

A Special Friendship

(2 Tim 4:6-9 NKJV) "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. Be diligent to come to me quickly."

By Steve Casebolt

Apart from our parents our friends probably influence us more than anyone else. For that reason, Paul warns of the danger of keeping the wrong kind of company. **(1 Cor 15:33)** We can also see the beauty of the proper kind of association that is manifested in the relationship he sustained with Timothy. When the crisis of life knocks at our door from time to time, most of us want someone to stand by us and share the burden. For Christians, this "someone" is generally a comrade in the gospel who is a spiritual strength and influence in our lives.

The friendship of David and Jonathan aptly illustrates this principle. As Saul was attempting to murder David because of jealousy, David had to flee to the wilderness to escape a cruel death from his own king, whom he had loyally served. David was hiding out in the woods. No doubt, Saul's envy made this a very distressful time for David. The Scriptures reveal that at this point, "Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and

went to David in the woods and strengthened his hand in God. **(1 Sam 23:16)**

What more can one Christian do for another?? Those who are genuinely devoted to Christ and have nurtured a love for spiritual things generally develop a strong spiritual bond with someone of the same persuasion and conviction. It is a natural sequence: "... everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him." **(1 John 5:1 NKJV)**

A struggling soldier of the cross can find no greater friend than his beloved brother who will talk to him about spiritual things, share with him inspired words of God, and pay with him to a God at whose throne they both bow.

Another way to express the same thought: a Christian can find no greater friend than the friend who will strengthen his hand in God. David had such a friend in Jonathan. Paul found such a friend in Timothy.

Have you found a friend like that? Are you a friend like that?



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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Thought to Ponder

I will not doubt, though all my ships at sea come drifting home with broken masts and sails; I shall believe the hand which never fails, from seeming evil worketh good to me. And, though I weep because those sails are battered, still will I cry, while my best hopes lie shattered, "I trust in thee."

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

Learning to Trust God

By Larry Rouse

What is the purpose of the body of Christ, the church of our Lord? Are we building in a wise way or are we pursuing things that are not in the Lord's will? It is important to know the foundation that God gave His people so that we can be sure to build upon it. "According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" **(1 Cor 3:10-11)**.

We must build on the foundation of Jesus Christ. In the work of conversion and in the work of helping a Christian to grow, we must help others to build a personal faith in the Lord. To truly bring one to "see the unseen" and then to "know the Lord" is not an easy process. When you see the reality of the spiritual realm, then you will make decisions that will be very much "out of step" with this world. When Moses rejected the riches and esteem that was offered to him as a prince of Egypt so that he could "suffer affliction with the people of God," he did this because he could "see Him who is invisible" **(Heb 11:24-27)**. Are we helping people to "see the unseen" or are we making people comfortable in their worldliness?

Please do not let the approval and the praise of men be the "joy" you find among Christians **(Gal 1:10, 2 Cor 10:12, 17)**. Some become "issue-oriented" out of a sense of party loyalty or out of a desire to display their personal knowledge and thinking skills.

My Personal Struggle to Find a Biblical Faith

How did you come to trust in the Lord? I can remember many years ago, when I was in High School, an occasion in my life where I saw the emptiness of the path I was following and desired to find something more. On a clear, cold night I went outside and looked up at the stars and prayed a simple prayer for God to let me find Him. It was a humble prayer for light and truth that I followed up with my first attempt to read the Bible for myself.

As I started reading the scriptures there were so many things that I did not understand but there were some things that stood out distinctively to me. As I

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Classes this Week:

Sunday 5:15 Kid's Class at the Building	Sunday Night College Class at Craig Davis'. Larry Rouse will teach on Loneliness	Mon 7 PM Men's Class at Walker Davis'	Mon and Thursday 12 Noon Campus Class	Wed 10 AM Ladies Class at Anna Miller's	Thur 7 PM 1 Jn Study at Jillian Petty's
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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)	Kenn and Ellen Smith (Ken Sullivan's Parents)	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)	Daphene Whatley (Lisa Lanier's Mom)

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

- Let's remember our expectant mothers: BJ Winslett, Joy Liu, and Amanda Stephens.
- We rejoice at the Baptism Wednesday Night of Clay Carswell!
- Ken Sullivan's parents are now in rehab in Enterprise, AL.
- Josh and Nichole's new son, Evan James Pender was born Wednesday Night!
- Please be sure to greet our visitors and encourage them to fill out a visitors card.
- After every service Audio CDs will be available in the foyer. Please take them and give them to others!

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read the book of Romans I came to see the power and optimism of a genuine faith in Christ. When I read the words of Paul concerning his life and sufferings as viewed by the heart of faith, I was amazed! "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" (**Rom 8:18**). Later, in the same chapter, Paul expresses the confidence that faith brings in our outlook on our day-to-day events. "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His purpose*" (**Romans 8:28**). After reading that chapter I sincerely wanted to have that kind of faith in my life!

