

# Jesus Was a Follower

Great emphasis is placed, and rightly so, that Christians must be followers of Jesus Christ. Jesus Himself tells us, "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me" (**Matt. 10:38**). Again He says, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me" (**Luke 9:23**). However, Jesus did not just issue an edict, He demonstrated what it means to be a follower, for He Himself was first and foremost a follower!

Seven of the most profound words in all of Scripture define exactly what it means to be a follower. These words were uttered by Jesus in the garden, just prior to the suffering He would endure to save us from our sins. He said, "...not My will, but Yours, be done..." (**Luke 22:42**). This is the heart of a follower and Jesus embodied this spirit under some of the most awful circumstances a man could imagine.

Jesus' teaching demonstrated this essential spirit in every way. Explaining His purpose as a light sent into

By Jonathan Perz

the world, Jesus says, "For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak" (**John 12:49-50**). Should it be any different for those of us today who claim to follow Him?

Regarding His actions, Jesus says, "I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me" (**John 5:30**). Along those same lines He later says, "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me" (**John 6:38**).

Clearly, Jesus not only tells us to "follow Him" ... He shows us what it means to be a follower. Do you embody this spirit in your walk with Jesus Christ? Based on your words and deeds, who is it that you are really following?



**Classes This Week**

<b>Sunday 5 PM</b> Men's Training Class in College Classroom	<b>Sunday 5:15</b> Kid's Class at the building	<b>College Devo</b> Devo and Singing at the Anderson's led by Chris Davis	<b>Monday 7 PM</b> Ladies "James" class at Paula Davis'	<b>Tuesday 8 PM</b> Truth Seekers in Room 2222 Student Center	<b>Thursday 10 AM</b> Ladies "Proverbs" Class at the Rouse's	<b>Thursday 8 PM</b> Prayer Study at Stefan Richardson's
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**Sick**

Sam Cox (Friend of Anna Stallings)	Owen Mauldin (Seth and Summer Mauldin's Son)	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)	Joan Parker (Aurie Adams Grandmother)
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)	Hannah Wilson (Friend of Mason Chandler)
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)	Ann Scalf (Hannah Morris' grandmother)

**February Birthdays**

- 2 - Wesley Herd
- 2 - Ken Sullivan
- 3 - Chris Long
- 5 - Chase Counsell
- 6 - Jackson Fowler
- 8 - Grant Burton
- 13 - Leslie Freeman
- 13 - Megan McMurray
- 14 - Leighton Daniels
- 15 - Ella Miller
- 15 - Terria Burton
- 16 - Seth Humphrey
- 18 - Caralise Hunt
- 19 - Reed Starnes
- 20 - Haley Hudson
- 22 - Windy Dembowski
- 22 - Alexander Calvert
- 22 - Elizabeth Anne Calvert
- 23 - Greg Lanier
- 24 - Jeff Jerkins
- 25 - Valerie Liverett
- 26 - Maghen Smith

**News and Notes**

- ☒ - Please remember Glenn Weeks, Caralise Hunt's father, in your prayers.
- ☒ - Bob Simpson had an additional surgery and will go home on Monday.
- ☒ - Betty Bradford continues to receive treatment at UAB.
- ☒ - Please remember Susan Sullivan as she continues to recover from knee replacement surgery.
- ☒ - Rusty Weldon's brother, Danny, continues to receive treatment.
- ☒ - Let us remember our expectant mother, Nichole Pender, in our prayers.
- ☒ - Our meeting on the home with Mark Broyles will be next weekend, March 1-3. Cards to invite others are in the foyer.
- ☒ - Group meetings will be 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**)

## Consistency and Character

By James R. Cope

**Reputation and Character**

Character is what we are. It is the sum total of qualities which distinguish one person from another. Reputation is what is said about us—that which others think we are. Character and reputation are sometimes the same; perhaps more often they are different. Others determine our reputation. We determine our character. One's reputation may change with the alteration of private or public approbation of disapproval while one's character may remain constant or vary irrespective of the judgments of others. Before God we should strive to make our reputation and character the same. God knows what we think, feel, and do—what we are. We know better than any other mortal our thoughts, emotions, and actions "for what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him" (**1 Cor. 2:11**).

