

Forgiveness

By Greg Gwin

There are many things about God that our finite minds have trouble grasping. Perhaps nothing is more difficult to comprehend than His amazing capacity to forgive. When we wrong Him again and again, even repeating the same sins over and over, He patiently and lovingly offers forgiveness - for He is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (**2 Peter 3:9**). The ultimate sign of this great willingness to pardon us was shown in the sending of His own Son to be a sacrifice for our sins (**Ephesians 2:4,5**).

For us, the challenge is to be like Him. We are commanded to be "kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (**Ephesians 4:32**). This may, in fact, be one of the most difficult commands for us to obey. The tendency for us, when wronged, is to strike back - get our revenge. But we are warned: "Avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord" (**Romans 12:19**).

So, there can be no revenge, but forgiveness is a BIG step beyond mere forbearance. Can you forgive your neighbor one time? Maybe twice? Three strikes and you're out! NO! "Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him" (**Luke 17:3,4**). Even seven times will not ultimately be enough. Peter said, "Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven" (**Matthew 18:21,22**).

Can you forgive? Can you pardon again and again, even for the same sin repeated over and over? If not, you have not attained unto the "divine nature" (**2 Peter 1:4**), and you are in spiritual danger. Think!

Sunday 5:15 Kid's Class at the Building	Sunday Evening Student Devotional and Singing at the Dembowskis'	Monday 7 PM Ladies "James" Class at Paula Davis' House	Tuesday 8 PM "Truth Seekers" at Student Center - Room 2310	Thursday 10 AM Ladies "Proverbs" class at the Rouse's
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Sick			
Donna Rutledge (Ashley Tucker's aunt)	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 (Daphne Whatley's son)	Andrew Hagewood (Friend of Sarah Norman)
Pat Webb (Friend of Jared Johnson)	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Diane Hudson (Josh Hudson's grandmother)	Arline Harkrider (Nichole Pender's Grandmother)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)	Emily Stallings (Anna's sister)	Madi Wise (Friend of the Robert's)
Marty Meeks, Russell Dickerson (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Frances Fultz (Davis Fultz's grandmother)	Judy Nichols (Suzanne's Mother)	Owen Mauldin (Seth and Sumner Mauldin's Son)

October Birthdays
1 - Aiden Hahn
2 - Suzanne Nichols
6 - Jessica Anderson
8 - Heath Fowler
9 - Seth Edwards
11 - Mason Chandler
12 - Stacy Norman
14 - Grant Smith
17 - Abbie Buchanan
20 - Evan Pender
20 - Olivia Hillard
20 - Keith Bailey
22 - Meredith Bragwell
22 - Hunter Crawford
22 - Christopher White
22 - Chris Davis
24 - Sarabeth Roberts
24 - Suzanna Roberts
24 - A. J. Price
25 - Bethany Bradford
25 - Josh Sutton
26 - Palmer Daniels
26 - Sarah Sutton
29 - Belle Johnson
29 - Matt Hall
31 - Kitty Tam

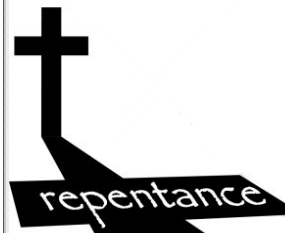
News and Notes

- Our new quarter starts today!
- The Elders will present the names of potential deacons to the church tonight. We then will have a 2 week period for discussion and objection.
- The flower fund is running low. Please see Yvette Rouse to contribute!
- Let us remember our expectant mothers in our prayers, Karen Padgett, Emily S. Jones and Nicole Pender.
- Please sign up on the bulletin board to host or teach the 1st-6th grade and 7th-12th grade monthly Saturday classes.
- Seth Humphrey's dad, Ray, is to undergo foot surgery this week.

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**)



Thoughts to Ponder

Repentance is owning responsibility for what was, accepting responsibility for what is, and acting responsibly now.

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: larryrouse@aubeacon.com	
Larry Rouse Evangelist and Editor	

Three Salvations

By J. D. Tant

In the word of God we find at least three salvations promised to man, located at different points and given to man under different conditions.

