

I Was Lost and You Were in a Hurry

I attended your services Sunday evening. You wouldn't remember me. I was there looking for something - I think I would have found it if you had not been in such a hurry. You sang hymns about a loving Lord. I felt a tight choking sensation, and my heart beat faster. Your preacher's message was thrilling. I realized I was lost and from the way he spoke, it seemed important to have a Savior.

The preacher finished his appeal and asked you to stand and sing another of those beautiful songs you know so well. I swallowed a lump in my throat and wished I knew the joy of which you sang. I was about to answer the call of the Gospel, when I heard a buzzing beside me. When I looked around, you were picking up toys and telling your children to get ready to leave. In

Author Unknown

front of me were whisperers and gigglers. A couple had already headed for the door. The ushers rushed about stacking chairs and opening doors. Beside me, you were frowning at your watch as if time were running out.

Seeing what I saw, I didn't want to look anymore. My eyes burned, my throat hurt, my feet wouldn't walk down the aisle. I could see that you really didn't care. This salvation the preacher had been telling about was not as important to you as getting out "on time." I only wanted to get away. I waited until services were over and walked out among you - alone unnoticed - and lost. Lost, because you were in a hurry. Lost, because it appeared you didn't really care if I was saved.



Special Classes This Week

Sunday Night at 8:30	Monday Night at 7:00	Wed. Morning at 10:00	Thursday Night at 7:00
College Class will meet at the Johnson's Blake Edwards will teach on Priorities	Ladies Class will meet at Kay White's home Yvette Rouse will teach on Marriage and Family	Ladies Class will meet at Anna Miller's home Carla Humphrey will teach on Parenting	Ladies Class will meet at Jillian Petty's home Nathan Smith will teach on Acts

Sick

Jim and Barbara Kicker	Pam Dial (Laura Weldon's Mother)
Heather (Luke Bridges' Cousin)	Laura Humphrey's and Ryan Hand's Father
Michaela (Nathan Smith's Sister)	Ray Cooley (Sheryl Fowler's Father)
Dave Bradford, Sr.	Everett Chandler (Sarah Chandler's Father)
Keith Lee (Megan Lee's Father)	To have names added to this list please call Yvette at 734-2134

News and Notes

- Please give e-mail addresses to the Rouse's for our new e-mail bulletin mailing list.
- Audio CDs of Today's Sermon will be immediately available
- Let's remember our expectant mothers: Jana Hall, Laura Humphrey and Joy Liu
- Check out our new website at www.aubeacon.com

A weekly publication of the University church of Christ in Auburn, Alabama

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)

Volume I, Issue I

November 1, 2009

Fools are not Friends

By Larry Rouse



Thought to Ponder

He that thinks himself the happiest man really is so; but he that thinks himself the wisest is usually the greatest fool.

Do You Have a Bible Question?
Call (334) 734-2133 or
E-mail:
LarryRouse@aubeacon.com

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

Ask about our home Bible Study Groups!

Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction." (Proverbs 1:7)
The pitfalls of this life are many and there are also many who, because of a lack of wisdom, pay the price. There are moral and spiritual laws that are as certain as the physical laws that govern this universe. One may deny the law of gravity, but if he jumps off the roof of a tall building, life will teach him a lesson, even if that life is short-lived.

Our God created both mankind and the universe that he lives in. In that same creation he made both physical and spiritual laws that men need to learn. In His great mercy, He chose to instruct us concerning the greater of these two laws, His spiritual law, because this law brings both greater consequences and greater blessings. One of the reasons God gave His word in written form was to allow us to live an abundant life. "And the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day." (Deut 6:24)

We live in times where scoffers abound that cry out against rules and restrictions. And it is a fact of life that when a person chooses to resist all rules and those who would teach him

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about these true principles, then no power in the universe will force it on him. The Bible describes this popular approach to life as the way of a fool.

Who is a fool? The word "fool" in the Bible "signifies 'without reason' ... want of mental sanity and sobriety, a reckless and inconsiderate habit of mind ... the lack of common sense perception of the reality of things natural and spiritual ... or the imprudent ordering of one's life in regard to salvation." Vine's Dictionary

One of the great mistakes we can make in this life is to fail to identify a fool when he seeks a relationship with us or a loved one. There are terrible consequences that will follow those who have

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a relationship with such an individual. "A desire accomplished is sweet to the soul, But it is an abomination to fools to depart from evil. He who walks with wise men will be wise, But **the companion of fools will be destroyed.**" (Proverbs 13:19-20) These words may sound harsh, but they are none the less true. God wants us to take them seriously.

God has revealed the heart and the actions of a fool so that we might identify him. The fool looks at this life only in the short term, at the ways he can satisfy his desires now, at the things he can possess now. He has no desire to hear or to know of possible consequences, but he has a great interest in immediate fun and laughter. "The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth. It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise than for a man to hear the song of fools. ⁶ For like the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fool. This also is vanity." (Ecc. 7:4-6) The wise man knows that he learns how to live, by first learning how to die. The fool has no heart for such lessons and pursues headlong the fun of today.

