

# Would You Allow This?

By Greg Gwin

**A husband was away from home for several weeks.** There was no justifiable reason for him to be gone. One day he just left and never came home. Numerous inquiries were made, but his absence remained unexplained. And then one day he wandered back home. He sat down at the supper table and acted as though nothing had ever happened. Would you allow this?

**A worker walked off this job.** He did not obtain his employer's permission, he just disappeared. He remained gone for a couple of months. Other employees had to take up the slack and fill-in for him, covering his work while they tried to do their own. Then he showed up on a payday. He offered no explanation, asked for all his back wages and proceeded to take up his former position as if everything was normal. Would you allow this?

**A student failed to attend classes for a number of weeks.** School officials attempted to locate him and discover the cause of his absence, but to no avail. The other students progressed in their studies, leaving the

absent student far behind in several important subject areas. The truant student returned one day. He had no excuse. There was evidence that his absence was deliberate and that he had been involved in a good bit of mischief. Amazingly, he expected to be welcomed without question and even requested that the entire class back-track and cover the subject matters he missed. Would you allow this?

**A Christian did not attend services for several weeks.** The elders, the preacher, and a number of other church members tried to find out what the problem was, but without success. Others had to take up the slack caused by his absence. The congregation proceeded with its program of work and teaching. Then one day he showed up for services again. There was no explanation - no confession of wrongdoing. He wanted to immediately retake his former status, to be counted as a faithful member, to be called on for prayer and used in the services. Would you allow this? Think!!!



### Classes this Week:

<b>Sunday 5:15</b> Kid's Class at the Building	<b>Mon 7 PM</b> Ladies Class at the Daniel's	<b>Mon 12 Noon</b> Campus Study	<b>Thurs 11AM</b> Campus Study
---	---	------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

### Sick

Fran Snyder (Mother of Carla Humphrey)	Lori Holloway	Chick Wade
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Carrie Chavers (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	Jared Nixon
Ross Folmar	Grandparents of Mary Ann Roberts	Joe Perry (Anna Miller's Relative)
Ed Mort (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	"Grandmama" Odessa Wyatt (Dyle's grandmother)	Erlene Davis (Walker Davis' mother)
Gerald White (Christopher's and Wesley's Father)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)	Bill Rhodes (Toni Herd's Uncle)
Marty and Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Frank Johnson (Debbi Coleman's Uncle)	Herbert Missildine (Toni Herd's Uncle)
Christi Gibson (Fallon Hartsell's Mother)	Mike Reed (Friend of the Long's)	Call Yvette to have a name added to this list

### October Birthdays

- 1 - Micah Mauldin
- 2 - Suzanne Nichols
- 6 - Jessica Anderson
- 8 - Heath Fowler
- 11 - Mason Chandler
- 12 - Stacy Norman
- 14 - Lauren Drake
- 20 - Keith Bailey
- 21 - Scott Shields
- 22 - Hunter Crawford
- 22 - Chris Davis
- 22 - Christopher White
- 25 - Josh Sutton
- 26 - Sarah Sutton
- 26 - Palmer Daniels
- 26 - Mel Ambrose
- 29 - Belle Johnson
- 29 - Matt Hall
- 31 - Kitty Tam

### News and Notes

Perry Hill Road in Montgomery will have a meeting with Bill Hall starting today and finishing on Friday. Services will be at 10:30 each morning and 7:00 each evening.

We has a wonderful meeting with Tim Stephens this past week! It was a great encouragement to see so many work to make this meeting a success.

Please be sure to greet our visitors and encourage them to fill out a visitors card.

If you have any Bible question or would be interested in a home Bible study please let one of our members know.

After every service Audio CDs will be available in the foyer. Please take them and give them to others!

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 1, Issue 49

October 3, 2010

**ANGER**  
is only one  
letter short of



### Thought to Ponder

He that would be angry and sin not must not be angry with anything but sin.

