

The Church And Christians

When it is said one is a Christian, the thought is conveyed that the one referred to is a follower of Christ—that he believes Christ is the savior and subscribes to his teaching without any reservations, and embodies in his life the principles of Christ's teaching in all relationships.

by C. R. Nichol

I do not recall that human slavery is specifically condemned in the New Testament, yet I am persuaded that the principles of the teaching of Christ led to the freeing of the slaves in our country.

The New Testament does not give the "blue prints" by which we are to build our residences; yet in building them the Christian follows the principles of Christ in building, as does the workman in the construction of the house.

The store-keeper, if he is a Christian, follows the principles of Christ, in dealing with his customers—honest dealing, and truthful representations.

Though the New Testament does not specify in what particular field of human endeavor a man engages, it does demand that he work and provide for those who are dependent on him; and have to give to the work of the Master.

Christians not only sustain a relationship to the Lord; but being a citizen in the country in which they live sustain a

relationship to that country—citizens with whom they associate.

The church is in no sense a worldly institution. It is not the business of the church to enter the marts of the world in an effort to make money—it is not the business of the church to become a competitor in the business world. Rather the church gives of its money to help suffering humanity, and to preach the gospel.

The church is the pillar and ground of the truth. **(1 Tim. 3:15.)** I think it would be well if many who are members of the church would give serious study to the foregoing passage; and in connection therewith it will be well to remember: "Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." **(1 Cor. 10:31.)**

The first work of the church is to preach the gospel. He who thinks the physical demands of humanity comes first—in importance—has not learned the first lesson of the Scriptures. By way of comparison the physical life, and blessings for the physical man sink into insignificance compared with the spiritual. If needs be one must sacrifice his physical life, rather than deny the Lord. It is more important to maintain your faithfulness to the Lord than to preserve your physical life.



Bible Banner - March, 1948

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	Reba Patterson (Heath Fowler's mom)
Jean Buchanan (Abbie Harrison's grandmother)	Tina Atnip (Orie's cousin)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	William Smith (Ken Sullivan's brother)
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)	Toni Herd	Taina Acuff (Anna's aunt)	John Duke (Jared Johnson's cousin)

July Birthdays

- 1-Collins Hanners
- 2-Josh Gooch
- 8-David DeFoor
- 8-Angela Fernandez
- 11-Chase Winslett
- 11-Madi White
- 11-Clay Morris
- 14-Laurel Jerkins
- 14-Megan Hester
- 15-Bradley Seymore
- 16-Katie Martin
- 17-Whitney Sutton
- 19-Jay Borden
- 21-Tori Luther
- 22-Kate Fortenberry
- 24-Haley Gay
- 24-Carla Zacarias
- 25-Betty Bradford
- 25-Yvette Rouse
- 26-Brandon Hester
- 27-Tiffany Green
- 29-Hayden Phillips

News and Notes

- ☒ - Shawn Lauderdale is out of ICU in the hospital in TX and improving.
- ☒ - Anna Price was able to go home this week and will continue rehab from home!
- ☒ - Jeremiah Johnson's cousin's baby son, Alexander Locke.
- ☒ - Abbie Harrison had successful knee surgery and will continue in ATL for a few weeks in recovery.
- ☒ - Please pray for our expectant mothers: Paula Davis and Xiang Li.
- ☒ - Anna Acuff's aunt, Taina Acuff, received a good report from her scan this week that the radiation is working!
- ☒ - Gospel meeting at Prattmont with David Maxson - July 23-28.
- ☒ - Congratulations to Julian and Terrial Reid and also Adam and Jordan Holliday on their recent marriage!
- ☒ - We rejoice as Terez Strickland has obeyed the gospel this week!
- ☒ - We are thankful for MaKenzie Anderson's decision to obey the gospel!

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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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Moral Holiness

By John R. Gibson



Thoughts to Ponder

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

(2 Corinthians 7:1)

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

E-Mail:

larryrouse@aubeacon.com

Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

“Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy’” **(1 Pt 1:13-16)**. With a full awareness of the hope set before us, Peter calls upon us to reject the ways of sin and live in an obedient and holy manner. As we consider what it means to be holy, we must realize that when we were baptized into Christ we were sanctified and at that point became saints, i.e. holy ones **(1 Cor 1:2; 6:11)**. Yet, in daily living God expects us to become progressively holier. “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” **(2 Cor 7:1)**.

Most importantly, we must develop self-control. We must have such a great awareness of the cost of sin and conversely the wondrous beauty of an eternity with God that we will refuse to give in no matter how great the temptation. “That each of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor” **(1 Thess 4:4)**

While moral behavior encompasses many different things, an area that received special emphasis in the first century and continues to demand the same emphasis in the twenty-first century is sexual morality. “For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one should take advantage of and defraud his broth-

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er in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness" (**1 Thess 4:3-7**). Sexual relations outside a lawful marriage are condemned by God and must be avoided (**Heb 13:4; 1 Cor 6:9, 10; Mt 19:9**).

How can we live holy and clean lives in regard to sexual behavior? How can we keep ourselves pure? Consider four things we must do.