I came to find out that the process of building such a faith takes time! In the year that followed I began to seek the Lord in the best way that I knew (**Jn 7:17**). So many steps that I took were imperfect, but I constantly sought to do what I believed the Lord had spoken in His word. As I went through this seeking process I tried to surround myself with people who also placed a high value on walking by faith. I found that both in the denominational world and in the local churches that I would later attend, that I was "out of step" with others that seemed to have another reason for attending the assemblies of the local church.

The stand that I take today is one of faith. When I left the human movements that dominate the religious world, I simply wanted to follow the Lord apart from the rule and the traditions of men. Paul left Judaism with this simple goal in his heart: "But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him" (**Phil 3:7-9**). When I was baptized into Christ, I did so with "faith in the working of God" (**Col 2:11-13**). As I came to face the unpredictable difficulties of life, I came to know that I serve a God that will never forsake me and thus learned to live without fear (**Heb 13:5-6**). Over time I have found a faith that allowed me to view my life in light of the promises of God (**Rom 8:18, 28**)!

Have We Drifted?

Does the local church that we attend make the building of faith a priority? Are our homes a place

where a daily trust in God is a priority? The reason why I ask these questions is that I fear some Christians and some churches have drifted from this great foundation. "Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called *"Today,"* lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin" (**Heb 3:12-13**).

Some Personal Questions

1. Do I have a daily confidence in the promises of God and of His care, or do I worry and have the scornful attitude of the world?
2. In times of uncertainty and hurt do I read the promises of God and pour my heart out to Him in prayer, or do I complain and seek out worldly companions to take my burdens? (**Mt 11:28-29**).
3. When I attend the assemblies, am I able to place myself before God and personally find application to my life from His word regardless of how interesting the speaker is or how friendly others are?
4. Do I often think about the Lord, His present approval, His future return so that in everything I do I see Him as my constant companion (**Col 3:17, 22-23**)?

Do Not Accept Substitutes

Please do not let the approval and the praise of men be the "joy" you find among Christians (**Gal 1:10, 2 Cor 10:12, 17**). Some become "issue-oriented" out of a sense of party loyalty or out of a desire to display their personal knowledge and thinking skills. There is a big difference between building up another's faith in the Lord and in preaching one's personal glory (**2 Cor 4:1-2**).

What will the Lord find when He returns? It is my prayer that He will find in each of us a genuine, pure faith that has been tested by fire! Does this describe you and me?

"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls" (**1 Peter 1:6-9**).



Pride

By Mike Pittman

The pride condemned in the Bible is not to be confused with self-respect and dignity. The Bible clearly shows that we must love and respect ourselves (**Matt. 22:39; Eph. 5:28**).

Arrogance and too high of an opinion of oneself is a sin (**Rom. 12:3**). **Proverbs 21:4** says, "A haughty look, a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked are sin." When Solomon listed seven things which the Lord abhors, he mentioned "a proud look" first. Some suggest that it is put first because it is at the bottom of all disobedience. Not only is pride sinful, it leads to other sins.

PRIDE LEADS TO STUBBORNESS AND REBELLION. Nowhere is this more evident than in the example of King Saul. Saul was plainly commanded by God to go and to utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites. Saul, in his stubbornness and rebellion, spared the Amalekite king and the best of the animals for sacrifice. When Samuel rebuked him for his error, he reminded King Saul of what it was that qualified him for the crown to begin with: "When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the Lord anoint you king over Israel?" (**1 Sam. 15:17**). While Saul was humble, things went well for him. Then, the power which went along with being king went to Saul's head. Samuel showed Saul that it was pride which led him to "do evil in the sight of the Lord" (**1 Sam. 15:19**). How much

God's kingdom is made up of people who have humble, submissive, ruleable spirits. Admit that "the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" (**Jer. 10:23**). Willingly place yourself under the rule of Christ the King.

of our own disobedience is traceable to the pride which fills our hearts?

PRIDE LEADS TO A REFUSAL TO CONFESS OUR SINS. It is not difficult to say "we all sin", or "he sinned." But we find it hard sometimes to say "I have sinned." After David had committed adultery with Bathsheba he humbly confessed his sin by saying, "I have sinned

against the Lord" (**2 Sam. 12:13**). Confession is good for the soul, but hard on pride. Do you need to confess sin to God or to a brother whom you have wronged? Empty yourself of pride so that you may do the right thing.

PRIDE PREVENTS CONVERSION. Jesus taught, in **Matthew 18:3-4**, that in order to be converted one must humble himself as a little child. The problem with the Pharisee who prayed, "God, I thank You that I am not like other men - extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector...", was that he exalted himself and trusted in himself that he was righteous (**Lk. 18:13**). In order to be converted a person must be humble enough to admit that he is a poor, miserable, pathetic sinner.

God's kingdom is made up of people who have humble, submissive, ruleable spirits. Admit that "the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" (**Jer. 10:23**). Willingly place yourself under the rule of Christ the King.

