

# How to Know What God Wants Me to Do

By Greg Gwin

We all face important decisions. These decisions will often have a great impact on us and our families. It may be a question about what job to take, or where to live, or what school to attend, etc. What should we do? Does God offer any help or guidance in making such decisions? We believe the answer is YES! How does God give this guidance? In many ways:

**1) Through the Word.** The vast majority of answers are here. There are positive commands that tell us what we should do. For example, **Matthew 28:19** instructs us to teach the gospel to others. You don't have to wonder if God wants you to speak to your neighbor about salvation. He does, and He said so! There are also negative commands that tell us what to avoid. If, for instance, you are praying about whether or not you should honestly report your income taxes — save your breath! God has already given that answer (**Eph. 4:25**). Don't be looking for additional guidance in areas where God has already said "no" or "yes."

**2) Through prayer.** Christians are to be consistent in prayer (**1 Thess. 5:17**). God promises to answer our prayers. We ought to approach Him with petitions for help with our important decisions (**1 Peter 3:12**). If you don't believe this will work, then don't bother to ask! (**James 1:5-7**).

**3) Through circumstances.** In the Old Testament, Joseph suffered a number of awful and unjust things. In the end, he was wise enough to realize that God had used those circumstances to accomplish His will (**Gen. 45:7,8**). Be careful here - this 'guidance through circumstances' is sometimes hard to detect, and some are quick to jump to false conclusions.

**4) Through the counsel of others.** The many commands that urge us to exhort and encourage our fellow Christians (**Heb. 3:13, Gal. 6:2**) demonstrate that God intends for us to help one another with the difficult things in our lives.



<b>Sunday 5:15</b> Kid's Class at the Building	<b>Monday 7PM</b> Men's Class at the Davis'	<b>Tuesday 8 PM</b> "Truth Seekers" at Student Center - Rm 2310	<b>Wednesday 10 AM</b> Parenting Class ay Nichole Pender's
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Sick			
Richard Wood (Melanie Smith's Uncle)	Eli Williams (Friend of Sarah Norman)	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	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)	Haylie Watson (Tyler Claxton's Relative)	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)	Betty Bradford	Ann Robinson (Sharon Bailey's Mom)	Debra Lowe (Toni Herd's Friend)

## February Birthdays

- 2 - Wesley Herd
- 2 - Ken Sullivan
- 3 - Chris Long
- 5 - Mark Zeanah
- 6 - Jackson Fowler
- 8 - Grant Burton
- 13 - Leslie Freeman
- 13 - Megan McMurray
- 14 - Leighton Daniels
- 15- Terria Burton
- 15 - Ella Miller
- 16 - Seth Humphrey
- 18 - Caralise Hunt
- 20 - Haley Chittam
- 20 - Laura West
- 22 - Windy Dembowski
- 22 - Elizabeth Anne Calvert
- 22 - Alexander Calvert
- 23- Greg Lanier
- 24 - Jeff Jerkins
- 26 - Maghen Smith
- 27 - Julie Johnson

## News and Notes

- Thanks for all of you who worked so hard to make our meeting with brother Payne such a success! Let's keep passing out the CD's!
- All members are urged to obtain and fill out the Eldership forms due Wed.
- Betty Bradford had successful surgery last week.
- Our groups will meet tonight.
- Today is a 5th Sunday and Nathan Rouse will be speaking tonight.
- All audio from our services are posted at [www.aubeacon.com](http://www.aubeacon.com)
- Let us warmly greet and get to know our visitors!

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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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## Who Is My Judge?

By Robert Welch



### Thoughts to Ponder

If we must judge, let us first use the mirror on our own wall for practice.

People become overly concerned about how others pry into their lives, criticizing, condemning, maybe slandering. What difference does it make what others think of us? They are not really our judges; the Lord is our judge. What they say may slur our reputation, but it can do nothing against our character and standing with the Lord. Preachers even become too much concerned about what the people church members, the world, think of them and their preaching. Paul gave consideration to all these things as he wrote:

*"But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self... but he that judgeth is the Lord." (1 Corinthians 4:3-4)*

Notice that he does not say that he cares nothing about the judging or examining of others. He does emphasize, however, that it is "a very small thing". In the same letter he says, "I am become all things to all men," (**1 Cor. 9:21**) but that is not merely to please them. He says it is "that I may by all

My first objective is to be what the Lord would have me to be. I must pattern my motives and life after his will. When I have done that I will have no difficulty in doing what I can to be pleasing others in order that I might have the greatest effect possible in leading them in the right course.

*means save some.*" The context, furthermore, shows that he would not go so far in this as to displease Christ. Instead he disciplined himself lest he be rejected of Christ. (**1 Cor. 9:27**)

He had this small concern about what others thought of him. On the other hand, however, he puts the matter in its proper place: "For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? or am I striving to please men? If I were still pleasing men, I should not be a servant of Christ." (**Gal. 1:10**)

If my friends, companions and "everybody" do a thing and think

*(Continued on page 2)*

**Do You Have a Bible Question?**  
Call (334) 734-2133 or E-mail: [LarryRouse@aubeacon.com](mailto: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)**

