

# Can God Count On You?

by Ron Daly

Do you love God? How much? Are you willing to be fully committed to him in every way? Is there anything that you would not do for God (**Mark 12:29-30**)? We live in a world that is constantly at war, at war with sin (**2 Cor. 10:3-6**). Whose side are you on?

Can God count on you to increase your knowledge of his word so you can defend it against false teachers and their disciples? "You must continue growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (**2 Pet. 3:18**). God wants us to go beyond a state of spiritual infancy and advance to maturity (**Heb. 5:11-14**). We do this when we pray, study, and apply the Scriptures (**Acts 17:11**). Will you resolve to study the Scriptures on a daily basis?

Can God count on you to defend the truth against every foe? Too many people will defend the gospel if someone they do not like is perverting it. But, if one of their friends perverts God's word, they tend to be very tolerant, or they will make excuses for them. When truth is at stake, we should have no friends except God. Do you find yourself

wetting a finger and sticking it in the air to see which way the wind is blowing before you take a stand on a controversial issue? The Bible says stand! (**Eph. 6:13-14; Jude 3**).

Can God count on you to take an active role in the work and worship of the local congregation? God has not placed the responsibility for building up the local congregation on the shoulders of only one person. The evangelist's role is to preach the word (**2 Tim. 4:1-5**); the elders oversee (**Acts 20:17, 28-32**); the deacons serve (**Acts 6:1-6**), and everybody is to work! As the old timers used to say, "Don't no one monkey run no show." In short, everybody's got to work if we are going to grow.

Can God count on you to be uncompromising in the fight against sin, shame, and immorality? When people in the work place laugh at homosexuality, unscriptural multiple marriages, the use of alcohol and drugs among the nations' youths, teen pregnancy out of wedlock, do you go with the flow, or do you plead God's case (**1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:9-21**)? If God can count on you, prove it!



# 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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## He That Is Without Sin Among You

by Bob Waldron

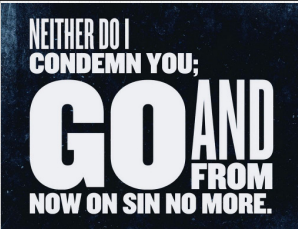
One time the Pharisees brought a woman who had been taken in adultery to Jesus and asked Him what to do about her. Should she be stoned as the law said? They were not really interested in the law, nor right and wrong, nor the woman. They were trying Jesus "that they may have whereof to accuse him" (**Jn. 8:6**). After a pause and further questioning Jesus said, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her" (**Jn. 8:7**). The statement Jesus uttered on this occasion has often been violently and blatantly misapplied. His reply was strictly in keeping with the law which said, "At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is to die be put to death; at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death. The hand of the witnesses shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people. So thou shalt put away the evil from the midst of thee" (**Deut. 17:2-7**).

him first cast a stone at her," He convicted the Pharisees of their sin of hypocrisy, because not even they had the audacity and gall to step forward and say, "Well, I'm perfect. I'll cast the first stone." They particularly knew that in this matter they were not innocent. One by one, beginning from the eldest, the people began to walk away. When Jesus said, "Woman, where are they? Did no man condemn thee?" He satisfied the requirement of the law because, with no witnesses, the woman could not be stoned. Then Jesus dealt with the woman and her sin by saying, "Neither do I condemn thee: go thy way; from henceforth sin no more."

Men and women who are stubborn of heart and who desire to walk in their wicked ways very often use this statement of Jesus to reply to any who would attempt to rebuke them or to condemn their ways. Thus the drunkard, the adulterer, the liar, the homosexual, the child abuser, and a host of others will defend themselves by saying, "He that is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone." Jesus' words in **Mt. 7:1** are similarly used. "Judge not, that ye be not judged." Let us bring the question into clear focus. Since all of us are imperfect and do sin, does any one of us have the right in God's sight to condemn the actions of another or to rebuke another for wrongdoing?

It was the same Jesus that said, "And if thy brother sin against thee, go, show

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### Thoughts to Ponder

So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first."  
**(John 8:7)**

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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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Larry Rouse  
Evangelist and Editor

### News and Notes

- ☒ - Sandra Chason's mom is out of hospital and receiving Home Health care in Sandra's home.
- ☒ - Joy Powell was admitted to hospital on Friday at EAMC. She is having tests run on her heart.
- ☒ - Sandra Chason's mom, Mary Edwards, remains in the Hospital and may come home on Monday.
- ☒ - Please pray for our expectant mothers: Paula Davis, Xiang Li, Mallory Randolph and Suzanne Stagner .
- ☒ - We welcome our new members, David Eison, Connell Hodges, John Berkebile !
- ☒ - Please have your picture made or update your picture after the Sunday morning service in the foyer! Today is the LAST DAY to have picture made.
- ☒ - All audio is immediately uploaded to www.auchurch.com. Also CD's of meeting will be available in the foyer.

