

# We Learn More From Losing Things

By Gary Henry

“Better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for that is the end of all men; and the living will take it to heart” (Ecc 7:2).

**To lose is to learn.** Rarely do we part with anything valuable without growing in wisdom. Yet the experience of loss is one we usually resist and resent. If it's a choice between gaining and losing, we'd much rather be gaining. As for losing we might have to do, we hope to defer that as long as we can. Nevertheless it's true: we **learn** more from losing things than we do from gaining them. So Solomon said that it's better to go to the “house of mourning” than the “house of feasting.” That will be our perspective during times of loss if our priorities are what they ought to be.

We humans are both “acquisitive” and “possessive” creatures, aren't we? We love to acquire — to get and to gain — and having acquired at least some of what we want in this world, we feel a sense of entitlement to it: **This is mine. I possess it. It would be wrong for this to ever be taken away from me.** We are loathe to part with anything we have acquired, whether our money, our possessions, our health, our pleasures, our privileges, or our relationships.

Yet in a “temporal” world, there is nothing that is not **temporary**. Do you understand what that means? It means that **there is nothing that is yours to keep.** Whatever you have, you are going to have to let go of it — except God. And I am not talking about what happens at death. If you live very long, you're going to part with most of what you enjoy **before** you die. And when the things you have cherished are taken away from you, one by one, you will grow in wisdom. You will learn more from losing things than you ever learned by gaining them. And what you will learn is that **God is all you have to have.** He is the only thing you can't do without.

If nothing ever changed and we were allowed to keep our situations and our relationships as long as we wanted, we'd soon forget about God. Our tendency is to try to “possess” the creation and pay little attention to the Creator. But knowing our nature, God lets us enjoy our boons and benefits **For a while** . . . and then takes them away from us. With every loss, He is teaching us to fix our hearts on Him. So let me ask you: looking at life like that, is losing what you love in this world good or bad? You be the judge.



### Classes This Week

<b>Sun 5:15 PM</b> Kid's Class at the Building	<b>Monday 12 Noon</b> Campus Study - Foy Cafeteria	<b>Tuesday 7 PM</b> Ladies class at Nichole Pender's	<b>Tuesday 8 PM</b> "Truth Seekers" at Rm 2218 in the Student Center	<b>Wed. 10 AM</b> Ladies "Parenting" Class at Candy Long's	<b>Thursday 12:30 PM</b> Campus Study - Foy Cafeteria	<b>Thursday 7 PM</b> Revelation Study at Caleb George's	<b>Thursday 7 PM</b> "Studies in the Cross of Christ" at the Rouse's
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### Sick

Richard Wood (Melanie Smith's Uncle)	Lori Holloway	Mike Reed (Friend of Long's)	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz's Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	Bill Rhodes (Toni Herd's Uncle)	Philip Locke (Jeremiah Johnson's Uncle)
Josie Keith (Friend of Heath Fowler)	Grandparents of Mary Ann Roberts	Easton Alexander (Phillip Box's cousin's baby)	Jerry Sandlin (Megan Lee's Grandfather)
Gaylord Huffman (Jennifer Daniel's Grandfather)	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Erlene Davis (Walker Davis' mother)	Mary Smith (Nathan Smith's Grandmother)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna 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, Russell Dickerson (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Stacey Harrell (Marcus Harrell's Dad)	Ann Robinson (Sharon Bailey's Mom)	Debra Lowe (Toni Herd's Friend)

### October Birthdays

- 2 - Suzanne Nichols
- 6 - Jessica Anderson
- 8 - Heath Fowler
- 9 - William Edwards
- 11 - Mason Chandler
- 12 - Stacy Norman
- 14 - Grant Smith
- 20 - Evan Pender
- 20 - Olivia Hillard
- 20 - Keith Bailey
- 21 - Scott Shields
- 22 - Chris Davis
- 22 - Hunter Crawford
- 22 - Meredith Bragwell
- 22 - Christopher White
- 24 - Sarabeth + Suzanna Roberts
- 25 - Josh Sutton
- 26 - Sara Sutton
- 26 - Palmer Daniels
- 26 - Mel Ambrose
- 28 - Anne Morton
- 29 - Matt Hall
- 29 - Belle Johnson
- 31 - Kitty Tam

### News and Notes

- Let us remember Matthew Johnson, David Golden and Tim Morton in our prayers as they are deployed overseas.
- Please remember Greg Lanier's father, Don Lanier, in your prayers. His cancer may have returned.
- Let us remember Carrie Chaver's family in our prayers at her recent death.
- Bill Hall will be teaching on Wed., Nov 2 on selecting elders.
- There will be a workday next Saturday at 8AM to work on the building and grounds.
- Turn clocks back on Sat., Nov. 5!

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# 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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## “Buy the Truth and Sell it Not”

By Bob Waldron



### Thoughts to Ponder

The intensity of pressure doesn't matter as much as its location. Does it come between you and God, or does it press you closer to him?

One of the most important attitudes one can have in striving to go to heaven is that of intense zeal for the truth of God. Too often, people settle on something far less than the truth. Remember, a counterfeit, though it may look relatively genuine, is nevertheless worthless. Likewise, we cannot enjoy the benefits of truth just by getting pretty close. We must take our position firmly and foursquare on the truth. “Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32).