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



### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

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

### Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

Ask about our home Bible Study Groups!

Larry Rouse  
Evangelist and Editor

## Where Will Your Hurt Lead You?

By Larry Rouse

Over the years I have witnessed the reactions of Christians to the terrible experience of being divorced from their mate. In most of these cases their mate had participated in numerous affairs and the faithful Christian tried but failed to restore their loved one. They then applied the only scriptural grounds for divorce the Lord gave and put away their unfaithful mate. "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery. **(Matthew 19:9)**" While these Christians were indeed innocent of the breaking up their marriage, they now had to face the very difficult task of rebuilding their lives and seeking to heal their wounded spirit.

Regardless of the cause of the hurt, if it be divorce, death, betrayal, or some other cause, this presents an opportunity for Satan to take advantage of us in our hurt **(2 Cor 2:11)**. This is a major challenge to our faith. Will we let our emotions and thus our flesh direct us in the ways of the world or will we walk by faith? Will you let God or your hurt lead you? The obvious choice is easy to recognize but very difficult to practice.

So much of our disposition depends upon what we choose to focus on. As one man related "I complained because I had no shoes until I met someone who had no feet." In contrast the thankful man sees the blessings of God and speaks with the apostle Paul saying: "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. **(Romans 8:18)**"

### Learn to Give to God the Things You Cannot Change

Satan's greatest success comes when a Christian is overburdened. Over time he will seek relief from his burden that often will involve sin. Jesus knows that we have a "load limit" and He pleads with us to let Him carry the burden that we cannot. "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light. **(Matthew 11:28-30)**" Jesus gives us responsibilities that we can handle! When we stay within the "yoke" given by our Lord then our

(Continued on page 2)

Check Us Out On the Internet: [www.aubeacon.com](http://www.aubeacon.com)

(Continued from page 1)

faith will grow and our wounded spirit will heal.

We need to apply a simple bit of wisdom and distinguish between God's bearable burden and the unbearable burdens we are tempted to carry. This truth is well stated in this common quote: "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference." Consider this short list of things that fall into this category. I cannot change: the past, what is right and wrong, death, the weather, and many other things. One other practical but major item is this, I cannot change another person against their will. If you fail to recognize these things and then refuse to give them to God, you will, in time, become a "burnt-out" disciple, full of cynicism and doubt. Why not trust God and give these things to Him?

#### Learn to Slam the Door on Self-Pity

Have you ever heard this children's song: "Nobody loves me, everybody hates me. I'm going out and eat worms"? This is a perfect description of one having a "pity-party." Have you ever reasoned like this: "People are talking about me. Nobody understands my feelings! There is no one on earth who has suffered as me. Nobody cares. I do not deserve this."? If so, then you are walking down the road of self-pity and if you are not careful it will run and then ruin your life.

Great men of God at times struggled with these feelings. Elijah, after a physically and emotionally exhausting day in which he defeated the prophets of Baal, received word of a death threat from Jezebel the queen (**1 Kings 19:1**). The emotions of Elijah caused him to flee into the wilderness and plea to God for his own death. He then claimed that he was the only one left that cared about God and there was no more need to try. "And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers! ... <sup>10</sup>So he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life." (**1 Kings 19:4b, 10**) Elijah allowed his emotions to create a "reality" that was not real.

The Lord made sure that the prophet got some food and a needed rest, and then proceeded to tell him about the 7,000 who were faithful in Israel (**1 Kings 19:18**). God then sent him back to work!

Please resist the temptation to withdraw and count all brethren as unfaithful because of your experience with certain men. You must fight the temptation to conclude that you can read the minds of others and thus write them off because of your "instincts." In many ways you will become just like the ones who hurt you in these kinds of unrighteous judgments (**John 7:24**). When you withdraw from brethren that love you into the cold and isolated world of self-pity, then things will only get worse. It has been said that self-pity is a slow and very painful form of suicide.

