

## What Kind of Church?

A woman called recently, indicating she and her husband had just moved to town and were looking for a church to identify with. She asked if we had an attended nursery for her two-year old. When I told her we did not, she thanked me and hung up.

I have thought a lot about what that woman did not ask. She did not ask if we had spirited singing. She did not want to know whether we had simple, truthful preaching. She expressed no interest in whether we had faithful overseers to watch for her soul. She did not inquire about our Bible study program, nor did she seem anxious to see what opportunities for work in the Lord's cause might be available. Apparently these things were not nearly as important as someone to relieve her maternal responsibilities during the worship hour.

Another woman told me recently, "I don't like a church that tells me what to do. It's none of their business." I agree that churches have no right to make their own rules. However, we do have a God-given obligation to uphold the truth (**1 Tim. 3:15**) and expose sin and error (**Eph. 5:11**). I con-

by Frank Himmel

fess that I do not know how to preach repentance without exposing sin and warning people to turn from it.

What kind of church do you like? What features are important to you? A dynamic speaker, special activities for the kids, recreational programs, physical facilities, location, family ties, and a host of other things have been given as reasons for choosing a particular church. Whatever your taste, there is likely a church to suit. However, you should be asking another question: What kind of church does God like? He does not like them all. Some are so disgusting He spits them out (read **Revelation 2 and 3**, and notice that the rejected ones include some that are conservative in belief).

The only assurance of God's approval anyone can have is what He says in His revealed word. Will you submit your will to God's and become a member of the church of His choice?



Lisa Carter (Luke's mother)	Jesse Godwin (Troy's father)	Nell Holcomb (Ben's grandmother, Joanetta'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)	Ruth Addison (gmom of April and Julie)
Madeline Morton (Greg Lanier's g'daughter)	Alexander Locke (Jeremiah's cousin's son)	Betty Bradford	Jay Jennings (Brooke Perkins' dad)
Jean Buchanan (Abbie Harrison's grandmother)	Tina Atnip (Orie's cousin)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	William Smith (Ken Sulli- vanne's broth- er)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Arabelle Rich (Joanetta's aunt)	Jane Hunt (Chuck's mother)	Charles Hunt, (Chuck Hunt's dad)
Gay Ulrich (Emma's mom)	Charles Cecil (Orie's g'dad)	Taina Acuff (Anna's aunt)	John Duke (Jared John- son's cousin)

### May Birthdays

2-Taylor Bethea  
2-Emily-Anne Nguyen  
2-Effie Kirby  
3-Paula Davis  
4-Anthony Horton  
7-Isaiah Messer  
10-Ian Norman  
10-Ryan Hasty  
11-Caleb George  
11-Scott Perkins  
12-Frances Humphrey  
12-Patrick Davis  
13-Anna Grace Long  
13-Jana Hall  
13-Peyton Vines  
15-Bryce Daniels  
16-Chelsea O'Dell  
18-Ty Randolph  
18-Curran LaChappelle  
19-Steven Darby  
22-Sarah Bethea  
24-Andy Roberts  
25-Chuck Hahn  
26-Fallon Hartsell  
28-Barbara Weeks  
28-Candy Long  
28-Julian Reid  
31-Rachel Tolliver

### News and Notes

☒ - Toni Herd remains in therapy at UAB's Spain rehab part of the hospital.  
 ☒ - Ingrid Chavez's baby, Jacob, remains in the hospital at Baptist South in Montgomery for treatment of an infection.  
 ☒ - Please pray for Abbie Harrison as her knee surgery has failed and she is seeking answers to correcting her knee injury.  
 ☒ - Kay White's dad, Robert Driggers, was buried yesterday. Remember the family in your prayers.  
 ☒ - Our VBS will be June 5-8 and topic is "Footsteps of Jesus"  
 ☒ - Please pray for our expectant mothers: Paula Davis, Xiang Li and Brooke Perkins.  
 ☒ - Please continue to pray for Gustavo as we are seeking to have approval of a work visa so he can continue to preach here!  
 ☒ - There will be a meeting in Columbus, Ga on the home May 19-21 with Jeff May, Jeremy Dehut and Roy Brown will be speaking!

# 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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## Are You Beautiful?

By Rick Liggin



### Thoughts to Ponder

... For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (**1 Samuel 16:7**)

Modesty aside, do you think you're attractive? Do you think you're beautiful, if you're a woman, or handsome, if you're a man? Are you concerned about being beautiful, staying beautiful, and being around beautiful (handsome) people? No one wants to be ugly. All of us, to some degree, want to be beautiful or handsome...or, at least, attractive. But how do you determine who is or who is not beautiful? How do you define beauty and attractiveness? For many people, and especially for men, attractiveness and beauty are judged purely by what we see physically—by what a person looks like; by his or her outward appearance.

This was Samson's problem! You will remember that most of the stories about him in the book of Judges involve a woman: first, his Philistine wife (**Judges 14:1-20**); then a prostitute (**16:1-3**); and finally, Delilah (**16:4-21**). And how was it that Samson chose his women? It was by what she "looked"

We live in a society that emphasizes and is obsessed with outer physical beauty! And we get caught up in it, too! We need to help our children to look at—and for—the inner beauty of a person. And we need to set the example for them by doing the same ourselves.

like to him! That is certainly how he picked his wife. He saw this Philistine woman in Timnah, and he wanted her; so he said to his father, Manoah, "Get her for me, for she looks good to me" (**14:1-3; 14:7 – NASB**).

