

Steadfastness

By Aubrey Belue

One of the things a FAITHFUL Christian has is “staying power”. With him, steadfastness is a way of life. He can be counted on to put the church, its services, and its work first in his life.

Even during bad weather, and in spite of things which hinder many, he will be found in attendance— ready to give of himself to further the needs of the congregation and other brethren. When things need to be done around the building, he can be counted on to take part.

The thing that really sets him apart is that he will be seen to do this day in and day

out, week in and week out – summer and winter, rain, snow, or shine. To him, it is as important to be present Wednesday night as it is at other services of the church. He does not have to be assigned a specific part of the service to feel obligated to be there.

Such Christians inspire confidence – their word carries weight, and we look to them for the needed things. We do this because they have shown us, over and over, that they can be counted on. Their number is few, but their influence is great, and we thank God for each one. Are you one of these?

Sunday 5:15 Kid's Class at the Building	Sunday Evening College Devotion at the Tam's. Ryan Hasty will be teaching!	Monday 7 PM Ladies' "James" study at Darla Hahn's	Tuesday 8 PM "Truth Seekers" at Student Center - Room 2310	Thursday 10 AM Ladies' "Proverbs" Class at the Weldon's
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Sick				November Birthdays	News and Notes
Joey Stephens (Anna Stalling's Uncle)	Owen Mauldin (Seth and Summer Mauldin's Son)	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 - 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Please remember Glenn Weeks, Caralise Hunt's father, in your prayers. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Bob Simpson will have additional hip surgeries soon. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Joel Black in undergoing IV procedures for the next few weeks. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Ryan Hasty will be preaching tonight and then leading the student devotional. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - We extend sympathy to Mary Ann Roberts at the death of her step-father. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Ray Humphrey had successful foot surgery. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - David Hartsell will have a spinal tap procedure on Dec. 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Forms for helpers and teachers of all kid's classes should be given to Jared Johnson today.
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)	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)			

The Auburn Beacon



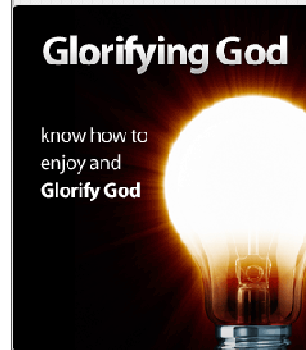
Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

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Glorifying God

know how to enjoy and Glorify God



Thoughts to Ponder

Do not ask the Lord for a life free from grief, instead ask for courage that endures.

Elders
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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM
E-Mail:
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Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

Glorifying God

By David V. Hurst

Have you ever been involved in a discussion as to whether parents have the ability to motivate their children to obey God or not? I have and I know there are brethren who teach that we cannot really do that. Basically, they teach that all we can do is put the truth before our little ones and it will be each child who determines his own destiny. This is a comforting remark to those who have children who never obey the Gospel. Certainly, none of us deny that our children will have to make their own decision of salvation; i.e., it cannot be forced. But is it true that all we can do is to put the truth before them? I wonder what is meant by that.

Parents (normally young parents) have often asked me questions concerning raising children and there are usually two or three points of priority that I stress. One of them is in being consistent. Consider that principle as we study.

Do you recall that Jesus, as He came to the end of His life, prayed to the Father (John 17:3-4). He knew He would die the next day and He summarized what His life had meant to God. "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." Have we ever meditated over the way in which Jesus glorified God? Remember, He was getting ready to die. It was just a few hours away and at this moment He is able to say, "I have glorified Thee". How did He know He had glorified God?

The way in which Jesus glorified the Father, was in obedience. He said, "I have finished the work which thou gavest me to

Help him from those earliest of years to learn, know, and pray to accomplish his own task before God. Else, how many of us will look back on cherished baby books and mourn that our child should never have been born? May God help us and may we help each other so that we will never have to feel that pain.

do". In other words, Jesus said He had accomplished the work of making God known to man (compare verse 3). Jesus brought to mankind a true knowledge of God. Whatever we want to know about God -- simply look at Jesus. For example, how does God treat the sinner, feel about sin, or think about a certain situation? Look at Jesus' attitude, His teaching or His example and we will have our answer. But there is another point we can draw from this text.