First, there is what we might term a temporal salvation, located in the kingdom of nature, and coming alike to all men.

Second, there is a salvation from sin, or spiritual salvation, located in the kingdom of grace or the kingdom of God's dear Son.

Third, there is an eternal salvation of the soul, located in the everlasting kingdom of God, and given to the faithful who die in the Lord. It is to each of these salvations that we now call special attention.

Temporal Salvation

Paul says, "We trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men" (**1 Tim. 4:10**). In what sense is God the Saviour of all men? In the temporal sense only can it be said that He is the Saviour of all men. God sends His rain upon the unjust as well as the just. The wicked can raise just as much to eat upon the same area of land as the righteous can. Paul taught that in God we live, move and have our being (**Acts 17:28**). In this sense only is God the Saviour of all men. We enter this life by a birth. This is the natural law. God has ordained that where

there is no birth there can be no life. Into this world we are all naturally born and enjoy the universal, temporal salvation God has promised to man.

Salvation From Sin

But we have another salvation which is located in the kingdom of God's dear Son (**Col. 1:13**) and is given to all by birth who are born into that kingdom by water and the Spirit (**Jn. 3:5**). But how does one get into that kingdom where salvation from his past sins is offered?

Calling attention to **Matthew 7:13-14**, you will find that Jesus recognized two ways. On the diagram you will see them marked as "broad" and "narrow" ways. When man reaches the years of accountability he is certainly travelling one of these roads. One he walks by faith and the other by sight or feelings.

If you will notice, there are five steps in the narrow way, leading into the kingdom of God's dear Son:

1. Hearing the sayings of Christ and doing them (**Matt. 7:21**).
2. Faith in Christ that we might not perish but have everlasting life (**Jn. 3:16**). Yet many people become forgetful hearers of the word and not doers, and deceive themselves. Others stop at the second step, claiming justification by

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faith only. But if you notice you will find that on the same way,

3. Repentance unto life is required of those who would walk in the narrow way (**Acts 11:18**). No one can expect to enter into the holy place, or church of God, who has not repented of his sins.

4. The next step is to confess with the mouth that Jesus is the Christ the, Son of God, for Christ taught that we must confess him before men that He may confess us before the Father and the angels (**Matt. 10:32; Rom. 10:10; Acts 8:37**).

5. The final step in that narrow way is to be born of water and the Spirit (**Jn. 3:5**).

Thus we are delivered from Satan's kingdom into the kingdom of God's dear Son. In this kingdom, we are the children of God because we have been baptized into Christ and had our sins remitted (**Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:26-27**). In this kingdom, we are called unto the liberty of sons of God, servants of righteousness and freed from sin. So this second salvation is a special one, given only to the obedient believer (**1 Tim. 4:10**).

Eternal Salvation

Then, beyond this special salvation, there is an eternal salvation which Christ has promised to all who obey Him (**Heb. 5:8-9**). This is called the salvation of our souls and is the salvation to which our obedient faith leads (**1 Pet. 1:9**).

This is the everlasting life which God has promised to give to His sheep, His children, where they shall never perish (**Jn. 10:28**). It is that life eternal unto which the righteous go at judgment (**Matt. 25:46**). It is that life everlasting that Christ taught Peter he would receive in the world to come (**Lk. 18:30**).

Certainly, the language of Christ is true in **John 10:29**, that His children should never perish when they get that eternal life, for we learn that in the paradise of God — in that eternal glorified kingdom — there is the river of life, and the tree of life where those who go into this life eternal can drink and eat and live forever.

But how do I get into this life eternal? There is only one road leading there. Isaiah calls it a way of holiness — says no unclean thing shall pass over it, nor be found thereupon (**Isa. 35:8**). The road passes through the spiritual kingdom, through the

kingdom of God's dear Son. It is the road along which Jesus has promised to lead us, but along no other way do we find the hand of God directing. Are you walking in that way, or trying to climb up some other way? (**Jn. 10:1-7**).

In this way of holiness, you will observe seven steps the child of God must take, which are well described by Peter (**2 Pet. 1:5-9**). If we add these graces, Peter says we shall never fall. I must add to my faith virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity or love.