*(Continued from page 1)*

that I am an odd-ball because I do not go along with it, am I concerned? Their actions and estimations are not the standard of conduct for me as a Christian, and it is not by their standards that I am to be judged. *"He that looketh into the perfect law, the law, of liberty, and so continueth, being not a hearer that forgetteth but a doer that worketh, this man shall be blessed in his doing."* (James 1:25) Not only is it the doing of the perfect law which will bring me blessings, but it is by this perfect law that I shall be judged; *"so speak ye, and so do, as men that are to be judged by a law, of liberty."* (James 2:12)

"But if other Christians think that it is wrong to do this or that then I cannot do it for that would be offensive to them," is often expressed by sincere Christians who have come to believe that we can not do a thing unless it is liked by all Christians. Other Christians are not my judges. They are not my lawmakers. I am to live to be judged by the gospel. It is true that I cannot so live and do a thing which, though right in itself because I understand the principle of truth involved, would cause my fellow Christian to violate his conscience in doing it, or sin in doing it, or weaken him by my action (Rom. 14:21; I Cor. 8:11-13; 10:32). The word "offend" is used in some of these passages in the Ring James version. And it has been mistakenly used to teach that if a thing is disliked, that is offensive, to some brother then we cannot do it. That is not the usage of the word at all in these passages; it refers to the other person's offending, that is, stumbling or sinning.

My first objective is to be what the Lord would have me to be. I must pattern my motives and life after his will. When I have done that I will have no difficulty in doing what I can to be pleasing others in order that I might have the greatest effect possible in leading them in the right course. Otherwise, it should be of little

concern to me what they think, so long as I am doing what I know to be right.

I am not even my own judge.

### DO NOT JUDGE OTHERS TOO HARD

*Pray don't find fault with the man who limps,*

*Or stumbles along the road;*

*Unless you have worn the shoes he wears*

*Or struggled beneath his toad.*

*There may be tacks In his shoes that hurt,*

*hidden away from view,*

*Or the burdens he bears, placed on your back,*

*Might cause you to stumble too.*

*Don't sneer at the man who's down today,*

*Unless you have felt the blow*

*That caused his fall or felt the shame*

*That only the fallen know.*

*You may be strong, but still the blows*

*That were his, if dealt to you.*

*In the self-same way at the self-same time,*

*Might cause you to stagger too.*

*Don't be too harsh with the man who sins,*

*Or pelt him with words or stones,*

*Unless you are sure, yes, doubly sure*

*That you have not sins of your, own.*

*--Author unknown*



## Just Temporary

By Lenny Chapman

Throughout the Lord's church there is a shortage of men desiring the office and serving as elders. Because of this situation, the church becomes weak.

In the Lord's church it is of the utmost importance to follow the guidelines laid out within the pages of the inspired Word of God. Hopefully, congregations throughout the world recognize the awesome responsibility they have to keep the Lord's church pure, and to be a beacon to those living in the world looking for hope and the answer to life. The key to fulfilling this responsibility is to understand that God's Word is the ONLY place we find authority!

Let us consider what the scriptures say about the organization of the church. God is the almighty power and final word in all matters. In this age, He rules through Christ, (John 12:49-50). The Father has given Jesus all authority in heaven and in earth, (Mat. 28:18), and in the end Jesus will deliver the church to the Father, (1 Cor 15:24). Christ is the "Head" of the church, and because of His position of authority, we have no right to change what Christ has put into place through the apostles' examples in the first century church. We must live under the ruling hand of Christ.

The scriptures also identify an earthly organization to be in place. It includes elders, deacons and preachers. Paul was wise to the importance of elders. He helped the younger congregations by ordaining elders in all congregations of the Lord's church. In his letter to Titus, Paul wrote, **"For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee"** (Titus 1:5). "To set in order" means that without elders, things are "out of order." A congregation operating without the oversight of elders is to be "Just Temporary." There are many destructive things that can occur when qualified elders are not in place. Unfortunately, there are many local congregations operating without them. Instead they have the men of the local body trying to do the best they can with the daily business of the congregation.

The qualifications of elders have been detailed specifically and clearly, (1Tim. 3:1-7; Tit. 1:5-9), as these men must be able to submit themselves, including their

own personal pride, to Christ. Sadly, there are congregations that will "lower the bar" and allow unqualified men to fill the office of an elder. They will overlook a thing or two so that the position is filled, possibly even think that the on-the-job training will help the man to develop quicker into the position. **This idea does not work, and will always cause problems within the church!**

Throughout the Lord's church there is a shortage of men desiring the office and serving as elders. Because of this situation, the church becomes weak. Over the past years we have witnessed more congregations fall away from the Truth than grow more steadfast to the Truth. We watch groups of unqualified men try to work together and tend to the everyday business of the church. Instead of men sincere in their love of God, and desire to serve the Lord in all things, a group of unqualified men are in place taking liberties to serve their own agendas. Frustration and strife develop between the group, and instead of being able to **"set aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us,"** (Heb. 12:1), the true colors of the unqualified come into clear view as they hold grudges with one another for years, tearing down and dismantling the very foundation of Christianity. For Jesus said, **"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another"** (John 13:34-35).

A congregation without elders is to be just a temporary situation. In order for the church to operate as the scriptures teach, we must ordain elders in every congregation. First and foremost, these men must meet the qualifications set forth in the Bible. Elders are not made overnight, men must desire the office, and they must begin preparing for it years before it ever happens. Please talk to the young men in the church, help them to understand the need for elders. Encourage and support them to desire it, and to work toward the office of an elder.

