

# Job's Covenant With His Eyes

By Mike Glenn

Have you ever made a plan for your daily conduct? Have you considered ahead of time how you would react to the various temptations that will come to you?

For example, have you already planned that you would be in services on Sunday evening whether or not company comes by, the couch feels comfortable, or the Super Bowl is on?

Have you already planned that even though you are late to work, you are going to obey the speed limit?

Have you planned, that even as the hot summer approaches, you will not wear immodest clothing, but that you will dress as you believe Jesus would if he were in your place?

Have you already decided that today, if you meet someone, do you immediately start thinking of a way to bring up a study of the gospel with him or her?

These are just some of the myriad of questions that could be considered as implying situations that are part of our daily life.

Our text today has an outstanding lesson in this regard.

Men understand the temptation to lust. Our society with all of its advertising in print and electronics can put that temptation before us everywhere. Brothers and sisters, there is nothing new under the sun. The form may be different, but the same temptations existed for the ancient world.

Job, knowing this made a plan to remain godly (**Job 31:1**). He determined not to let his eyes dwell on the temptation, but to look away. He determined not to tempt himself by considering what he ought not to think about. It was his plan to avoid mental or physical fornication.

Brothers and sisters, what plans have you made to flee from the devil? God has provided a way of escape from every temptation. Let's make a plan to know the escape and take it. Paul determined to die for the cause of Christ rather than recant or remain silent. It was a good plan that would take him to heaven. Make a plan to grow, to study, to pray, to resist temptation.

Plan to obey God.



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)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Jeffery Miller (Friend of Walker Davis)
Emma Hettinger (William Herd's Mother)	Neal May (Manna Jones' Mother)	Roger Whatley (Daphene Whatley's son)	Andrew Hagewood (Friend of Sarah Norman)
Gaylor Huffman (Jennifer Daniel's Grandfather)	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Betty Bradford	Arline Harkrider (Nichole Pender's Grandmother)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)	Dale Herd (William Herd's brother)	Carl Alexander (Hannah Alexander's Uncle)
Marty and Aubrey Meeks, Russell Dickerson (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Melissa Walker (Chuck Hahn's Cousin)	Judy Nichol's (Suzanne's Mother)	Caleb Dobbs (Melanie Smith's brother)

July Birthdays
2 – Emma Miller
4 – Bess Godwin
5 – Andrew Cagle
7 – David Golden
7 – Anna Leigh Peek
9 – Elliot Weldon
9 – Troy Swenson
10 – Sarah Tam
11 – Walker Davis
12 – Jon Coleman
14 – Elizabeth Wiggs
14 – Kalee Reid
20 – Caleb Law
22 – David Crawford
23 – Emily Jones
24 – Sophie Hall
27 – Chip Freeman
27 – Stephen Ambrose
28 – Larry Rouse
28 – Cole Johnson

**News and Notes**

☒ - Our next Gospel Meeting will be Aug 26-30 with Lonnie Oldag.

☒ - Addresses of members recently moved:

**Nathan Smith**  
6800 McNeil Dr. #1934  
Austin, TX 78729

**Alison Lanier**  
301 Oaks Lane  
Birmingham, AL 35209

**Roy Liu Family**  
1185 Mountain Creek Road  
Chattanooga, TN 37405

☒ - We will have our group meetings tonight!

# 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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## Thoughts to Ponder

Every baseball team could use a man who plays every position perfectly, never strikes out and never makes an error. The trouble is, there's no way to make him lay down his hot dog and come down out of the stands.

**Elders**  
**Walker Davis**  
(334) 703-0050  
**Larry Rouse**  
(334) 734-2133

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday

Bible Class .....9:30 AM  
Worship .....10:20 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

**Wednesday**  
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

E-Mail:  
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**Larry Rouse**  
Evangelist and Editor

## The Bible: Dare We Leave It?

By Dee Bowman

It is amazing how much of religion in general has left the Bible. Catholicism bears little resemblance to the Bible anymore, nor does Denominationalism. In fact, some of the congregations who wear the name "Church of Christ" are quickly abdicating biblical principles in preference for what the people want instead of what the Bible says.

Is it because the Bible is no longer relevant? Is it outdated, no longer relevant? Have we reached a point in time where there is no longer a need for scriptural precedent for what we do. Have we become so "mature" that we no longer need the "thou-shalts" and the "thou-shalt-nots" so prominently displayed in the Bible? And is our "new hermeneutic" better than the original hermeneutic which called for direct com-

Is it possible that we have reached the stage in modern religion where we have bought into the Old Roman philosophy that says Vox Populi, Vox Dei, "the voice of the people is the voice of God"?

mand, approved apostolic example, or necessary inference?

Is it possible that we have reached the stage in modern religion where we have bought into the Old Roman philosophy that says Vox Populi, Vox Dei, "the voice of the people is the voice of God"?

It's scary to note where we're headed.