But suppose I fail to do these things. Where will I fall? I have been born into the kingdom and cannot be "unborn." When once you get into the kingdom, you can only die out, for there is only one way of getting in and one way of getting out.

I was born into the kingdom (**Jn. 3:5**). But suppose I become wicked in the kingdom, and live and die that way. What will become of me? Christ said the Father would send and gather out of His kingdom all who offend and do iniquity, and would cast them into a furnace of fire (**Matt. 13:41, 42**).

But can a man get back if he falls off the way of holiness at any step along the way? Yes. He returns by 1) repentance, 2) confession, and 3) prayer. Paul taught that man is a compound being of body, soul and spirit (**1 Thess. 5:23**) and he taught that we wait for the redemption of our bodies (**Rom. 8:23**). This is to be a triumph from the grave, when great and small shall hear the trump of God and shall come to judgment; when all the sleeping nations of the earth shall hear and obey. When the sea gives up her dead and the two congregations walking in the narrow and broad ways shall come to judgment, where shall you and I be?

I ask you, dear reader, on which side will you stand? There are only two roads. One leads to life and the other to death. You are making your choice between the two every day that you live.

Will you not accept a home in the paradise of God — heaven? There you will have access to the tree of life and live forever. There you can meet with obedient loved ones of earth after the battle is fought, after the work is done, and after the victory is won. Will you not be there to obtain the crown and forever rest in the city of God. You can, by walking in the narrow way in this life.



The Sin of Dissatisfaction

By Dave Brown

Be thankful. Can you be discontented and thankful at the same time? Perhaps, but if you are truly thankful for your life and for what God has given you, it will be extremely difficult to be discontented.

Dissatisfaction is not a sin per se. Indeed we all need to be dissatisfied over our lack of zeal for the Lord's work, and for not overcoming those sins that tend to plague us the most. It is what we are dissatisfied over that is the key. Dissatisfaction is the motivation for many if not most sins. Consider for examples:

Adam and Eve were dissatisfied with a life without care in the garden, and they gave it all up and chose to believe the lie that they would be as God: "in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as God, knowing good and evil" (**Genesis 3:5**).

The Children of Israel were dissatisfied with being freed from their slavery and murmured to the point of expressing their desire to go back to Egypt where they had what they thought was better food and drink (**Exodus 16:2**).

Korah, Dathan and Abiram were dissatisfied with their positions of leadership and desired to usurp the authority of Moses (**Numbers 16:1-3**); this type of dissatisfaction was also the problem with Diotrephes (**3 John 9**) and others in the first century church, as it is in the church today.

When we stop to think about it, is not all sin caused by dissatisfaction? It might be dissatisfaction with what we have—not being thankful for what God has given us. Or, it could be dissatisfaction with God's law for us, which He gave us to make us truly happy and to give us peace (**Psalms 1; Matthew 5:1-16, 6:25-34; 11:30**).

Adultery is dissatisfaction with our lawful God-given mate. Theft is dissatisfaction with what we

have (which in many cases amounts to extreme wealth compared to what most have in this world). A failure to attend services in worship to God is dissatisfaction with the 160 or so other hours that God has given us in a week. A failure to give is dissatisfaction with the other 90% (or so) of the remainder of what God has given to us. Complaining about our lot in life is basically being dissatisfied

with the life that God has given to us.

In **Philippians 4:11**, Paul stated it this way: "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." This is something that Paul had to (and we have to) learn ... it does not come naturally, although it is probably much easier for some than for others. But Paul stated that he learned it. At one point in his life he was not satisfied with serving a man who had died on a cross. Jesus told Nicodemus of Paul: "... for I will show him how many things he must suffer for my name's sake" (**Acts 9:16**). The sufferings of Paul go beyond anything that we have encountered, but he learned to be content, and so can we. It was through suffering that Paul learned how to be content (**2 Corinthians 12:1-10**).

What is the first step? Be thankful. Can you be discontented and thankful at the same time? Perhaps, but if you are truly thankful for your life and for what God has given you, it will be extremely difficult to be discontented. And, if we are not discontented, our tendency toward sin will be greatly reduced.

