

Do It Because You Don't Want To

By Gary Henry

"But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified" (1 Corinthians 9:27).

It's healthy to do something every day that we really don't want to do – just for the exercise. There is a great benefit in practicing the art of self-discipline, that is, engaging in it regularly just for the sake of building our mental muscles.

When Paul said that he "disciplined" his body and brought it into "subjection," he spoke of something that requires a bit of unpleasantness from time to time. By its very nature, training requires us to get out of our comfort zone. If we never call upon our "muscles" to do anything more than what they want to do, then we never gain the ability to do anything more than that. It's just that simple. And so we ought to look for opportunities to do things that we don't want to do. It's one good way that we grow.

Have you ever watched someone "exercising"? Many of the bodily movements by which strength and agility are developed would be ridiculous if we did them for any reason

other than training or exercise. Take sit-ups, for example. There is only one reason to do sit-ups: to make your abdominal muscles do things they don't want to do. No one would ever do it for any other reason except . . . training . . . practice . . . exercise . . . discipline. When you do sit-ups, you're demonstrating that you grasp one of life's great principles: There is value in doing things that don't want to be done.

Nothing is more valuable than to have our faculties — mental and spiritual, as well as physical — trained and ready to respond to important needs. But having faculties that will respond to important needs is not something that happens overnight or without any effort. When the big tests of life come along, we won't be ready for them if we haven't been training for them before then. So today, if there's some unpleasant little duty that could easily be procrastinated, do it just because you don't want to. Take that little opportunity to put the flesh in its place. Teach your body to take orders from your spirit. Someday, you'll be mighty glad you did.



Sunday 5:15 Kid's Class at the Building	Monday 7 PM Men's Class at Walker Davis'	Tuesday 8 PM "Truth Seekers" at Student Center - Room 2310	Wednesday 12 Noon Ladies Class on "Parenting" at the Pender's
---	--	--	---

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)	Stephen Freeman (Phillip Box's Friend)
Virginia Crawford (Hunter's Sister-In-Law)	Neal May (Manna Jones' Mother)	Easton Alexander (Phillip Box's cousin's baby)	Andrew Hagewood (Friend of Sarah Norman)
Gaylord Huffman (Jennifer Daniel's Grandfather)	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Betty Bradford	Brenda Chandler (Mason Chandler's Mother)
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)	Melissa Walker (Chuck Hahn's Cousin)	Ann Robinson (Sharon Bailey's Mom)	Marion Vanhal (Paula Davis' Uncle)

April Birthdays
2 - Missy Toombs
2 - Melanie Smith
3 - Sharon Bailey
6 - Maci Guthrie
7 - Mary Catherine Burns
8 - Laura Humphrey
10 - Stefan Richardson
14 - Kaylee West
14 - Jesse Roberts
16 - Carson Fowler
18 - Spencer Sullivan
18 - Joel Black
18 - Taylor Godwin
20 - April Jerkins
21 - Timothy Jones
23 - Anna Miller
24 - Bob Simpson
29 - Lottie Kate Smith

News and Notes

Let us be working towards our VBS on June 18-21. The theme will be "Following the Footsteps of Jesus!"

Let us remember David Hartsell and his family in our prayers. While he has made some progress there are also new complications.

Let us remember our expectant mothers in our prayers, Candy Long and Terria Burton.

We extend sympathy to Keeley Porter in the unexpected loss of her grandmother, Dottie Wingfield.

If you are aware of Christian students that plan to come to Auburn in the fall, please give Yvette Rouse the name and contact information. Her number is: (734-2134).

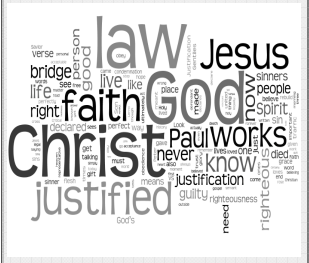
A weekly publication of the University church of Christ in Auburn, Alabama

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)



Volume 3, Issue 25 April 22, 2012



Thoughts to Ponder

There are no disappointments to those whose wills are buried in the will of God.

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

Justification by Faith — How?

By Franklin T. Puckett

In the world today there are a multiplicity of doctrines being taught. It is essential that we be able to draw a line of distinction between the doctrine of God and the false doctrines of men. We must know the doctrine of God in order to be made free from sin and to inherit eternal bliss in the life to come. But we cannot recognize that doctrine of God, and distinguish between it and the doctrines of men, without a most diligent and careful study. That is why it is always appropriate and in order that truth should be contrasted with error, the teaching of God with the teachings of men.

The doctrine of salvation by faith only is one that came to prominence and wide acceptance through the influence of Martin Luther in the reformation of the 16th century. Luther inserted the word "alone" into his translation of **Romans 3:28**, making it read, "We reckon therefore that a man is justified by faith ALONE apart from the works of the law." Realizing that the book of James squarely contradicts this idea, Luther rejected James entirely, declaring it not canonical, and describing it as "a book of straw." From the days of Luther to the present, prominent

Saul has been justified justified by faith. But WHEN was he justified? When was he pardoned? When did he "have peace"? Was it on the Damascus road when he became a believer? Of course not.

denominational bodies have included the doctrine of "salvation by faith only" in their creeds, church manuals, and confessions of faith. Their preachers contend that justification is secured the very split second one believes in Christ.