There are many among us who, like Pilate, would ask, “What is truth?” (John 18:38). Many do not believe in absolute truth. The Bible, however, is absolute, unchanging truth. “Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven” (Psalms 119:89). The belief that there is absolute truth is fundamental to one who desires to “buy the truth and sell it not” (Proverbs 23:23).

### One Can Be Wrong

It is a fact that anyone can mis-

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takenly be wrong. Paul, when speaking of his past manner of life, before his conversion, said, “I have lived before God in all good conscience until this day” (Acts 23:1). Yet he was before a “persecutor, and a blasphemer, and injurious” (1 Timothy 1:13). How could he have lived in all good conscience when he had been so wrong? The answer is simple. He thought he was right. “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of

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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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death” (**Proverbs 16:25**). The fact that we can be wrong means that it does not behoove us to close our minds to further investigation. Jeremiah said, “Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest unto your souls” (**Jeremiah 6:16**).

### Faith vs. Opinion

Naturally, study brings us to certain conclusions. All of us live by certain principles. But upon what do our conclusions rest? All too often they rest upon mere opinion. Realize that if something is a matter of faith, then God must have said something about it. We cannot know the words of eternal life by opinions. One man’s opinion is just as good as another man’s; but no man’s opinion is worthy to be compared to God’s.

You would not want to risk crossing the ice over a river merely because somebody thinks you can. Neither should we risk trying to go to heaven by the opinions of men. The difference between an opinion and conviction is that an opinion is usually a spur-of-the-moment conclusion someone comes up with based upon skimpy premises, if any. A conviction is a conclusion based upon evidence which has been thoroughly studied and meditated upon. God has given us a wonderful book. It furnishes man with doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness, that he may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**).

The Bible is our evidence. It is the truth. When believed, it becomes subjective faith. The Bible did not come from men, so there need be no question about its reliability. It was given unto men though, and designed so they could understand it when they read it

(**Ephesians 3:3-5**). This is not to say that all the Bible is simple to understand. There are difficult portions of it that demand much study. The matters of conversion to God and everyday living are simple and easy to understand. What many find difficult about such matters is the application of that which may be so simple to understand.

### Feelings — A Poor Standard

Do not base your conviction upon some peculiar feeling you might have. Feelings are a poor standard of truth. We have already mentioned Paul. We might mention Jacob also who believed with all his heart that his son Joseph was dead, but that did not make it true. Remember, God has given us revelation, facts. Our convictions must rest upon these facts or else we will find ourselves upon shifting sand.

### Conscience — Not a Reliable Guide

Neither is conscience a reliable guide in determining whether your convictions are sound or not. The conscience is very pliable to begin with. Our conscience is usually formed at a tender age. At that time it may be trained to approve good or evil. When we reach maturity our conscience alters and becomes almost unchangeable. From then on it tells us only whether we have done as we learned to do or not.

Changing the conscience then is a slow, difficult project. If your conscience were trained correctly, well and good. If it were trained incorrectly, then it will approve even when you do things that are really wrong, because it was taught that which was wrong. “Let your conscience be your guide” is therefore poor advice.

This brings us back again to the fact that we must ultimately make our stand upon the word of God. Everything is to be judged by it.



## Abraham’s Obedience

By Gilbert Alexander

Do you see how faith worked with his works, and by his works his faith was made complete? (**James 2:21-24**).

Have you considered what God said to Abraham and how Abraham responded? God told Abraham to leave his native land and to go to a land that God would show him. Abraham obeyed (**Genesis 12:1-9; Hebrews 11:8**). God told him to look in all directions in that land and to walk in it through its length and width, “for”, He said, “I give it to you.” Abraham believed what God told him, and he built altars to the Lord in the places where he sojourned (**Genesis 13:14-18; 12:7,8**). God told Abraham that his descendants would be as the stars of heaven in number. Abraham “believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness” (**Genesis 15:1-3**). Abraham was childless and growing old, yet he believed in the promises of the Lord. God even gave Abraham a sign to assure His promise of Abraham’s possessing the land (**Genesis 15:7-21**), a promise that would not be realized until the fourth generation.

God repeated His promises and made a covenant with Abraham with this condition: “Walk before Me and be blameless” (**Genesis 17:1-9**). Circumcision was given as a sign of the covenant between God and Abraham, and Abraham and all his males were circumcised that very day (**Genesis 17:23-27**). God had confidence in Abraham’s continued obedience – the basis of the covenant. “For I have known him, in

order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him” (**Genesis 18:19**).

A great test of Abraham’s faith was given in command to take Isaac and

offer him as a burnt offering (**Genesis 22:1, 2**). Abraham rose early in the morning and set out to do as he was commanded. He did not falter, even though all human reasoning would cry out against his taking the life of his heir. He believed that God could raise Isaac from the dead, if necessary (**Hebrews 11:17-19**). Now hear God’s word to Abraham: “By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son – blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven... In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice” (**Genesis 22:16-18**).

Do you see how faith worked with his works, and by his works his faith was made complete? (**James 2:21-24**).

Hence, Abraham was justified when he by faith obeyed God. What is your state before God?