#### Learn the Power of Thanksgiving

When we open our eyes to what God has done and is doing for us, then we will not make ourselves the "center of the universe." "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (**Philippians 4:6-7**)" Which will you choose -- thanksgiving or self-pity? The 3 "L's" of self-pity are these: "What I have **L**ost, What I **L**ack, and How I am **L**imited." So much of our disposition depends upon what we choose to focus on. As one man related "I complained because I had no shoes until I met someone who had no feet." In contrast the thankful man sees the blessings of God and speaks with the apostle Paul saying: "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. (**Romans 8:18**)"

A man of faith will be optimistic and full strength. A Biblical faith will teach you how to deal with the issues of life and especially how to overcome adversity. This stand will make you a blessing in the lives of others rather than an isolated cynic. Do you really believe in God? It is my prayer that you will let your thoughts become conformed to God's thoughts. "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (**Romans 12:2**)"



# Why Don't We Tithe?

By Bob West

The sincere Christian is genuinely concerned about his stewardship of worldly possessions. On the first day of the week, he recognizes his responsibility to "lay by in store as he has been prospered." "But," says he, "just how much of what I have been prospered should I give?"

Many religious groups attempt to simplify this matter by teaching and requiring a minimum of one-tenth of their members' income. Some have even been known to send "bills" to their members, specifying the amount they should give. They point out that this system of tithing was effective under the law of Moses and, thus, will be equally effective today.

As a point of fact, if we try to use the Old Testament as our standard, we need to remember that, *in addition to the tithe*, the Israelites were required to purchase or furnish the animals for the many sacrifices, take time off work to attend the annual feasts, as well as take care of the needy among them. Some estimates of the total amount contributed by the Old Testament faithful range as high as one-third of their income! Many conscientious Christians give ten percent, and more, on a regular basis. But this does not justify the binding of an Old Testament ordinance on New Testament saints.

It is true, of course, that the subject of tithing is mentioned in the New Testament, but never in such a manner as to bind it upon our conscience today. The remarks of R. C. H. Lenski, well-known Lutheran scholar, bring this point into clear focus:

*"One of the plain facts is that the Gospels mention tithing only three times, in three condemnations of the Pharisees, and all three are scathing in their severity. Three other references are found in He-*

As badly as we might wish it were different, God has not, under the new covenant, reduced this matter to the simplicity of a mathematical equation. We are reminded of the abundance of God's blessings to us, both spiritual and temporal. We are made keenly aware of the great need for the gospel to be spread.

*brews 7:5-9 and are merely historical. Although all the apostles were originally Jews and reared to tithe, with not one word did any one of them even intimate that in the new covenant the Christians might find tithing a helpful method of making their contributions to the work of the church. This strong negative is re-enforced immensely by the totally different method suggested by Paul when he called on the churches for a great offering, I*

*Cor. 16:1, etc.; II Cor. 8:4, etc. Exegetically and thus dogmatically and ethically the New Testament is against tithing as being valid in the new covenant. Desire for more money, also for more money in and for the church, should not blind our eyes to the ways that are employed for getting it." – Interpretation of Luke, p. 661.*

Christians are to give "as they have been prospered" (**1 Corinthians 16:2**) which suggests proportionate giving. But to bind the ten percent figure to bolster a sagging congregational budget is unwarranted. As badly as we might wish it were different, God has not, under the new covenant, reduced this matter to the simplicity of a mathematical equation. We are reminded of the abundance of God's blessings to us, both spiritual and temporal. We are made keenly aware of the great need for the gospel to be spread. And we are given assurances of continued ability to give (**2 Corinthians 9:8**). We are then called upon to wrestle with these sober considerations weighing heavily upon our conscience. We arrive at our decision, the execution of which not only supplies in generous fashion the needed money, but, in the process, causes us to mature and grow stronger in the faith. May God help us to appreciate the wisdom of His plan and to be more faithful in its practice.

