

Relevant Thoughts From Daniel

If you preach, teach or just talk to people about biblical truth — you well know there are some things people don't want to hear. Undeniable truths people do not dispute but don't really want to hear. I've just started teaching the book of Daniel and I made these two points in the introductory class.

If you are looking for this nation to be saved and to survive for your grandchildren and great grandchildren, you need to face that that may not happen. The United States is not an everlasting nation; there is no such promise. The good news is that your children and grandchildren can be a part of a kingdom that will never be destroyed. Live under the authority of Christ.

By Warren E. Berkley

If you are looking for this nation to be saved and to survive and you think it is all about electing the right people, you are wrong. It is more about being the right people. More important than your ballot, there is the influence of your life, your prayers, your efforts to preach the gospel and your steadfast acknowledgment of the sovereignty of God. See **Daniel 2:44** and **Daniel 4:25**.

"Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire" (**Hebrews 12:28,29**).



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)	Peggy Theis (Timothy Jones' grandmother)	Toni and William Herd	Kate Miller (Daughter of Brandon and Erin Miller)

- June Birthdays
- 1 - Kenlee Burton
 - 3 - Philip Stephens
 - 8 - Mac Searcy
 - 9 - Kay White
 - 11 - Hannah Alexander
 - 11 - Clint Stagner
 - 12 - Orié Cecil
 - 13 - Addison Dembowski
 - 17 - Sarah Norman
 - 17 - Brooks Pender
 - 20 - Jonas Dembowski
 - 22 - Paul Tam
 - 24 - Justin Bice
 - 25 - Corey Hunt
 - 28 - Allison Chandler
 - 29 - Josh Hudson
 - 29 - Lisa Lanier

- News and Notes
- ☒ - Let us remember our upcoming VBS (June 24-27). Cards are in the foyer to be distributed.
 - ☒ - Laura Weldon will have additional surgery on July 11 to remove the remainder of her thyroid.
 - ☒ - Susan Sullivan had surgery on Monday and is at home recovering.
 - ☒ - Debbi Coleman continues to recover from knee replacement surgery. Let us continue to pray for her successful recovery!
 - ☒ - Tom Davis (Walker's Uncle) is awaiting results on a ling biopsy.
 - ☒ - Tonight is singing night!

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**)

Volume 4, Issue 32

June 16, 2013



Thoughts to Ponder

Yesterday is a canceled check; tomorrow is a promissory note; today is the only cash you have--spend it wisely.

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

Pitfalls That Allure Bored Christians

By Robert Harkrider

You have probably seen a few; perhaps even sat beside them during a period of worship. "Bored Christians" are usually second and third generation Christians who parents brought them to worship since they were infants. They were baptized because it was "the right thing to do." They inherited their religious course from their parents and were not converted from a wicked life of sin nor from religious error.

These individuals never had to struggle to defend their faith nor oppose religious doctrines founded upon commandments of men. Being raised by Christians, they have experienced from early childhood that the Lord's Supper was to be observed every Sunday. And music was always only by singing without addition of an instrument of music. To them, churches of Christ have always done these things by "tradition." And now, as adults, they observe these same acts without emotional feeling and have become "bored."

In search of an emotional feeling when worshiping, some have introduced new activities. A few things being done have been of value in stirring their hearts to appreciate the grace of God in providing means of salvation through the death of our Lord Jesus Christ. But not all has been commendable. In an effort to justify every new activity some have substituted "feelings for faith." That is, they

have drifted to positions of religious modernism that finds them accepting anything and everything that human judgment approves.

"House Church"

The "house church" movement is an example of this search for more emotional feeling. Some have discovered a different experience through small groups sitting around a table expressing their testimonies. But this has also encouraged a few to seek other things "new/different."

In their march for things never done before, the standard upon which faith is based has been challenged. Instead of establishing Bible authority by command, example, or necessary inference, they mock those who do so as being "C, E, N-I" people. And they substitute whatever "seems right in their sight" (feelings) as authority. Since they criticize the biblical hermeneutic, one would expect that they have discovered a different method of determining God's commands, yet they offer no biblical basis of communicating the authority of Christ.

When the apostle Peter wrote, "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God" he set forth the standard upon which faith is established. If indeed we are to "walk by faith and not by sight" (**2 Cor. 5:7**), we must base our actions on "hearing the word of God" (**Rom.**

(Continued on page 2)

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

(Continued from page 1)

10:17). But since God's commandments are not laid out in a list of "thou shalt" and "thou shalt not," how do we know what is His will? The answer is through direct command, example, and necessary inference.

This is not a man-made hermeneutic! The **apostles and elders** used this system when determining whether Gentiles must be circumcised in order to be saved. In **Acts 15:7**, Peter explained he obeyed the **direct command** of the Lord to go with the men sent by Cornelius, "doubting nothing" (**Acts 10:20, 29**). Next, Barnabas and Paul declared by the **example** of miracles and wonders that God approved of the preaching they did among the Gentiles (**Acts 15:12**). Finally, in **Acts 15:13-17**, James quotes **Amos 9:11-12** and drew a **necessary inference** that if the "tabernacle of David" had been established by Jesus Christ, then it was by God's authority that the Gentiles should be saved by faith without circumcision. The controversy was settled by this method of hermeneutic!