**Reputation and Consistency**

Men with the loftiest thoughts, deepest emotions, and noblest deeds—men of jeweled character—sometimes have their motives questioned, their deeds maligned, and their reputation ruined when conscience demands they state their convictions on issues over which there is a divergence of understanding or teaching. Friendship is often broken and he who was once an ardent sup-

It comes with poor grace and poorer taste for any man to hold back his influence when vital issues are being discussed and to sit on the sidelines and hurl stones at those engaged in battle. It is even more a mark of cowardice and true littleness for such an one to snipe at those who are carrying the fight which he should be carrying.

porter becomes a bitter antagonist because of a revised view or a changed position. This loss of reputation may be because former friends cannot conscientiously accept the newly espoused position or it may be that they will not accept it because of the embarrassing situation in which they are left. There may be room for the former; there is nothing but stubbornness and sin in the latter.

In either event the character of the man who shifts has not been injured provided his change is right and prompted by convictions rather than convenience. God knows the heart and the deed. Why, therefore, should one be concerned or fear what others shall say or do?

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**Thoughts to Ponder**

- Watch your thoughts, for they become words.
- Watch your words, for they become actions.
- Watch your actions, for they become habits.
- Watch your habits, for they become character.
- Watch your character, for it becomes your destiny.

**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](mailto:larryrouse@aubeacon.com)

Larry Rouse  
Evangelist and Editor

**Check Us Out On the Internet: [www.aubeacon.com](http://www.aubeacon.com)**

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### Character and Condemnation

No Christian will assume an arrogant attitude in any matter or will he knowingly compromise the truth. No man with real self respect will think of himself and his views on every matter as the end of all wisdom, or will he save his conscience by winking at known evil or obvious departures from the faith. With prayerful attention and interest he will examine every matter as he can and with charitable frankness express his views. More than this no rational and fair person will demand; less than this would be hypocrisy. A faulty conclusion on a particular point does not necessarily destroy a position and a mistake in human thinking does not brand the thinker wholly evil. Yet it is easy for us to "cast the first stone" of condemnation without knowing the principles or premises leading to certain conclusions and at the same time be guilty of grievous error either by withholding comment or pertinent points or giving encouragement to enemies of the truth because of personal dislike for a brother engaged in verbal combat. Such a disposition is not only unchristian, it is cowardly and smells of rotten religious politics.

It comes with poor grace and poorer taste for any man to hold back his influence when vital issues are being discussed and to sit on the sidelines and hurl stones at those engaged in battle. It is even more a mark of cowardice and true littleness for such an one to snipe at those who are carrying the fight which he should be carrying. More especially, is the latter true if the consideration is born of policy rather than principle. Snipers and personal reputation assassins are twin brothers born of the same mother whose family name is usually "Envy". Neither is commendable. Both are sons of the devil. Honorable men will not stoop to such tactics.

### Principle or Policy

Consistency with company is one thing. Consistency with conscience is another. Consistency for popularity's sake is puerile and hypocritical. Consistency for convictions sake is manly and pure. Consistency of policy for personal and policy's sake will in the end be fatal. Consistency for principle's sake will be life eternal. Concern over consistency for what one has said or written previously, if revised reason in view of rethinking revelation de-

mands a change, is nothing but the spirit of pride and the fear of exposure.

### Character and Truth

It is one thing to be unstable. It is another thing to "prove all things and "hold fast that which is good" (**I Thes. 5:21**). It is one thing to be double-minded and wavering; it is something else to "examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith" (**2 Cor: 13:5**).

