."



What Can God Do?

By Edward O. Bragwell, Sr.

Brother John T. Lewis
used to say, "The Bible
was not designed to an-
swer every fool question
that some people can
think up?" How true!

It is especially true when it
comes to questions about
the ability of the all-
powerful God. There is no
end to the questions,
some downright foolish
and some just specula-
tive, that people raise.
Like:

Can God make two mountains without a val-
ley between them?

Can God make an object too heavy for him to
move?

Can God perform miracles in answer to our
prayers today?

Could God have ordained a scheme of re-
demption other than the one he did ordain?

Can God save man without faith?

The list can be expanded as far as the imagi-
nation can take us? When we have exhaust-
ed our imagination of what He may or not be
able to do we are still in an area of God at-
tributes "past finding out." If we could answer
each of the above questions in the affirma-
tive, the question would still be not be what
He CAN do but what He DOES do. It much
easier to determine the extent of His WILL
toward man than the extent of the exercise of
His POWER. "The secret things belong unto
the LORD our God: but those things which

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the above questions in the
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He CAN do but what He
DOES do.

are revealed belong unto
us and to our children for
ever, that we may do all
the words of this
law." **(Deuteronomy 29:29
KJV)** God has revealed his
will for mankind, but not
the answer to every thing
we might conceive to be
within His power. It is our
business to learn, believe,
teach and preach the RE-
VEALED will rather than
presume what is not re-
vealed an run with that.

Is God ABLE to save one without faith? But
is it God's WILL that man be saved without
faith? **(Heb. 11:6)**

Is God ABLE to save without baptism? But
is it His WILL to save men by baptism? **(1
Pet. 3:21).**

Is God ABLE to save an alien sinner without
repentance? But is it His WILL that repent-
ance be a condition of salvation **(Luke
13:3,5).**

Is God ABLE to forgive a brother before he
repents and prays for forgiveness of his sin?
But it is REVEALED that he forgives one in
answer to repentance and asking for it in
prayer **(Acts 8:22 1 John 1:9).**

It is not our business to hold out hope to
anyone based on what we think God might
be able to do with His awesome power. It is
our business to point them to what is re-
vealed concerning His will for man's sal-
vation.