Avoid situations where lust is likely to occur. While we seek to avoid lust because we realize that by itself it can be sinful (**Mt 5:28**), we must also recognize lust as a step on the path to immorality. "But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, brings forth death" (**James 1:14-15**). Stay away from situations where lustful passions are most easily stirred up. Beaches and pools where mixed swimming (or sunning) occurs, dances, movies depicting nudity or sexual behavior, "backseats," etc. are going to lead to lust (i.e. unlawful sexual desire) and lust often leads to fornication.

Remember that evil company will corrupt good morals (**1 Cor 15:33**). Imitate Joseph who, after saying no to the advances of Potiphar's wife, refused to be with her (**Gen 39:10**). Learn that continued associations with some will lead to sin. In this we must be honest in our evaluations of our friendships. It is easy to keep telling ourselves we are not being influenced when our will is gradually being broken down. Breaking off a relationship may not be easy, but it is the price we must sometimes be

willing to pay if we are to maintain our holiness.

The married should seek to cultivate a closeness and physical intimacy that serves to satisfy both the physical and emotional needs of each partner. Read carefully **1 Cor 7:1-5** where Paul admonishes husbands and wives not to "deprive one another," lest Satan use this to tempt them. See **Prov 5:18-20** where rejoicing with one's wife is contrasted with being embraced by the seductress.

Most importantly, we must develop self-control. We must have such a great awareness of the cost of sin and conversely the wondrous beauty of an eternity with God that we will refuse to give in no matter how great the temptation. "That each of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor" (**1 Thess 4:4**). The first three admonitions are valid and will help us avoid some temptations, but temptations cannot be completely avoided. One can, and certainly should, avoid public pools, dirty movies, etc., but in our sex-crazed world only a hermit would be able to avoid all exposure to sexual stimuli. We can limit our associations with evil influences, but we can't avoid them all. And while husbands and wives have responsibilities to one another, there may come a time when illness or other factors result in an unintended "depriving of one another." The point is that even if we find ourselves confronted with unwanted stimuli and influences or deprived by a spouse, whether deliberately or unavoidably, we are not forced to sin. If we have learned to possess our vessel in sanctification and honor we will find the way of escape from that temptation (**1 Cor 10:13**).

Will we heed God's admonition? "Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (**2 Cor 7:1**).



Nadab , Abihu, and the "Strange Fire"

By Tom Edwards

The Old Testament abounds with numerous examples that illustrate New Testament principles, such as in **Leviticus 10:1,2**, in which the lesson is taught that God will not accept just any kind of worship. It reads, "Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took their respective firepans, and after putting fire in them, placed incense on it and offered strange fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them. And fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord." What was this "strange fire" they used? According to the text, it was simply a fire which God did not authorize--apparently, fire from another source.

On the Day of Atonement, Aaron was to take "a firepan full of coals of fire from upon the altar...and...put the incense on the fire" (**Leviticus 16:12,13**). And, as **Leviticus 6:12,13** shows, the fire was to be kept burning continually upon the altar. For Aaron to have, therefore, used some other source for fire, would have caused him to violate God's word just as Nadab and Abihu had done.

When the Lord specifies a certain way for something to be performed, He doesn't have to enumerate on all the ways in which it cannot be. For example, when God told Noah to build an ark using gopher wood, this automatically eliminated the use of any other kind. The Lord did not have to say, "And thou shalt not use hickory, cedar, cypress, walnut, maple," and so.

This principle of "specific commands" is seen often in the Bible. Take, for instance, the unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine that are to be used in the Lord's Supper. By specifying these two elements--the former to represent Christ's body, and the latter to represent His blood--the use of anything else is automatically excluded.

May this lesson of Nadab and Abihu help us to not make the same mistake of tampering with God's word--no matter how insignificant it might seem--realizing that if we want to truly honor and worship the Lord, we must do so His way and not our own.

Therefore, to use something (s) in addition to, or in place of, would be to profane the communion.

Most people realize this and would find it sacrilegious to add cake and ice cream to the Lord's Supper or to substitute the fruit of the vine with Coke or Pepsi, but why can't they also see this with regard to the music the church is to use in worshiping God; It is to be a cappella, which is singing

without the accompaniment of instrumental music. This is because God has specifically commanded His people to "sing" for this New Testament age and has never included authority for using instruments in worship (**Col. 3:16**). Though the use of such was commanded during the Mosaical Period, this is irrelevant to how we are to worship God during this Gospel Age in which we now live. Today it is just the instrument of the heart that is to accompany are singing in praise and worship to God (**Eph. 5:19**).

In **Leviticus 10:3** the implication is made that Nadab and Abihu did not honor God, nor treat Him as holy, because they chose to change God's plan and serve the Lord their own way. Do we ever see this happening today? Unfortunately, we do--and not just with instrumental music. Yet we do not have any more right to tamper with God's word in our time than those who lived during the age of Nadab and Abihu. We must search the Scriptures to learn of God's authority, and respect that authority by humbling submitting to it through obedience.

May this lesson of Nadab and Abihu help us to not make the same mistake of tampering with God's word--no matter how insignificant it might seem--realizing that if we want to truly honor and worship the Lord, we must do so His way and not our own.

