

# Learning to be Glad When God is Glad

“... as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death” **(Philippians 1:20)**.

*There will be times when an event is both a gain for God's Kingdom and a loss for us personally, at least in the short run.* Progress never comes except at a price, and it must occasionally be true that we have to bear a part of the price personally. At such times, we should be glad that the event represents a gain for God's cause and His kingdom, in the larger perspective.

John the Baptist is a study in the attitude that we need to have. As Jesus' forerunner, John's role was only temporary. Once Jesus appeared, the progress of the kingdom would require John to leave the stage, so to speak. To his credit, John had the right attitude: "He must increase, but I must decrease" **(John 3:30)**. If the kingdom was going forward, God would be glad, and so John would be glad too, no matter what the private implications were.

Our highest joy should always come from God's purposes and their fulfillment. We should define as "good" anything that forwards the Lord's cause, without regard to any gain or loss of a private nature. Yes, we will have our preferences,

By Gary Henry

as Paul must have had when he wondered whether he would continue to live or be put to death. But deep down, Paul only wanted that "Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death." If a gain for God's kingdom required a loss for Paul, he was only too glad to accept the loss. On a much higher plane than Nathan Hale ever knew, Paul would regret that he had but one life to give.

Having this attitude does not mean that we don't grieve what we're called upon to give up. Jesus willingly — we could even say *gladly* — gave up His life to make possible some things that would bring His Father joy, but if you think His loss did not bring Him grief, you have never read the account of Gethsemane. A willing sacrifice and a broken heart very often go together, and if you haven't learned that lesson yet, you probably will before you die.

It all comes down to looking at things from the larger perspective. Things that make us sad in the "small picture" are very often those that, in the "big picture," should make us the gladdest of all.

<b>Sunday 5:15</b> Kid's Class at the Building	<b>Monday 7 PM</b> Men's Class at Walker Davis'	<b>Tuesday 8 PM</b> "Truth Seekers" at Student Center - Room 2310	<b>Wednesday 12 Noon</b> Ladies' "Proverbs" Class at the Rouse's	<b>Saturday Kid's Classes</b> 1st - 6th 6-8PM 7th - 12th 6:30-8:30 PM
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Sick				November Birthdays				News and Notes																						
Joey Stephens (Anna Stalling's Uncle)	Scott Penrod (Mary Ann Robert's stepfather)	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz's Sister)	1 - Holly Allamel	2 - Debbi Coleman	3 - Darla Hahn	6 - Lauren Ledford	6 - Troy Godwin	7 - Amy Godwin	7 - Leah Donahue	8 - Ashley Miller	11 - Davis Fultz	11 - Andrew Hahn	13 - Toni Herd	13 - Emerson Daniels	13 - Dylan Bardett	13 - Ronaldo Aragon	15 - Rafia Qadeer	16 - Nichole Pender	20 - Andrew Smith	20 - Craig Bassett	23 - Mary Ann Roberts	24 - John Burns	25 - Silas Weldon	25 - Olivia Winslett	27 - Scott Fowler	28 - Will Harris	29- Tyson Dembowski	30 - David Simpson	
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)	11 - Davis Fultz	11 - Andrew Hahn	13 - Toni Herd	13 - Emerson Daniels	13 - Dylan Bardett	13 - Ronaldo Aragon	15 - Rafia Qadeer	16 - Nichole Pender	20 - Andrew Smith	20 - Craig Bassett	23 - Mary Ann Roberts	24 - John Burns	25 - Silas Weldon	25 - Olivia Winslett	27 - Scott Fowler	28 - Will Harris	29- Tyson Dembowski	30 - David Simpson									
Emma Hettinger (William Herd's Mother)	Neal May (Manna Jones' Mother)	Roger Whatley (Daphene Whatley's son)	Andrew Hagewood (Friend of Sarah Norman)	13 - Emerson Daniels	13 - Dylan Bardett	13 - Ronaldo Aragon	15 - Rafia Qadeer	16 - Nichole Pender	20 - Andrew Smith	20 - Craig Bassett	23 - Mary Ann Roberts	24 - John Burns	25 - Silas Weldon	25 - Olivia Winslett	27 - Scott Fowler	28 - Will Harris	29- Tyson Dembowski	30 - David Simpson												
Pat Webb (Friend of Jared Johnson)	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Diane Hudson (Josh Hudson's grandmother)	Arline Harkrider (Nichole Pender's Grandmother)	16 - Nichole Pender	20 - Andrew Smith	20 - Craig Bassett	23 - Mary Ann Roberts	24 - John Burns	25 - Silas Weldon	25 - Olivia Winslett	27 - Scott Fowler	28 - Will Harris	29- Tyson Dembowski	30 - David Simpson																
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Don Meadows (Ashley Miller's step-father)	Emily Stallings (Anna's sister)	Madi Wise (Friend of the Robert's)	20 - Andrew Smith	20 - Craig Bassett	23 - Mary Ann Roberts	24 - John Burns	25 - Silas Weldon	25 - Olivia Winslett	27 - Scott Fowler	28 - Will Harris	29- Tyson Dembowski	30 - David Simpson																	
Marty Meeks, Russell Dickerson (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Frances Fultz (Davis Fultz's grandmother)	Judy Nichols (Suzanne's Mother)	Owen Mauldin (Seth and Summer Mauldin's Son)																											

