

# The Good and Right Way

“Far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way” (1 Samuel 12:23). To understand the setting, note that these words were spoken by Samuel at what might be called Saul’s coronation. In 1 Samuel 8 the Israelites had informed Samuel that he was old, his children were unworthy, and they wanted a king like the nations around them. It is obvious Samuel felt a certain hurt by Israel’s rejection of him (though God assured him that it was really His reign they were rejecting—1 Samuel 8:7), yet Samuel refused to become embittered. This noble judge and prophet intended to keep on teaching and praying for the people.

By John Gibson

What a lesson for us today when we feel that our friends, family or brethren have in some way wronged us. If we feel mistreated do we get angry, pout, stay home, etc., or do we get on our knees and pray for those who have not shown us the respect we feel we deserve? Do we continue to preach and teach the good and right way, or do we find ourselves quietly hoping something will happen so they will “learn their lesson” and appreciate us the way they should? I know that in my own experiences I have not always been like Samuel, but this is the model we should strive to imitate.



**Classes This Week**

<b>Sunday 5:15</b> Kid's Class at the building	<b>Sunday 5 PM</b> Men's Training Class at the building	<b>Sunday Evening</b> College Devotional and singing at the Johnson's John Mark Henderson will be teaching!	<b>Monday 7 PM</b> Men's Study at Walker Davis' home	<b>Tuesday 8 PM</b> Truth Seekers in Student Center Room 2310	<b>Wednesday 12 Noon</b> Ladies "Proverbs" Study at the Rouses	<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)
Betty Bradford	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Sandra Qadeer (Rafia Qadeer's mother)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Meredith NeSmith (Jessica Anderson's Cousin)	Emily Stallings (Anna's sister)	Madi Wise (Friend of the Robert's)
Marty Meeks, Russell Dickerson (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Timothy Jones' grandmother	Toni and William Herd	Kate Miller (Daughter of Brandon and Erin Miller)

**April Birthdays**

- 2 - Missy Toombs
- 3 - Jessica Shaver
- 4 - Julie Aragon
- 6 - Maci Guthrie
- 7 - Mary Catherine Burns
- 8 - Hannah Morris
- 8 - Laura Humphrey
- 10 - Stefan Richardson
- 14 - Jesse Roberts
- 14 - Kaylee West
- 15 - Karen Padgett
- 16 - Carson Fowler
- 18 - Spencer Sullivanne
- 18 - Taylor Godwin
- 18 - Joel Black
- 20 - April Jerkins
- 21 - Timothy Jones
- 23 - Anna Miller
- 24 - Bob Simpson
- 28 - Anna Stallings

**News and Notes**

- ☒ - Ryan Hasty will be preaching both services today. We are considering Ryan to work as a second preacher with the church.
- ☒ - Those who are interested in helping with the VBS (June 24-27) please see Jared Johnson and fill out a form.
- ☒ - Group 2 will meet next Sunday April 21st after morning services at the Daniels home.
- ☒ - Brother Rouse will be away next week to hold a meeting in Hanceville.
- ☒ - CD's of each service will be available in the foyer. Please take and distribute them!
- ☒ - We ask our visitors to please fill out a visitors card so that we can have a record of your visit.

# 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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## “The Doctrine of Perfectionism”

By Jonathan Perz



**Thoughts to Ponder**

Truth is so obscure in these times, and falsehood so established, that, unless we love the truth, we cannot know it.

This doctrine has been described by its inventors as “salvation through law-keeping.” It is a straw man. Nobody believes it. In this article, I will demonstrate that 1) you cannot find salvation without law-keeping, 2) that law-keeping, in and of itself, will not save, and 3) that the Bible does have a doctrine of perfectionism, but it is nothing like that which has been described as either and only breeding hopelessness or self-righteousness.

Examples such as the Pharisee in **Luke 18:9-14** are cited to demonstrate this doctrine. Was the Pharisee’s problem that he kept the law as he was commanded to do as a Jew under the Old Covenant? Or was the Pharisee’s problem that he exalted himself (i.e., declared himself righteous, while condemning others) instead of waiting on the Lord to declare him righteous? There is a mile of difference between those two positions. One twists the truth to uphold a straw man. The other is the truth by

Paul was pursuing perfection, with the understanding that he had not yet attained it. His trust was not in himself for perfection, but in the Lord. Yet, his life and doctrine was filled with a whole lot of “do’s” and “don’ts.”

Jesus’ own declaration.

Nevertheless, let’s examine this “doctrine of perfectionism” a bit further. **Matthew 5:48** teaches us that if we do a few things, we will be perfect, just our Father in heaven is perfect. What are those things? You can read for them for yourself. Suffice it to say, doing what the Lord has taught us does not breed hopelessness or self-righteousness, as is contended. It breeds righteousness. Not self-righteousness (or self-exaltation).

(Continued on page 2)

**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:  
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(Continued from page 1)

Not doing what the Lord says breeds hopelessness. Doing what the Lord says gives the hope we can never have by practicing lawlessness.

Jesus told the rich young ruler in **Matthew 19:16**, if you want to be perfect, go and sell what you have and give to the poor. This was the “one thing” he lacked. It seems to me that being perfect did not just involve grace here, it also involved actually doing what the Lord taught (i.e., following His laws). So true was this, that not doing “ONE THING” kept this man from the kingdom of heaven. So close, yet so far.

