

The Christian and Social Media

Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding. Proverbs 17:27

Like it or not, social media is here to stay.

While we shouldn't overreact to the dangers of this new media, we must not ignore them either. There needs to be more discussion about social media. I found online some good rules that I wanted to share:

Be careful before you hit send (**James 1:19-20; Proverbs 10:19; 15:2; 21:23**). Could your message be taken the wrong way? Does this need to be kept private? Will it needlessly offend someone?

Don't vent anger (**James 1:19-20; Ephesians 4:26-27; Proverbs 14:29; 29:11**). Don't air family problems or church issues online. If you're angry at someone, go speak to them personally. The rest of us don't need to know.

Never lie (**Ephesians 4:25; Colossians 3:9-10; Revelation 21:8**). And embellishment is the same as lying.

Don't glorify self (**Matthew 6:5, 7, 16; Proverbs 25:27; 26:12**). Hide the good you do. Advertise what is done for

By David Maxson

you. Give glory to God instead.

Watch out for ungodly influences (1 Corinthians 15:33; 2 Timothy 2:16-18; 2 Peter 2:18-20). Beware of worldly ideas, false teaching, filthy language, dirty jokes, and gossip.

Don't let this become an addiction (**1 Corinthians 6:12**). It can easily take over your life if you're not careful.

Protect your marriage (**Proverbs 7:5-27**). The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers says 81 percent of its members have used or faced evidence plucked from social networking sites in the past five years.

Use social networking to God's glory (**Mark 16:15; Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 4:6; Matthew 5:14-16**). There are so many positive ways we can use this new media. Let's use it to advance God's cause, not the Devil's.

Father, protect us from the evils of social media. May you be glorified in every email, tweet, and facebook comment we post this day.

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' "Proverbs" Class at the Rouse's	Saturday Kid's Classes 1st - 6th 6-8PM 7th - 12th 6:30-8:30 PM
---	--	--	---	---

Sick			
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)
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 Jenkins Grandfather)	Diane Hudson (Josh Hudson's grandmother)	Arline Harkrider (Nichole Pender's Grandmother)
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)
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)

November Birthdays
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 - Nicole Pender
20 - Andrew Smith
20 - Craig Bassett
23 - Mary Ann Roberts
24 - John Burns
25 - Silas Weldon
25 - Olyvia Winslett
27 - Scott Fowler
28 - Will Harris
29 - Tyson Dembowski
30 - David Simpson

News and Notes
☒ - Please remember Glenn Weeks, Caralise Hunt's father, in your prayers as he battles ALS.
☒ - Bob Simpson will have additional hip surgeries soon.
☒ - Joel Black in undergoing IV procedures for the next few weeks.
☒ - Scoot Penrod, Mary Ann's stepfather, is not doing well and was admitted to Hospice on Monday.
☒ - Herbert Alexander, Hannah's father, had a heart attack this week. He received a stint and is now at home.
☒ - Tonight will be our singing night!
☒ - Many will be travelling this week to be with family. Lets be praying for the safety of all.

The Auburn Beacon

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



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 3 November 18, 2012



Thoughts to Ponder

God uses men who are weak and feeble enough to lean on him

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

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Sunday
Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM
Wednesday
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM
E-Mail: larryrouse@aubeacon.com

Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

The Providence of God

By Thomas Thornhill

Anyone who studies the Bible carefully comes face to face with the providence of God. His hand is seen in events that unfold throughout the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. If one really believes the Bible one will also believe in the providence of God. Yet, many who see God's hand in past events will deny that God is still active in the affairs of His universe and His people. The problem is that God's providence has been cast into mysterious and unexplainable terms, resulting in many unwarranted and false claims of special divine providence. Admittedly it is not easy to understand how God does what He does but does one really need to know HOW God does something in order for it to be accepted and believed. God may be INVISIBLE to us, but He certainly is not INACTIVE. He has not ceased to provide for that which He has created.

What is Meant by the Providence of God?

One of the difficulties encountered in understanding the providence of God is that the word "providence" appears only one time in the scriptures **Acts 24:2**, and is not used in reference to God's providence, but man's. The Biblical use of the word in reference to God is not present, but the doctrine of "divine providence" is very real in the scriptures.

People need to recognize their inability to know when and how God directs the affairs of this world. Just accept the fact that He does, even if one never knows HOW He does it. "For I considered all this in my heart, so that I could declare it all; that the righteous and the wise and their works are in the hand of God" (**Ecclesiastes 9:1**).

The word "providence" is defined in the dictionary as "the care or benevolent guidance of God." The English word comes from the Latin, "providere" which in turn is made up of two words, "pro" (before) and "videre" (to see), thus "to foresee." The corresponding Greek word is "pronoia" (forethought). Thus, the idea "to see before," which expresses the idea of foresight and forethought, implies a future end or goal with a definite purpose and plan for sustaining that end. In exercising

(Continued on page 2)

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

(Continued from page 1)

forethought and foresight, God created a universe that He could control for His own purpose. God's control cannot be denied, "For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist" (**Colossians 1:16-17**). Paul declared to the Athenians, "God who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth ... gives to all life, breath and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and bounds of their habitation ... for in Him we live, and move and have our being" (**Acts 17:24-28**). How can one believe in the God Paul proclaimed on that day and deny His providential care today?

When Is It the Providence of God?

People talk much about the providence of God, generally with a misunderstanding of what they are talking about. One talks about being delivered from some serious accident by "the providence of God." How does one know? Another says "I was providentially hindered" from doing something. Can one be sure that God caused the thing to happen? People need to be careful in attributing to God that which cannot be proved. Mordecai would not affirm God's providence in making Esther queen of Persia, rather he said, "Yet, who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (**Esther 4:14**). Paul did not know that the escape and ultimate conversion of Onesimus was caused by the hand of God. He wrote, "For perhaps he departed for a while for this purpose, that you might receive him forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother" (**Philemon 15, 16**).

