

The Nature of the church of Christ

The church that Jesus built is a divine institution. It is His bride bearing His name. The Lord's church is not dependent upon the schemes of man to carry forward her work. The Lord equipped her for every spiritual task giving her the armor, the food, and the perfect organization.

In the Lord's church there are no missionary societies, clubs, Greek letter societies, benevolent societies or other organizations. The church needs no human attachments or "lean-to's."

The purpose of the church is not to entertain people. If it were, we should stop preaching the gospel and go into the world and entertain well.

The church was built that people might obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory (2 Tim. 2:10). It was purchased by divine blood (Acts 20:28). Christ is her head and is "over all things to the church" (Eph. 1:22). Christ is coming back to receive the church to Himself (Eph. 5:27).

By Forrest D. Moyer The mission of the church is preaching the gospel to the nations of the earth (Mark 16:15). We have a living message for a dying world. This message brings salvation to the lost (Rom. 1:16), strength to the Christian (Acts 20:32), and heaven to the faithful.

If you would be saved, then obey the gospel and let God add you to the church (Acts 2:41, 47). If you would be stronger, receive the edification that comes by faithfully attending the services of the church. If you would go to heaven, you must be in the church and walk in the way that Jesus has prescribed.

This is our offer to you: "Come thou with us and we will do thee good." We shall be more than willing to help you become a Christian and then strengthen you in the way to heaven. - 1962



Classes This Week

Sun 2-5 PM Teacher Workshop - All Ladies are invited!	Sun 8:30 PM College Devo. and Singing at the Roberts	Mon 7 PM Ladies' Class at the Paula Davis'	Wed 10 AM Ladies Class at Manna Jones House	Fri 6-8 PM 1st - 8th Grade Class
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Sick

Fran Snyder (Mother of Carla Humphrey)	Lori Holloway	Chick Wade	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz's Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Carrie Chavers (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	Jared Nixon	Philip Locke (Jeremiah Johnson's Uncle)
Ross Folmar	Grandparents of Mary Ann Roberts	Joe Perry (Anna Miller's Relative)	Toni Herd
Ed Mort (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	Kenn and Ellen Smith (Ken Sullivane's Parents)	Erlene Davis (Walker Davis' mother)	Daphne Whatley (Lisa Lanier's Mom)
Gerald White (Christopher's and Wesley's Father)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)	Bill Rhodes (Toni Herd's Uncle)	Mike Reed (Friend of the Long's)
Marty and Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Frank Johnson (Debbi Coleman's Uncle)	Herbert Missildine (Toni Herd's Uncle)	Jo Faust Williams (Manna Jones' friend)

December Birthdays

- 1 - Preston Guthrie
- 4 - Justin Padgett
- 5 - Rusty Weldon
- 5 - Charlie Johnson
- 8 - Macy Johnson
- 10 - Kyle Gibson
- 11 - Will Holcomb
- 12 - Hannah Marsh
- 13 - John Henderson
- 16 - Clint Armstrong
- 18 - Tin-Tau Tam
- 18 - Hannah Liu
- 21 - Holly Johnson
- 21 - Alison McFerrin
- 22 - William Herd
- 24 - Jessica Yates
- 24 - Ryan Yates
- 24 - Andrew Thigpen
- 30 - Holly Law
- 30 - Ben Price

News and Notes

- Let's remember our expectant mothers: Joy Liu, and Amanda Stephens .
- Olyvia Winslett may be able to come home from the hospital today.
- Barbara kicker fell on Tuesday and required stitches. She is recovering at home.
- There will be a teacher workshop for upcoming quarters on Sun Dec 5 from 2-4:30 PM. All teachers should come and all mothers who wish to learn about "Our Spiritual Heritage" curriculum are invited.
- Christy (Crow) Whitehead had twins early (Patrick and Parker). She is a friend of Leslie Freeman.
- Audio CD's will be available in the foyer after each service.

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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The Right Words

By Harold Comer



Thought to Ponder

The secret of many a man's success in the world resides in his insight into the moods of men and his tact in dealing with them.

What are the right words with which to criticize a king that is in a position to kill you for what you say? The prophet Nathan found the right words to help David the king, to clearly see himself. His words reversed David's spiritual decline. Nathan's word picture of a rich man taking a poor man's pet lamb was powerful and touching indeed. They were the right words at the right time.

How do you immediately get a Bible study with a powerful foreign official? Philip chose words with punch and yet enough courtesy to propel him from the desert roadside into the treasurer's chariot and a powerful, life-changing study of the words of **Isaiah 53**. The right words open doors. The wrong words close doors.

When an angry, powerful man is coming to kill your husband, what do you do? Do you run and hide, stay and cry, or ponder your words for just the right statement to sway him to reason and insight? Abigail chose the right words and her speech cooled David's anger while it warmed his

We are to exhort - but the real command of that passage is the simple verb "consider" to provoke one another to love and good works. God commands the thinking, searching, and agonizing necessary to find the right words.

admiration for her. It is valuable indeed to choose the right words for the occasion at hand.