In **Luke 6:40**, we are told by our Lord that we, as disciples, are not above our Teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his Teacher. He then tells us what to do. He gives us a commandment. Remove the plank from our eye that we may see clearly to remove the plank from our brother’s eye. Don’t be hypocritical. Again, perfection is obtained by actually doing something. Show me how to be perfect without keeping this law, and I will show you how to be perfect by keeping this law.

Now, lest it be said I am proving the straw man’s point of “salvation through law-keeping,” let’s consider Paul’s words. “Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has laid hold of me” (**Phil. 3:12**). Paul was pursuing perfection, with the understanding that he had not yet attained it. His trust was not in himself for perfection, but in the Lord. Yet, his life and doctrine was filled with a whole lot of “do’s” and “don’ts.” He, like all of us struggled with those commandments (cf. **Rom. 7**), and like the rest of Christ’s disciples, needs ongoing grace through Christ’s blood (cf. **1 John 1:8-**

**10**), but he presses on toward perfection. Mind you, even that continued grace needed for perfection is conditional, in that it requires us to do something to obtain it. Show me how you find forgiveness (the blessing of perfection only Christ can give us) without confessing our sins and I will show you how to obtain that forgiveness by confessing our sins.

This same inspired man tells us “love ... is the bond of perfection” (**Col. 3:14**). Without love, we have nothing (**1 Cor. 13:1-3**) ... and that includes salvation (cf. **1 John 3:24; 4:7**). Yet, we are told by Paul to “put on love.” It seems like there is a commandment in there as well. Jesus said, “If you love Me, keep My commandments” (**John 14:15**). Show me love without keeping His commandments and I will show you love by keeping His commandments. As a matter of fact, John tells us, “No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us” (**1 John 4:12**).

Let’s take that one step further. John also tells us, “Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us” (**1 John 3:17-19**). If there is any “doctrine of perfectionism” taught in Scripture, there it is.

Perfection involves grace. Christ loves us. It involves faith. We must trust the Lord to fulfill His conditional promises (salvation is a conditional promise too). It involves obedience to law (works). We keep His commandments because we love Him. Show me how you can do this without law-keeping, and I will show you how we can do this by keeping His laws (cf. **Jas. 2:18**).



## Logical Fallacies

By Ryan Hasty

When engaging in discussion with an individual over a matter of difference, keeping the discussion honest and fair can prove trying. A discussion can get dishonest when logical fallacies are introduced. A logical fallacy is defined simply as, “A fallacy in logical argumentation.” Since all of us are guilty of this at some point, let’s look at some of the more common ones to watch out for:

When the officers would not seize Jesus because they had never heard a man speak as He, the Pharisees responded, “You have not also been led astray, have you? No one of the rulers or Pharisees has believed in Him, has he?” (**John 7:47-48**)

responded, “You have not also been led astray, have you? No one of the rulers or Pharisees has believed in Him, has he?” (**John 7:47-48**)

4) **Appeal to flattery:** This is more than just “sucking up”. It is an attempt to break down a person’s defenses through complement and thereby weakening his ability to critically analyze a claim. One example is, “You, as an intelligent person, shouldn’t have

1) **Ad hominem:** Literally meaning “to the person”, an ad hominem fallacy is an argument made personally against an opponent rather than toward the argument itself. This is a common tactic to change the subject when an individual realizes his argument doesn’t stand on solid ground. For example, when Jesus tried reasoning with His Jewish brethren regarding truth, they responded, “Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?” (**John 8:48**)

2) **Begging the question:** This fallacy comes about when a person merely assumes a claim they are trying to prove. It is also called circular reasoning. One simple example is, “Evolution must be true because it is a fact.” A more subtle example might be, “If God was good then there wouldn’t be so much suffering in the world. Since there is so much suffering, He either isn’t real or doesn’t care.” This begs the question of how one could objectively determine what good and evil is if there is no moral standard upon which to base this observation.

3) **Argumentum Ad Populum:** This is a fallacy in which a claim is accepted as being true because most people are favorably inclined towards it regardless of evidence to the contrary. When the officers would not seize Jesus because they had never heard a man speak as He, the Pharisees

any problems understanding how atheism is superior to theism.” The Pharisees and Herodians pulled this on Jesus when they said to Him “Teacher, we know that You are truthful and teach the way of God in truth, and defer to no one; for You are not partial to any. Tell us then, what do You think? Is it lawful to give a poll-tax to Caesar, or not?” (**Matt 22:16-17**)

5) **Ambiguity:** Fallacies of ambiguity appear to support a conclusion only because of their imprecise use of language and definitions. This can occur when a particular set of words is stressed in a sentence without changing the words themselves. Another example of this, called “equivocation”, is when term is used in two or more different senses within a single argument. This most often occurs when an individual cannot be clear in his position lest the consequences of his position be exposed for what they really are.

6) **Appeal to humor:** This fallacy is used by ridiculing an opponent or a position to direct attention away from the real issue. Perhaps you’ve seen the clever pictures and clichés on Facebook. Don’t be deceived! There is a method to the madness; to manipulate through distraction is useful only in undermining truth, not establishing it.