It is no surprise then to see the fool rejoice in evil and in evil men. "To do evil is like sport to a fool, but a man of understanding has wisdom." (Prov. 10:23) I have seen young ladies attracted to this carefree, fun-loving man to their great hurt. A fool will take advantage of another in order to satisfy his lusts at the expense of that person, and then cast that one off like a used tissue. The fool will then will boast to others about his successful conquest. If it is immorality or the taking of another's possessions, the fool considers it all a casual game.

One of the reasons I am teaching on this subject is because I once made a fool my friend. The fool has an enormous talent to sense the needs of another and then transform himself into the kind of person that other person wants. The fool will use his tongue to flatter others, to convince them that he alone understands them, and that others have misunderstood them and treated them badly. They have a fun way about themselves that makes you drop your guard because of your natural desire to have fun and feel that you belong. For the fool this is all a show, an act of hypocrisy, so that he might gain a temporary goal at the expense of another

and then cast off the one he has used.

A fool has a great confidence that some find attractive. "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise." (Proverbs 12:15) He may be bold and love to express his opinion, but he does not know where he is going.

One of the great mistakes a person can make is to get in the way of a fool and his folly. "Better to meet a she-bear robbed of its cubs than to confront a fool immersed in folly." (Proverbs 17:12) God warns us in many ways not to even try to teach a fool. "Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for he will despise the wisdom of your words." (Proverbs 23:9) A fool will threaten you if he perceives that you are getting in the way. He will threaten to slander you and will carry out that threat if you do not submit to him.

There is a big difference in being a fool and being foolish. All of us have been foolish and learned, but the fool will not. This is the very person that Jesus warned about: "Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces." (Matthew 7:6)

The way of a fool is sad and hard. I watched a young lady, whose name was on the church roll, scoff at the wisdom presented by several to her about the importance of marrying a Christian. She pursued such a relationship with an unbeliever and even lived immorally with this man before she married. No one was going to teach her! She now has experienced her 3rd marriage, all to non-Christians, and has long since ceased attending with Christians. The sad part is that during her time in the church she also influenced others to bitterness and they, too, forsook the Lord.

A fool will never learn from his mistakes, but rather he will blame others for the consequences and then will do the same things over and over again. "As a dog returns to his own vomit, so a fool repeats his folly." (Proverbs 26:11) "Though you grind a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, yet his foolishness will not depart from him" (Proverbs 27:22)

These are some hard lessons we must learn in this life. Learn wisdom, and make associations with those that love the Lord and His word. "Better is the poor who walks in his integrity than one who is perverse in his lips, and is a fool." (Proverbs 19:1) "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise" (Ephesians 5:15)



Family Time Together is Essential

By W. Frank Walton

In creating a strong family life centered on God, there must be shared time together. Moses commanded Israel: "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up" (Deut 6:5-8).

Moses' timeless advice is the foundation for Biblical spirituality in the home. Time together is the bonding mortar that brings us together before God in love. You never know when you are making a memory.

For God to be first in our lives, His will must be regularly discussed and applied in our daily home life. With this, we must spend time together. The daily "family hour" needs to be kept in homes. Family traditions and shared activities need to be instituted and kept. Working at such togetherness can be memorable and enjoyable!

"When you lie down" refers to bedtime. Kiss your children goodnight. Read to them or listen to them read from the Bible or a Bible devotional. Ask them, "How did things go today?"

"When you rise up" is beginning the day with God. Besides giving thanks at breakfast, give your child a Bible verse for the day, like from Proverbs: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Prov 9:10).

The family meal time is a good way to be together "when you sit in your house." We thank God for our blessings (1 Tim 4:4-5). We pray for our needs and cares (Phil 4:6). By family prayer, it affirms that God is most important in our lives and central to our family's purpose. Turn the TV off! We can read the Bible together and discuss its meaning and application to our lives. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge Hear my son, your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching; Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head and ornaments about

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your neck" (Prov 1:7-9). Proverbs are pithy and memorable sound bits that children can remember.

Despite Americans' hectic schedules, a recent article, "The Importance of Family Dinners," reports: "The number of teens who have regular family dinners drops by 50 percent as their substance abuse risk increases sevenfold, according to a survey of 12 to 17 year olds released by Columbia University.

"The survey finds that the more often children have dinner with their parents, the less likely they

are to smoke, drink or use illegal drugs," said Joseph A. Califano, Jr., President of The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia. "It is a tragedy that family dinners decline as teens get older."

"It is vital that frequent family dinners become a permanent fixture for children, not only when they are young, but throughout their teenage years," said Dr. Wade Horn, Assistant Secretary for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. "The frequency of family dinners decreases significantly as children enter and go through high school- and that's just when the benefits of family dinners may be needed most." A survey showed: Compared to teens that have family dinners twice a week or less, teens that have dinner with their families five or more nights in a week are:

- 32 percent likelier never to have tried cigarettes.
- 45 percent likelier never to have tried alcohol.
- 24 percent likelier never to have smoked pot.

Parents will wisely invest time to be with their children to positively influence them. "Give me your heart, my son, and let your eyes delight in my ways" (Prov 23:26). So, it is important for children to know that the family has to spend some time together. If they know this is required to enjoy other privileges, they can grow to accept it and even like it.