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 4, Issue 2 November 11, 2012



**Thoughts to Ponder**  
The world is in a constant conspiracy against the brave. It's the age-old struggle--the roar of the crowd on one side and the voice of your conscience on the other.

**Elders**  
Walker Davis  
(334) 703-0050  
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**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**  
**Sunday**  
Bible Class .....9:30 AM  
Worship .....10:20 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM  
**Wednesday**  
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM  
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Evangelist and Editor

## The Time Given Us

By John R. Gibson

In his epic novel depicting a great struggle between good and evil, J.R. R. Tolkien narrates the following conversation about the evil threat of Sauron.

'I wish it need not have happened in my time,' said Frodo.

'So do I, said Gandalf, 'and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.' Lord of the Rings, p. 50

Do we not often find ourselves like Frodo in wishing we lived in a different time, under different circumstances? Those who struggled to support their families during the Great Depression surely longed for the "good old days" of economic prosperity. With our current economic situation, how many young people are wishing they could have entered the work force at a different time? It can be depressing to think about the cultural and moral decline that has taken

If we live in the days of an Ahab, then let's resolve to be an Elijah. We don't have to agree with every government policy to be an influential Daniel. It is easy to get discouraged about America's general lack of interest in spiritual things, but when faced with a similar challenge Paul exhorted Timothy to "preach the word" **(2 Tim. 4:1-5)**.

place in this country over the last fifty years or so. Despite the clear teachings of Scripture, fornication, adultery, divorce, and illegitimacy are everywhere **(Heb. 13:4; 1 Cor. 6:9, 10; Matthew 19:3-9)**. Like the Gentile world of the first century many Americans have refused to retain God in their knowledge, thus paving the way for the grossest forms of immorality to become accepted **(Romans 1:20-32)**.

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Technologically there has never been a better time to live, but there are so many things around us that we wish had not happened in our time. One can hardly leave the house without being bombarded with [sensual dress](#), coarse language, and a general lack of respect for what was once known as common decency. Even among the most devoutly religious today, the truth of God that can set one free from the bondage of sin (**John 8:32; 17:17**) has been replaced with a subjective standard that encourages people to "serve God" by doing whatever seems appropriate to them. For many, religion is a product of the human mind (**cf. 1 Kings 12:26-33**) to be enjoyed on Sundays with little real impact on morals, business ethics, politics, family life, etc.

We could go on and on and include such things as the ever present threat of terrorism, but hopefully the point has been established. Now, what are we to do when we honestly assess the time we live in and the situations we face? Are we to sit and lament, wishing it were a different time and circumstance or realize that we cannot control when we live, but only how we live?

I imagine Elijah would have preferred to live in the days of David rather than the evil time of Ahab, but in the days of Ahab and Jezebel he was a mighty force for good. No devout Jew could have wanted to spend his adult life serving a foreign oppressor, but that was the time and circumstance in which Daniel found himself. Daniel may have wished it was different, but that didn't stop him from faithfully serving God.