The Bible clearly teaches, however, that man is saved by faith when faith obeys. Apart from obedience there can be no salvation, no justification. The doctrine of salvation by faith only is not taught in the Bible, is contrary to the Bible, and gives the lie to the express statement of James, "Ye see that by works a man is justified, and

(Continued on page 2)

Check Us Out On the Internet: www.aubeacon.com

(Continued from page 1)

not only by faith." **(James 2:24)** The only kind of faith that will save a man is the kind which Paul described as "faith working through love." **(Gal. 5:6)** Faith without such "work," without such obedience is dead; it is unprofitable; it does no good whatever. Paul makes the matter plain for us when he says, "For ye are all sons of God, through faith in Christ Jesus." **(Gal. 3:26)** It is here, in and through faith, that one becomes a child of God. But how did Paul know that these Galatians, to whom he was writing, were "children of God through faith"? He explains it in the very next verse, "FOR as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Here is the cause or reason for the preceding statement.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul explains exactly how justification had come about. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." **(Rom. 5:1)** Paul includes himself in the number of those who had been thus justified. A brief study of his justification will show what it means to be "justified by faith." Paul as a persecutor of the church was on his way to Damascus with letters of authority that he might arrest the saints and bind them and bring them back to Jerusalem. The Lord appeared to him in the way, and said, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" Was Saul saved at this point? Certainly not, for he didn't even know who the Lord was. He asked, "Who art thou, Lord?" Up to this point in the encounter Saul was not a believer in Jesus Christ; he still regarded Christ as an imposter and a fraud. He was still convinced that he "ought to do many things contrary to" this same Jesus.

In response to Saul's inquiry as to his identity, the Lord answered, "I am Jesus, whom thou persecutest; it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." When Saul heard this heavenly voice declare that the speaker was the one he had been persecuting, he believed. For the first time he realized that he had indeed and in truth been opposing the son of God. This leads Saul to think of his own terrible plight. "And he trembling and astonished said, "Lord, what wilt thou have

me to do?" The Lord did not respond by telling him what to do to be saved, or how to be con-vetted. Rather he said, "Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do."

Was Saul a saved man at this point? Well, hardly! He is not at peace with God. Far from it. He recognizes the fact that something must be done; he is merely waiting to be told what that "something" is. The Lord sends Ananias, a certain disciple in Damascus, to him. When Ananias comes, he finds Saul praying. Many preachers would have said that was the way to do it; they would have encouraged Saul to pray on, and on, and on, and on. They might have told him he would certainly "come through" if he would only persist in prayer. But that was not what this New Testament preacher told Saul, the penitent believer. Paul was already a believer; and he was penitent. So Ananias said to him, "Why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." **(Acts 22:16)**

When Paul heard these words from Ananias he "arose, and was baptized. And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues that he is the Son of God." This is the conduct of a man at peace with God. This is the behavior of one who has been justified. Gone now are the three days of darkness and hunger and thirst; gone are the fears, the trembling, the remorse and gnawing anxiety. Saul has been justified justified by faith. But WHEN was he justified? When was he pardoned? When did he "have peace"? Was it on the Damascus road when he became a believer? Of course not.

Paul was justified and "had peace" when he obeyed God, and not before. The whole story of his conversion emphasizes that point. The doctrine of salvation "by faith only" would have had him justified, pardoned, forgiven, and "at peace" out on the Damascus road when he became a believer. But Paul knew better than that; and so does every one who better who reads the story of Paul's conversion with understanding. Paul was saved by faith, but not by faith only.



The Goal of Longsuffering

By Steve Klein

Paul prayed that the Colossians would be "strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy" **(Colossians 1:11)**. Indeed, we all need to pray for God's strength that we might be longsuffering with others, in the home, on the job, at school, at play, and in the church.

A housewife sits alone in the kitchen late at night. Her husband comes in after midnight. Drunk again. He is sour and abusive. It upsets her to see him this way. Her hope and prayer is that he can get help, turn his life around, and be the good man she knows he can be. In the morning she'll be up early to fix his coffee -- strong and black. And maybe she'll plead quietly with him to attend an AA meeting. Or maybe she'll just sit in silence and weep.

A parent is at the end of his rope. His teenager has broken curfew again. So many nights, waiting up late, wondering if this could be the night an automobile accident occurs, or the night his child falls in with evil companions, or the night fornication is committed. Wondering where the child could be. Then, the child comes in. Maybe there's a quiet talk about the importance of getting home on time. Maybe there are heated words, lame excuses, revoked privileges and another sleepless night for all.

Why does the housewife put up with it? Why doesn't the parent just take away the keys permanently?! What motivates their longsuffering? Is it not love for the one who is doing wrong and hope that the person will change?

In **2 Peter 2:3**, we learn that "The Lord is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." God is longsuffering toward us, not because He is "overlooking" our sins and shortcomings, but because He wants us to repent --

to change our minds and our lives! God's forbearance and longsuffering are designed to "lead to repentance" **(Romans 2:4)**. When we continue in sin, we are showing great disrespect for God's goodness.

Like God, Christians are to be longsuffering **(Colossians 3:12; Ephesians 4:2)**, but few of us probably have a very clear

idea about what longsuffering is and why we should practice it. Longsuffering is not overlooking sin and error or pretending that they don't exist. It does not involve failure to rebuke and reprove sin, for these things are to be done "with all longsuffering" **(2 Timothy 4:2)**. Nor is longsuffering some kind of Chinese water torture that God has devised to see how much pain His children are willing to endure for no good reason. Longsuffering has a goal, a purpose. The reason we show longsuffering to others is the same reason God shows it to us -- We are patient in dealing with the sins and faults of others because we love them and we want them to change for the better.

Even when we know what longsuffering is and why we are to show it, it is seldom easy to do so. Paul prayed that the Colossians would be "strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy" **(Colossians 1:11)**. Indeed, we all need to pray for God's strength that we might be longsuffering with others, in the home, on the job, at school, at play, and in the church.

