

# Write Your Own Funeral

Have you ever wondered what the preacher will say at your funeral? The life that you live will determine what the honest preacher will say when the time comes. Make the correct selections below and see what your funeral sermon will sound like.

By H. L. Collett

- The deceased (was, was not) a Christian, and we therefore (have, have not) a reasonable hope for him.
- His family (knew, never knew) him to be a man of prayer and sincere devotion to God.
- He was a person who regularly (attended, ignored) the worship services, and (could, could not) be counted upon to serve to the best of his ability for the Lord.
- He was (concerned, unconcerned) with the lost, the poor, the afflicted, and the homeless.
- He (loved, did not love) his fellow man, and it was evident in the way he treated him.

- He was (a true friend, two-faced) to those who trusted him and always made a real contribution to the (happiness, unhappiness) of people wherever he went.
- He (possessed, did not possess) honesty, integrity, humility, sincerity and dependability.
- He knew the truth and (tried, did not try) to obey it.
- He (was, was not) an asset to the church, his family, and God.
- We (will, will not) miss him very much because he (was, was not) the type of person everybody loved.
- He (did, did not) "fight a good fight, finish the course, keep the faith; henceforth there (is, is not) laid up for him a crown of righteousness." Honestly, how would your funeral sermon read?



### Classes This Week

**Sunday 5:15**  
Kid's Class at the Building

**Wednesday 10 AM**  
Ladies Class at Nicole Pender's

### 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)
Lee Steptoe (William Herd's cousin)	Grandparents of Mary Ann Roberts	Joe Perry (Anna Miller's Relative)	Jerry Sandlin (Megan Lee's Grandfather)
Richard Call Seth Humphrey's Uncle	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	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)	Dale Herd (William Herd's brother)	Larry Alexander (Friend of Phillip Box)
Marty and Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Frank Johnson (Debbi Coleman's Uncle)	Dale Wilkes (William Herd's Uncle)	Easton Alexander (Phillip Box's cousin's baby)

### Graduating this Week

Mel Ambrose  
Lynsey Armstrong  
Bethany Coulston  
Paul Coulston  
Katie Daves  
Rebekah Buchanon  
Carson Nichols  
Matthew Persell  
Wesley White

### Graduating this Summer

Clint Armstrong  
Andrea Cason  
Chris Wilson

### Leaving for Pharmacy

Rotations  
Amber Adams  
Jared Rice

### News and Notes

- ☑ Ken Sullivane's aunt, Jane Smith, had a stroke this week.
- ☑ Seth Humprey's uncle, Richard Call, has been diagnosed with lung cancer.
- ☑ Chris Davis has been diagnosed with a viral infection of the heart.
- ☑ Let us remember the family of Marcus Smith who was killed in the tornado in Tuscaloosa. Also remember those who are suffering losses from these storms.
- ☑ Let us remember Matthew Johnson, David Golden and Tim Morton in our prayers as they are deployed overseas.
- ☑ Jared Burton is in the hospital in Montgomery with back problems.
- ☑ Congratulations to our graduates!
- ☑ Gardner Hall will be at Perry Hill Road May 15-20 in a meeting.
- ☑ William Herd, rusty Presley and Wally Mole had surgeries this past week.

# 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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## What Saith the Authorities?

By Hiram Hutto



### Thoughts to Ponder

Man is a gregarious animal, and much more so in his mind than in his body. He may like to go alone for a walk, but he hates to stand alone in his opinions.

Once while two Christians were discussing a Bible subject, one of them asked, "What do the authorities say about it?" No doubt he had in mind such things as lexicons, Bible dictionaries, historic, and geographic. Yet I feel that sometimes (though not with the one who raised the question) there is the all too prevalent attitude to depend on what men may say about a certain Bible subject or passage. It may be a lexicon; it may be a dictionary, or it even may be a preacher, but such is surely to be deplored. Paul said that we ought "not to think of men above that which is written." (1 Cor. 4:6).

They may have acquired some knowledge but they have not acquired all knowledge. Just because a man may know a few things in one field does not mean that he is skilled in another field. Scholars may be learned but they are not infallible.

namely, that of an "aid" or a "tool". A Bible dictionary can be a good thing. Nevertheless it is not the Bible; it is not the word of God; it is a dictionary. It ought to be merely an aid that does just that aid; aid in understanding the Bible, not replace it

And the same goes for commentaries. I am not opposed to the proper use of good commentaries. I use them frequently. I fear, though, that many times, the joke "A good commentary is one that ages with what I already believe"

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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 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

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

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is far more than a joke. It's a fact! Just because Johnson's Notes may say a thing does not mean that it is so. Just because Adam Clarke may be quoted does not mean that such is the truth. More seldom than somewhat one meets such expressions as: "This passage means so and so." Proof? "See Albert Barnes, page 22!" or "What happened then was thus and thus." How do you know? "See MacKnight, page 38!" Such does not prove anything other than that is what Albert Barnes or somebody thinks. And, frankly, that is not the word of God.