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Why the Bible? Well, first of all, because it works. People have not changed. Technology has changed, Communication has changed, Medicine has changed, Transportation has changed, but man has not changed. Not one wit! He still has the same ole problem with sin—too much pride, too much lust, too much acquiescence to the moods and fancies of the day, too much “whatever” when it comes to defining morals. In the midst of it all, God’s word is “profitable for doctrine,” what we are to believe about who we are, where we came from and where we’re going, “for reproof,” to point out our imperfections, “for correction” to get us back on course again, and for “instruction in righteousness” so as to keep us going straight even in the midst of all sorts of pressures to get us off course. It is sufficient for all our needs; it thoroughly furnishes a man “to every good work.” **(Read II Timothy 3:16-17)**

But it only works if we use it. And to use it we must become familiar with its information, its warnings, its promises of peace and hope. And so we are admonished to “study to show thyself approved unto God.” There must be a conscious effort to make the word of God a consistent part of our lives; and that requires a diligent concern for all that it says—not just part of it—but all of it. And it won’t provide what God wanted when He gave it if it’s up on a shelf somewhere gathering dust, pressing funeral flowers, wed-

ding invitations, and other such memorabilia. **(Read II Timothy 2:15)**

The Bible identifies sin. It shows us the need for a Savior. It shows us the Savior. How dare we neglect it? **(Read Jeremiah 10:23; Isaiah 55:8-9)**

“It is appointed to man once to die and after this the judgment.” “Let us hear the conclusion to the whole matter: fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil.” The Bible sets forth the truth about man’s destiny. It answers the question “if a man die shall he live again?” It speaks to the condition of man at his death as being the most important consideration of his life. “Every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess unto God.” How can we possibly neglect to consider—and that most carefully—these and many other references to man’s destiny? And how can we dare be so pompous as to change or alter what the Maker of the Universe says? **(Read Hebrews 9:27; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Romans 14:11)**

Finally, the Bible brings heaven into focus. Hope comes alive for those who subscribe to the Bible. The resurrection becomes a manner not of if, but when to the serious Bible student. **(Read I Corinthians 15:55-f; Philippians 3:20-21; II Thessalonians 1:7-12)**

So, do you want to take a chance on changing what God has said? Not me, sir! **(Read II John 9)**



## Radical Surgery

By Paul Earnhart

The war of the kingdom citizen with lust in these times is destined to be severe and hard-fought. We are not going to easily escape the miasma of lasciviousness, fornication and adultery that has descended on this generation. Let no disciple be smug **(1 Corinthians 10:12).**

“Whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery” **(Matthew 5:28)**. These are radical words and even kingdom citizens must struggle not to resist. Their severe probing of the heart brings pain as the Son of God touches the raw nerves of our moral diseases. Jesus, having dealt with the problem of hate and malice, now addresses the problem of lust. The Pharisees had certainly treated the issue of adultery, but only superficially. Their concern was to avoid a capital offense **(Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:22)**. One can almost hear the way they said, “You shall not commit adultery” **(Exodus 20:14)**. Jesus, in contrast, tracks the sin of adultery to its lair **(Matthew 15:19)**. As the hatred of the heart is murder, so is the unbridled lust of the heart adultery.

This principle was not an obscure part of the Mosaic covenant. The tenth commandment pointedly said, “You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife” **(Exodus 20:17)**. Paul, while still a stranger to the gospel, and a Pharisee, had been severely penetrated by this command **(Romans 7:7)**. Even Job, a man who apparently lived before the law, understood this ethical truth. “I have made a covenant with my eyes,” he said, “Why then should I look upon a young woman?” **(Job 31:1)**.

Though some extended application might be made from this passage to the raw and unprincipled carnal desire which some single person might harbor for someone similarly unattached, Jesus’ use of the word “adultery” makes clear that His present concern is with that illicit desire which violates the very spirit of the marriage covenant **(2 Corinthians 11:2-3)**. The Lord’s concern in this whole section is with our duty to love others. No married person can do justice to his mate while given over to unrestrained desire for another. Though yet a matter of the mind it is called what it is – sin.

The Lord is not dealing here with the mere momentary passing of desire through the mind; otherwise there would be no distinction between temptation and sin. (We should not be aghast at the suggestion that the lust of the flesh might have made its approach to the mind of our Savior while He remained sinless, **Hebrews 4:15**.) The words,

“looks at a woman to lust for her,” help us to understand the exact nature of the transgression. This is not a fleeting thought but the gathering up of one’s mind for the purpose of lusting. The Greek text describes a person who directs his thoughts or turns his mind to a thing; in this case, lusting after a woman (or a man). Obviously, we do not look at everything we see. The eye takes in a vast panorama and it is left for the mind to focus the attention. David’s sin was not in seeing the unclothed Bathsheba but in looking upon her, setting his mind and ultimately his unbridled lust upon her **(2 Samuel 11:2-5)**. David wanted the opportunity to possess Bathsheba, and found it. His violation of **Exodus 20:17** would have been no less had that opportunity never presented itself.

Although the English word “lust” accurately connotes the sensual overtones of the Greek verb (epithumeo), it may lack the attendant thought of possession which is inherent in it (Guelich, The Sermon on the Mount, p. 194). The sin being described by Jesus is the calculated cultivation of the desire to possess one to whom you have no right. If this sin is to be escaped, the very first approach of such thoughts must be decisively rejected, before they can take possession of the mind and will. In the language of an old proverb: “You cannot keep the birds from flying over your head but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair.” If we find difficulty in distinguishing between the temptation and the sin in this case it is far wiser to err on the side of caution than on the side of recklessness.

The war of the kingdom citizen with lust in these times is destined to be severe and hard-fought. We are not going to easily escape the miasma of lasciviousness, fornication and adultery that has descended on this generation. Let no disciple be smug **(1 Corinthians 10:12)**. There are no societal restraints to lean on. Our strength and defense must reside wholly in our own deep and unshakable resolve to keep ourselves pure for the Lord’s sake. In the final analysis that is where the issue of our faithfulness in the kingdom has always been decided. “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life” **(Proverbs 4:23)**.