Now, if you or I want to glorify your God (and isn't this our task; cf. Eph. 1; Rom 8:20ff; etc.), then you accomplish the work that God has given you to do. Isn't that what Jesus did? That is, you find the abilities that God has given you and you take advantage of the opportunities that God has given you. You do

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the thing that God put you on earth to do. For example, if you are a woman, you have a different function than a man. If you are a man, you have a different function than that a woman. The point is that some of us have ability in one area while others have it in another. But God expects us each to take whatever ability we have and use it with the strength that He has given us. "If any man speak, {let him speak} as the oracles of God; if any man minister, {let him do it} as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." (1 Pet 4:11)

Now, consider that everyone of us one day will be on our own death bed (if the Lord hasn't returned). At that time, we will want to pray as did our Lord. And we will have the opportunity of making that statement He made, "I have accomplished..." But will we be able to make it when we consider the life we have lived?

To be able to make the Lord's statement at our death is the goal we must seek to instill within our children, from an early age. How we stress to them that they need good jobs. And we take them fishing and we enjoy vacations. We make all the sacrifices to run them around to this practice and to that meeting. We school them in academics and see to it they take their music lessons. Our lives are so filled. Our teenagers then see the things money can buy and they want the jobs that will give them this. On their own, they are motivated to study and learn. They see the pleasures of this world and they are motivated to seek them.

How frequently is the task we each have before God pushed aside by parents and young alike? As parents, have we understood that from the moment we brought that little life into this world, we were responsible to get it to understand and fulfill its God given best to accomplish the task God has for it? Oh, we teach it; say it. Yes, we take them to services, but is it in our life and in their life; i.e., "in the doing of it"? Too often, we appear to think that at some magical moment our children will as adults start the "doing" of Christ filled living. No, it should have been the "doing" from the time they were toddlers. From those years, have we consistently in teaching and example helped our children accomplish God's will? Have we taught them that God's work is their primary concern, even while children? Is this consistent with the way we live?

Have we trained our children so that we will be able to pray when we are near to death, "I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." Have we so implanted that vital thought into the minds of our young so that they too will happily pray, "Father, I have glorified you. I have used my life for that purpose. I have used my abilities in service to you." That is an awesome statement that our Lord was able to make. Yet, if we walk in His footsteps and use Him as our example, we ought to be able to make that

statement.

In life, whatever it is, and of all the thousands of things that each one of us do and live, nothing matters other than living and using our life to glorify God. How insignificant are sports, dress, and all the things we fill our children's lives with. I know of no greater tragedy then to bring young into this world so that they spend eternity regretting the life they lived. Again, it is worth every effort so that my child on his deathbed will be able to say, "I used my life, my abilities, my time, my personality, my knowledge, my family, my wealth, my home for you, God." Our Master was able to say it. Paul was able to say it (2 Tim. 4:6-8). Will I be able?

It brings grief to my heart to see young people come to services and sit on back rows (as if to get as far from the activity as possible). Where did they learn that idea? Many of these do not participate. Some even play or sleep (by the way, they are not the only ones). Even if not on the back row, others want to sit behind their parents (and for what reason?) It grieves me to see young people come to spiritual classes, rowdy, never prepared, not caring. We sound the warnings but are often scoffed. I wonder, why don't these parents care? What can they be thinking? Then in a few short years, I learn what they were thinking. I hear them say, "I did all that I could, I raised them properly, I brought them to church, ..." Did we do all that we could? Yes, only God will judge them, but how many of us may be losing our children without cause?