As one reviews many of the great leaders of yester-years he cannot but be impressed by the vigor with which they espoused one point of view at the time in their lives only to find the same Pauline zeal opposing the former view at a later period. Were these men either weak or hypocritical? The answer is best seen in the persecution they suffered at the hands of their brethren after their change. Hypocrites will not suffer vituperous vindictives relentlessly, but conviction will. He who will not revise his views and practice in the light of new learning is a hypocrite. He who makes his practice consistent with his conscientious convictions is a man. Both his views and his practice may be wrong, but such a person is no doubt nearer the kingdom than he who for pride's sake stultifies his conscience though he retain his influence. If changing views or position be a mark of instability, be it said that some of the strongest arguments ever made against the errors of digression are those announced and successfully defended by men who at one time in their religious history were outspoken advocates of digressive tendencies. None of us has heard of these arguments being thrown away because of their origin.

One of the fundamental reasons why the Restoration Movement commended itself to the sober thinkers of the times and progressed as it did was the disposition of its leaders to surrender former views in the light of newly found truths. Once they were convinced of error they gladly gave it up and espoused the truth learned. True enough they had their verbal battles but many of the fundamental principles upon which the church stood in apostolic days and at the present came to be taught and practiced by the Restorers as these principles were forged into unmistakable clarity in the fires of controversy. Disciples today have gone too far too fast if either they surrender these eternal principles found or forsake the attitude of mind and heart which characterized the search for them.

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## The Temptation (Part 2)

By Bob Waldron

In the third temptation of Jesus, recorded in Matthew 4, "the devil taketh Him unto an exceeding high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; and he said unto Him, 'All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me' " (**Matt. 4:8, 9**). Satan sought to get Jesus to worship him. If ever the bald-faced audacity of Satan was ever manifested, it was then. The very idea of supreme Deity worshiping Satan is mind boggling. If Jesus had seen fit to fall down and worship Satan, then surely we who are far less in power could do no less than to follow His example. As I said, the consequences of such an action would have shaken the foundations of reason itself.

What was the appeal of this temptation? God had promised Jesus the "obedience of the peoples" (**Gen. 49:10**); "the nations for throe inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession" (**Psa. 2:8**). For Jesus to follow God's way to the throne on the "holy hill of Zion" led to the cross. It was the hard way, the sacrificial way. Satan's way was easy. All Jesus had to do was to fall down and worship him. If He had done that, being who He was, Deity would have been divided. Deity would have submitted to an inferior being's power. The scheme of redemption would have been completely thwarted.

Jesus answered Satan, "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, 'Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve'" (Matt. 4:10). For the third time Jesus quoted from

It will be profitable to look at a few reasons why Jesus was perfect. They are exemplified in the temptation accounts. We blame sin on our human bodies, but Jesus had a human body and did not sin. Sin comes from the heart. It is the heart which allows the desires of the body to become lust.

Deuteronomy (**6:13**). Moses warned the people that when they went into the land, they were not to follow after the idols. One may make a god out of anything. Satan wanted to exchange himself for God and let Jesus worship him, but Jesus refused. "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and Him only shalt thou serve."

It will be profitable to look at a few reasons why Jesus was perfect. They are exemplified in the temptation accounts. We blame sin on our human bodies, but Jesus had a human body and did not sin. Sin comes from the heart. It is the heart which allows the desires of the body to become lust. Surely the divine nature of Jesus is the ultimate explanation of His complete, lifelong perfection. There are, however, two things which we may study with great benefit. One reason why Jesus never sinned is that He was not ignorant. He knew everything that was right. Many times we sin because we do not know. We have not studied and learned. The more we know of God's way the better we will be able to walk in it. Another reason why Jesus never sinned is that He always did what He knew was right. How often do we get to the end of a day and say, "I should have done this or that," and did not do it? We can improve our service to God without learning anything else if we will immediately begin to do more of what we already know we should do. We can then further improve by studying the scriptures more diligently. Let us be imitators of Christ and "resist the devil and he will flee from you" (**Jas. 4:7**).

