

# No Time or Place to Quit

by R. J. Evans

“While I live I will praise the Lord; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being” (Psa. 146:2).

The above words of the Psalmist reveal his plans to faithfully serve the Lord as long as he lived. No doubt, he realized that faithfully serving the Lord brings many blessings and joys now, as well as the eternal reward in heaven later. To be a child of God who faithfully serves the Lord is more important than anything else one can do in this life. Yet, there are some Christians who are not always faithful to the Lord. In my own mind, I can think of a large number who I’ve known through the years who have fallen away and no longer serve God.

It is easy serving God when all is going well. But everyone needs to realize that self-denial and cross-bearing are involved (Matt. 16:12, 15). The Apostle Paul tells us that “all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution” (2 Tim. 3:12).

A child of God must be so careful not to allow the attractions of this world to get in his way (1 Jn. 2:15-17). Therefore, all Christians must be sincere and serious about serving God, as well as dependent upon Him for strength. The wise man stated, “If you faint in the day of adversity, Your strength is small” (Prov. 24:10).

Jesus had so many factors working against Him during His time on this earth, but He never fainted. Men despised and rejected Him (Isa. 53:3), and ultimately crucified Him. While on earth He quoted the words which had been prophesied concerning Him in Psalm 69:4 — “They hated Me without a cause” (Jn. 15:25). But through it all, in His prayer to His Father, He could say, “I have finished the work which you have given Me to do” (Jn. 17:4). Nothing ever caused Him to give up and quit!

Jesus was faithful all the way because He had a Cause to live and die for— “Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God” (Heb. 10:9). It is for the same Cause that faithful Christians are assured— “that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight” (Heb. 13:20-21). Moreover, it was doing His Father’s will that concerned Jesus the most. He stated, “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me” (Jn. 6:38). We should have the same desire—to always obey and do the will of God.



Quita Wilson (Amy Godwin's mom)	Jesse and Martha Godwin (Troy's parents)	Barbara Hasty (Ryan's mom)	Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother)
Howard Vaughan (Mary Ann's grandfather)	Mary Edwards (Sandra Chason's mom)	Kimzey Simpson	Ruth Addison (gmom of April and Julie)
Danylu Burnett (Joanetta's mom)	Maria Williams	Cletus McGee (Kristen Diehl's dad)	Donna Jackson (Kristen's aunt)
Betty Bradford	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Earl Mitchell (Debbi Coleman's dad)	Abbie Harrison
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	EB & Ara Belle Rich (Joanetta's uncle and aunt)	Bobby Jennings (Brooke's uncle)	Doug Bailey (Keith's brother)
Caroline Campbell (Matt's sister)	William and Toni Herd	Taina Acuff (Anna's aunt)	Mavis Hale (Chris Long's grandmother)

### September Birthdays

- 1-Ingrid Chavez
- 2-Denise Davis
- 3-Trenton Anderson
- 3-Larry Lauderdale
- 4-Kevin Anderson
- 6-Anna Gautney
- 10-BJ Winslett
- 10-Eleanor Weldon
- 10-Matthew Sullivan
- 10-Joel Sullivan
- 11-Sheryl Fowler
- 12-Jared Johnson
- 13-Adam Saylor
- 14-Patsy Ogle
- 16-Sean Ellis
- 17-Laura Weldon
- 17-Clay Hodges
- 17-Delaney Lyons
- 18-Daniel Carter
- 21-Sarah Chandler
- 21-John Berkebile
- 22-Lucy Hartsell
- 22-Violet Hartsell
- 24-Wade Winslett
- 24-Matt Campbell
- 25-Ashley Collier
- 28-Gracen Sims
- 30-Grant Davis

### News and Notes

- ☒ - Thursday at 8PM Truth Seekers will meet - student center, room #2216
- ☒ - Toni Herd was able to go home from the hospital on Wed!
- ☒ - Vicki Stevens begins chemo treatments this week.
- ☒ - Abbie Harrison will have back injections on Tuesday.
- ☒ - There will be a morning ladies' class starting Tuesday, Sept 17. If you're planning to attend, pick up a book from Becky Daniels.
- ☒ - Please pray for our expectant mothers: Chandler Sullivan and Hannah Morris!
- ☒ - Please consider parking on the grass to allow our visitors a place to park!
- ☒ - All audio is immediately posted to [www.auchurch.com](http://www.auchurch.com)

# The Auburn Beacon



Volume 10, Issue 47

September 1, 2019

## Troubled Over Immorality

By Connie W. Adams



When 3 is not a crowd!

### Thoughts to Ponder

Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge. (Hebrews 13:4)

Nothing can create more havoc in a home or a congregation than immoral behavior on the part of Christians or their children. Webster defines immoral as "Inconsistent with purity or good morals." Immorality is defined by Webster as "the quality or state of being immoral: wickedness, esp. unchastity." It is immoral to steal, lie, cheat and a host of other things opposed to righteousness. But the term is often used of illicit sexual intercourse, including incest (1 Cor. 5:1), adultery (Matt. 5:32; 19:9), homosexuality (Jude 7), and cohabitation of the unmarried (1 Cor. 7:2).

