

How Honest Are We?

When Abraham Lincoln was in the grocery store business in his young manhood, it is said that he once discovered that he had charged a customer six cents too much on a bill of goods. That night, after he had closed his store, Lincoln walked three miles to the home of the person he had shortchanged and returned the six cents. Late one evening he waited on a woman who wanted a half pound of tea. Next morning he noticed a six-ounce weight on the scales. He immediately closed the store and delivered to her tea to compensate for the error. Many such incidents in his life won for him the affectionate title of "Honest Abe." He became a great president.

Men with such honesty need to be in high places. They are needed the world over in every calling of life, from the lowest to the high-

Author Unknown

est, and let's not overlook the church -- they are needed there too. Not only must we be honest with our fellow man, but we are also under obligation to be honest with our God. He has given us life, a soul, a world in which to live and all the blessings that sustain life. It is nothing but fairness and honesty that we return a portion of what God has given us to further His cause. A refusal to do this is called dishonesty according to God's own indictment. This is His charge of dishonesty: "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But you say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation" **(Malachi 3:8, 9)**.



Classes This Week

Sunday 5:15 Kid's Class at the Building	Sunday Evening College Devo and Singing at Steven Smith's Home	Monday 7 PM Ladies Class at Denise Davis' Home
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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)	Marsha and Lee (Toni Herd's Cousins)
Ed Mort (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	Kenn and Ellen Smith (Ken Sullivan's Parents)	Erlene Davis (Walker Davis' mother)	Mary Smith (Nathan Smith's Grandmother)
Gerald White (Christopher's and Wesley's Father)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)	Bill Rhodes (Toni Herd's Uncle)	Larry Alexander (Friend of Phillip Box)
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)

March Birthdays

- 2 - Maddie Norman
- 2- Angela Fowler
- 3 - Shawn Oliver
- 4 - David Perry
- 7 - Josh Pender
- 8 - Carmen Herd
- 10 - Parker Godwin
- 10 - Pepper Humphrey
- 12 - Brad Hartsell
- 12 - Daniel Hogeland
- 14- Tyler Claxton
- 14 - Kaylee West
- 17 - Susan Sullivanne
- 18 - Kenzie Anderson
- 20 - Joy Liu
- 20 - Mary Ann Roberts
- 20- Jimmy Roberts
- 21 - Carter Hunt
- 24 - Audra Hargett
- 24 - Debbie Johnson
- 24 - Jordan Toombs
- 26 - Jared Burton
- 28 - Shelby Freeman
- 29 - Rachel Stephens
- 30 - Amanda Stephens

News and Notes

- Barney Keith, grandfather of Jared Johnson, Was in a car accident on Tuesday. He has since had heart attacks and other complications. He is in ICU in Birmingham.
- There are slots available to sign up to prepare the Lord's Supper.
- Let us remember our expectant mothers in our prayers: Anne Morton and Jana Hall.
- Mike and Debbie Johnson's son, Matthew, is deployed overseas. Also David Golden will be deployed soon. Also Tim Morton is in Afghanistan.
- Steven Smith lost his aunt this week. Please remember his family in your prayers.
- We have an upcoming meeting with Mark Broyles on Marriage, April 15-17.

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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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The Need of Parental Authority

By H. Leo Boles



Thoughts to Ponder

In teaching the Bible you cannot see the fruit of a day's work. It is invisible and remains so, maybe for twenty years.

Perhaps few subjects need to be stressed more than this one. Parents have lost sight of their responsibility to their children, and children are growing up to disregard all restraints and parental authority. In the general decline of respect for authority, both human and divine, which prevails to an alarming extent at the present time, and which threatens to involve in social anarchy and confusion all of the elements of society, it is woeful to observe an almost total failure on the part of parents to exercise their authority in controlling their children. One of the great causes of disrespect for all authority by young people today is the failure of parents to exercise authority over their children. The parent stands to the child, in the years of its character and habits, in the place of God and of all other authority. God has enjoined upon parents that they exercise His authority over the child while it is young and tender. Children are most impressionable in youth, and the parent should not neglect the opportunity for training them.

Parents are responsible for the life and oftentimes the destiny of their children. Parents certainly are responsible oftentimes for the success in society of their children. Children should be kept under the home influence of their parents.

desires and passions, that child will seldom be able to deny self and will be the slave of selfish passions and habits that will be destructive to good order in society and subversive of the divine law. In the human heart, as in the sin cursed soil, the briars, thistles, and thorns grow of themselves and choke out the tender plants that are desirable to promote the well-being here and hereafter. Parents should recognize this truth and should seek to restrain their children from all evil and selfish habits of life. The growth of obnoxious weeds in the human heart must be checked and destroyed, or tender plants of truth and kindness will be choked out.

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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

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No parents would plant a garden with vegetables or flowers and let the weeds and grass grow and choke out the tender plants. No farmer will plant the seed in the soil and let all sorts of weeds and briars grow and destroy the tender plants. Yet many parents do this very thing with their children. They are more careful in cultivating their gardens and fields than they are in cultivating the hearts and lives of their children. No parent can please God by neglecting the children. No parent can train the children as God would have them trained without exercising prayerful care and authority over them. Only the just and prayerful exercise of parental authority over children can keep down the selfishness and evil habits and passions of childhood. Parents must exercise constant and watchful care over their children. No parent who fails to do this can wisely love his children. The tender hand of parental affection alone can nurture to their proper development and strength the plants of virtue and piety in the hearts of their children. Parents who fail to do this disobey God when He says: "Ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but nurture them in the chastening and admonition of the Lord." (Eph. 6:4) Not only do parents disobey God in failing to exercise proper authority over their children, but they also commit a crime against their children.