How often a young mother will have a baby book which records, baby's first step, baby's first solid food, baby's first toy, baby's first spanking, and so on. She may place a lock of hair within its pages and the footprints of her prized little one. She has so many dreams and aspirations for that one she cherishes. I have great sympathy and compassion with such parents who have children who do not obey the gospel. I don't claim to know the answers nor why it was so. And folks, I would not want to add one undue weight of guilt upon parents of unbelieving children, but at the same time, let me implore young parents and grandparents. Never for one moment forget, that little life that is brought into this world should be trained and taught that the most important goal in life is giving God his best; to do his task for God. Instilling this into his heart won't be accomplished easily. It will require more than making sure he sits inside a building of the church at a specified time or that he gets his Bible lesson. It requires effort, consistency and priority. For example, it may mean (or may not) he must forego some athletics, scouts, entertainment, etc. If at the tenderest of ages, we are consistent in emphasizing what his life's dream should be--shall we not normally expect to see him prosper in the Lord? Help him from those earliest of years to learn, know, and pray to accomplish his own task before God. Else, how many of us will look back on cherished baby books and mourn that our child should never have been born? May God help us and may we help each other so that we will never have to feel that pain.



Lives Lost and Found

By Gary Henry

One of life's ironies is that we get some things by giving them up. This principle is even true of life itself. Jesus taught, "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it" (Mt. 16:25).

To understand the truth of this text, begin by considering the paradox in **Prov. 11:24,25**: "There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty." Although the miser holds his money tightly so he won't "lose" it, the deeper reality is that he "loses" far more in life than he "saves" by his stinginess. Just ask yourself: was Ebenezer Scrooge "richer" or "poorer" the day he let go and spent a large sum to buy the Cratchet's Christmas turkey? He owned less money, of course, but was he "richer" or "poorer"?

The principle is a general one. Money just illustrates what is true of many other things in life. The surest way to "impoverish" ourselves is to be too concerned about "holding on" to what we've got. It sounds contradictory, but it's true. And when applied to spiritual things, the principle has profound implications. The man who has no higher objective than to "protect" his holdings in the here and now – he plays it "safe" in every situation – that man is among the "cowardly" (**Rev. 21:8**) who will lose their souls and go to hell.

In **Mt. 16:25**, Jesus is teaching that it's possible to have such a tight grip on "life" that we lose all that life really is. In this sense, to be too "conservative" is the height of folly. My own paraphrase of the passage would go something like this: "Whoever aims above all to protect his life will let it get away from him, but whoever lets his life go for Christ's sake will find that he has kept it." In the context of the verse, Jesus had been discussing His own death at the hands of His enemies. When Peter objected to the idea of Jesus' death, Jesus rebuked him and said not only must He die, but His disciples must also face martyrdom. Jesus said, in effect, "The time will come when they will put

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you to death unless you re-nounce Me. But if you deny Me in order to save your physical life, the thing you save will hardly be worth the name 'life'. On the other hand, if you will go so far as to die rather than deny Me, you will find what life really is."

But the question of whether to hazard one's actual life for Christ is only the highest example of a type of decision we face every day. What Jesus says about life itself is no less true of all the things we consider important in

life. In **Mt. 16:25**, try "plugging in" things like *comfort, security, family, reputation, wealth, and pleasure*: "For whoever desires to save his _____ will lose it, but whoever loses his _____ for My sake shall find it." Just name anything that we deem "valuable" (comfort, security, etc.) If we will put following Christ above what the world calls by that name, we will ourselves gain the thing that deserves that name in the deepest and truest sense. *The more we risk the lesser quality, the more we gain the greater*. Like Paul, we will be "as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things" (**2 Cor. 6:10**). "Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day" (**2 Cor. 4:16**).

Deep down, we realize that we are dual beings, both temporal and eternal. We obviously have an outer, physical life; but we also have an inner life that is spiritual. In Ecclesiastes, it was Solomon's wise observation that we get the full meaning and enjoyment out of *this* life ("under the sun") only by making *something else* our main pursuit. When we lean our whole weight on the temporal, it collapses under us. But when we make a proper *eternal* relationship with our Creator our ultimate priority, we find ourselves not with less of the temporal, but more. Hence, "Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all" (**Eccl. 12:13**). At last, those who "find" life are those who "lose" it looking for something greater.

