

That Day and This

Some say that the day of the Lord has come; mockers say it won't come; and multitudes live as if they didn't expect it. But that great day will come and God wants both scoffer and saint to be reminded of it, as the context of **2 Pet. 3** indicates.

In the first place the scoffers are shown to be wrong in concluding that "all things continue as they were from the creation" (v. 4). They willfully forget that day in history when God interrupted the routine of a sin-filled world with a great flood. No, all yesterdays are not the same. God wants all men to remember the one that was different and why. Let it be a reminder that all tomorrows will not be the same either. Even now this old world is moving closer to a second and final interruption; the day of judgement and destruction of ungodly men (v. 7); the day of the Lord.

Something else that men need to be reminded of is that God is not limited to man's concept of time. "For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night" (Psa. 90:4). Not that God does not recognize the difference in man's days and years, but that the passing of time does not in any way affect His purposes. Gospel preaching rightly stresses the promises of Christ's second coming. Any apparent delay in that coming is not to be construed as slackness, but rather as longsuffering. What appears to some as a divine defect is actually an expression of divine grace! God waits. All the yesterdays plus whatever tomorrows may remain for all man say, "God waits." He waits in our day as He did in the days of Noah (1 Pet. 3:20). He waits for men to turn to Him

By Dan S. Shipley

in repentance (v. 9) and be saved.

God's longsuffering is man's opportunity; re-deemed, his salvation.

Accordingly, there is a correlation between the day of the Lord and this day which every man needs to recognize. Knowing of such a day ought to make a difference in the way I live today. This is exactly Peter's point in v.11: "Seeing that these things are thus all to be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy living and godliness". Continual awareness of that day and its significance should prompt a manner of life befitting prepared people. It would encourage a better attitude toward God and His word, the kind essential to humility. "Looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God" revives and perpetuates hope within the Christian; the kind of hope that serves as "an anchor of the soul" (Heb. 6:19). Those who "look for these things" (v.14) are characterized by a spirit of diligence in making their calling and election sure (1:10), avoiding sin and seeking after peace with both God and man.

Finally, "knowing these things" (v. 17), Christians are warned to be on guard against the influence of the wicked, those unconcerned about the Lord and His return. Beware lest they hinder our preparation for eternity. Then, "grow in grace and knowledge"; appropriate every blessing in a way that honors God; learn more of His word, applying it to every circumstance of life today — and thus look for that great day!



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 Sullivan'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 - David Ogle
2 - Chuck Hunt
4 - Phillip Box
5 - Amber Adams
6 - Erica Seymore
7 - Hunter Collins
8 - Paul Coulston
10 - Megan Lee
11 - Spencer and Shepherd Hall
14 - Roy Liu
21 - Jacob Jerkins
23 - Conner Godwin
24 - Melanie Daves
25 - Caleb Daniels
29 - Jonathan Cagle
29 - Matthew Persell
31 - Jennifer Daniels
31 - David Frame

News and Notes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Let's remember our expectant mothers: Joy Liu, and Amanda Stephens .
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tam is away for several weeks visiting in China.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> We will be starting a new teaching quarter next Sunday.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brother Rouse will be having another Question Night in May. Please give any questions to him in writing in the next few weeks.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry and Nathan Rouse will be away in Virginia from Monday through Friday. Larry will have some important opportunities to assist brethren there. Please remember him in your prayers.

The Auburn Beacon

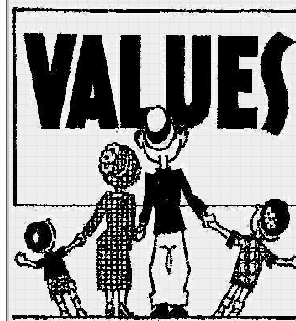
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Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

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Thought to Ponder

Reputation is what men and women think of us; character is what God and angels know of us.

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

How to Build a Good Character

By Dee Bowman

Character is the accumulation of qualities that distinguishes one person from another. Character is not just one single trait, but the accumulation of all a person is, the sum total of all his traits.

Someone has suggested that reputation is what others think us to be, character is what God knows us to be.

How does a person develop and maintain a good character?

By getting in touch with yourself. Aristotle was not far off the mark when he suggested that one should "know thyself." Personal integrity is the key to developing a good character. We have to ascertain and admit to what we need in order to form a good character. In order to know where you're going, you must

One of the ways we develop good character is by observing and associating with people whom we know to be of good character. Time spent with a good person will increase your chances of having being good yourself.

first realize where you are. "He that speaketh truth in his heart"—that's necessary to the development of a good character (see Psalm 15:1-2).