Truth Seekers begins on Thurs, September 7 at 8 PM Meetings will be in Room 2107 of the Student Center

Ladies Classes will begin on Sept. 11 on Monday Night and on Sept. 19 Tuesday Morning on "Teach Me to Love"

Men's Classes will begin on September 19 on Monday Night at Walker Davis house.

Lisa Carter (Luke's mother)	Jesse Godwin (Troy's father)	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)	Ruth Addison (gmom of April and Julie)
Madeline Morton (Greg Lanier's g'daughter)	Anna Price	Betty Bradford	Reba Patterson (Heath Fowler's mom)
Jean Buchanan (Abbie Harrison's grandmother)	Tina Atnip (Orie's cousin)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Abbie Harrison
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Arabelle Rich (Joannetta's aunt)	Jane Hunt (Chuck's mother)	Charles Hunt, (Chuck Hunt's dad)
Gay Ulrich (Emma's mom)	Toni Herd	Taina Acuff (Anna's aunt)	Shawn Lauderdale (Larry and Joannetta's son)

### August Birthdays

- 1-Trinity Jerkins
- 2-Emma Miller
- 6-Allyson Houlton
- 6-Sandra Chason
- 8-Alli Luther
- 9-Elliot Weldon
- 9-Troy Swenson
- 10-David Hartsell
- 11-Walker Davis
- 12-Jon Coleman
- 13-Ariel Ramsey
- 15-Kalee Reid
- 15-Everleigh Crawford
- 16-Sharon Edwards
- 18-Heidi Abell
- 18-Chris Britnell
- 21-Matt Cavender
- 22-Case O'Dell
- 23-Jordan Holliday
- 23-Colton Miller
- 24-Sophie Hall
- 26-Payton Davis
- 27-Chip Freeman
- 28-Larry Rouse
- 28-Cole Johnson
- 28-Alex Dobbins

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him his fault between thee and him alone: if he hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he hear thee not, take with thee one or two more, that at the mouth of two witnesses or three every word may be established. And if he refuse to hear them, tell it unto the church: and if he refuse to hear the church also, let him be unto thee as the Gentile and the publican" (Mt. 18:15-17). It was Jesus who so severely condemned the Pharisees (Mt. 23). It was Jesus' forerunner, John the Baptist, who condemned the adultery of Herod Antipas and Herodias (Mt. 14:1-4). When Jesus uttered the above condemnations He had the same awareness of man's weak nature that He did when He said, "Let him that is without sin cast the first stone." Therefore, when Jesus said this He did not mean that it is wrong ever to rebuke anyone for sin.

The writings of the apostles make the issues in this dispute very clear. Someone will usually say, "I like Jesus, but I think His apostles missed it." It would be humorous, if it were not so deplorable, that these people do not realize that the only impression we have of Jesus is that which His apostles have left us. Matthew and John were apostles. Mark was a personal disciple of Jesus, though not an apostle. Luke was, seemingly, a later convert. Only through these men's testimony do we have any record of Jesus' deeds and words. The apostles who testified about Jesus, such as John, were unaware of any discrepancy between Jesus' teaching and theirs. When people talk about liking what Jesus said but not His apostles, they are speaking from ignorance and prejudice rather than facts. Please consider the facts.

Jesus told His apostles to go out and teach or preach. He said, "Teach all nations." He then said, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" (Mt. 28:20). He said, "Preach the gospel to every creature" (Mk. 16:15). Earlier Jesus told His apostles, "But the Comforter, even the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said unto you" (Jn. 14:26). The apostles went out and did as Jesus commanded. What they taught was what Jesus said to teach. If the Spirit did not guide the writers of Acts through Revelation, then He did not guide Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. One may reject Jesus and His apostles, but one cannot accept Christ and reject His apostles. The apostles were inspired by the Spirit and they spake the truth.

No apostle stressed the need for love, forbearance and forgiveness more than Paul, but it was also Paul

who said to the Corinthian brethren, "Put away the wicked man from among yourselves" (1 Cor. 5:13). Consider the implication of Paul's statement, "Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?" (1 Cor. 5:6). In the context, the lump would be the church at Corinth. The church at Corinth was, however, composed of imperfect people. Yet there was one among the rest who was a danger. His example would be a leaven of bad influence. Therefore he had to be purged out. There is a difference between sinning occasionally through human weakness, repenting, calling upon God for forgiveness and, on the other hand, wallowing in sin. Also it seems that there are some sins which are more flagrant than others. In addition the nature of some sins is such that they have a more pernicious influence on others. Through all facts and all arguments one thing stands out clearly. Paul told a church of imperfect people to put away a wicked man from among themselves.

The brethren at Thessalonica were told to withdraw themselves from every brother that walked disorderly (2 Th. 3:6). To walk disorderly means to walk out of step with others who are marching. The passage clearly implies that there are those who, though not perfect, nevertheless do walk in order. Then there are those who walk "disorderly". Those imperfect people who are walking orderly are commanded to withdraw from anyone who walks disorderly. Paul told the saints at Ephesus to "have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather even reprove them" (Eph. 5:11). He told Timothy, "Preach the word; be urgent in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine. . . ." (2 Tim. 4:2, 3). One wonders if Paul imagined that those who would not endure sound doctrine would wrest statements of Jesus to attempt to silence the rebukes and reproof that His word says must be given.