When Jonathan's best friend David was threatened with death or at least exile, the young prince's speeches were an example to all friends in lending support and encouragement with choice words!

God said to "Consider": The right words are often needed in Christianity today. We are commanded to give consideration to our efforts of provoking or stimulating our brethren to love and good works

(Continued on page 2)

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

Check Us Out On the Internet: www.aubeacon.com

(Continued from page 1)

(Hebrews 10:24). That means we are to ponder the needs and personalities of our weak brethren and are to work at choosing the right words with which to strengthen them. We are to exhort - but the real command of that passage is the simple verb "consider" to provoke one another to love and good works. God commands the thinking, searching, and agonizing necessary to find the right words.

Finding The Right Words: We can find what will help if we try. Nathan, Abigail, Nathan, Jonathan, and Philip did. We must keep building our ability to say the things that minister grace to those who need us **(Ephesians 4:29)**. Here are some things we can do to find the right words that will help others:

We can decide we are obligated to improve our ability to say what's best on any given occasion. Too many say, "I don't know what to say" and try to shed the responsibility to find the right thing to say. Others speak but their tongue becomes a butcher knife cast into the heart of those they are trying to "help." In addition to **Hebrews 10:24, Colossians 4:5-6 and Ephesians 5:15** command us to develop wisdom in helping others. **Second Timothy 2:24** commands us to improve our teaching skills.

We can study the Bible to find things that work! When Jesus picked just the right words to stimulate the Samaritan woman to spiritual curiosity and selfhonesty, He taught us a lot about one group of choice words which arouse another's interest. It is possible to find things that work by perceptibly looking at Biblical role models.

We can find the right words with empathy! Too often, well meaning spiritual people bull their way into another's life. They tell them exactly what they should do without

any awareness of the other's emotional condition or mood. They not only fail in their effort to help, they come through as insensitive, pushy bores and they close doors for later help. God commanded a spirit of empathy in **Romans 12:15 and 1 Corinthians 12:26**. Wise men don't sing songs to the heavy-hearted **(Proverbs 25:20)**. Identify their mood.

We can be sympathetic. Then speak gentle words to help find receptive ears. Tone is important to the right words! Often the right words can end up sounding different from what is literally expressed. The words are good but the tone is altered by anger at something else, excessive tension, or just plain exhaustion. Proverbs 15:1 teaches that tone is important for really changing the angry man. A portion of people who need help respond more to a tone than they do the specific words that are used. Watch your words and watch your tone!

Visual words work faster! Nathan used a concrete, visual situation with David. There was a quick response. Christ often taught by painting a visual picture. When Abigail cooled the angry David, she painted a vivid picture of him as king. Paint a picture with words. Hunt for a visual or concrete word. The meaning will be clearer than a long speech loaded with abstractions.

Words of support are valuable! When David was threatened by the jealousy and javelins of Saul, Jonathan was there to offer words of endorsement and support. Words of support are needed by Bible class teachers, elders, deacons, parents and weak, troubled Christians today. They are not a waste of time. Rather, they are great and valuable motivators.

God expects you to care about the end result. Words, forced into sounds are just particles of bouncing air until they move the brain of another in a valuable and powerful way. Hunt for better words.



Before the Foot Hits the Floor

By W. Frank Walton

"I, O LORD, cry to you; in the morning my prayer comes before you" (Psa 88:13).

I read an article where the author stated that he endeavored to say a morning prayer to God for help, while in bed, "before the foot hits the floor." What a great habit to begin the day with God!

Note that David said, "I remember you upon my bed" **(Psa 63: 6)**. This is a wonderful discipline to immediately start framing our outlook for the day by first turning to God. David, the spiritually-minded man after God's own heart, began **Psalm 63** thus: "O God, you are my God, early will I seek you" (v. 1). Before the duties and demands of the day begin rushing in to crowd our mind, we need to fortify our mind by beginning the day with God.

Please note the Scriptures that advocate the morning priority of seeking God by prayer, worship, and meditation on His Word:

- ❖ *"I rise before dawn and cry for help; I hope in your words" (Psa 119:147).*
- ❖ *"O LORD, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch" (Psa 5:3).*
- ❖ *"I will sing of your strength; I will sing*

When we awake upon our bed, what a marvelous habit we can cultivate by seeking God's help to be faithful and strong, "before the foot hits the floor."

aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress (Psa 59:16).

❖ *"Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love that we may rejoice and be glad all our days" (Psa 90:14).*

❖ *"I wait for the LORD,*

my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning" (Psa 130:5-6).

❖ *"Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, for in you I trust. Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul" (Psa 143:8).*

❖ *"When you walk, they [the commandments] will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they [the commandments] will talk with you" (Prov 6:22).*

At the beginning of each day, we make choices of how we will conduct ourselves and react to various demands and temptations that face us. When we awake upon our bed, what a marvelous habit we can cultivate by seeking God's help to be faithful and strong, "before the foot hits the floor."