We must learn how to defend our faith lest we be led into apostasy by substituting feeling for faith. Be careful not to establish a new "tradition" that is itself by human judgment. In time, what now seems "non-traditional" will become "traditional." So just be sure that the new traditions will be only in the area of an expedient that aids obeying God's commands.

A.D. 70 (Realized Eschatology)

In addition to the house church concept, another concept has appealed to some who were seeking something "new/different." It is called, "Realized Eschatology," and is also referred to as the "70 A.D. Doctrine." "Eschatology" refers to the final events at the second coming of Christ. This concept declares that at 70 A.D. not only was Jerusalem destroyed, but also the second coming of Christ occurred, including the resurrection and judgment promised in the New Testament. Thus, all things prophesied in the Bible have been "realized."

A.D. 70 is a doctrine that depends on special definitions in various contexts in order to understand and believe. But it appeals to those who are intellectually arrogant. It appeals to people with an attitude that searches for doctrines that the average Christian has never thought of before and would not know without their indoctrination. In John's day it was Gnosticism. In our day, it is this 70 A.D. Doctrine. In every gen-

eration Paul warns to "guard against what is falsely called knowledge" (**1 Tim. 6:20**). Even in Paul's day he wrote about those "who have strayed from the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some" (**2 Tim. 2:18**).

This doctrine can be shown to be false by studying context upon context wherein the Scriptures are abused. But in summary, the flaws with its consequences should be considered:

(1) *The New Testament is made to be of no effect today.* Since they say the Bible is completed, the promises were to those who lived before 70 A.D. Therefore they are not sure what will occur beyond their own death. They have no scripture as authority for themselves. Therefore they cannot confidently sing of heaven (**Heb. 9:28**); nor can they partake of the Lord's Supper to show forth His death till Christ comes again (**1 Cor. 11:26**).

(2) *They must ignore the early historians* (e.g. Irenaeus, Clement of Alexandria, Tertullian, Victorinus, Eusebius) who affirmed that the Revelation was written by the apostle John during the period of Domitian's reign, about 95-96 A.D., therefore several years after 70 A.D. Furthermore, none of these men wrote anything about the change in God's kingdom that supposedly occurred after 70 A.D. Why not?

(3) *All Bible prophecies had not been completed by A.D. 70!* Both in **Daniel 7:26 and 9:27**, the fall of the Roman Empire was prophesied, and this was not fulfilled until several years after A.D. 70 In Daniel's vision of the seventy weeks (**Dan. 9:24-27**) the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans was foretold as the time when the sacrifice and grain offering were brought to an end. This would be done by "one who makes desolate" (Roman Empire). After that desolation occurs, the verse then states, "a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate" (NASB). The *one who makes desolate* was the Roman power. Therefore since the persecuting Roman power did not fall until several years later, all prophecy had not been completed by 70 A.D. as claimed by those who advocate this doctrine.

Guard against being "bored" and looking for an emotional feeling by seeking something "new/different." Instead, look deeper into the meaning of God's gift through His only begotten Son. Learn how to defend your faith and do not let it be overthrown by substituting feeling for faith or by discovering something never before understood.



Responding to Our Enemies

By R. J. Evans

"Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for my sake" (Matt. 5:11).

How do we handle a person who reviles us, persecutes us, and says things about us which are not true? The natural response is to retaliate and get even. But how are we to respond to our enemies and be pleasing unto God? Let us go to His Word for the answers.

1. REJOICE if we are being mistreated because we are faithfully serving the Lord. If we are suffering because of our evil deeds, then we should be ashamed. However, the Apostle Peter tells us—"Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter" (**1 Pet. 3:15-16**). Notice the next verse following our text: "Rejoice and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (**Matt. 5: 12**). Although some may seek to make our lives miserable here on earth, our reward in heaven will be great if we remain faithful while we are hurting for His sake.

2. LOVE THEM, DO GOOD TO THEM, AND PRAY FOR THEM. This is what Jesus was teaching in **Matthew 5:44**: "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you." Normally, we will have to do a lot of praying for *ourselves*, asking for strength, before we will be able to do this for our enemies. But we will reap many benefits if we can sincerely do what Jesus commands in this passage. Again, let us observe the inspired words of

How do we handle a person who reviles us, persecutes us, and says things about us which are not true? The natural response is to retaliate and get even. But how are we to respond to our enemies and be pleasing unto God?

the Apostle Peter, as it relates to this kind of situation. "...not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing" (**1 Pet. 3:9**). Remember—this is the example Jesus left for us and we are to follow in His steps. "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example,

that you should follow His steps: 'Who committed no sin, nor was guile found in His mouth,' who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously" (**1 Pet. 2:21-23**).

3. TURN IT OVER TO GOD. When men crucified our Lord, He prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Lk. 23:34). In one short prayer, we find Jesus loving His enemies, blessing His enemies, and praying for His enemies. The Apostle Paul tells us to *turn it over to God* when he said: "Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord. Therefore if your enemy hungers, feed him; if he thirsts, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head: Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (**Rom. 12:19-21**). This is basically what Christ was teaching in His "Sermon on the Mount" in **Matthew 5:38-48**.

In a sense, we are being good to ourselves when we are good to our enemies. May the Lord help and be with us when we are meeting the challenge of correctly **responding to our enemies**.