What is an authority? What is a scholar? Well, oftentimes it depends upon whom you ask. Webster says that a scholar is "one who has engaged in advanced study and acquired knowledge in some special field", and I suppose that is the usual way in which the word is used. Nonetheless, we need to remember a few things:

**1. Scholars are not divine; they are human beings.** Their opinions may be weighty but they are not inspired. They may be skilled in some special field but they do not know everything in that field. They may have acquired some knowledge but they have not acquired all knowledge. Just because a man may know a few things in one field does not mean that he is skilled in another field. Scholars may be learned but they are not infallible.

**2. Sometimes scholars, being human beings, are prejudiced.** A fellow doesn't have to read very many of them to discover this. At times scholars allow previous practice and previously held positions of their own to influence their thinking. It's not a bad idea to know something about a given

scholar's background.

**3. Oftentimes scholars disagree.** If you look long enough you can find some scholar or authority to substantiate nearly any position imaginable. This might be a good place to point out that the oft heard expression "all scholars agree..." is a figment of an imagination; it just ain't so unless you have a pretty limited definition of the word "scholar". Which reminds me of the debate I heard between two college students from England and two from the University of Florida. One of the Florida students chided the English for not quoting any authorities to substantiate their position. To which one of the English debaters replied, "You can quote authorities on any side of any question. But if you want an authority, here is what one noted authority has written...." Then he concluded, "If you want to know who that authority is and where he wrote such, I made the statement, I wrote it, and that's pretty good authority, at least to me." Well, since scholars disagree it is a good idea to consult several; don't take one man's word.

**4. Let us never get to the point that we feel that because a scholar or even many scholars may say a thing then that must be the way it is.** Their thoughts may be valuable but they are not absolute. Before such we may bend, but we must not bow. Remember, we are to "prove all things" (**1 Thess. 5:21**). We are to "try the spirits", so **1 John 4:1** says. The place to do the proving and the trying is in the word of God. Again let it be noted that we may respect men, and we may study them, but we must not "think of men above that which is written" (**1 Cor. 4:6**). "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God" (**1 Pet. 4:11**). When we say, "What saith the authorities?" let us mean "what saith the scriptures".



## Will You, I, or Anyone Else Cease to Exist?

By Bob Myhan

Does man have an immortal spirit that will survive death? Or does he cease to exist at death? This was one of the key doctrinal differences between the first century Sadducees and Pharisees.

But when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee; concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead I am being judged!" And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees; and the assembly was divided. For Sadducees say that there is no resurrection--and no angel or spirit; but the Pharisees confess both (**Acts 23:6-8**).

But what does the Bible teach? Either it teaches that humans have an immortal spirit or it teaches that they do not have an immortal spirit or it teaches nothing, at all, on the subject.

When the Sadducees asked Jesus about the resurrection, He replied,

"...have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living." (**Matt. 22:31-32; Ex. 3:6**)

Moses was born hundreds of years after Abraham, Isaac and Jacob died. Yet they

Either the wicked do not cease to exist at death or the word, resurrection, means something different for the wicked than it means for the righteous. If there is no spirit that survives death, there will be no spirit to resurrect.

must have been alive in some sense during Moses' time or God would have been "the God of the dead," which Jesus said He is not. Thus, these men did not cease to exist when they died physically. Moses himself survived death; he appeared with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration about 2500 years after he died on Mount Nebo (**Deut.**

**34:1-6; Matt. 17:1-3**). Samuel also appeared on earth after his death (**1 Sam. 28:7-19**). Elijah did not experience physical death, at all (**2 Kings 2:9-11**), but he did not cease to exist at his ascension; he also appeared with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration.

But all these men were righteous. What about the wicked? Is there any evidence they do not cease to exist at death? According to Jesus, all the dead will one day be resurrected.

"Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation" (**John 5:28-29**).

Either the wicked do not cease to exist at death or the word, resurrection, means something different for the wicked than it means for the righteous. If there is no spirit that survives death, there will be no spirit to resurrect.