It had to have been difficult for Timothy to read the warnings of Paul that departures from the faith were inevitable (**1 Timothy**

**4:1-3**), perilous times were coming (**2 Timothy 3:1-5**), and the time was nearing when many would lose interest in sound preaching (**2 Timothy 4:3, 4**). We cannot know how Timothy felt about the times he would face, but we do know what Paul urged him to do and that was serve God and preach His word in the time that was given him.

The saints at Smyrna lived in a time of poverty and tribulation and had to live with the threats of imprisonment and death, but the words of Jesus were not, "Lament that you live in such a time." Instead, the Lord exhorted and promised, "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (**Revelation 2:10**).

No doubt there are certain times that are more difficult economically, culturally, politically, morally, and religiously, but we need to accept the fact that the time in which we find ourselves is the time in which we must live and serve our God.

If we live in the days of an Ahab, then let's resolve to be an Elijah. We don't have to agree with every government policy to be an influential Daniel. It is easy to get discouraged about America's general lack of interest in spiritual things, but when faced with a similar challenge Paul exhorted Timothy to "preach the word" (**2 Tim. 4:1-5**). That people do not realize their need for the gospel does not change the fact that they need it. As with the saints of Smyrna, we may see hard times economically and we may face oppression from the forces of evil, but the Lord holds out the same promise to us as He did to them. If we are faithful in this time in which we live, the crown of life will be ours.

Rather than say with Frodo, "I wish it need not have happened in my time," why not say with Mordecai, "Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (**Esther 4:14**).



## Another Version of "the Good Old Days"

By Aubrey Belue

Some people nearly wear you out describing in detail the virtues of the "good old days". To call every effort to recall the past foolish is in itself foolish. On the other hand, many completely deceive themselves by continuing in this state of mind to such an extent that the present and the future seem insignificant. Solomon said, **Ecclesiastes 7:10** "Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not enquire wisely concerning this."

The human mind punishes itself unnecessarily, and to dwell at length on the past and spend endless hours groaning on the advantages of days gone by is perhaps the biggest waste of time ever.

And, the memory of pleasant vs. unpleasant things makes them larger than life. With many, the actuality of the "good old days" is far different from the vision we have looking back, and in either case recall can provide nothing outside the lessons that history should teach us.

What makes the "good old days" so much better now than they were then? Consider that the present will one day be "the good old days". The same attitude that prompts in man an exaggerated concern for the past will prompt in him that same feeling tomorrow for today, and generally that attitude is simply an unwillingness to face squarely the issues of the present and the future. Since success in life is determined by one's willingness to really tackle life and struggle with the day by day problems and events, then the one who lives in "the good old days" will never be successful.

The closest to a perfect situation you will ever get is solving a problem. You might try dwelling upon a "perfect" past, but that accomplishes nothing.

The human mind punishes itself unnecessarily, and to dwell at length on the past and spend endless hours groaning on the advantages of days gone by is perhaps the biggest waste of time ever.

There ain't no such animal! Paul had it right: **Philippians 3:13** "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus".

One thing is true about "the good old days"...when we do remember them, we may well

recall many lost liberties, a time when we could choose freely between many options concerning how we use our money, what and who we can get for health care, a time when we could freely express ourselves without fear of "the thought police", a time when people had a sense of shame, and hesitated to "riot in the daytime" (**2 Pet 2:13**), when vulgarity and lasciviousness were not forced on people in public places, when a man's property was his own and he could count on the law to protect it and him, a time when one could expect the freedom to oppose sin and express his worship in his own way.

Indeed, we will often have to remind ourselves, "all is going according to plan", because about now it is becoming clear that God's "plan" is not what we would plan for this country. God will prevail, and any Bible student of Israel and the prophets will have noted the similarity between today's circumstances and those of Israel and Judah during the prophetic time of Joel and Amos and the years following. God has not changed, nor His way of noting and dealing with perversity. We had better start giving attention to God's will for His people when "the foundations are destroyed"...Right now, the prophet Jeremiah is a "must read", and we would do well to learn how the people of God should act in such times.