By a constant contact with God. It is He who defines what is a good character, for it is He who has defined what is good in the first place. His word is not only an expression of Who and What He is, but a revelation of how we can become

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like Him, or be a “partaker of the divine nature” (**2 Peter 1:4**). His word tells us which way to go. A man of character does not walk just anywhere, but “his delight is in the law of the Lord and in His law doth he meditate both day and night” (**Psalms 1:2**). “Wherewith shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to Thy word” (**Psalms 119:9**). A man’s character is developed by paying due attention to where he is going, to his path of pursuit, and that means a constant contact with the Father.

By accumulating—a little at a time—the right pieces of holiness. Holiness is not some huge characteristic (notice the word, please) that a person somehow suddenly develops, but rather the piecing together of small bits and pieces of goodness and piety. Small habits—those little acts of kindness and goodness—are what define a person’s character. Holiness helps to define a man’s character by setting him apart from the trivial dross of life; it is observed in his habitual acts of goodness. Holiness illustrates in one’s life the character of God. “But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation” (**1 Peter 1:15**).

By regular exposure to right influences. One of the ways we develop good character is by observing and associating with people whom we know to

be of good character. Time spent with a good person will increase your chances of having being good yourself. “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...” (**Hebrews 10:24**). We need each other. What one man lacks, another man has. What another has, one man lacks. “Be thou an example of the believers” is good advice, and to find and follow those who set good examples helps to formulate right courses and plan right avenues of pursuit. Character is helped considerably by associating with those who have it.

By looking forward to the reward. Character and hope run on the same track. One who has an abiding trust in God and His word will build the kind of character that assures for him an eventual heavenly home. “Who shall dwell in Thy holy hill? He that worketh righteousness,” we are told (**Psalms 15:2**). Those who have placed a high value and importance on a well-orchestrated life are fit for an entrance “into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?” (**2 Peter 1:11**). Our hope helps us see the need for a holy character by connecting us to that which has the highest quality and value—eternal life.

Please be advised—the absence of these things in our lives will result in our having a distorted view of what is important in life, and cause us to place emphasis and enthusiasm on the wrong things.



How to See Eye to Eye Religiously

By Mark White

Why do some people not see religious things the way we see them? Why is there so much difference between what we teach and what the denominations profess? Do we not all have the same Bible? Are we not all trying to serve the same God? Do we not all believe in the same Savior? These are perplexing questions, and they are not easily answered to everyone’s satisfaction.

Basically, our understanding of the Scriptures differs from the majority of the religious world because we operate on a different principle of interpretation. To most religious people “truth” is relative, adjusting freely to different times and circumstances. For us, however, truth is truth. It is unalterable, unchangeable, and everlasting. But did “we” just arbitrarily decide this would be our regard for truth? Not at all. God’s own word boldly claims “thy word is truth” (**John 17:17**) and “the word of the Lord is right; and all His works are done in truth.” (**Psalms 33:4**) While there are scoffers at the idea of absolute truth, we accept Bible teaching that such does exist, and we are determined to know it. Pilate’s piercing question, “What is truth?” (**John 18:38**) was prompted by these words from Jesus: “I have come into the world that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

This then, is the basis upon which we may come to see religious matters alike. There must be a commitment to the same standard of truth. No one would ever attempt to use differing standards of measurement if

building a house, marking off a football field, or sewing a garment. This would guarantee error and disaster. Twelve inches must equal one foot on all our rulers if we desire uniformity. There must be a healthy regard and respect for the Bible on the part of every religious person in order for understanding to occur. Without this common devotion to God’s word, all efforts to see things the same will fail. In order to come to agreement on matters essential to salvation, we must begin where we agree. From this point we must study the Scriptures, resolving differences as we go along. Major problems of difference are solved in small steps, and then we can be united in Christ. But we will never see things the same if we cannot agree on the existence, necessity, and location of the truth.

No Bible discussion is profitable unless every participant is a truth seeker. If everyone concerned really wants the truth, then coming to an agreement and an understanding of truth will be achievable. Believe it or not, it is possible to discuss religious differences without becoming rude or creating hurt feelings. People who love the truth are not concerned with who is right, but with what is right. Every truth seeker is willing to surrender any position if it is false. There is no other honorable course for an honest man. An honest man will seek the truth, and when he finds it he will believe it. “Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding.” (**Proverbs 23:23**).