The parent that neglects to exercise proper authority and care over his children during the formative period is the most cruel enemy to the child that it will ever meet during life. Sometimes parents persuade themselves that they are good and kind to their children by not restraining them and punishing them as the child needs discipline. This is a mistake, and the day will come when the parent and the child will be made to realize that it was a mistake and heartless cruelty to let the child grow up unrestrained and develop evil habits which make it a menace to society. Thousands of young people are now in the jails and penitentiaries because parents failed to do their duty to their children. In many instances these young criminals can point to an overindulgent parent as being largely to blame for the shame and suffering that now must be endured. Many of

these young criminals have a just cause for blaming the parent for not exercising parental authority over them while they were forming their youthful habits of life.

Parents are responsible for the life and oftentimes the destiny of their children. Parents certainly are responsible oftentimes for the success in society of their children. Children should be kept under the home influence of their parents. This argues that the home influence must be directed by the wisdom of God as revealed in the Bible. Parents should keep their children under their own influence. This means that the influence of parents must be that of Christians. Parents should be anxious about the company their children keep. They should firmly restrain their children from all evil influence and exercise with carefulness the parental authority by controlling the child. This should be done with gentleness and affection. Parents should nurture in the hearts of their children a feeling of respect and love that will guide them safely and innocently through childhood and which will clothe their youth with sobriety, chastity, and honor, and which will crown their manhood or womanhood with integrity and uprightness. Parents are responsible if they do not give worth and respectability to their children.

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and even when he is old he will not depart from it," is the law of God, as certain and sure as any other law of heaven. To bring up a child "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" is to teach it the precepts of the Lord. It means to inspire in the heart of the child a holy reverence for God; it means to teach the child honesty, truthfulness, kindness, and mercy; and it means to teach the child self-denial, in simplicity of diet and dress, in habits of industry and economy. To "nurture them in the chastening and admonition of the Lord" is to train the children to be gentle, forbearing, and forgiving. It means to teach the children to find pleasure in denying self for the benefit of others; it includes teaching them reverence toward God and respect for age; and it means to teach them humility, gratefulness, and prayerfulness. By looking at the full content of this Scripture we will see the great responsibility of parents toward their children. - **Gospel Advocate, April 30, 1931**



Death Bed Repentance

By David J. Riggs

The issue, therefore, with our denominational friends and neighbors hinges on just how one becomes a Christian. This must be determined by the written Word of Christ.

A neighbor lady who had become a rather close friend to my wife, came into our home and said, "Do you believe in death bed repentance?" This was not the first time I had been required to give an answer on this topic.

My answer is, "I believe in one kind of death bed repentance, but not the denominational kind." Any sincere Christian who repents, whether at death or before, God forgives, but He will not forgive the one who has never become a Christian. "Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him." (**John 9:31**). "One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination." (**Prov. 28:9**).

The issue, therefore, with our denominational friends and neighbors hinges on just how one becomes a Christian. This must be determined by the written Word of Christ. His Word is the only means by which we can have certainty concerning eternal life. John said, "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life..." (**1 John 5:13**). We should not let the "death bed" thought add emotionalism and detour us from the issue.

Repentance alone is not what makes one a Christian. **Acts 2:38** teaches that repentance and baptism are necessary for remission of sins. **Mark 16:16** makes faith and baptism necessary. In **Rom. 10:9** a verbal confession is essential. Thus, all of these things are required and since baptism is the last act of obedience for conversion, one is saved at its point, not before. This is all I have the right to say about one's condition whether healthy, sick, or dying.

I know of an evangelist who while doing some preaching in the mountains of Virginia ran into several families who supposedly had been baptized into Christ, but were completely unfaithful. He found that their problem was faith in death bed repentance. They thought there was no need to serve God a whole lifetime, just wait until the end, repent and be saved. One would be surprised at the immense

number today who have likewise put their trust in this idea.

There is no passage anywhere that would uphold the faith and hope of such people. What makes one think he can be stubborn and rebellious to God's laws all his life and at the last minute repent and God will accept him? What makes him think God will give him opportunity to repent? On several occasions in the Old Testament, God's people were rebellious and would not listen to God's reproof. When calamity came upon them, and they finally decided to call upon God, He said he would not hear them (**Prov. 1:24-28; Ezek. 8:17-18**). Death bed repentance is not taught in the Bible, but rather, "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth..." (**Eccl. 12:1**).

Someone will say, "What about those who were called at the eleventh hour in the parable of Jesus in **Matt. 20**, weren't they rewarded the same as the others?" There is no comfort in this for those who trust in death bed repentance. All those in the parable obeyed and went to work when called. Death bed repentance is equivalent to the first hour man saying, "It's too early; I'll wait to the eleventh hour." Would he have been accepted?