Immorality was a common problem in the first century, especially among Gentiles. "For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revelings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries" (1 Pet. 4:3). This had been a pattern of life among some of the Corinthians before their conversion. "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Cor. 6:9-11).

Our bodies belong to God who made us, "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Cor. 6:19,20). Paul said that sin is not to rule over us. "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lust thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God" (Rom. 6:12,13).

Troubled Over Immoral Mates: -- Jesus said that fornication is the only reason one can put away a spouse and marry another (Matt. 19:9). It is the ultimate betrayal of trust and vows made before God and man. The husband's body belongs to his wife and to nobody else. The wife's body belongs to her husband and only to him (1 Cor. 7:3,4). How many hearts have been broken and how many tears have been shed over this sin? This immoral act causes great trouble for the innocent party in the marriage. Even if the guilty is penitent, it is a fact that trust has been betrayed and the question arises as to whether you can ever fully trust again. The problem is compounded when there are children involved and agony arises over what is best for them.

But there is also trouble for the guilty  
*(Continued on page 2)*

**Elders**  
 Stacy Norman  
 (334) 663-2382  
 Walker Davis  
 (334) 703-0050  
 Larry Rouse  
 (334) 734-2133

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday**  
 Bible Class ..... 9:30 AM  
 Worship ..... 10:20 AM  
 Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

**E-Mail:**  
[larryrouse@aubeacon.com](mailto:larryrouse@aubeacon.com)

**Larry Rouse**  
 Evangelist and Editor

Find us on the Internet: [www.auchurch.com](http://www.auchurch.com) and [www.aubeacon.com](http://www.aubeacon.com)

(Continued from page 1)

one. Should the innocent exercise his/her right to put that one away, then the guilty has now forfeited the right to marriage. Some think that is too heavy a price to pay. But the Lord said, "Whosoever marrieth her that is put away commiteth adultery" (**Matt. 5:32; 19:9**). The worst problem of all is that God is offended. A soul is at stake. God made His marriage laws strict on purpose. Marriage is ordained of God for the good of the human family. It is the basic unit of all orderly society. While present culture tends to treat adultery as a normal (even expected) thing, God does not view it so. And neither should we.

But must the innocent exercise the right to put away the guilty when repentance is evident? Some think that unless the innocent remains in this marriage, now betrayed by fornication, that forgiveness has not been granted. Of course, unless we forgive those who sin against us, we cannot expect God to forgive us either (**Matt. 6:14,15**). But actions have consequences. It is God's law that the innocent may put away the guilty. Some are able to reestablish the relationship and make the best of it. Others have difficulty. Those on the outside do not know how many times the innocent has been wronged. Was it a one-time fling? Or a part of a pattern of infidelity? It does not take long to betray your vows, but it might take a long time to restore trust and rebuild credibility. What trouble would be avoided if people would just do right.

**Troubled Over Pornography:** -- This is an age old problem. It is rampant in our culture in recent years. The viewing of pictures and images of people engaged in every form of sexual activity has spawned a huge industry in this country and around the world. "Adult" bookstores and video houses are springing up, not only in seedy neighborhoods, but up and down the interstate highways. The computer age has brought it into homes all across the world. Businessmen and women, housewives, husbands who stay up late and surf the web, children in their own bedrooms, or at the family computer when they are unsupervised, and sometimes preachers have been caught up in this immoral trade. Homes have been broken up because of it.

The works of the flesh include "fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness" (**Gal. 5:19,20**). Peter described those who have "eyes full of adultery" (**2 Pet. 2:14**). Can there be a more accurate description of this sin? Jude describes them as "filthy dreamers" (**Jude 8**). Jude also said, "But beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; how that they told you there

should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own lusts. These be that who separate themselves sensual, having not the Spirit" (**Jude 17-19**). Paul warned Titus of those to whom nothing is pure "but even their mind and conscience is defiled" (**Titus. 1:15,16**).

If we could keep our minds thinking on the kind of things Paul mentioned in **Phil. 4:8**, there would be no room or taste for pornography. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true...honest...just...pure...lovely...of good report...of virtue..." and worthy of "praise"; then he added, "Think on these things."

In addition to violating what is taught in the foregoing passages, the trouble with pornography is that it arouses passion, distorts reality, creates false and unreasonable expectations in marriage, causes women to be seen as objects rather than persons of worth, and reduces people to the level of the brute. When you purchase such material, you help subsidize an evil which is contributing to the downfall of souls and our nation as well.

When a husband (or wife) is found to have such an attraction for pornography, it is time to sit down and have some soul searching talks. It is not a time to scream and yell and sharpen sarcastic tongues. Talk frankly about your sexual life. It may be that one has unrealistic expectations. Or that one has not been satisfying the other. The pressures of daily work and life may contribute to it. One may tend to be cold, prudish, or unresponsive. And sometimes there are much deeper problems. Some are just given to sensuality. They have allowed their minds and hearts to be corrupted.

