

# Standing Up For Our Brethren

Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal family. But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah and stole him away... Thus they hid him from Athaliah, so that he was not put to death. (2 Kings 11:1-2)

It was killing time in Israel. Jehu had just finished a rampage killing Jezebel, Joram (king of Israel), Ahaziah (king of Judah), and all that was left of the house of Ahab (including all the prophets of Baal). The queen mother in Judah, Athaliah, saw the kingdom potentially slipping from her fingers with the death of her son, and so she proceeded to kill off all the heirs.

But then a woman of great faith stepped in and saved the Davidic line from extinction. Jehosheba stole away Joash, the last remaining heir of David, saving him from the daughter of Jezebel. She did this knowing that if Athaliah caught her she would be put to death.

When someone is the victim of vicious and malicious

By David Maxson

attacks, what do you do? Do you stand up and try to defend the innocent or do you become cautiously passive and silent? Do you fear getting caught in the cross fire?

We cannot allow the blood thirsty, power hungry attackers to do all this without a fight. We cannot sit idly by while good reputations are being destroyed. We must be willing to make a stand.

There's another way to look at this story. Joash was the last physical heir of David. The promises of God rested on his life. Therefore, when Jehosheba saved Joash, there is a sense in which she saved Jesus.

In the same way, when we identify with those who are in prison (literally or figuratively), when we come to the aid of those who are victims of gossip and slanderous accusations, we are aiding Jesus as well (Matt 25:39-40).

Lord, give us the courage to stand up for our brethren who are being unjustly condemned by the world.



**Classes This Week**

<b>Sunday 5:15</b> Kid's Class at the building	<b>Tuesday 8 PM</b> Truth Seekers in Student Center Room 2310
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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 (Daphene 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)	Peggy Theis (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**

- The Flower fund is running low. Please see the Roberts to make a contribution.
- Let us remember our upcoming VBS (June 24-27) and be letting others know.
- Group 2 will meet this Sunday after morning services at the Daniels home.
- Brother Rouse will be away next week to hold a meeting in Hanceville.
- Joel Black had surgery on Thursday to install a new pacemaker.
- William Herd continues to undergo tests.
- 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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## Paul's Warnings

By Alan Turner



### Thoughts to Ponder

In great contests each party claims to act in accordance with the will of God. Both may be, and one must be, wrong. God cannot be for and against the same thing at the same time.

“Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ” (Col 2:8).

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (2 Cor 10:4-5).

According to Paul, vain philosophy is a brigand that, if we are not careful, will take us captive and steal from us our spiritual possessions. Deception, long the technique of those who would cheat and steal, is the major device of all man-made philosophy. Promising everything, it delivers

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nothing; claiming to be one thing, it turns out to be something else entirely!

Too many of us have either forgotten Paul's warning or no longer believe it. We have been seduced into thinking that man-made philosophies are religiously neutral, even though they decidedly are not. Seemingly unaware of the paradigm of idolatry, we have become enchanted by the smorgasbord

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**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

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of thoughts/ideas/philosophies that obscure the way, pervert the truth, and totally wreck our spiritual lives. We must be reminded that it was Jesus who said: "I am the way, the truth and the life" (**Jn 14:6**). What this means is that apart from the way, there is no going; apart from the truth there is no knowing; and apart from the life, there is no spiritual living. This, quite frankly, is why the apostle Paul said that "every thought" must be brought "into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

In **Colossians 3:17**, Paul wrote that everything one does in "word or deed" is to be done "in the name of the Lord" (i.e., by the Lord's authority). But how can one's actions be correct if one is not thinking properly? And how can one be thinking properly if one has not brought "every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ"? Therefore, it is clear the Lord calls upon His disciples to out-think, out-live, and out-die those all around us who are both in and of the world.

All man-made philosophies are destined for total defeat. It is, therefore, ludicrous that those of us who have been "called out of darkness into His marvelous light" (**1 Pet 2:9**) would want to return again to the "weak and beggarly elements" of this world, symbolized in the Bible as spiritual darkness (**cf. Gal 4:9; Eph 4:17-20; Col 1:9-14**).

Today, our theological chickens are coming home to roost. We are creating

idols for our own destruction (**cf. Hos 8:4**). If we don't repent, we will be destroyed for or ignorance of God's Word (**cf. Hos 4:6**). As the Lord's own unique and special people, we will either reject, resist, and repent of these destructive heresies, or we will be "cut off." As free moral agents, the choice is ours. None of us is immune. Tickets punched can and will be unpunched if we do not continue to meet the conditions of His magnificent grace. Therefore, self-examination is not out of order for anyone, even the most devout. We must remember that whatever is on the throne in our hearts and minds, whatever controls our lives, is our idol. It may be "mammon" (**Matt 6:24**); it may be personal pleasure (**cf. Phil 3:19**); it may be one's work or family; it may be drugs; it may be "omnipotent," "infallible" science; or it may be just SELF (**cf. Dan 5:23**). Whatever it is, it must be abandoned.

"Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord! And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. So the people answered and said: 'Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods'" (**Jos 24:14-16**).



## Awareness of Weakness is the Key to Strength

By Tim Nichols

The world has it all backwards. Most seem to think that we can accomplish great things when we become the strongest, wisest, smartest, and most beautiful. Worldly achievement may well depend on some of these things to some degree. Even there, however, there is room for using the principles that we will discuss here.

Our work for the Lord is not in the same category and the approach that we take in that work is altogether different from what many would commend in worldly pursuits. Here, the principle might be stated something like this: Recognize that you are weak and unable to do it alone, trust God, and set out to do it.

The notion that we ought to wait until we, ourselves, are wise enough or strong enough before we set out to obey God is simply unbiblical. Although it is right and reasonable to obtain training and to prepare ourselves as best we can, it is also true that the time to begin doing the will of God is the moment we learn what that will is regarding any matter. God will guide, strengthen, and comfort us by His word, assist us by His providence, and bless our efforts with success. He will give the increase.

When God told Moses leave the desert to go back to Egypt and lead the children of Israel out, Moses protested that he was not equal to the task. God did not argue with that point. Instead, He promised to go with him and assured him of success. In effect He said, "I will meet you back here with My people!"

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" So He said, "I will certainly be with you. And this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain" (**Exodus 3:11, 12**).

Joshua, as great a man as he no doubt was in his person, was not equal to the task of conquering the land when that assignment was given to him. God seems to have suggested that inherent in the command to act is the promise of aid.

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go (**Joshua 1:9**).

Jeremiah could not get away with declaring that his personal weakness disqualified him.

Then said I: "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth." But the Lord said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you," says the Lord. Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth,

and the Lord said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth (**Jeremiah 1:6-9**).

Paul so relied upon God's guidance, and so looked beyond passing difficulties that he could declare that his work was actually God's work being done through his willing hands.

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me (**1 Corinthians 15:10**).

Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God (**2 Corinthians 3:5**).

Isaiah gave a command and a principle that will hold true for all time and under every covenant. Are we listening?

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God; He will come and save you" (**Isaiah 35:3, 4**).

He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint (**Isaiah 40:29-31**).

Paul actually reached the point at which he was able to see that he could only be strong when he was weak.

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong (**2 Corinthians 12:7-10**).

Now how about you? Are you aware of your own weaknesses? Good! You have reason to be genuinely humble. Are you allowing these weaknesses to keep you out of God's service? If so, then you need to trust God and proceed, in spite of what you may see as personal inability, to attempt what you know you cannot do -- by yourself.