Condemned is hypocritical judging. It is not required that one have a perfect record before he has the right to reprove and rebuke. The commands we have studied were given to flesh and blood people who were imperfect. Yet they were clearly told to condemn, to reprove and rebuke. If one condemns another when he himself is not even trying to do right or when he is doing something much worse than the one whom he is condemning, he is guilty of the judging the Lord condemned. When we must rebuke or reprove, let us look to ourselves, lest we also be tempted (Gal. 6:1). Let us beware of Satan's influence when we ourselves are rebuked, lest we give him an opportunity to close our eyes to the truth by causing us to resent the reproof.

Truth Magazine - June 29, 1978



## My Creed

By Morris Norman

The word creed is from the Latin root credo, meaning "I believe." It is an authoritative formula or religious belief. Personally it is what-ever one has accepted as his standard for life and activities. Every religious order has a creed. Some are "based" on the Bible, some are not. All but one are formulated by man. My creed is the Bible, nothing more, nothing less. I have no book other than the covenant of Jesus Christ up-on which to establish my faith and practice. I do not look to some official organization or conference to tell me what to believe. My creed is the New Testament. Let me tell you something about it.

**My creed is God given.** "I make known unto you, brethren, as touching the gospel that was preached by me, that it was not after man, nor was I taught it, but it came by revelation of Jesus Christ" (Gal. 1:11,12; see also John 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:7-10; 2 Peter 1:20,21; 1 Thess. 2:13). No other creed can make this claim. Oh, some creed writers may claim they were inspired when they formulated these latter day creeds, but such are false claims. A close study shows all of them to differ from each other and from the Bible. When the perfect and complete will of Christ was revealed, inspiration was to be no longer (1 Cor. 13:8-13). The Bible is the only book available to man that reveals the mind of God.

**My creed needs no revision.** The creeds of men are revised from time to time; even those who claim to be inspired have had to be corrected. One creed, produced by men, taught prior to 1900 that babies were born totally depraved; it has been revised to teach that babies are born innocent. Many creeds that once taught that the Bible is the infallible word of God no longer so teach. Some, once opposed to social sins, now condone them. The Bible remains the same, unaltered, the same as the day it was revealed. It still meets all the needs of mankind. It shows man in his lost condition and how he can be saved in Christ. It is the only book that is completely relevant to man.

**My creed is infallibly correct.** Although not a book of science, it is scientifically and geographically correct in its utterances. Archaeology has proven it correct historically. All its prophecies, though made centuries ahead, have been faithfully fulfilled. It could not have been written by fallible man.

Being infallibly correct, there are no inconsistencies in it. Although written by about 40 men over a period of 1500 years it is a complete whole. The Bible is a divine record of God's dealing with man because of sin. It relates man's fall, God's bringing the Redeemer into the world by the Jewish race and then tells man how he may be saved through Him. It does not contradict itself as do the creeds of men.

**My creed is sufficient.** "All scripture inspired of God is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16,17). "Seeing that His divine power hath granted unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us by his own glory and virtue" (2 Peter 1:5). Man needs nothing more than the Bible to supply everything needed for His salvation. Writers of human creeds admit that we can be saved without having ever seen their creeds. You do not need the creeds of men, they are fallible and insufficient; in fact, they are confusing and lead men away from the truth revealed in the Bible.

**My creed will judge all men.** "He that rejecteth me and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him; the word that I spake, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12: 48). This cannot be said of any other creed. No man will be judged by the Methodist creed, Baptist manual, the Catholic church dogmas, Book of Mormon, Watch Tower publications, Key to Science and the Scriptures, or any other formulation of man. All these are the judgments of men whereas the Bible is the revelation of God's mind and will be the only standard of judgment for men before God.

Someone has rightly said that if a creed contains more than the Bible we do not need it because it contains more than the Bible; if a creed contains less than the Bible we do not need it because it contains less than the Bible; if a creed contains just what the Bible says we do not need it because we have the Bible.

Sometimes man reads the Bible with the shades of human creeds on his eyes. With such man is hampered from believing Christ. When the Bible plainly says, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16: 16), and human creeds say that man is saved apart from obeying Christ's command, the human creed becomes a stumbling block to understanding and obeying Christ.

When a man can't be just a Christian (Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16) because he has a human name forced on him by a creed he has espoused, the creed hampers the man from being just what Christ wants him to be. When a creed formulates denominational organizations not spoken of in the Bible, the creed draws man away from the word of God. Man-made creeds keep men from having God's word as their exclusive guide. Man needs nothing more than the word of God, yea, he must have nothing more if he is complete in Christ. "If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book" (Revelation 22:18,19).