In reality, no one can speak with certainty about when God exercises His providence, unless it is so stated. The KNOWN providence of God is recorded as past events. When did Joseph know that God had a hand in the things that happened in his life? It was years later, after being reconciled to his brothers that Joseph said, "So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and

He ... has made me Lord of Egypt" (**Genesis 45:8-9**). He even understood that God's providence in his life was not for him alone. "But as for me, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day to save many people alive" (**Genesis 50:20**).

Another problem encountered in a study of providence is the thinking of some that God can only exercise His providence through miracles. Since the age of miracles has now ceased, they assume that God's providential care has also ceased. In so doing they limit God's exercise of care and guidance to the past ages. They seem to liken God to a computer programmer, who after setting the program steps back and lets everything run without any further control. So, God after setting things in motion does nothing else for man today.

This is not the God I worship. While it is true that God sometimes used miracles to accomplish His will, on other occasions He used natural means, often unseen by man, to bring about His purpose. We must keep in mind that both the natural and the miraculous are under the control of the Creator. God, by a miracle, created the universe, and then established natural laws by which it would continue. Both are expressions of His will. Both employ a supernatural source.

"Providence employs a supernatural source via a natural means, while a miracle used both a supernatural source and a supernatural means" (Flavil Yeakley Jr.).

"Providence is the working of God through His provision in the natural and spiritual realms, and yet it is a control that violates neither the sovereignty of the human will nor the divine natural and spiritual laws" (Homer Hailey).

People need to recognize their inability to know when and how God directs the affairs of this world. Just accept the fact that He does, even if one never knows HOW He does it. "For I considered all this in my heart, so that I could declare it all; that the righteous and the wise and their works are in the hand of God" (**Ecclesiastes 9:1**). My conclusion in this article is that while the supernatural means have ceased, the supernatural source in ways unseen by human eyes, continues to control His universe and His people today.



Everywhere Spoken Against

By Jeffery Kingry

If you are doing anything right, you should have caught Satan's attention by now (**Ref. Job 1:6**). One of our great blessings is that while our adversary is powerful, he is NOT God. Satan's powers are intimidating enough as it is (**Matt. 4**). It appears that the deceiver goes after people who stand out as examples in the Kingdom of God. The Evil Spirit seduced Kings Saul (**1 Sam.16:14**) and David (**1 Chr.21:1**). When the Jews were attempting to restore Jerusalem in the days of Nehemiah, the father of lies accused the high priest Joshua (**Zec.3:1**). The ruler of darkness in this world was always after Peter (**Matt.16:23**), sifting him like wheat (**Luke 22:31**). The accuser of our brethren managed to put it into the heart of Judas to betray Jesus (**Jno.13:2, 27**). Belial controlled the wickedness in the gentile world and our culture is under the evil spirit's power (**Acts 26:18**). The devil made life difficult for the Apostle Paul, always trying to gain the advantage over the Apostle (**2 Cor.2:11**), literally mugging him with sharp pain (**2 Cor.12:7**), snatching away the souls of those he taught who hesitated in their attention to the gospel (**Luke 8:12**). Beelzebub managed to throw many a monkey wrench into Paul's missionary plans (**1 Thess.1:18**). The deceiver sends his lying servants out into the church to do his will in the disguise of ministers of truth (**2 Cor.11:14**), as preachers of tares in the field sown with good seed (**Matt.13:39**). The murdering spirit lies in predatory wait (**1 Pet.5:8**) for the babes (**1 Tim.3:6, 7**), the self-satisfied (**Jas.4:6, 7**), the deceived and ignorant in the church (**2 Tim.2:25, 26**) that he might pick them off.

But Satan is NOT omnipresent. He is only one place at a time. He must "roam up and down upon the earth" (**Job 1:7**). Satan is NOT omniscient. This snake did not know the Almighty's plan of redemption, for if he had, he would never have allowed the crucifixion of Jesus (**1 Cor.2:8; Rev.12:1ff**). The

Never mistake the evil providence of Satan for the good providence of God. Your only defense when Satan brings you under attack is to keep your faith in God's loving power. Never lay aside your shield of faith, or he will kill you without mercy.

devil is NOT omnipotent. If we resist him (**Jas.4:7**), or fight back against him with God's weapons (**Eph.6:11**), he will flee.

Our best defense is in knowing how Satan works against us, because he can only gain the advantage over us if we are unaware of him (**2 Cor. 2:11**). Satan is like all predators - he goes after those who are around the one he wants. If he cannot get the elder, the deacon, the

preacher, the saint, then he goes after those who are close to them: their friends, family, and loved ones.

He permits success and praise to come to those he would bring low that they might be lifted up in their own confidence. The earlier the better for this, Satan has learned, that inexperience coupled with arrogance might make his prey vulnerable to his testing. Beware when all men speak well of you. Those who live godly in Christ Jesus and prove resistant to the slanderer's wiles, he defames, and spreads malicious lies that he might discourage the righteous and blunt their influence.

If he cannot corrupt you, he will seek to kill you. If he cannot take your life like the murderer he is, then he will rob you of the lives and happiness of the ones you love. If he is prevented from this, he will attack your body with weakness, pain and disease. He will constantly use the evil in others to destroy your name and influence. He will withstand the good you seek to do, hinder your labor, and reduce your opportunities.

Never mistake the evil providence of Satan for the good providence of God. Your only defense when Satan brings you under attack is to keep your faith in God's loving power. Never lay aside your shield of faith, or he will kill you without mercy. He who works in us is greater than he who works in the world (**1 Jno.4:4**).