Are we as shallow as Samson was in how we "judge" beauty today? Does "beauty" depend on what a person "looks like" to us? Are we too physically oriented when it comes to how we define "beauty"? Let me ask you: what

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### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class .....9:30 AM  
Worship .....10:20 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

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is “attractive” to you? On what basis do you decide who is “beautiful”?

Well, let’s talk about this from God’s perspective for just a minute. How does God define beauty? What’s attractive to Him? One thing is for sure: God does not see as man sees! When He looks for beauty, He doesn’t look so much on the outward man. God looks at the person’s heart (cf. **1 Sam. 16:7**). Physical strength and physical beauty are not what God considers attractive. “He does not delight in the strength of the horse; He does not take pleasure in the legs of a man. The Lord favors those who fear Him, those who wait for His loving-kindness” (**Psalms 147:10-11**). “The Lord takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the afflicted one with salvation” (**149:4**). God can make hundreds of strong horses or human legs; He can make strong and beautiful human bodies. And so to see strong legs run—legs that He has made, and made to run—this does not “delight” the Lord.

What the Lord “favors” is those who fear Him and patiently wait in faith for His loving-kindness (cf. **147:11**). You see, a respectful, patient, and trusting heart is one thing that our God simply does not make. Such a heart is something that a man voluntarily chooses to give back to God... and this is what “delights” the Lord! And with God, you don’t have to fret about whether or not you’re physically beautiful or attractive enough, because what is not physically beautiful (the afflicted), God will “beautify...with salvation” (**149:4**). And the salvation that the Lord gives to a person who turns in faith to Him makes that person beautiful to God. So understand, God does not define “beauty” like we do! He looks, not at the outward, but at the in-

side...at the “hidden man of the heart” (cf. **1 Peter 3:4**).

Now please consider that since this is how God judges beauty—not looking at the outer man but at the heart—shouldn’t we judge beauty the same way? In the book of Proverbs, there is a section where a father and mother are strongly urging their son to avoid the adulteress woman (**Prov. 6:20-25**). The son is specifically told: “Do not desire her beauty in your heart, nor let her capture you with her eyelids” (**6:25**). There is a “beauty” that must not attract us. It is the outward, the physical, the flesh! Instead, we must look for the inner beauty. We must teach our children (especially our sons) not to be attracted primarily by outward beauty. We must look more inwardly at what the inner man looks like before we decide if she really is attractive. One who is physically attractive on the outside but ugly on the inside is just plain ugly! She is not beautiful!

I am afraid that we simply have not taught our children enough about what makes one beautiful. We live in a society that emphasizes and is obsessed with outer physical beauty! And we get caught up in it, too! We need to help our children to look at—and for—the inner beauty of a person. And we need to set the example for them by doing the same ourselves.

Do we delight in the physical...the outward? Or, like God, do we delight in the inner spiritual beauty of a person? Do you see and appreciate the beauty of saved men faithfully serving God, regardless of what the outside looks like? For ourselves and for our children, we need to develop and look for the inner beauty, the attractiveness that comes out of a person’s heart! So, once again, are you beautiful? Well, I guess that all depends on how you define beauty!



## Two Men Seek Faith

By Bill Hall

Two men seek faith. The first man’s approach is to try to find solutions to all the problems. He has delved deeply into the difficult questions relating to the Genesis account of creation. He has read volumes on the flood. He finds the story of Jonah particularly challenging. He relies heavily on archaeology and secular history for confirmation of his solutions. He believes because he is satisfied with his own answers to the problems of faith.

The second man’s approach centers upon Jesus Christ. He too has had to consider evidences and struggle with certain problems, but he is fully persuaded that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and has confessed that he believes that fact with all his heart. Believing in Jesus as the infallible Son of God, he does not question anything Jesus believed, anything Jesus said, or anything Jesus authorized to be said.

He, too, wondered about the Genesis account of creation, but his questions ceased when he read the words of Jesus: “Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?” (Matt. 19:4,5). If Jesus’ stamp of approval was on the creation story, that was good enough for him. He didn’t have the solution to all the problems, but he believed because Jesus believed it, and he believed in Jesus.

His faith in other Old Testament accounts was similarly established. He found Jesus’

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stamp of approval on the flood (Matthew 24:37-39) and the story of Jonah (Matt. 12:40), and, in fact, on all the Old Testament record in one sweeping statement recorded in Luke 24:44: “And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.”

Since the New Testament contains what Jesus said combined with what He authorized to be said, he had no trouble believing the New Testament. His faith in the whole Bible simply rests upon his faith in Christ as the infallible Son of God. He too finds the study of the problems of faith intriguing and challenging, but his own personal faith is not dependent on finding solutions to all the problems.

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The second man’s faith may not appeal to the highly sophisticated, but it is founded on the rock - on the One who is “the same yesterday, and today, and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8)

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Rom 10:17)