When children are found to be caught up in this sin, it is time to have some no-nonsense education about sexuality, keeping it within the bounds of dignity and casting it in a context of what the Bible teaches on the subject. Children caught in this snare may have a hard time ever being realistic about their own expectations in marriage. Parents need to supervise what movies are seen, what television shows are watched and the use of computers must be monitored. Again, yelling will not solve the problem.

Like Job, we need to "make a covenant with mine (our) eyes" (**Job 31:1**). "The lust of the eye" (**1 Jno. 2:15-17**) is a powerful force leading us in the wrong direction. The images we see have a direct influence on what we think, and "as he thinketh in his heart, so is he." Pornography corrupts the heart and so corrupts the person, preventing him from being fashioned in the image of Christ.

Truth Magazine - Dec. 1, 2005.



## The Beauty of God in You

By Jeffery Kingry

It is possible to tell something about man in the things that he makes. Take the back off of your T.V. set or look at the circuitry in your stereo amplifier, and it will tell you something about the intellect of man. Gaze at a Rembrandt painting, or a sculpture from the hands of Michelangelo and it is possible to infer something of the eye and talent of man. If we can tell that there is intelligence and personality in man by looking at the things he creates, is it not also possible to infer something of God from looking at His creation? Indeed, that which can be known of God is plainly seen in his creation. We can tell something of the power and character of God in the things he has created (**Rom. 1:19,20**). Whether it be a butterfly upon a flower, or the vastness of space, we can look to all and say, "God is greater than these."

This is what is so repugnant in the idea of reducing God to our level. The God who created the universe and all that it contains must be greater than His creation. He does not live in man-made shrines, neither can he be waited on by human hands, as if the Power who made all things needed anything that man has to offer Him. Indeed, it is God who gives us life and breath, and our existence in this life. It is not right for us to imagine that the Divine Image can be represented in gold or silver or stone—a work sculptured artistically by the inventive ingenuity of man's thought (**Acts 17:24-29**).

This entire creation—from the intricate mathematical precision of the atom, to the raging power locked in the heart of the sun in its swift orbit—all proceed forth from the power and wisdom of God. How presumptive—how arrogant—how totally deceived we are when we presume to tell God by our lives and actions that we know more about living and the true reality than He does.

### Do I Do That?

You might imagine that you are free from such presumption. But, when man is presumptive enough to set aside the will of God to follow what is aesthetically pleasing to himself—he has set his tastes above the will of God. Jesus said, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed. And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" (**Jn. 8:31,32**). The truth is what makes men free, not man-made systems of thought. As a child, my father would sometimes bring me a model airplane to build. My first effort at putting the pieces together resulted in a lopsided plane, with many bits and pieces left over. My father viewed the disarray, reached into the box, and pulled out a folded piece of paper I had overlooked. "When all else fails, son, read the directions." God did not give us this life

and creation to "put it all together" by ourselves. All the unhappiness we see in this world is a result of men trying to put it together without the directions.

The things we see as quality-worthy-of lasting value, ultimately decay and pass away. The new car rusts, the flowers fade and fall, the fame passes away in the history books, beauty turns to wrinkles and grey hair, and eventually the dust receives them all. This is the crux of the whole of existence. What is enduring? What is of lasting beauty and quality? What is life for? Only the One who made all this to start with has the answers. We find the answers only when we submit to what He has said.

### The Answer of God

When you submit yourself to God in true humility, then God will make you enduringly beautiful, and transport you into a way of life whose fruit is everlasting life. Not everlasting existence alone, but everlasting life! An eternity of pure beauty—unrivaled by any created glory which we can experience in this life. "For the Lord taketh pleasure in His people: He will beautify the meek with salvation" (**Psa. 194:4**). The beauty of this world will all eventually pass away, but the beauty of an eternal spirit, cleansed of all that is unclean, can never pass away. That spirit is you. Not your body, what you own, your job, or anything else tangible—but you.

Sin is what keeps us from eternal life. The only thing that can take away sin is the blood of Jesus Christ, His sacrifice upon the cross (**Eph. 1:7**). That blood bought the church of Christ (**Acts 20:28**), and the church is the body of Christ (**Eph. 1:22, 23**). There is only one way to partake of the sacrifice of Jesus: Baptism for the remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**). In baptism we are added to the church (**Acts 2:41, 47**). We are baptized into one body (**1 Cor. 12:13**). We are baptized into Christ (**Gal. 3:27**). This baptism is a burial in water (not sprinkling or pouring) and a planting (**Rom. 6:3, 4**).

Man's soul is the only thing of eternal value worth saving in this world. Do not throw away the beauty that could be in your life upon the beauty that fades away like a flower. What is a life? It is here but for a little while, like the brief existence of a frosty breath on a cold day. Why don't you invest in the future what no man can take away from you? Why not become a Christian today? - **Truth Magazine - July 10, 1975**

